VALUING NATURE

Valuing Nature Programme
Health & Wellbeing Call Event
14 July 2015

Understanding the Value of the Natural Environment for Improving Human Health and Wellbeing

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Research Community Perspectives

Natural Environment Prof Dave Raffaelli
Chair of Programme Advisory Group

Social Science Prof Michael Winter
Programme Coordination Team Social Science Lead

Economics Ece Ozdemiroglu
Programme Coordination Team Economics Lead

Arts & Humanities Dr Rob Fish
Programme Coordination Team Arts & Humanities Lead
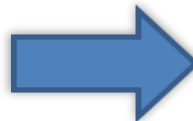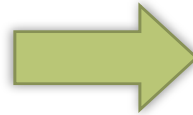
Research Community Perspectives: Natural Environment

Prof Dave Raffaelli

University of York

Chair of Programme Advisory Group

Biodiversity, ecosystem processes and final benefits: core NERC research

Stock-flow and Fund-service relationships

Stock-flow and Fund-service relationships

Biodiversity, ecosystem processes and final benefits: core NERC research

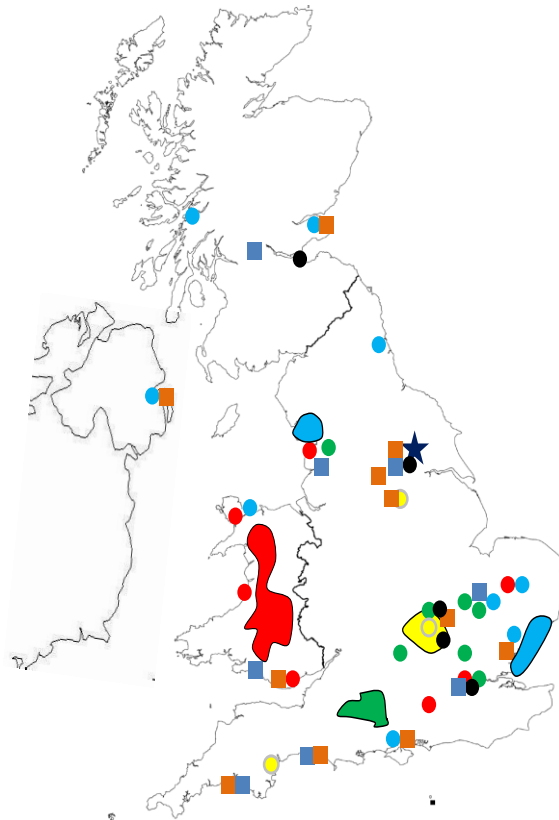**bess** biodiversity & ecosystem service sustainability

http:// www.nerc-bess.net/

There's a BESS collaborator near you.....

BESS is a national network

>150 researchers

- ● DURESS
- ● CBESS
- ● Wessex BESS
- ● F3UES
- ★ Directorate
- ■ BESS Studentships
- ● Workshops
- ■ Grants

