A plurality of pluralities: seeing the woods through the trees of multiple values of nature

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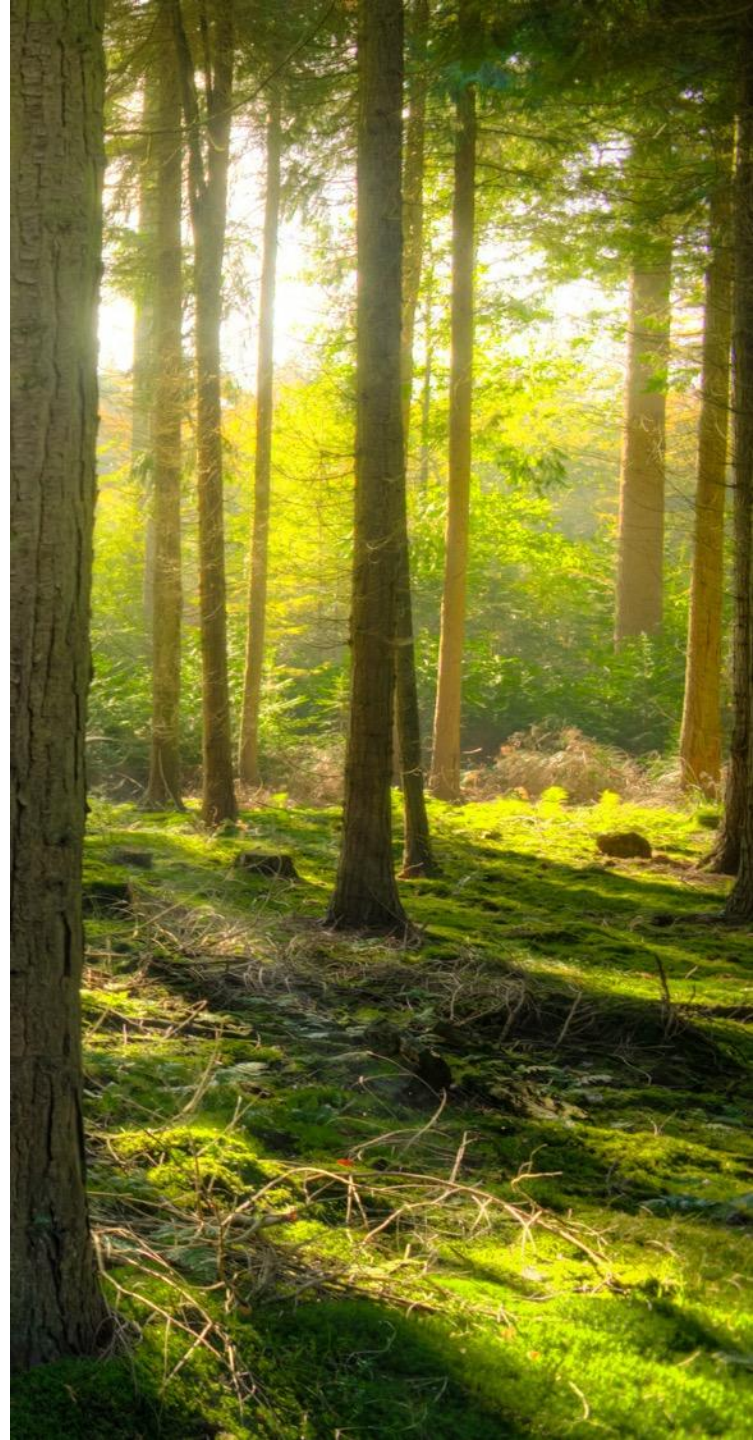
Outline

- What are values?
- What does multiple or plural values mean?
- Deliberative ‘shared values’ approaches to integrating and bridging values
- Integrating multiple values in decisions: Case studies
  - Value of protecting marine ecosystems (UK NEA)
  - Value of rainforest conservation (Solomon Islands)



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What are values?

Values relate to what is good or important – but what does this mean?

Example: ‘cultural value/s’

The values important to a culture

The value/s of cultural things

The value of things to culture

Three basic concepts of values

1. Values as our life goals and principles (*transcendental values*)
2. Values as the importance of specific things (*contextual values*)
3. Values as indicators of that importance (*value indicators*)

UK NEA 2014
Kenter et al. 2015

”This is a wonderful beach for walking my dog. I like to stay healthy, and I enjoy connecting with other dog walkers.”

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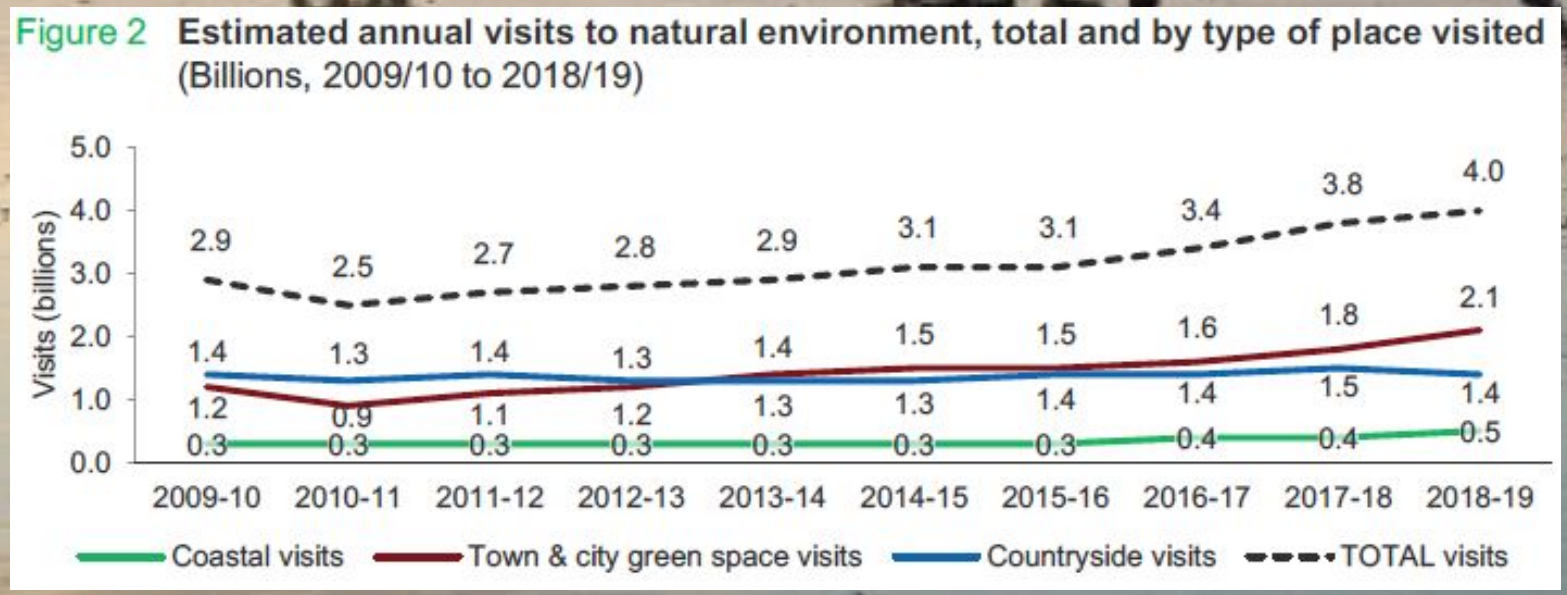
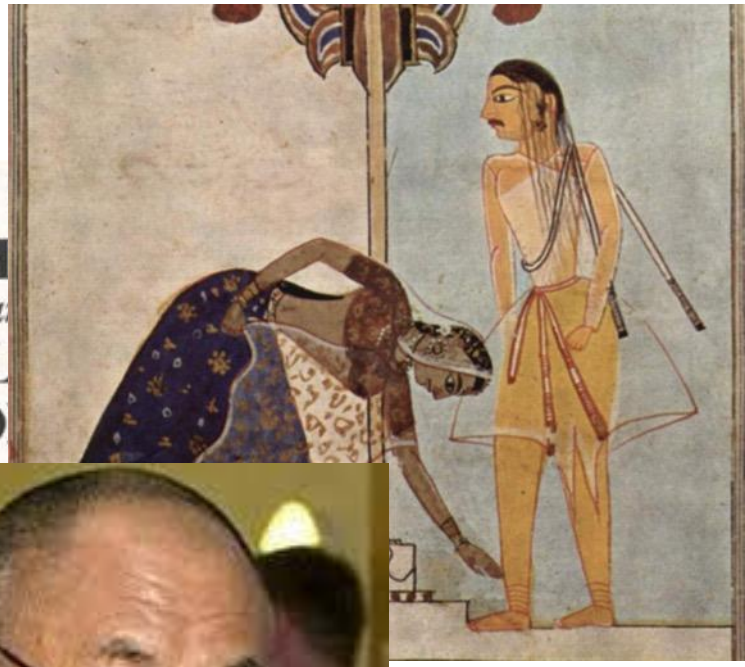


