



# Environmental Pillar

Data is meaningless  
**but**  
Information is beautiful

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Coordinator

The Environmental Pillar

# Information is data set on fire

Data is meaningless, and bunches of numbers and ratios mean nothing without a context.

Data on its own can't help us do anything better.

Information however is beautiful.

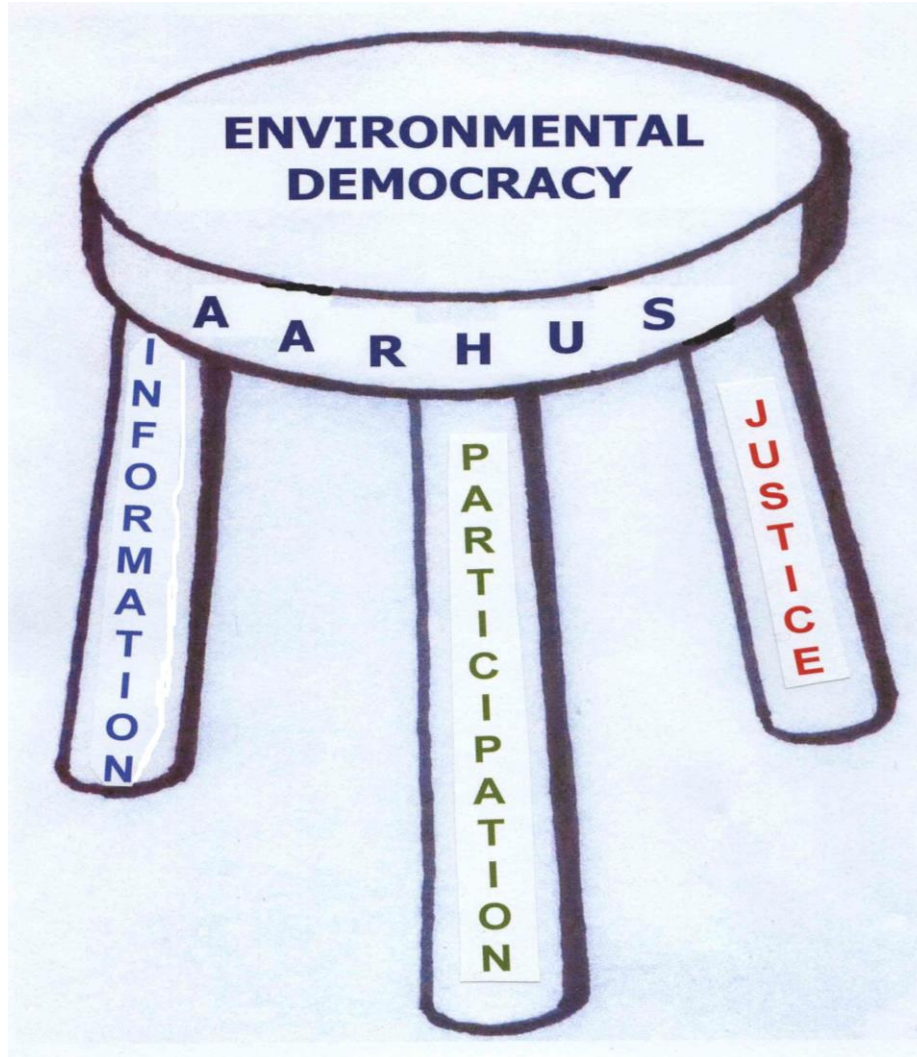
Information can make us laugh or cry.

Information is data set on fire, data with a purpose.

