



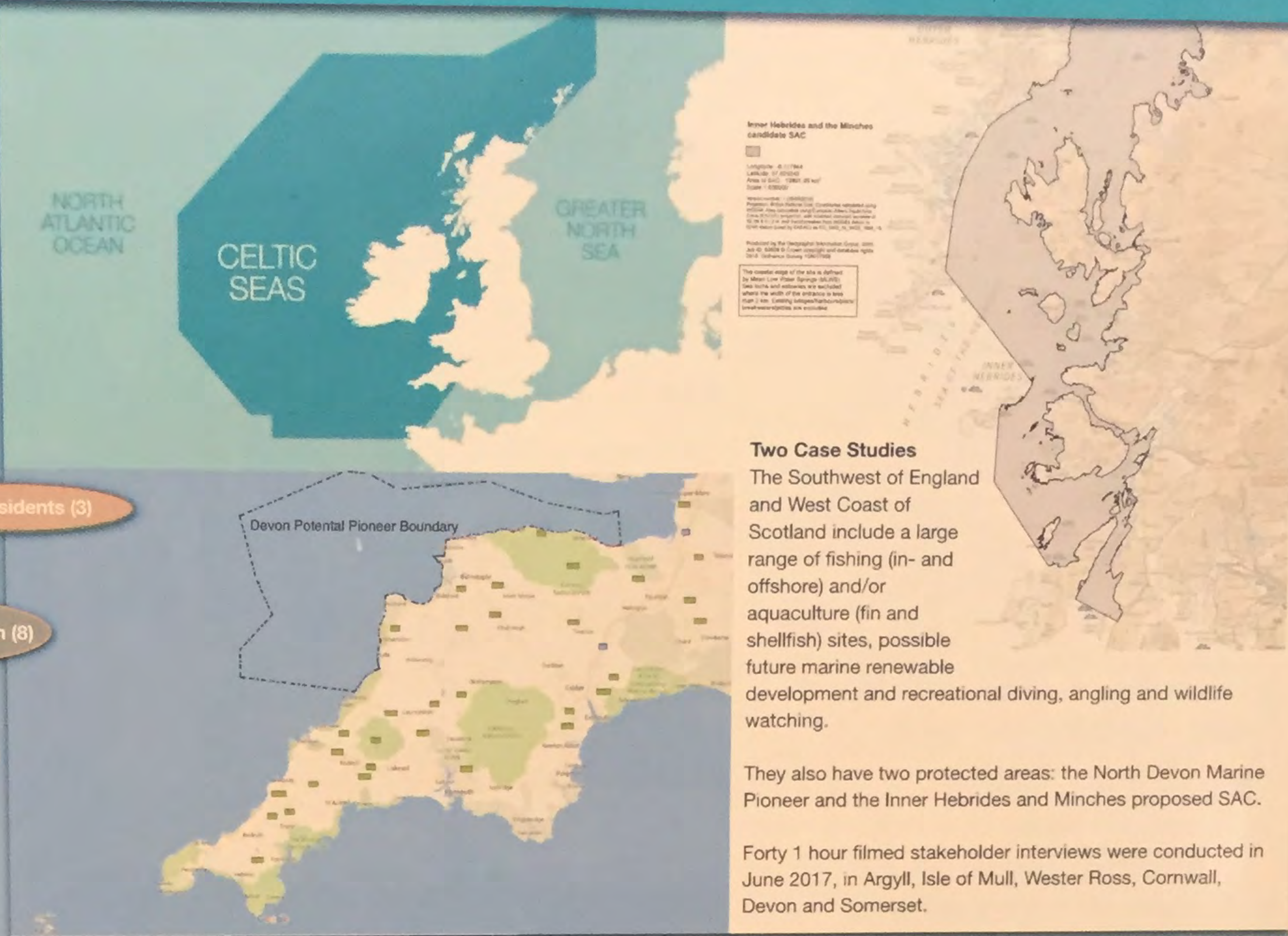
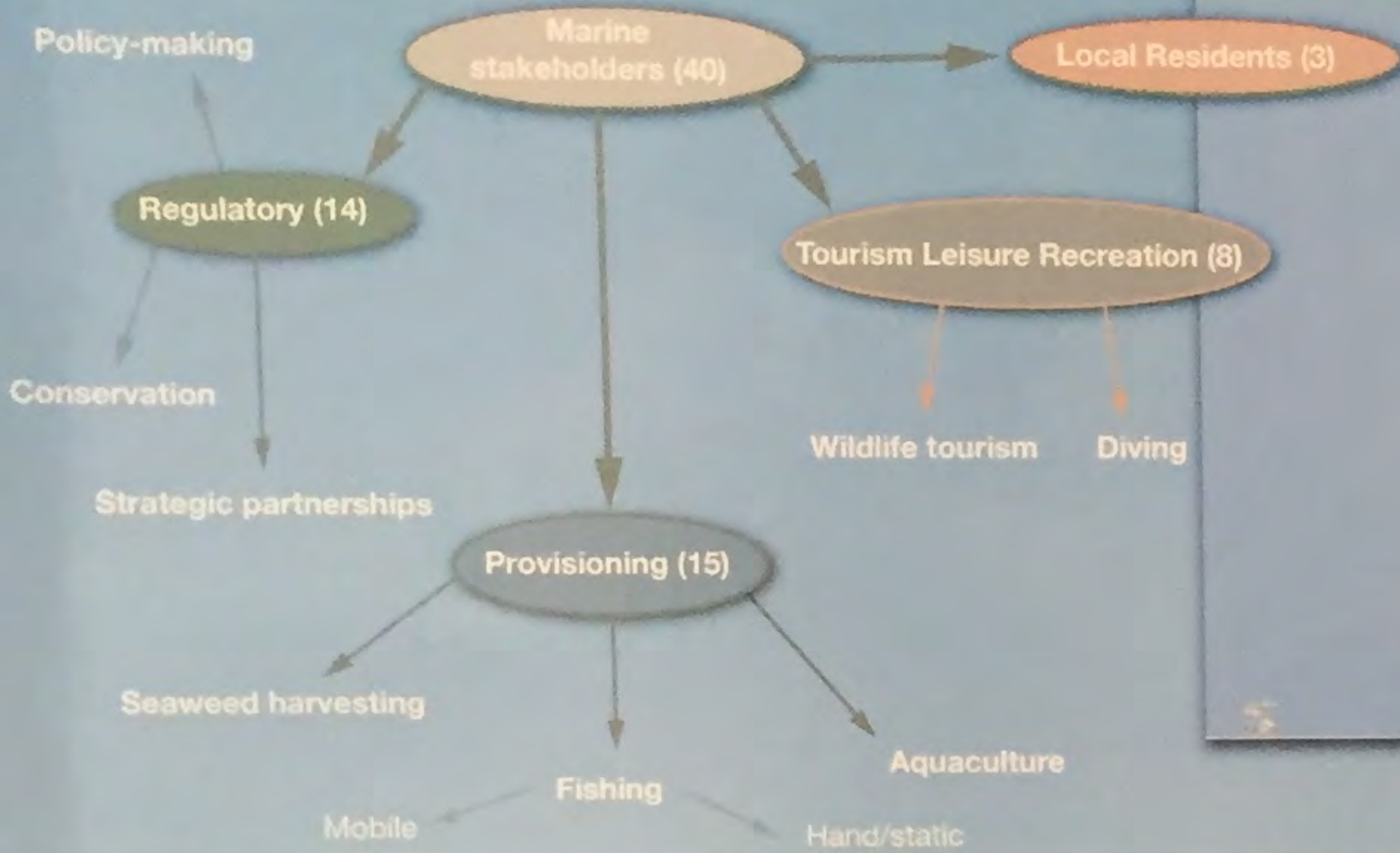
Cultural Values of Marine Ecosystem Services in the UK's Celtic Seas

