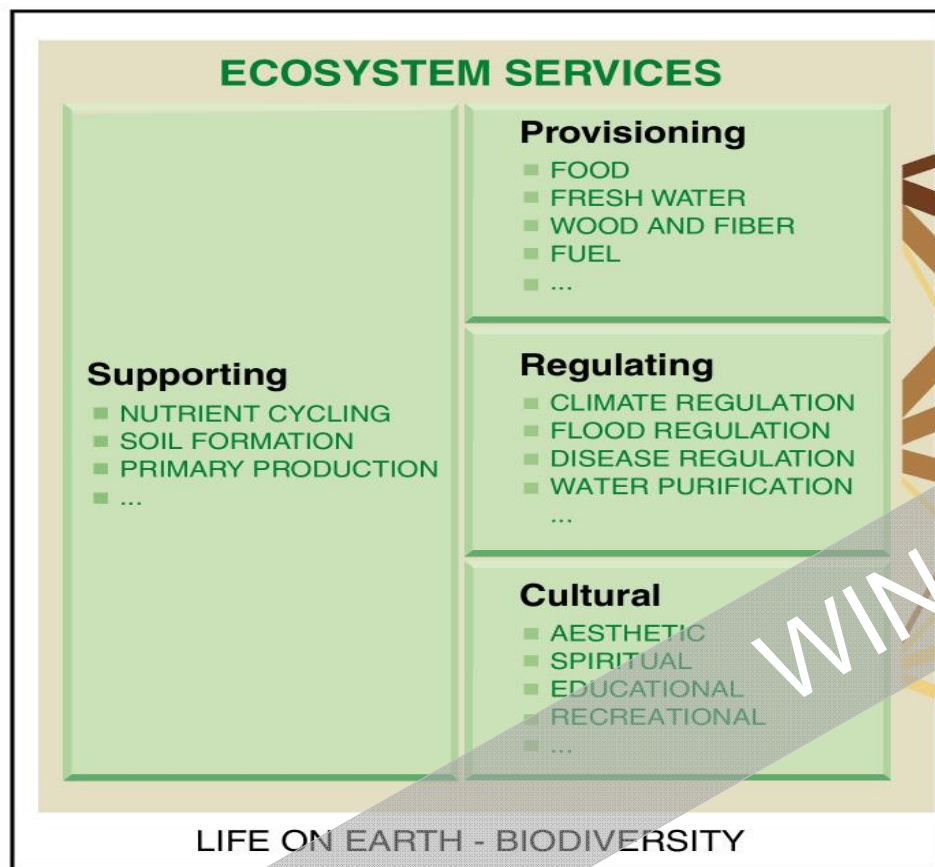# Ecosystem services and poverty alleviation: exploring the debate between different epistemic communities

Howe, Caroline; Adams, W.M.; Brockington, D.; Corbera, E.; Vira, B.; S. Maestre Andres

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CONSTITUENTS OF WELL-BEING

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Provisioning
- FOOD
- FRESH WATER
- WOOD AND FIBER
- FUEL
- ...

Supporting
- NUTRIENT CYCLING
- SOIL FORMATION
- PRIMARY PRODUCTION
- ...

Regulating
- CLIMATE REGULATION
- FLOOD REGULATION
- DISEASE REGULATION
- WATER PURIFICATION
- ...

Cultural
- AESTHETIC
- SPIRITUAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- RECREATIONAL
- ...

LIFE ON EARTH - BIODIVERSITY

Security
- PERSONAL SAFETY
- SECURE RESOURCE ACCESS
- SECURITY FROM DISASTERS

Basic material for good life
- ADEQUATE LIVELIHOODS
- SUFFICIENT NUTRITIOUS FOOD
- SHELTER
- ACCESS TO GOODS

Health
- STRENGTH
- FEELING WELL
- ACCESS TO CLEAN AIR AND WATER

Good social relations
- SOCIAL COHESION
- MUTUAL RESPECT
- ABILITY TO HELP OTHERS

Freedom of choice and action
OPPORTUNITY TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE WHAT AN INDIVIDUAL VALUES DOING AND BEING

WIN - WIN

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

ARROW'S COLOR
Potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors
- Low
- Medium
- High

ARROW'S WIDTH
Intensity of linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being
- Weak
- Medium
- Strong

Creating win-wins from trade-offs? Ecosystem services for human well-being: A meta-analysis of ecosystem service trade-offs and synergies in the real world

Caroline Howe [a,*], Helen Suich [b,1], Bhaskar Vira [c], Georgina M. Mace [a]

