

Views on nature: the pro and cons of ecosystem services

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Content

- People's views on nature
- Concept of ecosystem services
- Finding common ground
- Take home message

People's views on nature

People differ in how they value nature

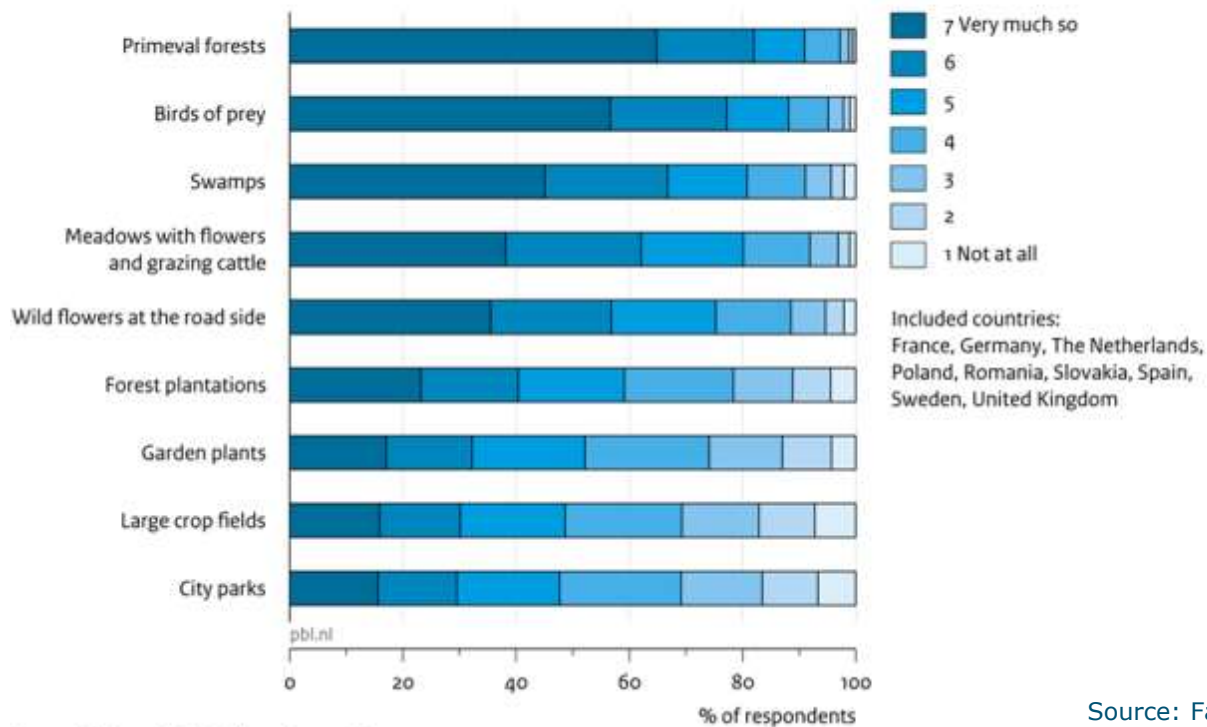


Source: PBL

People's views

People's conceptions of nature, 2014

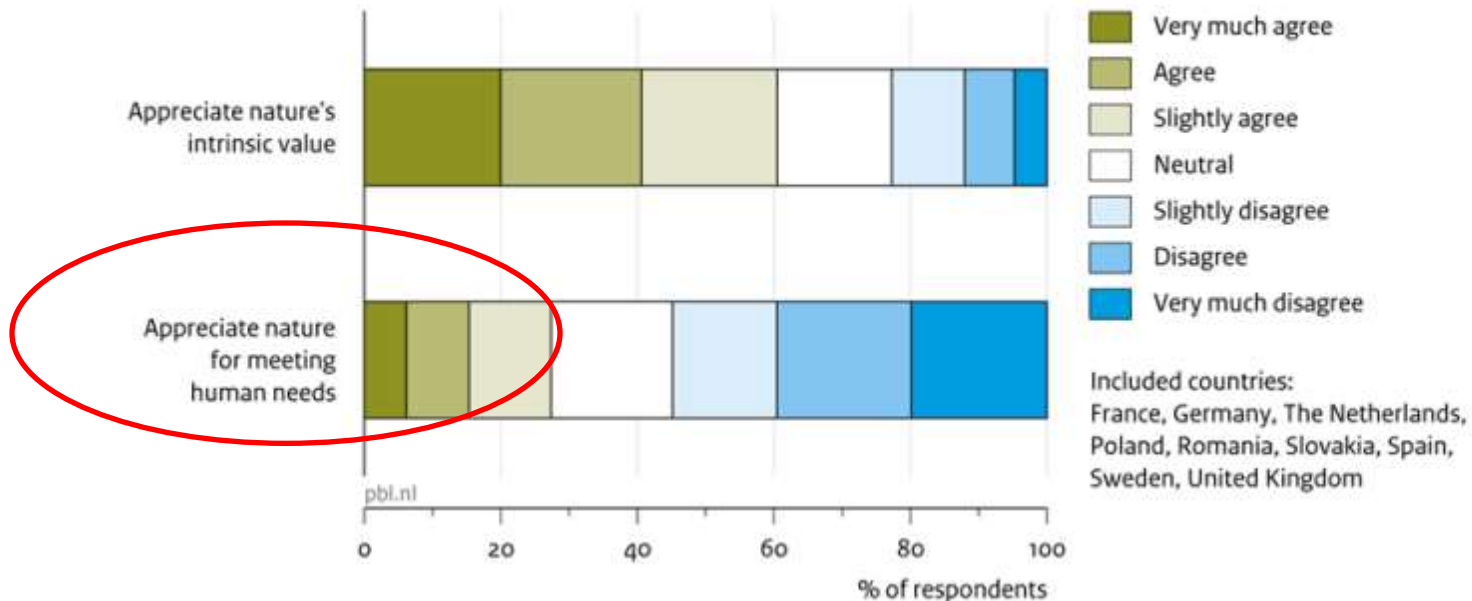