ABSTRACT

This study is part of the Marine Ecosystems Research Programme; it assesses non-monetary values of marine ecosystem services in the UK's Celtic Seas. Using the Community Voice Method, we investigate social and cultural aspects through the lens of the UK NEAFO cultural ecosystem services (CES) and IPBES valuation frameworks.

We describe the benefits derived by people using inshore and offshore marine environments and their attitudes towards NEAFO policy scenarios.

The findings increase understanding of marine users' shared values, competing interests and potential trade-offs to guide implementation of appropriate marine management strategies. A short documentary film will inform regional Multi Criteria Analysis workshops.

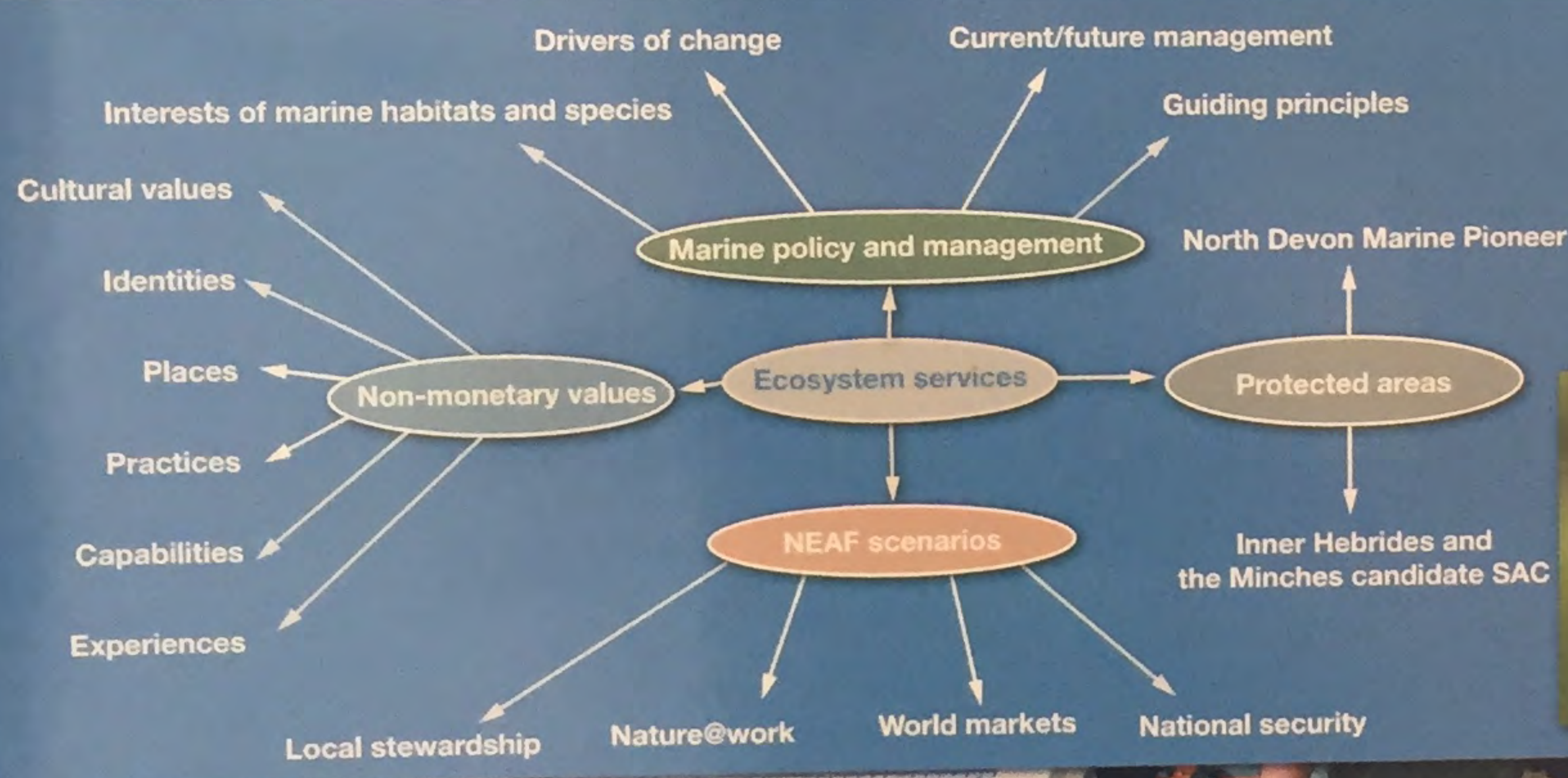


Two Case Studies

The Southwest of England and West Coast of Scotland include a large range of fishing (in- and offshore) and/or aquaculture (fin and shellfish) sites, possible future marine renewable development and recreational diving, angling and wildlife watching.

They also have two protected areas: the North Devon Marine Pioneer and the Inner Hebrides and Minches proposed SAC.

Forty 1 hour filmed stakeholder interviews were conducted in June 2017, in Argyll, Isle of Mull, Wester Ross, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.



Trade-offs and potential conflicts will be explored through a series of four possible future scenarios. The resulting documentary will highlight to decision-makers stakeholders' shared values and ways in which trade-offs may be exacerbated or alleviated by social, economic and cultural factors.

This approach establishes identities (e.g. community and place identity), experiences (e.g. spiritual and aesthetic) and capabilities (e.g. local knowledge and skills), as key ways in which cultural ecosystem services benefit human well-being through interactions between spaces, practices and shared cultural values<sup>1</sup>.

[1] Church, A., et al., 2014. UK National Ecosystem Assessment Follow-on. Work package report 5: UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge.



SHOULD WE PUT A PRICE ON NATURE?

Cultural ecosystem services relate to the importance that people place on the benefits they receive from their interactions with the natural environment, such as spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation and aesthetic experiences.

Stakeholders provided many interesting insights into their relationships with the marine environment in their local areas, including information about sense of place and belonging. The benefits they receive from activities carried out around islands, coasts, estuaries, bays and cliffs relate to their sense of identity, their wellbeing, emotional and intellectual stimulation and learning.