Field sites
- DURESS
- F3UES
- CBESS
- Wessex BESS

Managing landscapes for different policy options involves trade-offs

Options for UK uplands

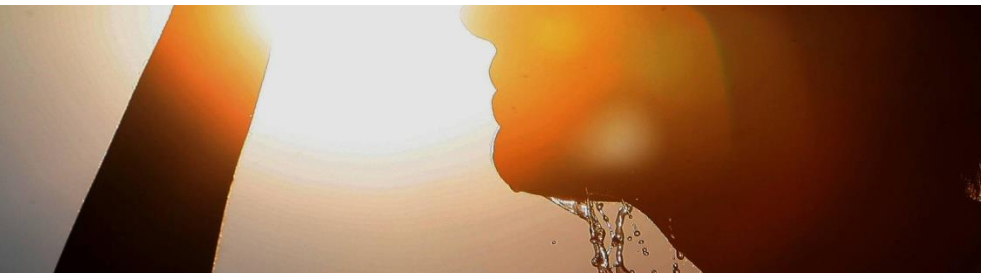# Those trade-offs are rarely win-wins and they generate externalities
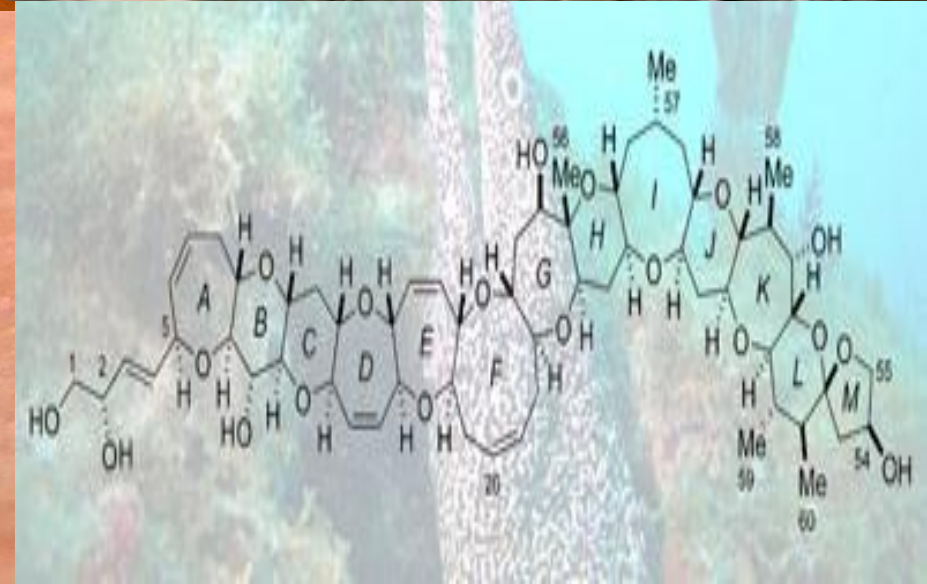
Natural hazards

Natural hazards

Can we identify environmental characteristics that improve natural hazard regulation?

What would be the impact on cultural or recreational benefits?

What is their value in reducing negative health or wellbeing effects?

Pathogens and Toxins

Pathogens and Toxins

What are the mechanisms underlying potential triggers and change in risk, and can we forecast risk under changing environmental conditions?

Can we value the impact of pathogens and natural aquatic toxins on human health and wellbeing under current and future scenarios?

What are the trade-offs and interactions between human safety, exposure to pathogens and biodiversity of recreation and leisure areas?

Urban ecosystems

Urban ecosystems

How does the design, aesthetics, planning and maintenance of green/blue infrastructure influence the values of different ecosystem services?

How does the composition and design of urban green/blue space influence particular health and wellbeing outcomes?

How can those responsible for design and maintenance use green/blue space optimise delivery of multiple ecosystem services?

But linking to Health & Well-being will mean working across the disciplines

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Research Community Perspectives: Social Science

Prof Michael Winter

University of Exeter

Programme Coordination Team
Social Science Lead

Social Sciences

- **Coverage includes**: psychology, sociology, social anthropology, human geography, political science, law, environmental planning, management, science and technology studies, and (economics).

- **Cross-over to Valuing Nature**: programme acknowledges and encourages the role of social science disciplines and methodologies in exploring the three themes.

- **Existing VNN related work** – reference points in VNN 1 – and National Ecosystem Assessment.

UK National Ecosystem Assessment

Living With Environmental Change

Social Sciences

Context

- Understanding the social formation and context of actions and behaviour related to values and risks associated with nature and well-being.

- Recognising that perceptions of risks and values are contingent upon a wide range of social, economic (and natural/physical) circumstances, which vary temporally and spatially.

