

# **“Preserving biodiversity is inseparable from the fight against poverty.” Or is it?**

**An exploration of the evidence base on biodiversity-poverty linkages**

# SWEEPING STATEMENTS – ANY SUBSTANCE?

CBD “2010 Target” - achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth.

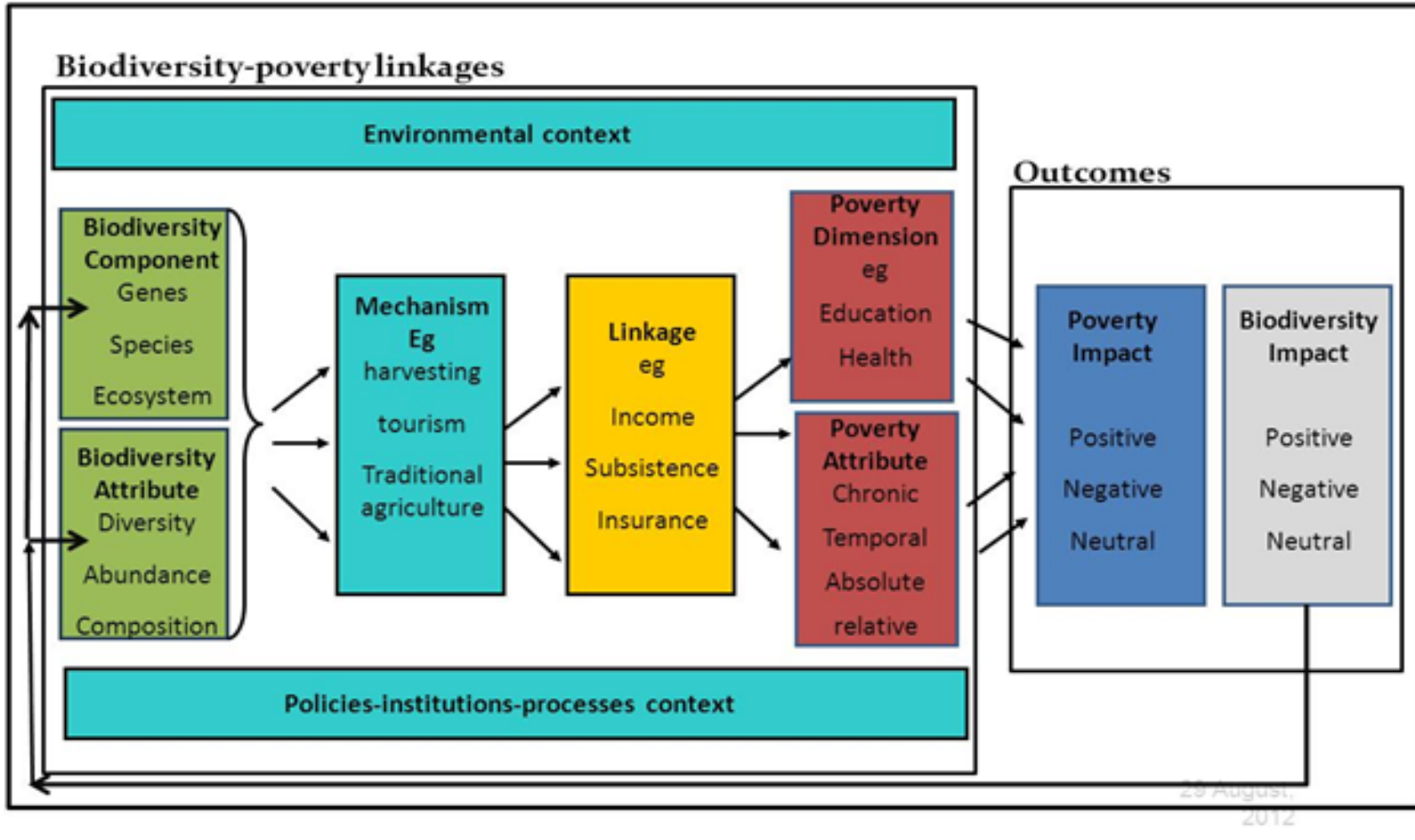
OECD-DAC Policy Statement (2010): Biodiversity and ecosystem services are critical for achieving the MDGs