Natural England (2019), Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment

Journal of Social Issues, Vol. 50, No. 4, 1994, pp. 19–45

Are There Universal Aspects in the Structure and Contents of Human Values?



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Values, valuing and valuation

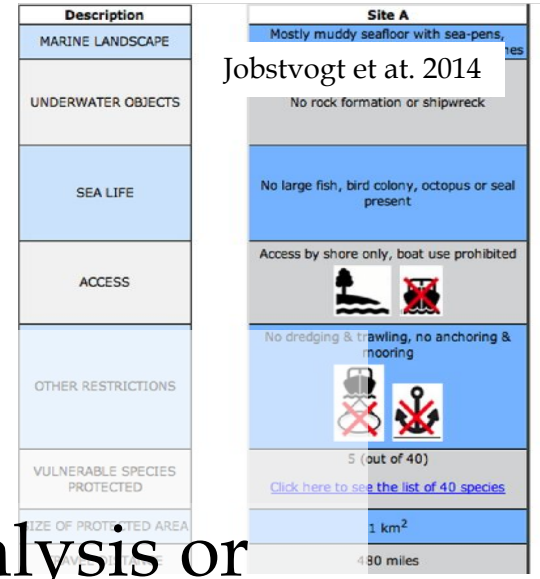
Valuing

- an informal, largely implicit process not bound to any particular setting

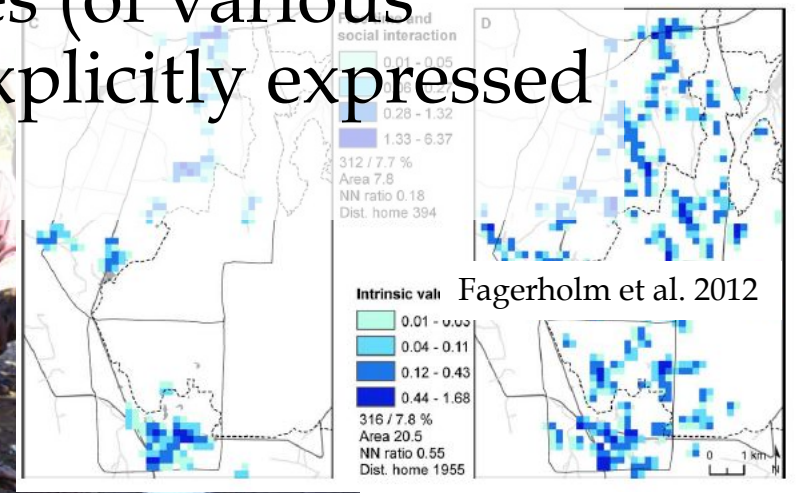
Kenter et al. 2015

Valuation

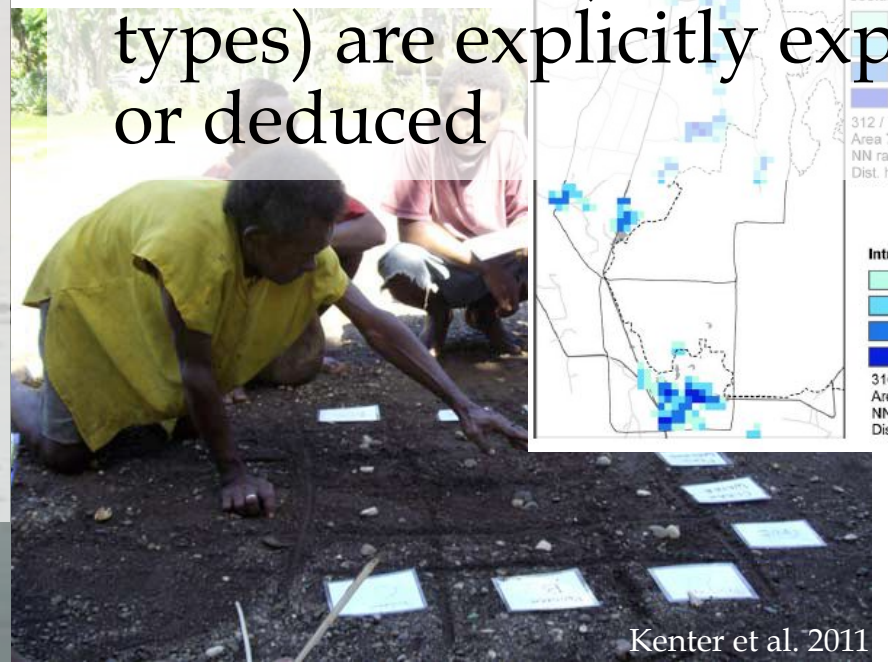
- formal research, analysis or decision-making processes where values (of various types) are explicitly expressed or deduced



Jobstvogt et at. 2014



Fagerholm et al. 2012


Kenter et al. 2011

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Multiple values…

- Different people value multiple different things to different degrees
  (*content plurality)*
- Individual people value multiple different things depending on the context
  (*context plurality)*
- There are multiple types of values
  (*ontological plurality)*
- There are multiple sets of knowledge assumptions about values and multiple ways of assessing, aggregating, validating values
  (*epistemic and procedural plurality / multiple value 'lenses')*
- There are multiple justifications of values of nature
  (*ethical plurality*)

Why are multiple values important to decisions?