To what extent do you consider a certain type of nature to be real nature?



Source: Farjon et al, 2016. Citizens images and values of nature. PBL/WUR

People's views

Opinions about the values of nature, 2014



Source: GfK; analysis by Wageningen UR

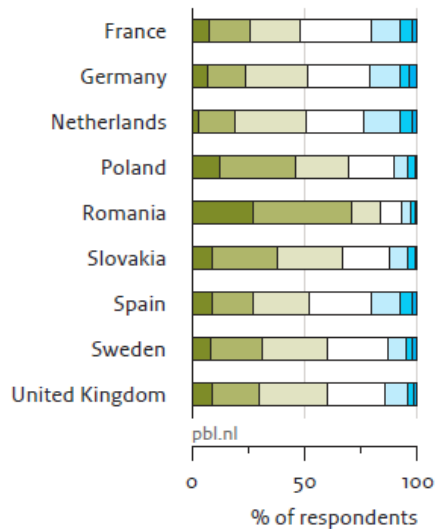
Source: Farjon et al, 2016. Citizens images and values of nature. PBL/WUR

People's views

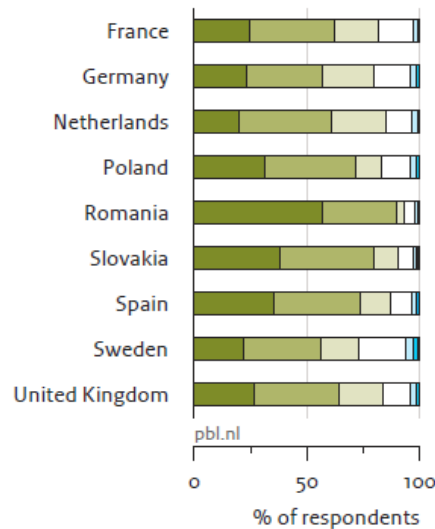
The management of natural areas has different goals and functions.