“The irreparable loss of biodiversity will hamper efforts to meet other MDGs, especially those related to poverty, hunger and health, by increasing the vulnerability of the poor and reducing their options for development” (MDGs report 2010)

2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity: Biological diversity....is essential to achieving the MDGs including poverty reduction

# Conceptual Framework

## Context of evidence



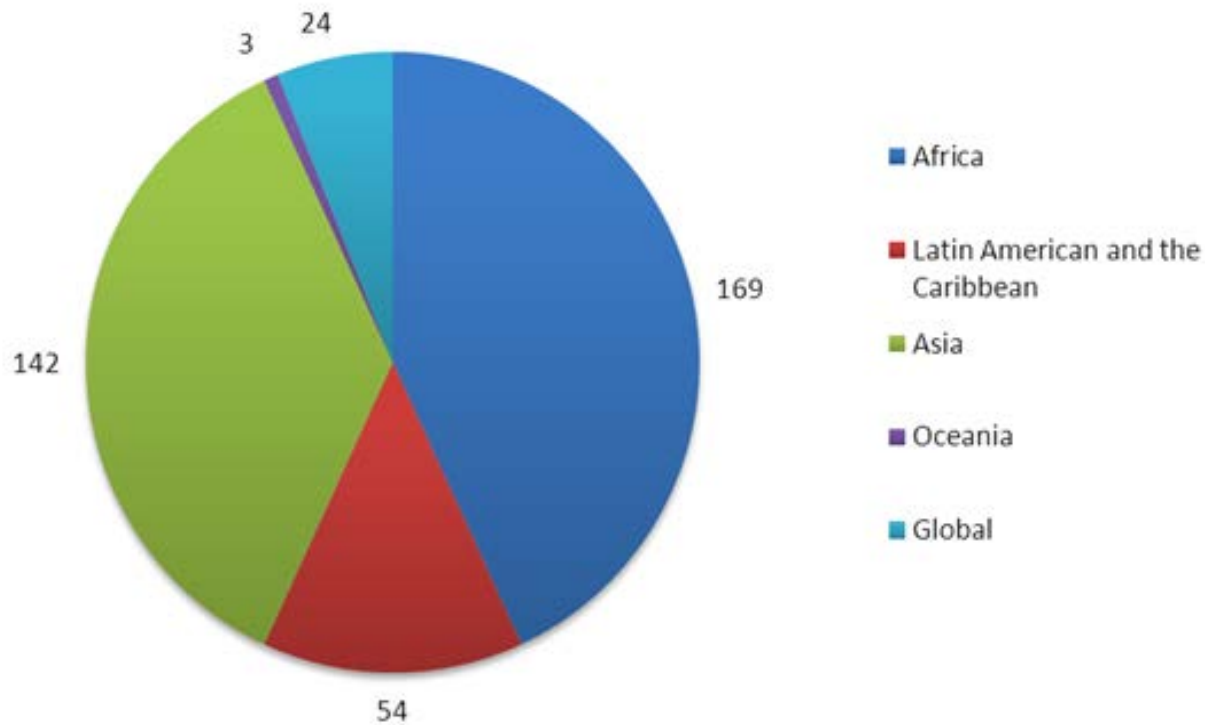
# Systematic Mapping

- Provides an overview of evidence on broad topics
- Used to describe the nature, volume and characteristics of research in a chosen field
- Can help to identify knowledge gaps for new research
- Can help identify where a detailed systematic review may be useful