- Inclusivity and legitimacy
- Addressing and avoiding conflict
- Identifying and forming shared values
- Assessing policy impact
- Multiple values can be appealed to to to justify policies and to leverage more sustainable behaviors
- Shifting from sets of values that are less well aligned with sustainability (e.g., materialism-consumerism) to those that are better aligned (e.g., community, health and wellbeing)
- Assessing prosperity and progress

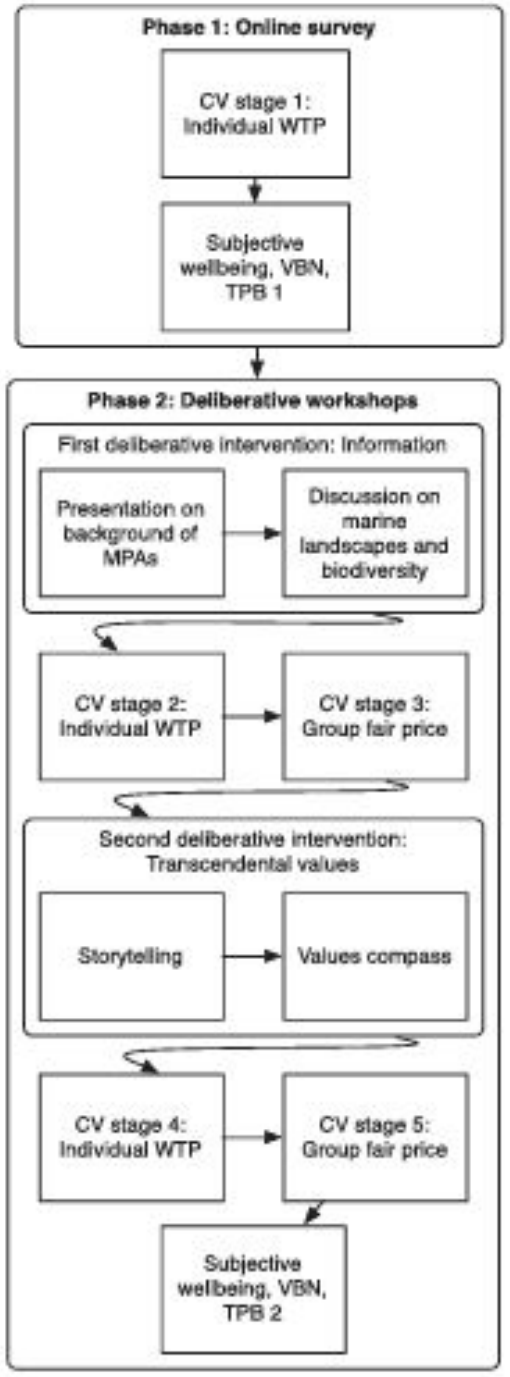
Content plurality

- What do we value nature for?

Context plurality

Context plurality and shared values

- Conventional economics and some other approaches assume values as preformed and held by individuals
- While transcendental values are often stable, different values are articulated by different contexts.
- Contextual values are dynamic and influenced by the transcendental values articulated in the context.
- For policy, often the most relevant values are those formed and shared within communities and sociopolitical contexts – these may be different from or conflict with individually aggregated values
- Processes of value formation can be explicitly designed to help form shared values and overcome value conflicts.