How important do you consider a focus of this management on the following goals and functions?

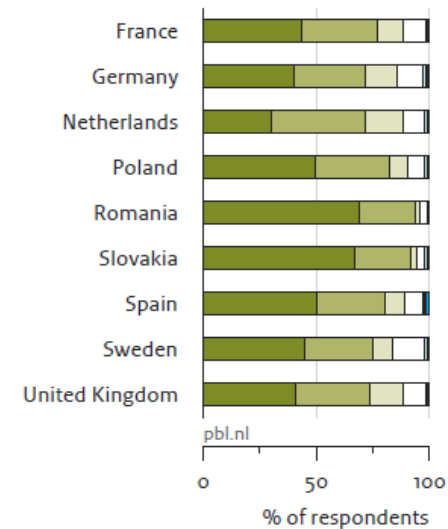
Focus on the attraction for recreation



Focus on the contribution to flood prevention



Focus on the production of clean air and clean water

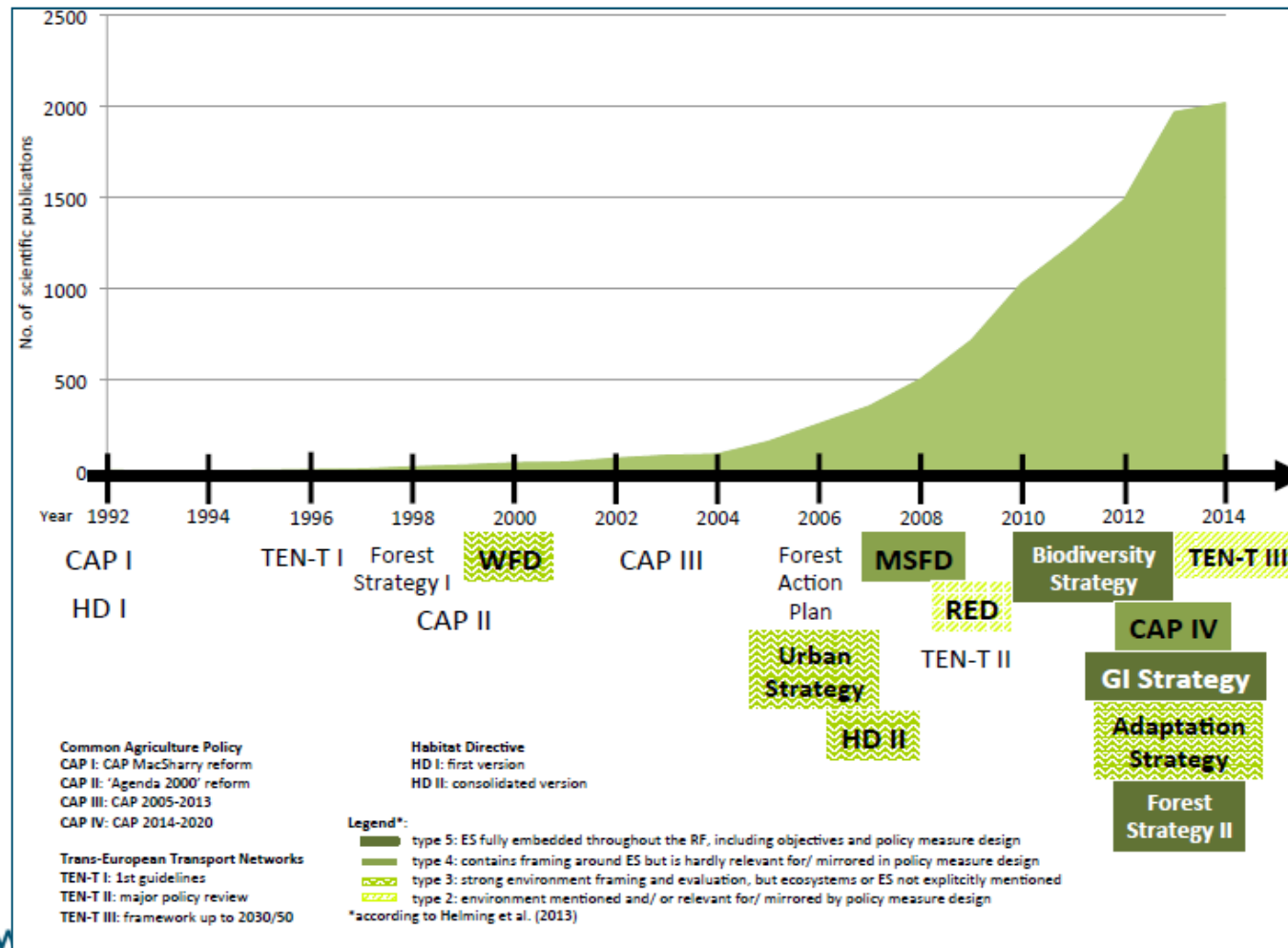


Source: Farjon et al, 2016. Citizens images and values of nature.

PBL/WUR



Ecosystem services – in science & policy – it's here to stay



Source: Schleyer et al, 2015

Pro's

- Inclusion of new stakeholders
- Increase of political support
- Increase of financial support

Con's

- Commercialise nature (everything is for sale) -> decrease of political support?
- Antagonise people that support nature from intrinsic value
- May be conflicting with protection of specific habitats of species

Ecosystem services contribution to nature protection?



Which nature and which services?



Nature Outlook

PBL's Nature Outlook Project

Approach: exploration of multiple perspectives on nature

Objective: inspiration for agenda to reach policy vision 2050

- Identification of additional strategies
- Topics for debate when broadening nature policies

Review how the EU would look like in 2050 based on four distinct perspectives

More info: www.pbl.nl/natureoutlook

Four perspectives on nature

Strengthening Cultural Identity



Allowing Nature to Find its Way



Working with Nature



Going with the Economic Flow



Strengthening Cultural Identity



- Love of places where people live
- Beauty of landscapes
- Nature is part of community
- Connecting people with nature
- Nature is always nearby
- Local networks and communities

Allowing Nature to Find its Way



- Intrinsic value of nature, dynamic processes