- Recognising that values are neither arbitrary, nor determined solely by economic predictors, but are subject to differentiated interests, experiences and trade-offs.
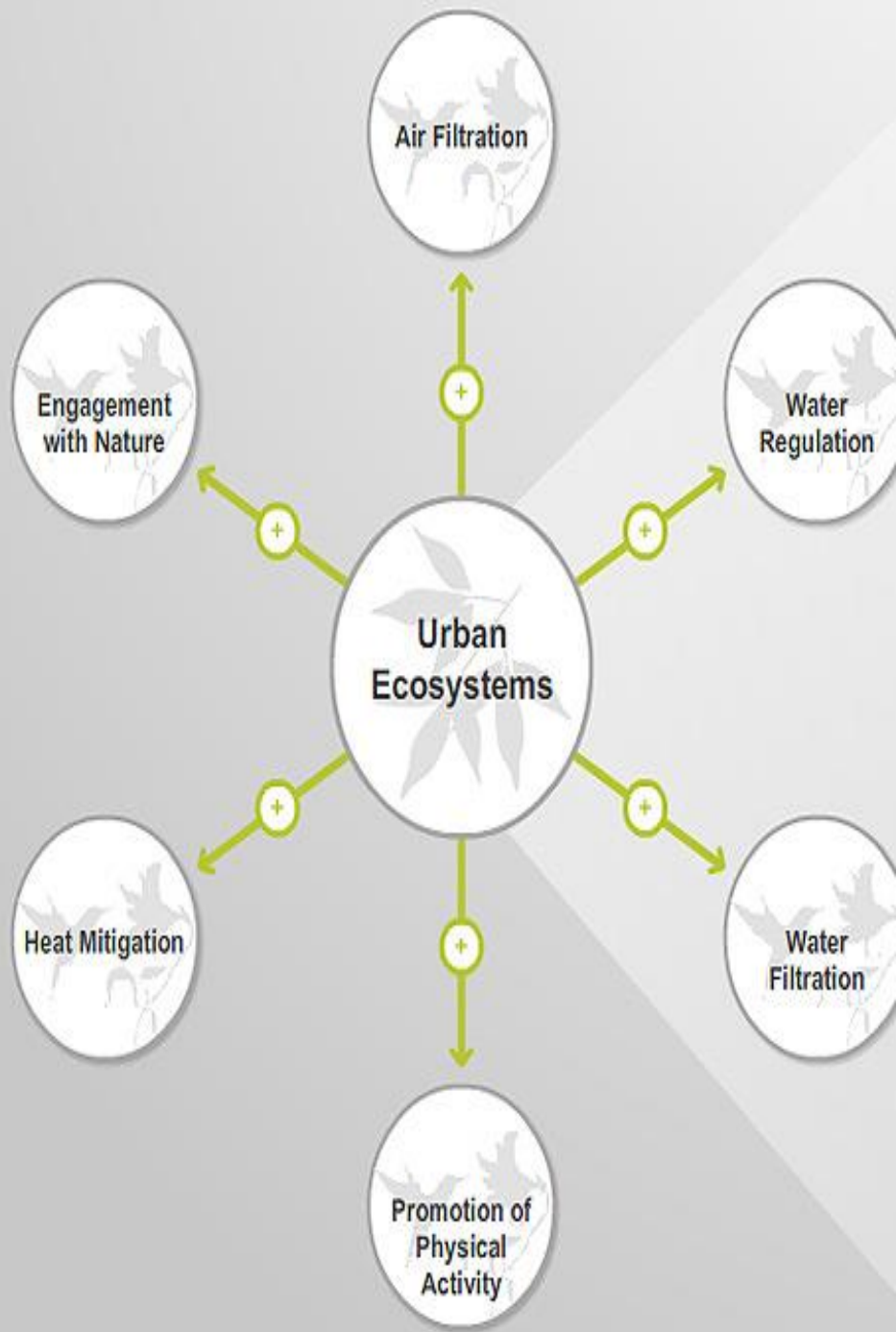
Social Sciences

Plurality of methods and forms of evidence:

- Exploring the social and personal expressions of value and risk through surveys, interviews, elicitation of expert judgment, discourse analysis, focus groups, citizen juries, experimental methods, ethnography.

Social Science and inter-disciplinarity

- The importance of social science in helping to define problems and design solutions.

- The importance of social science in identifying distributional issues and therefore concerns of equity and justice.

ANALYSING
DISCOURSE

Textual analysis for social research

NORMAN FAIRCLOUGH

Text Text Text
TEXT Text Text
Text Text Text
Text Text Text
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FOCUS GROUP

Conclusion- Social Sciences

- Social Science and/or Economics will be essential in all proposals which require funding across sponsoring RCs.

- It is recognised that Social Science disciplines encompass a wide variety of methodological and conceptual approaches and there is room for plurality and mixed methods in responses to this call.

- However, there must be complementarity with other disciplines in any single inter-disciplinary proposal.

Research Community Perspectives: Economics

Ece Ozdemiroglu

eftec

Programme Coordination Team
Economics Lead

Economic Value

- Many definitions of value relevant for the call
- "Economic"
    - Not 'the cheapest' but 'the highest net benefit'
    - Not just commercial / financial gain but also wellbeing
    - Not only money income but all other factors that contribute to wellbeing
    - Not all of which can be expressed in monetary terms
    - Not only self-interested