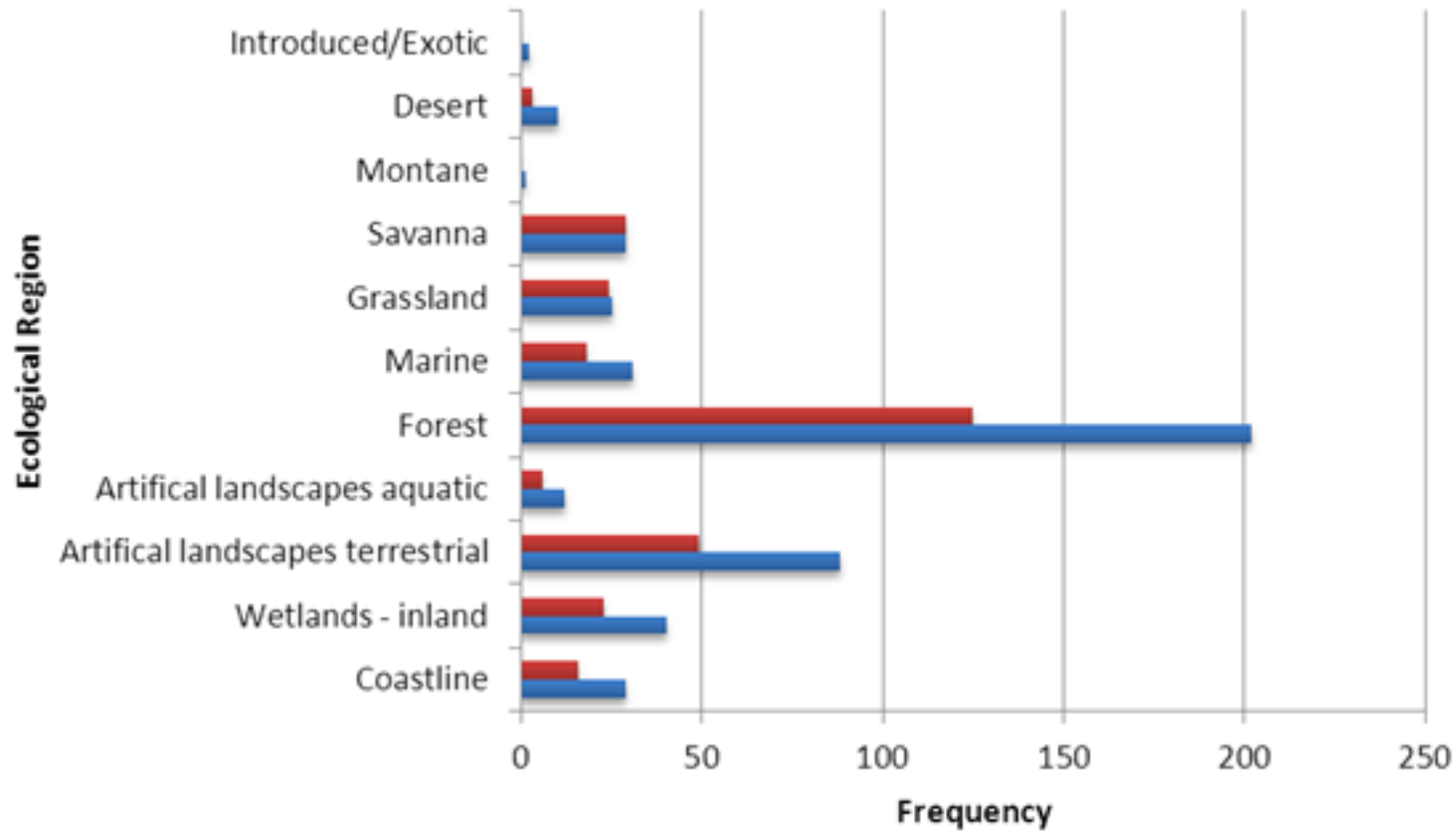
# Scope of our map

- 387 studies from the peer reviewed and grey literature
- 248 including some measure of poverty impact
- Few studies 1985 – 2000 and then a steady increase
- Wide geographical coverage – Africa most studied