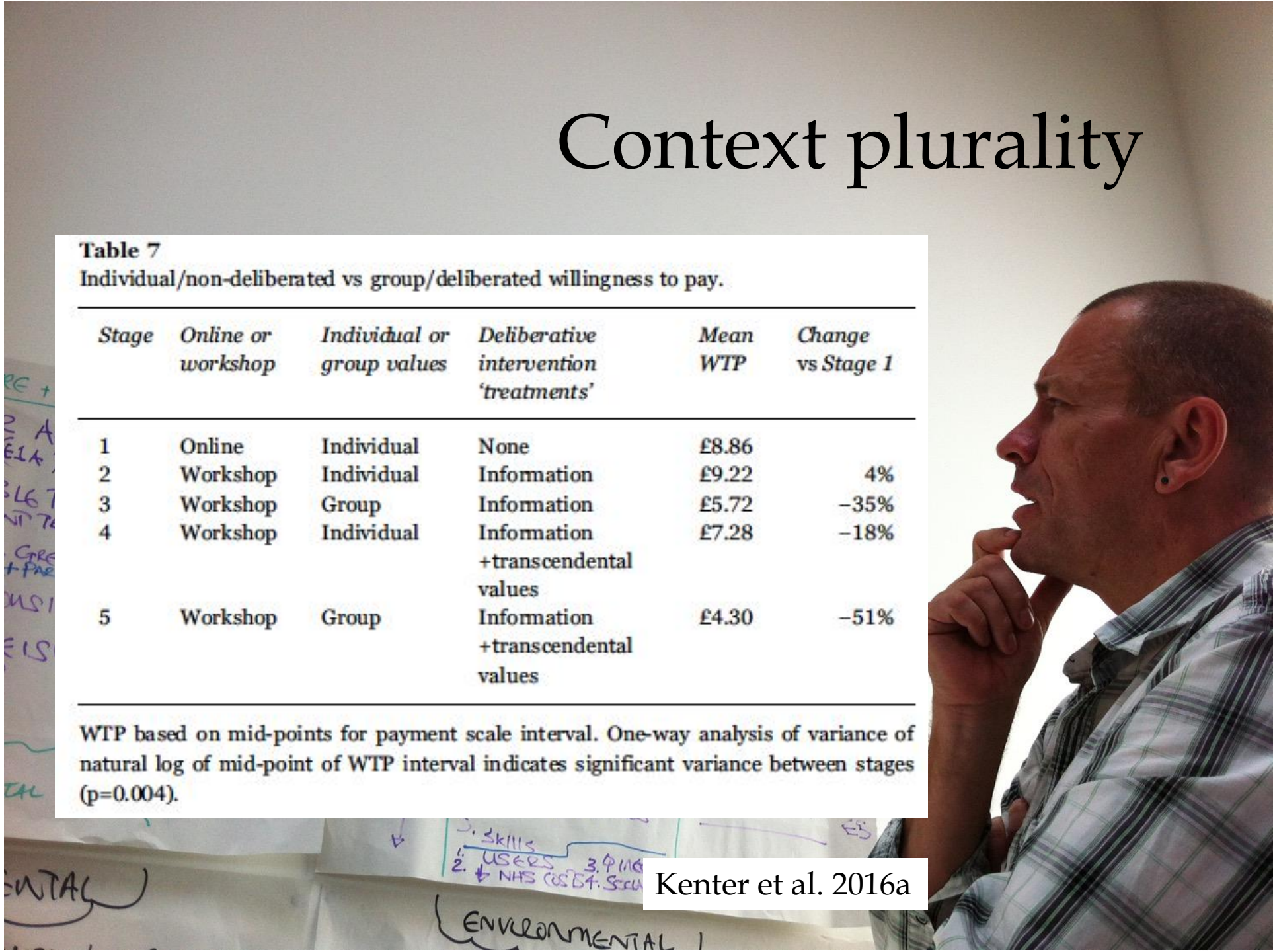


Context plurality

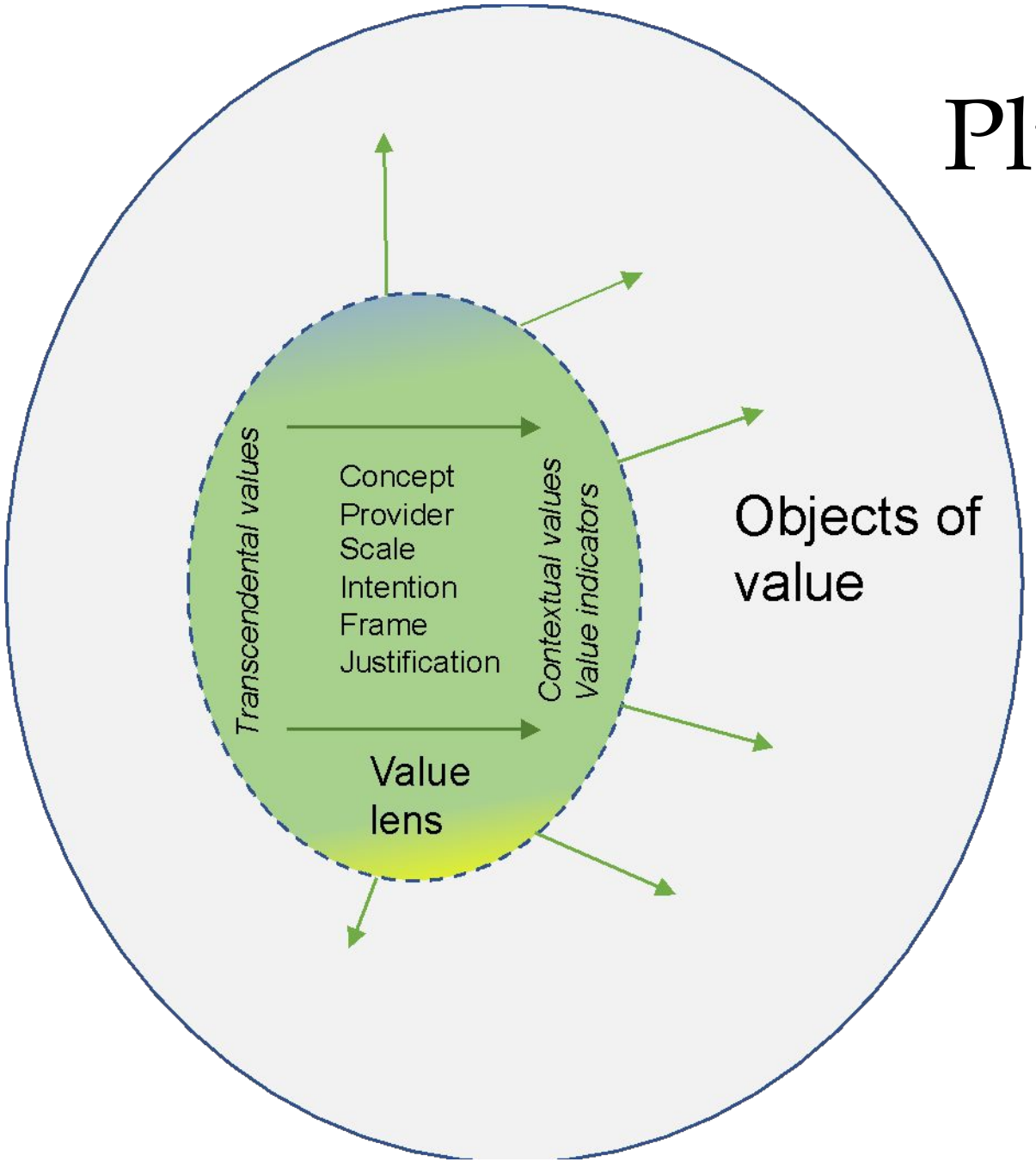
Table 7
Individual/non-deliberated vs group/deliberated willingness to pay.

Stage	*Online or workshop*	*Individual or group values*	*Deliberative intervention 'treatments'*	*Mean WTP*	*Change vs Stage 1*
1	Online	Individual	None	£8.86	
2	Workshop	Individual	Information	£9.22	4%
3	Workshop	Group	Information	£5.72	−35%
4	Workshop	Individual	Information +transcendental values	£7.28	−18%
5	Workshop	Group	Information +transcendental values	£4.30	−51%

WTP based on mid-points for payment scale interval. One-way analysis of variance of natural log of mid-point of WTP interval indicates significant variance between stages ($p=0.004$).



Kenter et al. 2016a



Plurality of value lenses

Concept: What does one mean by values? (transcendental, contextual, indicators)
Scale of provider: At what scale are values being expressed? (individual, group, community, culture)
Scale of values: What is the scale of the values? (individual, societal, etc.)
Intention: Who is being regarded? (self, other, reciprocal)
Frame: How do we frame human-nature relationships?
Justification: How are values justified? (intrinsic, instrumental, relational)

Kenter et al. 2019

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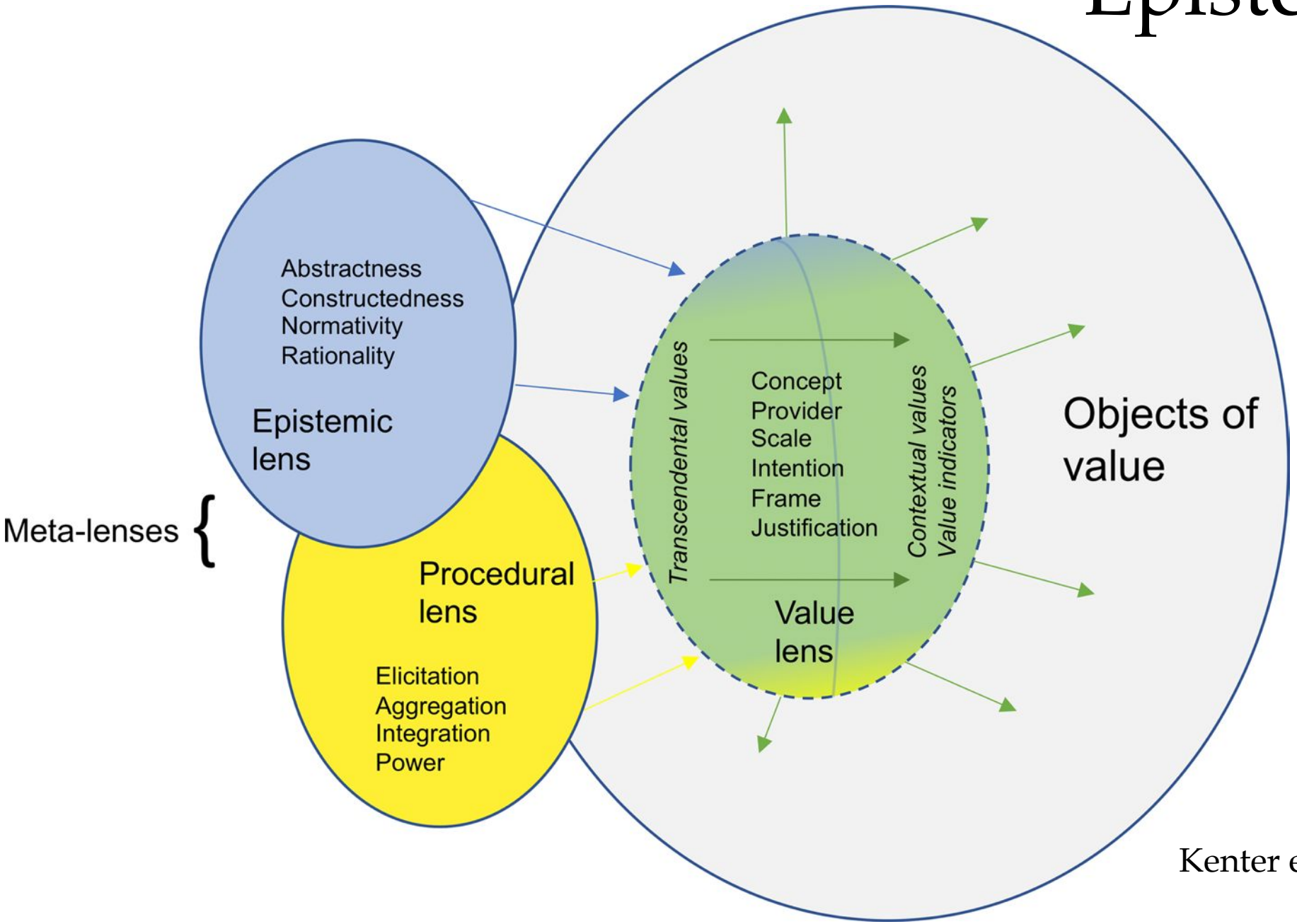
Plurality of value justifications