Economic Valuation – behaviour / welfare

- Consumer behaviour
- Consumer behaviour in markets that are linked to environment
- Ask people what their preferences are
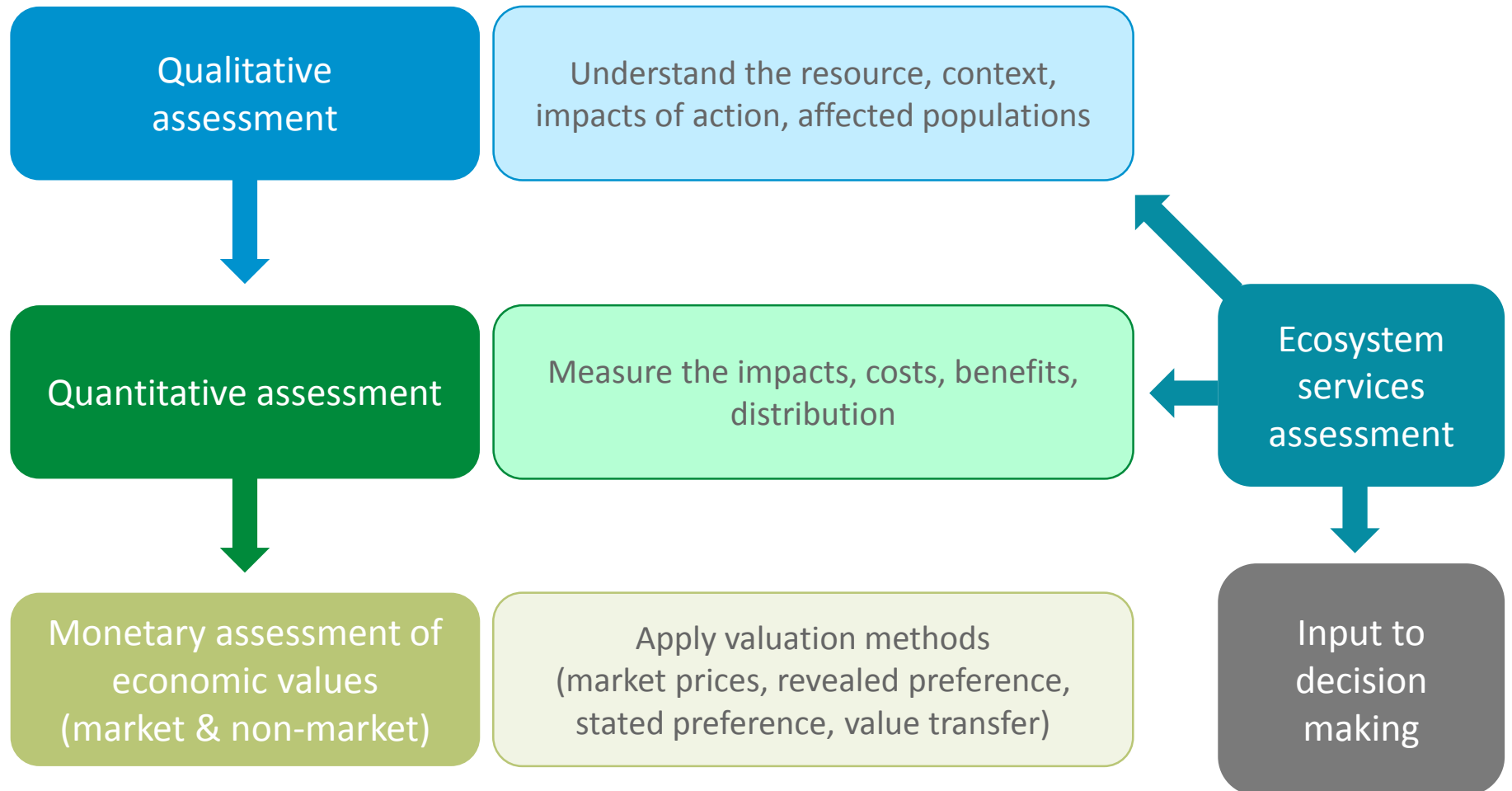
Economic Valuation – cost based

- How much does it cost to maintain / replace – recreate a natural asset?
- How much does it cost to meet a target?

Uses of value evidence

- Demonstrate the relative importance of a resource, benefit, action

- Should we take an action? (investment, policy)
  - Behaviour / welfare approaches

- We all agree we should take action, we should meet a target etc.
  - Cost based approaches
    - what's the best way to implement it.
    - how much does it cost to repair / maintain/ replace a resource

Economic valuation is a multi-disciplinary approach

Qualitative assessment

Understand the resource, context, impacts of action, affected populations

Quantitative assessment

Measure the impacts, costs, benefits, distribution

Monetary assessment of economic values (market & non-market)

Apply valuation methods (market prices, revealed preference, stated preference, value transfer)

Ecosystem services assessment

Input to decision making

Natural Hazards and Extreme Weather Events

- Health and wellbeing impacts
  - Medical costs
  - Lost productivity
  - Psychological effects
- Taking multiple costs and benefits into account
  - Using different metrics
  - Affecting different groups

Pathogens & natural aquatic toxins

- Economic costs and benefits
  - financial and wellbeing
  - internal and external
  - market and non-market

Urban ecosystems

- What are the multiple benefits?