- People responsible for species diversity
- Increasing resilience of nature areas
- Trans-national nature network
- Urban nature as wild as possible
- Governments have the lead

Going with the Economic Flow



- Individual lifestyle
- Giving room to private actors to engage with their own nature
- Efficiency of production
- Nature in diverse appearances, business cases
- Private actors lead the way

Working with Nature



- Biological processes considered essential for human life
- Nature is diverse and delivers all kinds of services
- Transition towards a green society
- Conscious consumers
- Innovation networks

Can perspectives be combined?

- Conflicting interventions that can
- Interventions that are very difficult to combine in one landscape
- Non-conflicting interventions that will not lead to synergies
- Measures that lead to synergies,
- Measures that result in the same landscape

	Strengthening Cultural Identity			Nature to Find its Way		Going with the Economic Flow		
	Nature for recreation around cities	Conservation of characteristic Landscapes	Conservation of National Parks	Large, dynamic nature areas	Green and Blue corridors	Private parks	Intensive Agriculture	Countryside estates
Forests for water retention	Light green	Light green	Light green	Dark green	Dark green	Light green	Red	Orange
Carbon sequestration in peat lands	Red	Dark green	Dark green	Dark green	Dark green	Light green	Red	Red
Cropland with regulating ecosystem	Light green	Light green	Light green	Red	Light green	Light green	Light green	Light green
Floodprone areas	Light green	Light green	Light green	Light green	Dark green	Light green	Red	Red
Erosion control in sensitive areas	Light green	Light green	Light green	Dark green	Dark green	Dark green	Red	Orange