- Contextual values
  - *Instrumental*: substitutable benefits of nature to people
  - *Relational*: importance of meaningful, non substitutable relations between nature and people
  - *Intrinsic*: importance of nature independent of humans as valuers (not substitutable and not relational)

IPBES (2015)

Epistemic plurality



Kenter et al. 2019

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Meta-values and validation of knowledge

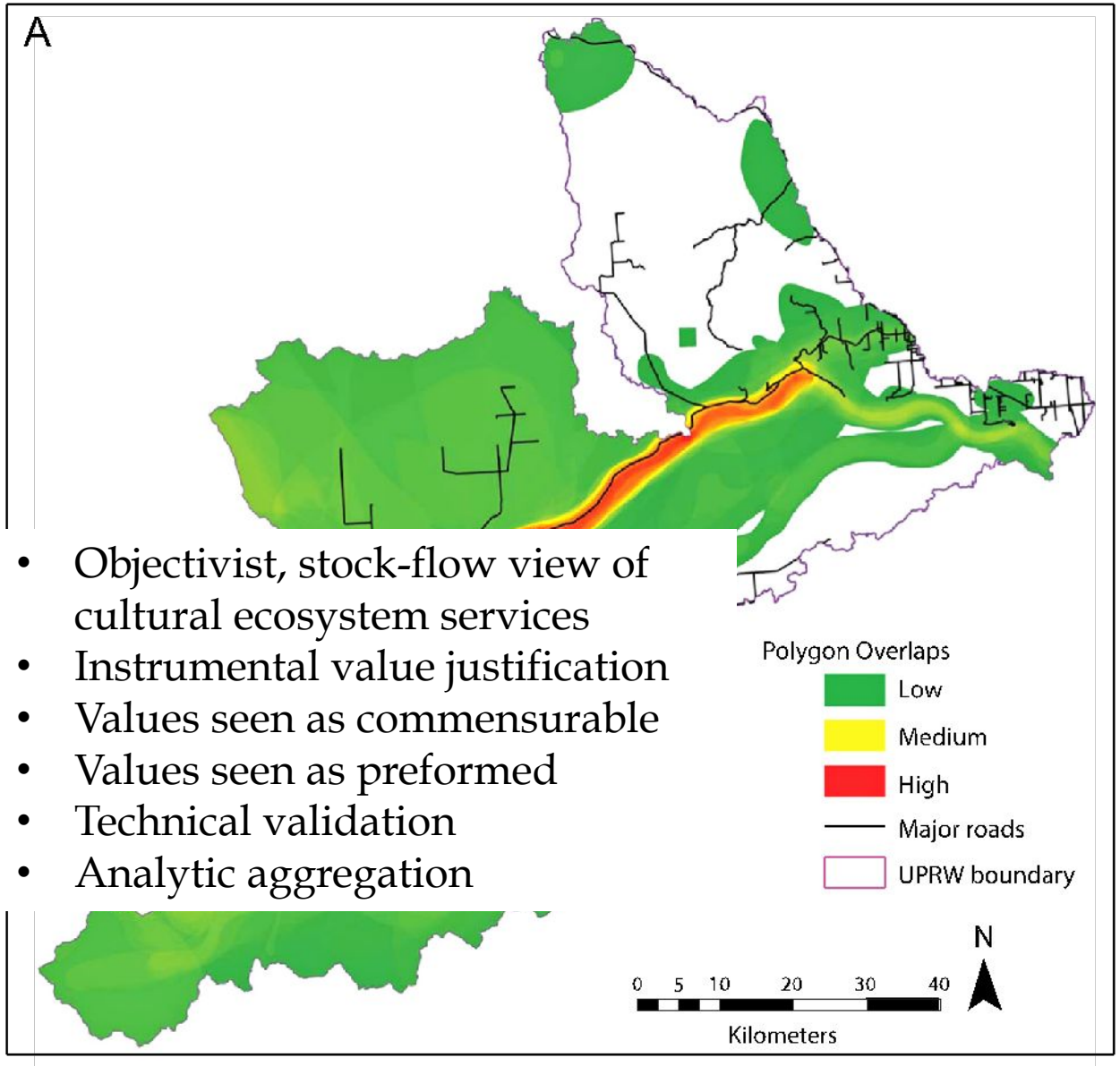
- The choices about what and how we research are inherently normative. All problem descriptions partially result from the value lenses through which issues are viewed (Ainscough et al. 2018)
- Different valuation approaches have different 'meta-values' embedded in them.
- Meta-values are values about values (Kenter et al. 2016b):
  - e.g., economics focuses on *efficiency* of outcomes assessed based on technical criteria & procedures;
  - participatory research validates based on *inclusivity* of process;
  - arts-based approaches value *creativity*, etc.

Different social sciences, humanities and ILK systems all have different validation criteria and procedures

- Cultural ecosystem services and their values co-constructed by environment and culture
- Art is dynamic and non-reproducible
- Values not seen as commensurable
- Installations, performances and exhibitions form means of art-knowledge-value expression, validation related to inclusion
- ‘Aggregation’ through narrative, exhibition and informal deliberation

Acott and Urquhart, 2015

R. Darvill, Z. Lindo / Ecosystem Services 13 (2015) 153–161



- Objectivist, stock-flow view of cultural ecosystem services
- Instrumental value justification
- Values seen as commensurable
- Values seen as preformed
- Technical validation
- Analytic aggregation

Commensurability and comparability of values

- Issues of value commensurability are common because of:
  - Technical challenges (e.g., scale, different indicators)
  - Incomparability of different forms of knowledge because of different knowledge assumptions and value lenses
  - Ethical incommensurability (e.g., costs & benefits vs rights)
  - Incomparability between different transcendental values (e.g., environmental sustainability vs protecting heritage vs monetary prosperity)

Seeing the woods through the trees

Values are complex and multifaceted at multiple levels. How can we bring them together, and how do we ensure nature itself is not lost in this?