- Who benefits by how much?

- Who could contribute to funding?

Natural Hazards and Extreme Weather Events

- Health and wellbeing impacts
  - Medical costs
  - Lost productivity
  - Psychological effects
- Taking multiple costs and benefits into account
  - Using different metrics
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Research Community Perspectives: Arts & Humanities

Dr Rob Fish

University of Kent

Programme Coordination Team
Arts & Humanities Lead

Arts and Humanities - context

- **Coverage includes**: the visual, literary & performing arts, history, philosophy, theology, cultural studies and cultural geography….

- **Cross-over to valuing nature**: programme acknowledges and encourages an expansive ('*more than economic*') approach to values and value elicitation

- **Related work**: reference points in UK NEA follow on & wider AHRC programming

The call is an invitation to:

- Understand the human health and wellbeing dimensions of the natural environment from a **interpretative** starting point.

- This includes:
  - Understanding how health and wellbeing values reflect wider cultural **norms and practices** associated with the natural environment
  - Paying due regard to specificity and context: the way values accrue significance across different **cultural groups** as well as their varied **spatial** and **temporal expression**
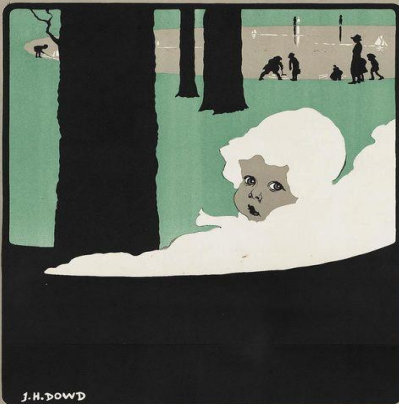
FRESH AIR
IN LONDON'S PARKS

Hyde Park   Kensington Gardens
Regent's Park   St. James's Park.

TRAVEL THERE BY

UNDERGROUND

J.H.DOWD

MAY DAY HYDE PARK
OLD & NEW BY UNDERGROUND
[REVELS]   [RALLY]

"I love the Park . . .
And when I ride in Rotten Row
I wonder why they call'd it so"

UNDERGROUND

Hyde Park Corner,
Marble Arch, Knightsbridge,
Lancaster Gate Stations

The call is an invitation to:

- Situate the human health and wellbeing dimensions of the natural environment from a cultural starting point.

- This includes:
  - Understanding how health and wellbeing values reflect wider cultural **norms and practices** associated with the natural environment
  - Paying due regard to specificity and context: the way values accrue significance across different **cultural groups** as well as their varied **spatial and temporal expression**
  - Learning from different historical and cultural **designs** and **uses** of natural capital infrastructures

Arts and Humanities

Plurality of methods and forms of evidence:

- Exploring values across different media and genre - written texts, storytelling (including oral history), mapping, performance and visual forms such as film, artwork and photography.

The call is an invitation to:

- Attend to the **diversity** of human experience that produces and shapes the heath and well being values of the natural environment and how people benefit from it;

- Recognise that the **articulation** of values does not in itself *resolve* competing values and world views.

ENVIRONMENTAL OPTIONS

- DAMNED IF YOU DO, OR
- DAMNED IF YOU DON'T.
- IT'S YOUR CHOICE!!

Dialogue Cartoons by Luke Warm

Arts and Humanities

Models of **public engagement and dialogue**:

- Creative involvement of diverse communities/ publics in debates about valuing nature.

- Caution: not about **decorating and communicating** assured knowledge

Conclusion- Arts and Humanities

- Arts and Humanities important part of the provision made within projects to ensure **depth** of interdisciplinary integration

However…

- Models of research **do not** require that Arts and Humanities research is **subsumed** within scientific models and concerns to generalize and systematize knowledge about human relationships and understandings of nature

- **Plurality** and **mutually reinforcing** – not artificial synthesis

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Find out more:

www.valuing-nature.net

info@valuing-nature.net

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