# Key Legal Drivers for Provision of Information

- Principle 10 Rio Declaration 1992
- Aarhus Convention 1998
  - Ratified by Ireland 2012
  - Requires access to environmental information on request
  - Public Authorities to collect catalogue and proactively disseminate information
- European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2011

# The Three Legged Convention



# Aarhus Convention

## Article 1 OBJECTIVE

In order to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being, each Party shall guarantee the rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

# Aarhus Convention

- Article 3 General Provisions
- Each Party shall
- Ensure that officials and authorities assist and provide guidance to the public in seeking access to information,
- promote environmental education and environmental awareness among the public, especially on how to obtain access to information,

# Aarhus Convention

- Article 4

Requires a system that enables the public to request and receive environmental information from public authorities

- Article 5

- Requires a system through which public authorities collect environmental information and actively disseminate it to the public without request

- Requires record-keeping and reporting by public authorities and from operators to public authorities

- Make lists, registers and files publicly accessible free of charge

- Develop environmental information offices and identify individual points of contact

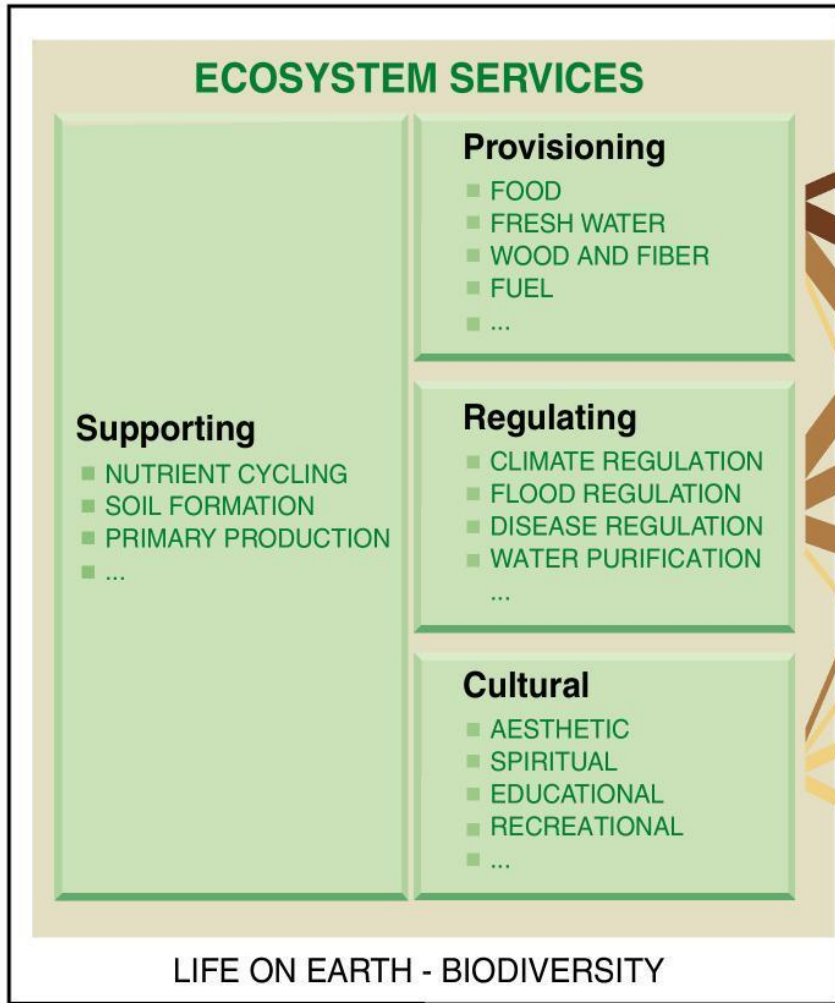
- Use electronic databases and the Internet

- Create incentives for operators to give information directly to the public



# Evidence-based decision-making involving the public

- **A New Context**
- Public Participation Networks
- County/City
- Municipal Districts
- **Vision for the well-being of this and future generations**



## CONSTITUENTS OF WELL-BEING



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

**ARROW'S COLOR**  
Potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors

- Low
- Medium
- High

**ARROW'S WIDTH**  
Intensity of linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being

- Weak
- Medium
- Strong



**Environmental Pillar**

**Thank You**  
**Go raibh maith agaibh**  
**[www.environmentalpillar.ie](http://www.environmentalpillar.ie)**