- Need an inclusive approach for *conceptually* bringing together multiple values in a straightforward way

- Need an inclusive approach for *practically / procedurally* bringing together multiple values

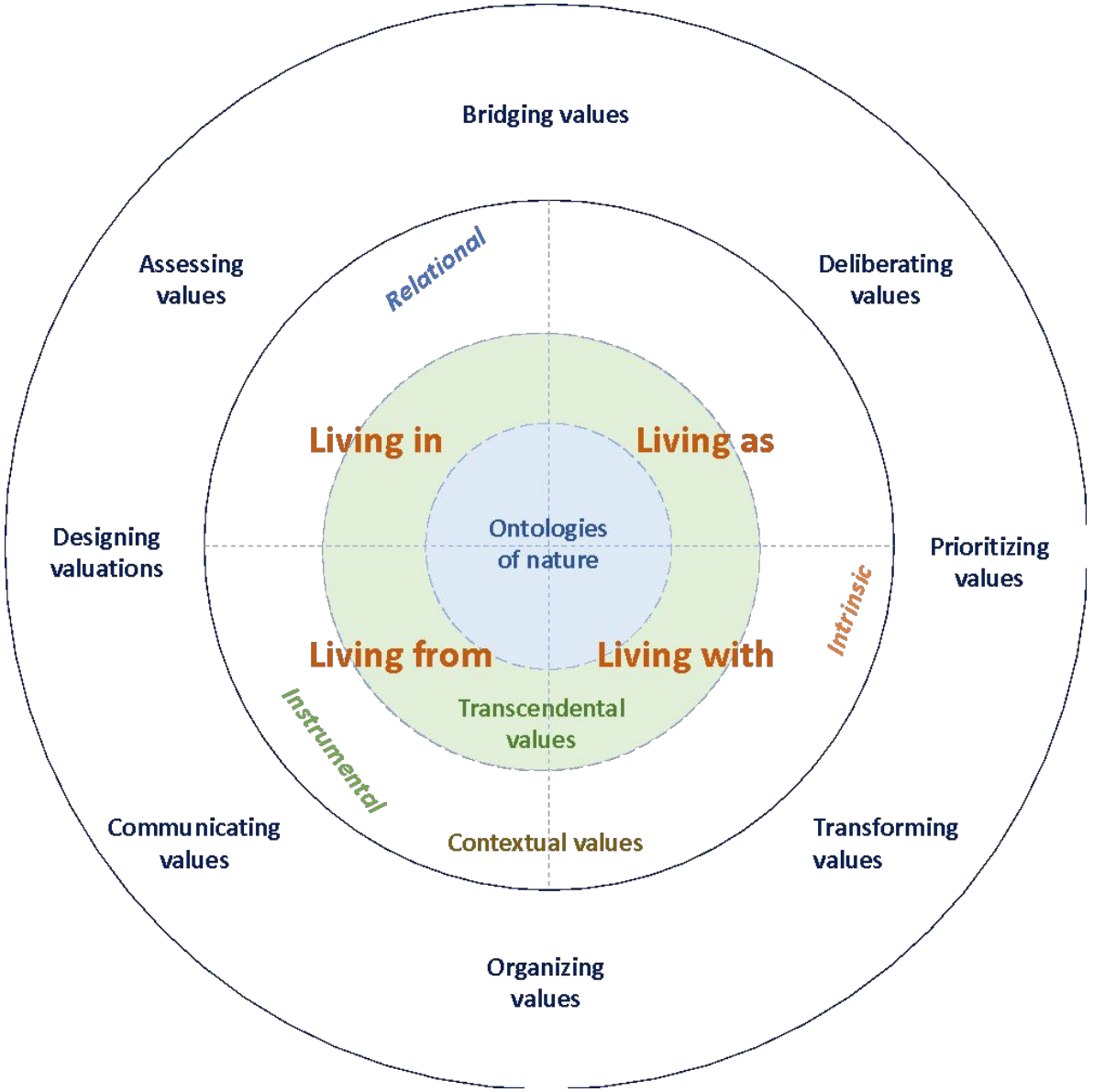
Conceptual integration: The Life Framework of Values

The LF links together sets of transcendental and contextual values and different ways of people-nature relating in an intuitive, comprehensive and inclusive way.

- We live *from* nature: nature as a resource for our sustenance and prosperity
- We live *with* nature: space for nature with its own interests, agency and processes
- We live *in* nature: nature as the place where we live and work and which is part of our history and heritage
- We live *as* nature: nature as (part of) us and vice versa

Sustainable development in relation to nature can be seen as seeking balance between the Life Frames

Historically, 'living from nature' has been overemphasized



O'Connor and Kenter, 2019
Kenter and O'Connor, 2022

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Procedural integration: Deliberation

- Social deliberation provides a way to bring together and compare values without assuming they are commensurable, through 'practical judgement' (Martinez-Alier et al. 1998).
- Environmental issues are inherently social, deliberation provides a means for finding shared values for environmental management/policy based on multiple underlying values for environmental goods.
- Deliberation can be an effective means to bridge science and policy
- 'More-than-human' participation allows people to express interests on behalf of the natural world

Case 1: Values of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) – large-scale deliberation

Storytelling

Symbolic

Deliberative monetary valuation (n=130)

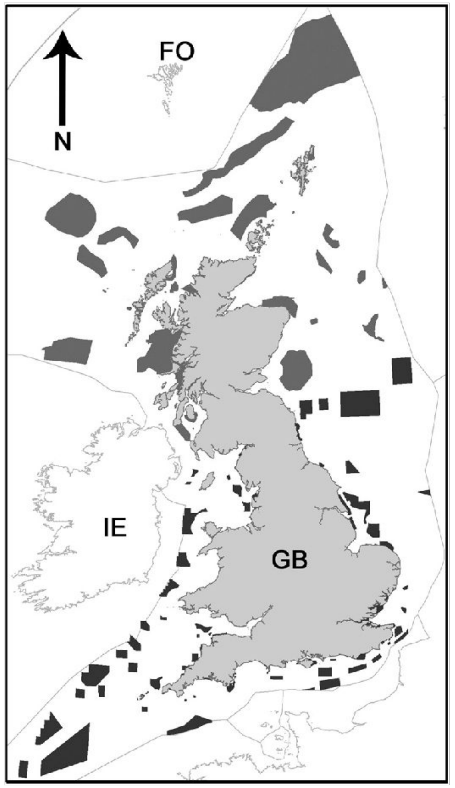
Deliberation on information
CE 2 (individual WTP)
CE 3 (group fair price)
Deliberation on values
CE 4 (individual)
CE 5 (group fair price)

DELIBERATIVE

Online survey
(n=1683)

Choice experiment
(CE Stage 1)
+ Wellbeing
indicators

Instrumental



Kenter et al. 2016a

Storytelling

I ticked all of these [values] and more, I added religious which is strange really as I am an atheist. I was in one place and visibility opened up and it was like a cathedral, with jewel anemones lighting up everywhere. I felt like I was in the presence of God, if there is such a thing. I was crying when I came out of the water" (Diver)

Kenter et al. 2016a

Well-being indicators

- Visiting these sites clears my head.
- I gain perspective on life during my visits to these sites.
- Visiting these sites makes me feel more connected to nature.
- At these sites I feel part of something that is greater than myself.
- These sites feel almost like a part of me.
- I feel a sense of belonging in these sites.
- I've had a lot of memorable experiences in these sites.
- I miss these sites when I have been away from them for a long time.
- …