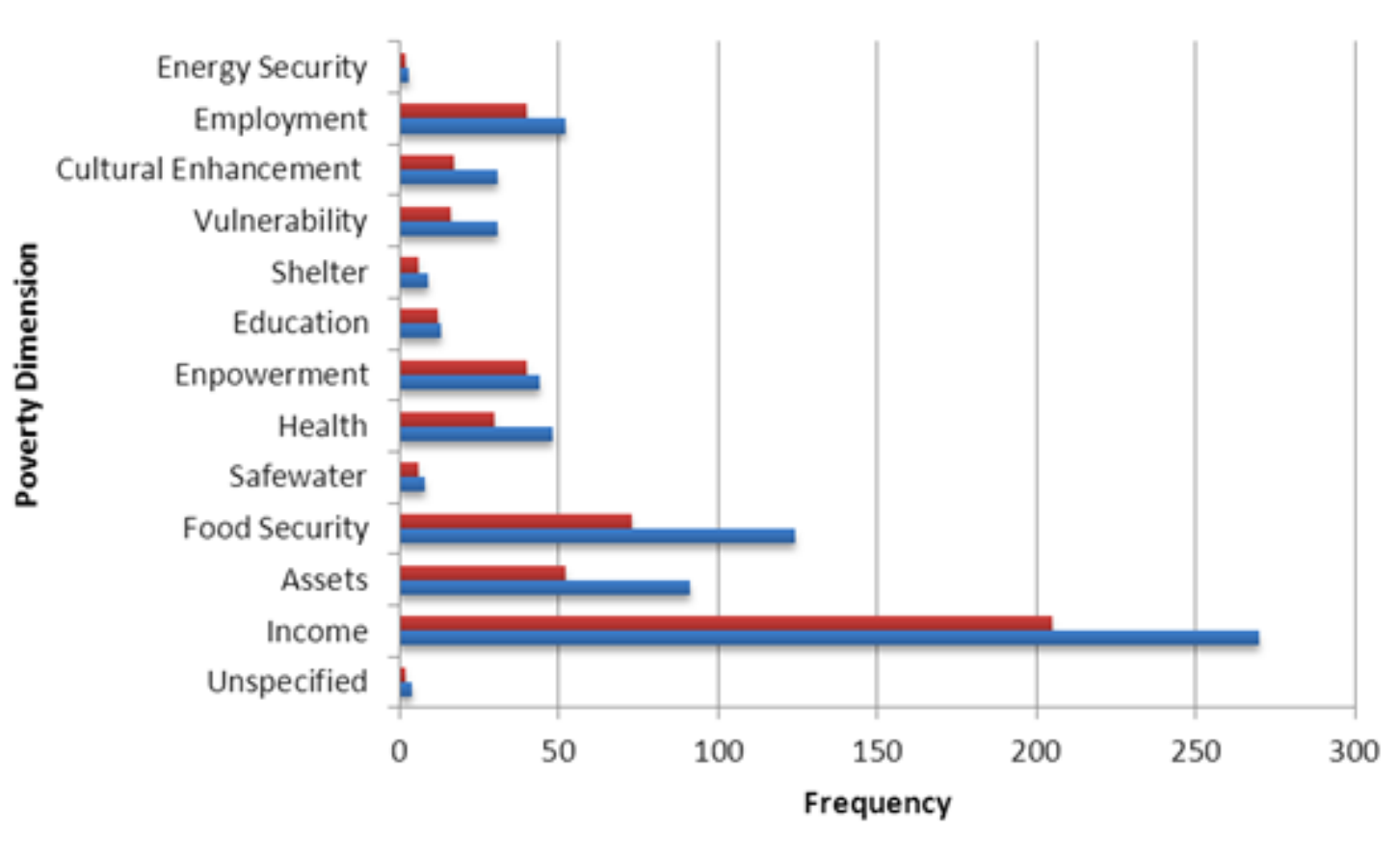
# Geographical coverage



# Ecological coverage

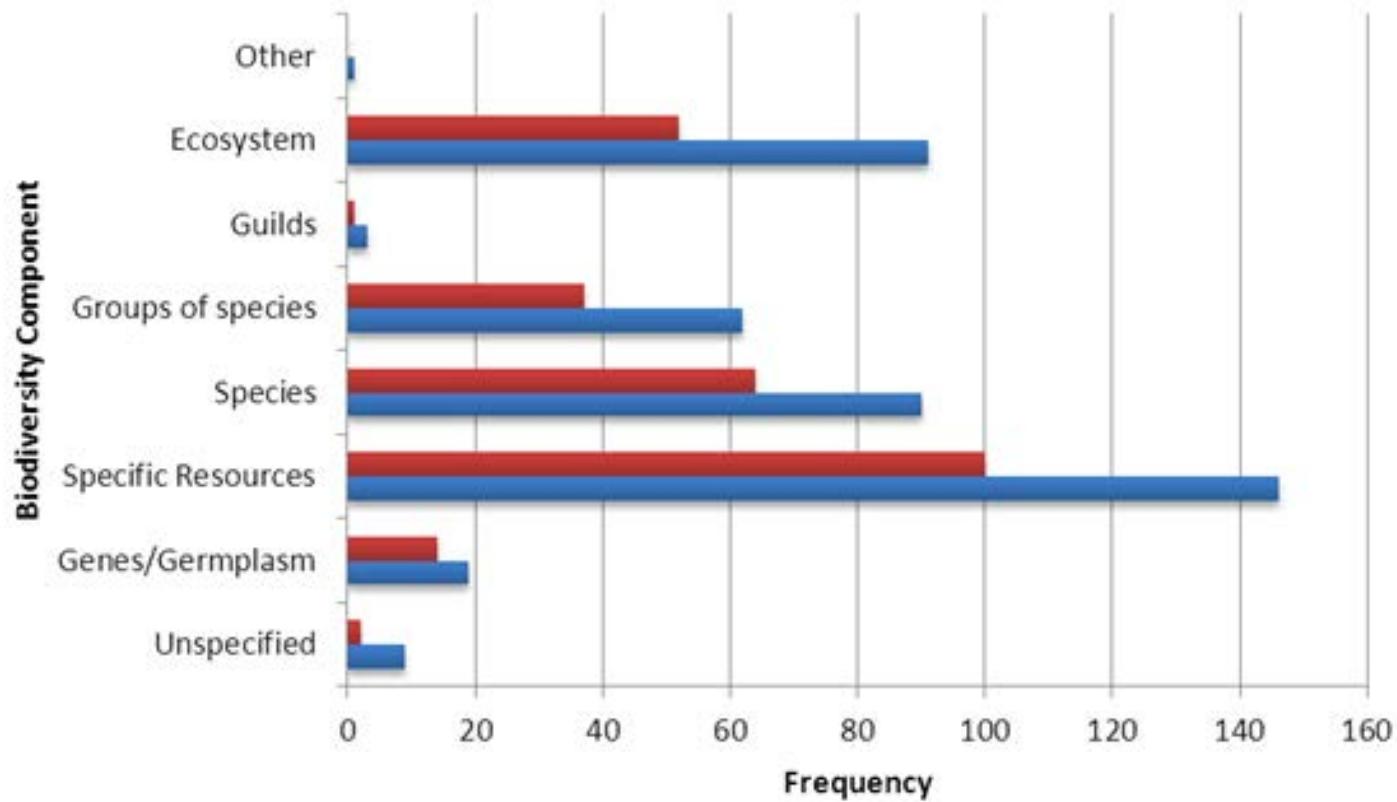


# Dimensions of poverty studied

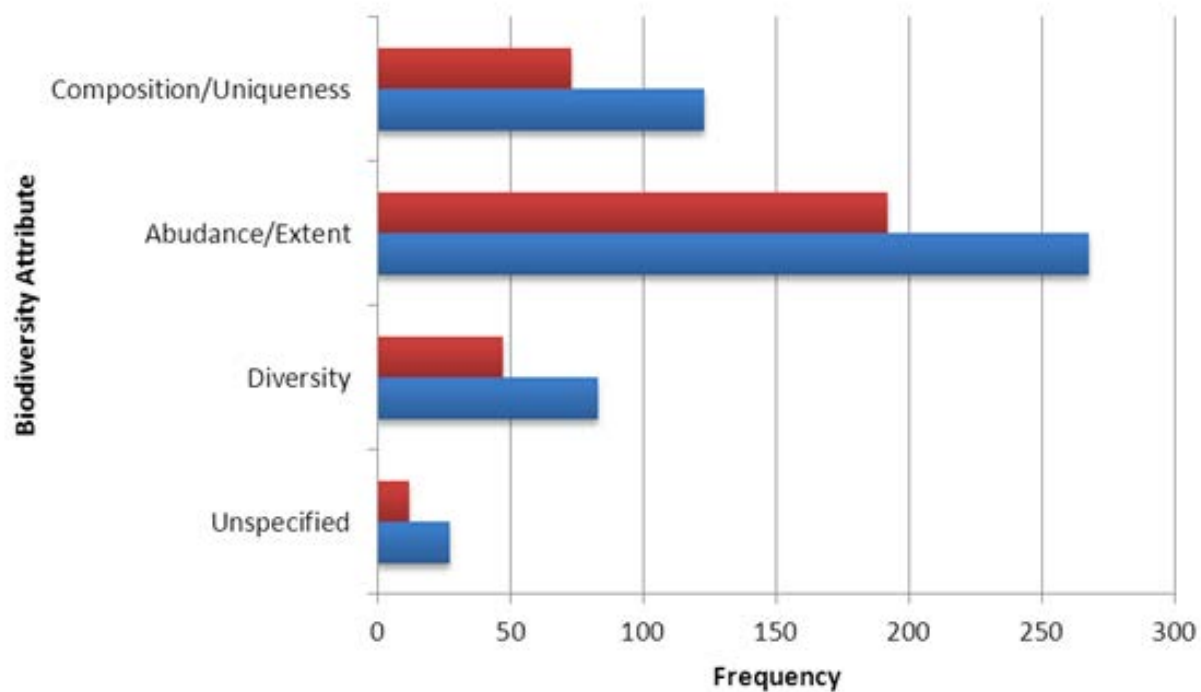




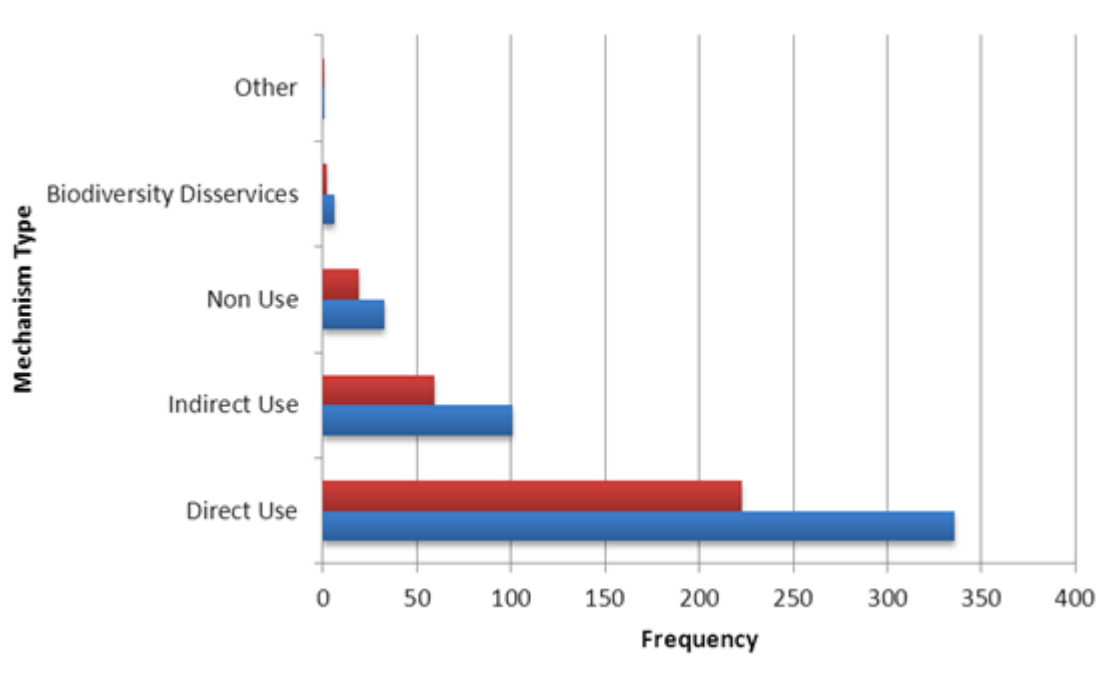
# Components of biodiversity studied



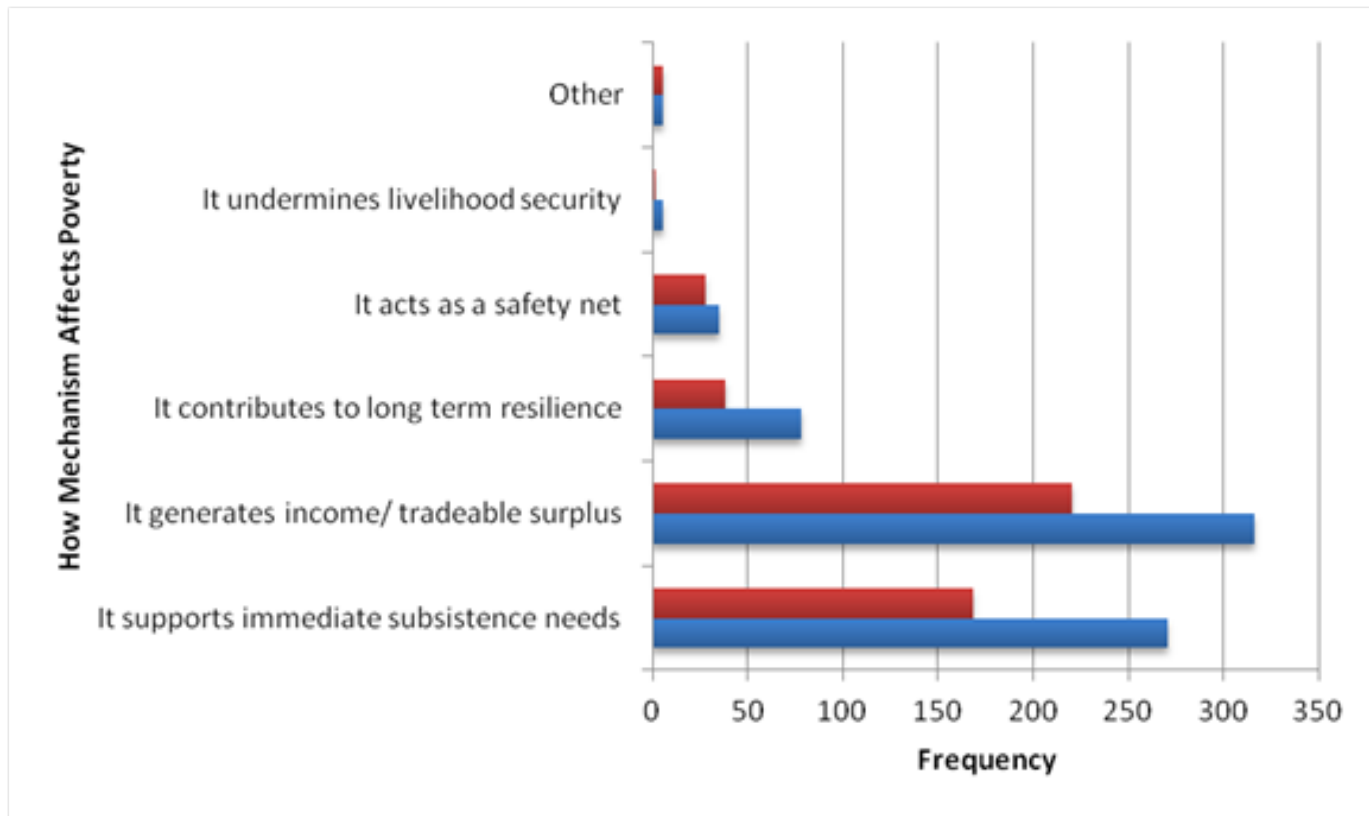
# Volume or variety?



# Mechanisms for linking biodiversity and poverty



# How does biodiversity affect poverty?



# Scale and sustainability of impacts – a tale of thirds

- Most studies (84%) reported a positive impact of biodiversity on poverty, but...
- ... only 2/3 qualified that with any measure of impact, of which ...
- ...under 2/3 (c 150 papers) gave insights into scale ... or sustainability of biodiversity use..
- ...and only 1/3 (c 80 papers) into longevity and/or replicability of impact

# Evidence quality

- Majority of studies from peer reviewed journals
- No mechanism for capturing traditional knowledge
- Few studies based on experimental research design
- One or more of the key “PIP” factors addressed in approx 50% of studies

# Conclusions

- Support broad claims but:
- *Contribution to poverty alleviation is positive but scale uncertain*
- *Some components of biodiversity - those that can be traded or used for subsistence – more important than others*
- Key gaps in the evidence base:
  - *Volume vs variety*
  - *Intangible biodiversity*
  - *Long vs short term impacts*
  - *Biodiversity-poverty trade-offs*
- Systematic ≠ comprehensive

# Thank You