Red: conflicting interventions that cannot be combined in one landscape
 Orange: conflicting interventions that are very difficult to combine, mostly by sep
 Light green: non-conflicting interventions that can be combined but in most situat
 Green: measures that lead to synergies, but need careful planning to do so
 Dark green: measures that result in the same landscape and are thereby easy to

Choices need to be made – compromises found

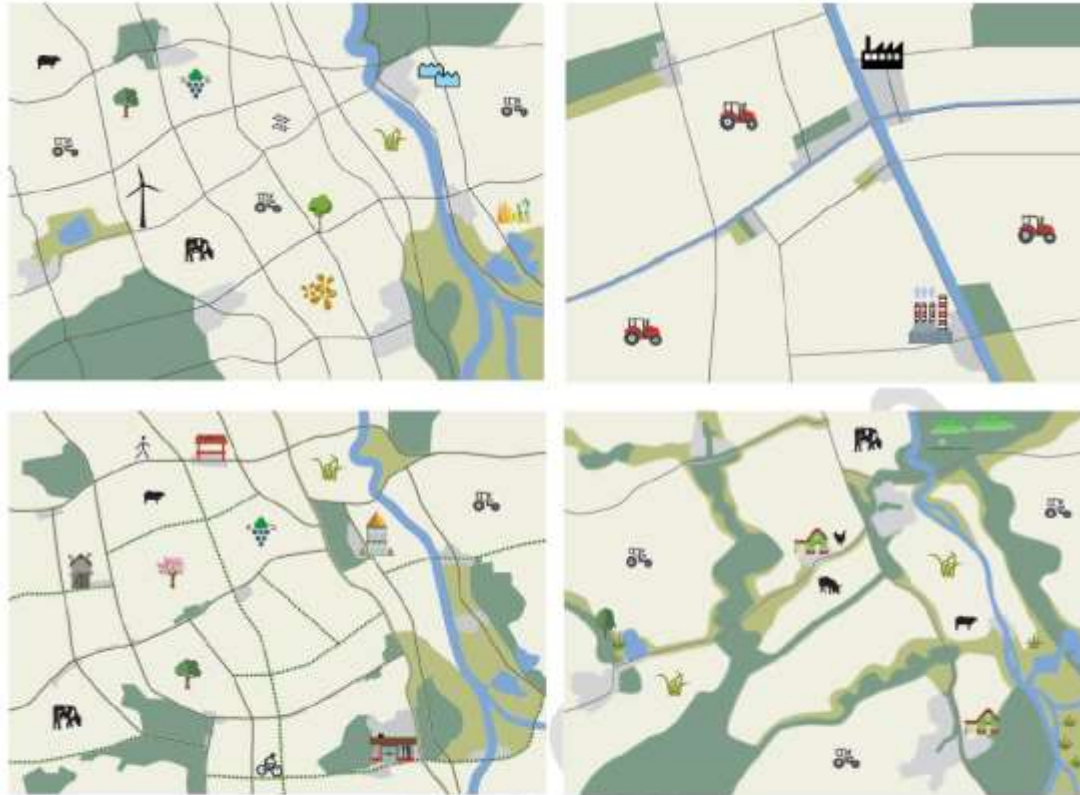


Figure 10.3: Rural area according to Working With Nature (top left), Going with the Economic Flow (top right), Strengthening Cultural Identity (bottom left) and Allowing Nature to Find its Way (bottom right).

Take home message

- Outcome of every political/social decision process is a result of a compromise between different perspectives on nature
- Acknowledging and understanding different perspectives enhances the decision process
- Protection of some ecosystem services – particular regulating services can and does support nature protection
- Ecosystem services does not appeal to 'love of nature' feeling