Bryce et al. 2016

Well-being indicators

Identifier	*Name*	*Engagement*	*Identity*	*Therapeutic*	*Spiritual*	*Transfor-mative*	*Social*
England: Sites being considered for designation in 2013							
Balanced Seas							
BS11.4	Folkestone Pomerania	4.00	3.80	4.15	3.91	4.45	4.05
BS13.2	Beachy Head West	4.02	3.70	4.15	3.91	4.31	4.00
BS16	Kingmere	4.02	3.56	4.26	3.96	4.29	3.92
BS2	Stour & Orwell Estuaries	3.87	3.72	3.94	3.50	3.67	4.00
BS25.1	Pagham Harbour	3.96	3.59	4.14	3.76	4.06	3.76
BS26	Hythe Bay	4.04	3.77	4.13	4.00	4.40	4.20
BS3	Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuary	4.07	3.96	4.41	4.00	4.44	4.44
BS6	Medway Estuary	3.90	3.70	4.10	3.90	4.40	3.40
BS7	Thanet Coast	3.84	3.68	4.02	3.55	4.27	3.77

Kenter et al. 2013

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Case 1: Impacts of deliberation

- Stories and transcendental value-deliberation brought out shared values and shared personal connections
- Group-based decisions changed perspective by which people undertook valuation and substantial changes in monetary values
  - Stronger collective scrutiny
  - Relative increase in importance of biospheric over egoistic & altruistic values
  - Decisions more moral (stronger emphasis on restrictions, concerns around fairness and access)
  - Clearer correlations between monetary & non-monetary wellbeing values

- Deliberation effectively linked and balanced instrumental and symbolic-experiential knowledge

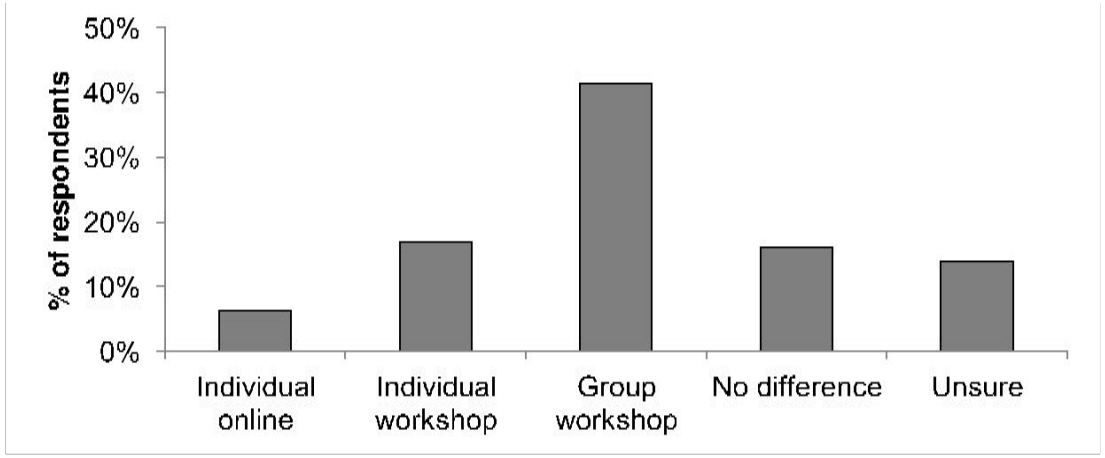

Figure 5. Participant preferences for which values should be used in decision-making.

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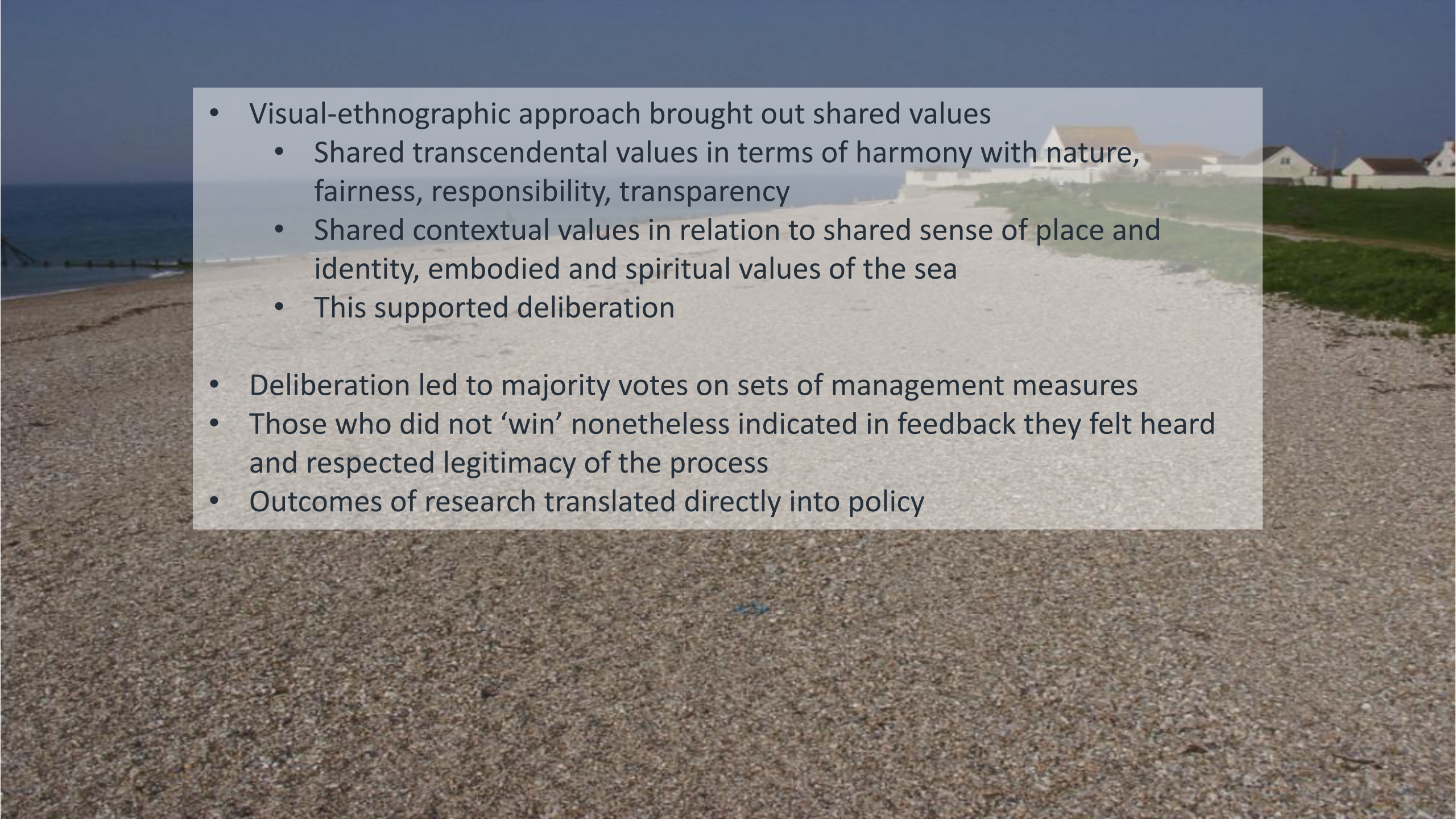
Case 2: Regional MPA management

Ranger et al. 2016
"An interpretive-deliberative democratic approach"



- Visual-ethnographic approach brought out shared values
  - Shared transcendental values in terms of harmony with nature, fairness, responsibility, transparency
  - Shared contextual values in relation to shared sense of place and identity, embodied and spiritual values of the sea
  - This supported deliberation

- Deliberation led to majority votes on sets of management measures
- Those who did not ‘win’ nonetheless indicated in feedback they felt heard and respected legitimacy of the process
- Outcomes of research translated directly into policy