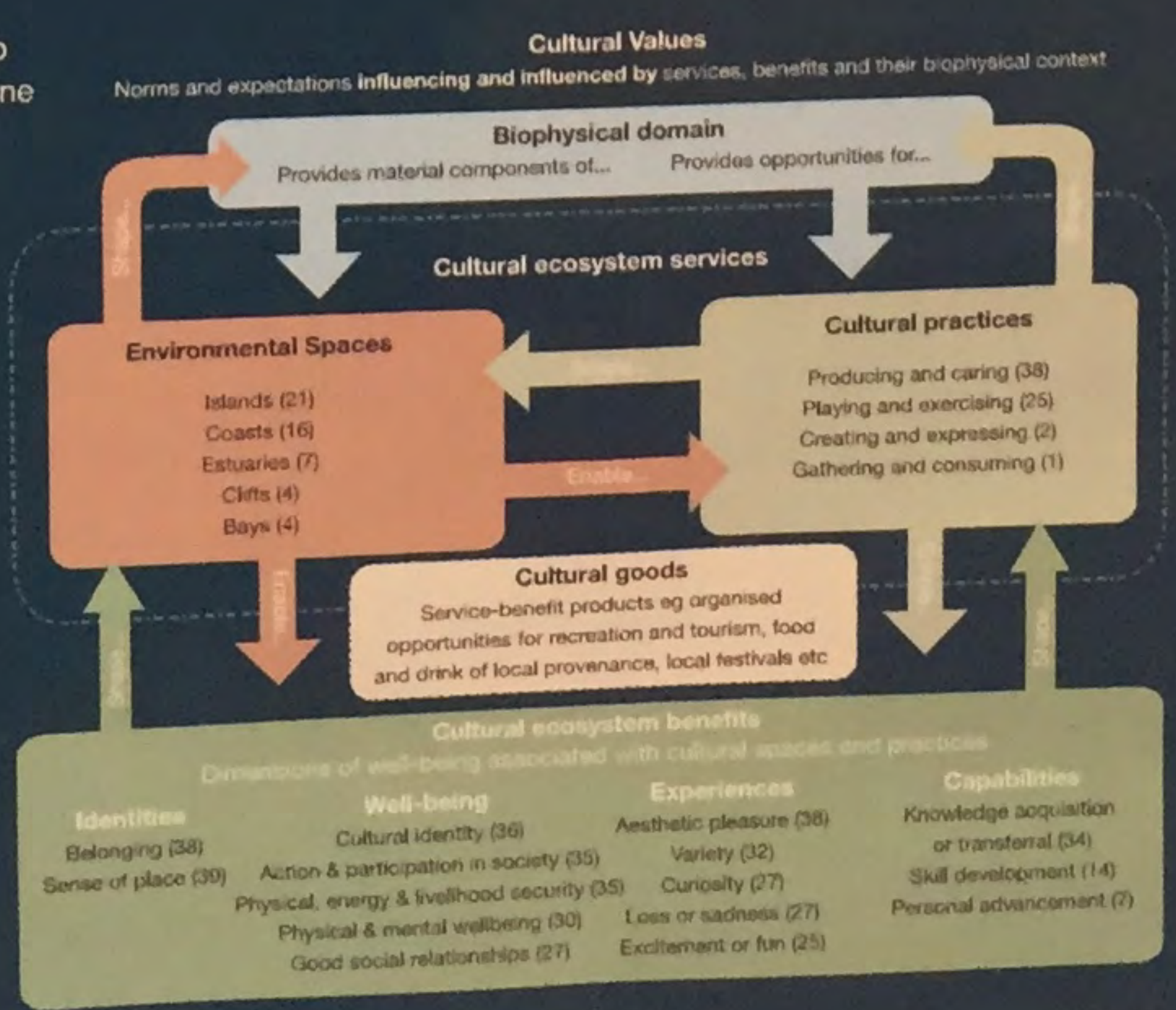
Understanding the non-monetary values people hold about nature is fundamental to understanding human wellbeing. This is important because local communities contribute significantly to conserving the natural environment. Yet, they have to bear the cost of, but often have no say in, the management decisions that affect their lives.

Results

Results will address several knowledge gaps: contribution of CES benefits to human wellbeing; the role of non-natural capital in the co-production of marine and coastal CES; and synergies and trade-offs within and between CES, human-related activities and abiotic outputs (e.g. minerals, wind, waves).

Values for managing the marine environment

- QUALITY OF LIFE: interdependence between human beings, other living species, elements of nature (20), relationship between humans and mother earth (18), good social relationships (12)
ANTHROPOGENIC DRIVERS: protection of habitats or species (17)
INTRINSIC VALUES (13)
EXPERIENCES: curiosity (14), excitement/fun (10), variety (10)
CAPABILITIES: knowledge acquisition/transferral (10)



Why: study non-monetary values of marine ecosystem services? Because: understanding shared values, competing interests and trade-offs is vital for implementing effective management strategies.

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