Case 3: Kahua, Solomon Islands

- Extremely high biocultural diversity
- 85% of population depends on subsistence
- Kastomeri land
- Logging, palm oil, mining

Forest ecosystem services valuation

- Trade-offs between cash crops and subsistence
- Pre- and post-deliberation valuation of range of ecosystem services
- Deliberation around the value of subsistence and impacts of cash crops on culture
- 500 participants / ~10% of population – in 43 focus groups

Kenter et al. 2011

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Results – first choice experiment

	Baseline	Improvement	
Gue (*Calamus sp)*	4 hr walk	15 min walk	US $11
Water quality	High 3 months yr^{-1}	High all year	US $33
Gardens	One food garden Three cocoa gardens	Three food gardens One cocoa garden	US $29
			US $73
		+	(SBD $1095)

Modal income: US $220

All figures per household per annum

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Second choice experiment

- Refusal to trade-off environmental attributes against cost
- Willing to pay entire income towards maintaining ecosystem services
- Deliberation and learning had a major impact on outcomes

Deliberative learning

- Recognition of deeper held shared values
- Clarification of the use value of non-marketed goods
- Appreciation of non-use value of goods
- Increased awareness of consequences of actions and ability to change behaviour
- Increased and more sophisticated understanding of social-ecological linkages

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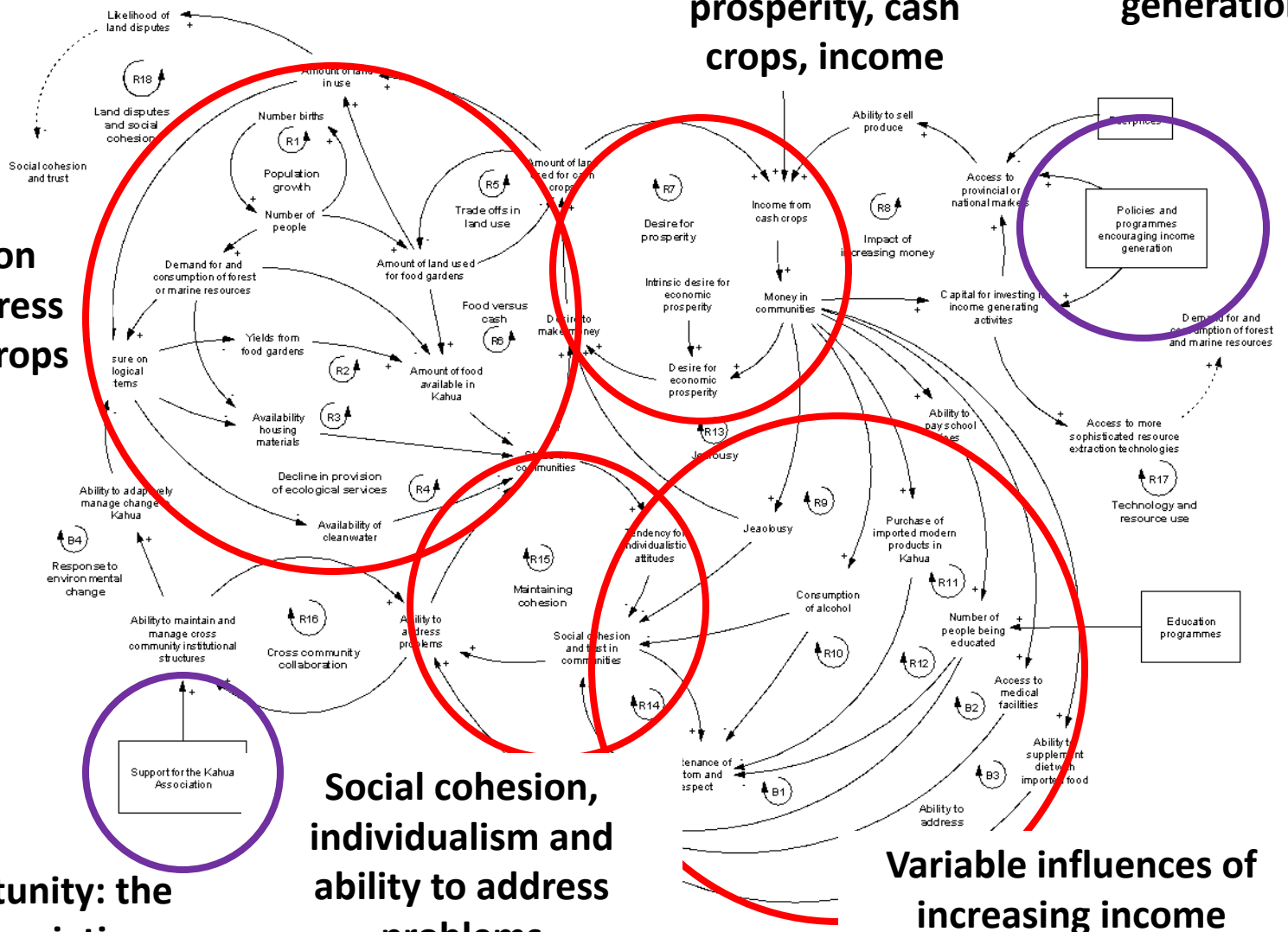
Understanding the 'system'

External influences enable income generation

Desire for prosperity, cash crops, income



Population growth, stress and cash crops

Key opportunity: the Kahua Association

Social cohesion, individualism and ability to address problems

Variable influences of increasing income

Fazey et al. 2011

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Change in development & conservation focus

- Focus on broad wellbeing instead of monetary income
- Population issues more central
- Reduce per capita environmental impacts
- Link into traditional culture and leverage local transcendental values instead of eroding them
- Shifting expectations re. monetary prosperity
- Support local capacity building

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Moving forward

- There are increasingly diverse methods applied to assess different forms of values in monetary and non-monetary terms.
- Approaches to integrate multiple values with each other, and in decisions, are increasingly emphasized but still limited examples.
- Competing approaches to valuation are not just about knowledge. What values are taken up in decisions is ultimately resolved by procedural power, the power to decide what methods and principles are relevant and privileged (Martinez-Allier, 2002).
- Better recognition of multiple values is thus not just about improving valuation but transforming institutions and building capacity to acknowledge multiple values and work with them.
- Urgency of the environmental crises necessitates a shift from values associated with *living from* nature (prosperity, efficiency, etc.) to *living in, with* and *as* nature (harmony, health, belonging, reciprocity, etc.)
- There is a thus a need for rapid transformation of research and policy to recognize multiple values; but there are also huge and exciting opportunities for increasing the band of values recognized.

Integrating multiple values in NEAs

- What life frames of nature's values are currently emphasized in institutions (living from, living with, living in, living as nature)? Where are the gaps?
- How does this encourage or discourage certain values, methods and knowledge bases?
- What valuation methods and indicators (biophysical, economic, quantitative & qualitative sociocultural) are most prominent? Where are the gaps?
- What are the enablers and obstacles for assessment of multiple values?
- How inclusive and participatory are processes for valuation and integrating valuation evidence in decisions?
- How are or could issues of value integration, commensurability and comparability of values be addressed in research and policy?
- What transcendental values are more or less aligned with sustainability, or can be leveraged for sustainability transformation?
- What kinds of capacity building would benefit better assessment of multiple values?

https://valuing-nature.net/demystifying-shared-and-social-values

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