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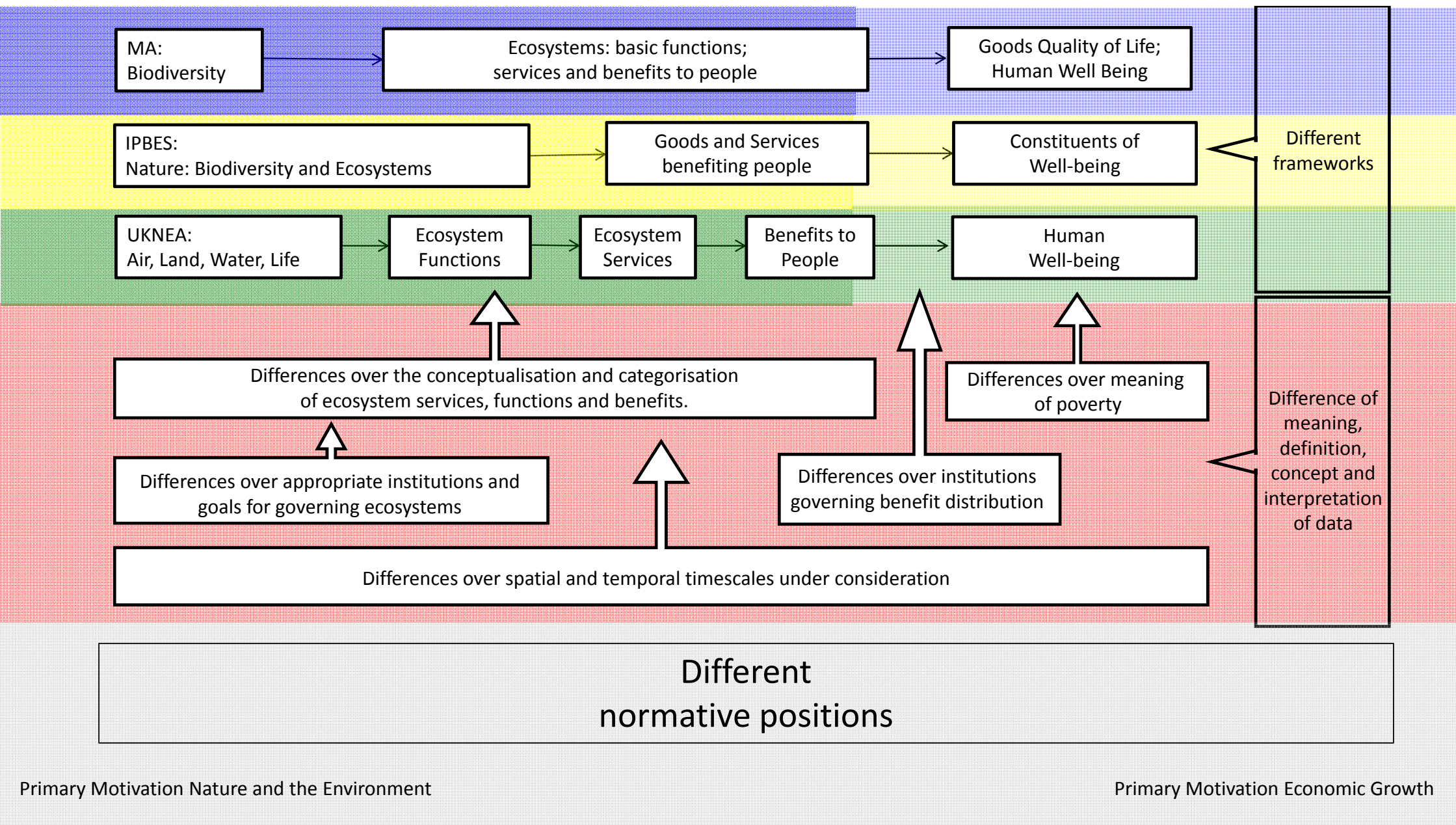[b] Environmental Change Institute, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QY, UK
[c] Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EN, UK

POLICY PERSPECTIVE

# Payments for ecosystem services and the fatal attraction of win-win solutions

R. Muradian[1], M. Arsel[2], L. Pellegrini[2], F. Adaman[3], B. Aguilar[4], B. Agarwal[5], E. Corbera[6], D. Ezzine de Blas[7], J. Farley[8], G. Froger[9], E. Garcia-Frapolli[10], E. Gómez-Baggethun[6,11], J. Gowdy[12], N. Kosoy[13], J.F. Le Coq[7,14], P. Leroy[1], P. May[15], P. Méral[16], P. Mibielli[17], R. Norgaard[18], B. Ozkaynak[3], U. Pascual[19,20], W. Pengue[21], M. Perez[22], D. Pesche[7], R. Pirard[23], J. Ramos-Martin[6], L. Rival[24], F. Saenz[15], G. Van Hecken[25], A. Vatn[26], B. Vira[19], & K. Urama[27]

MA: Biodiversity → Ecosystems: basic functions; services and benefits to people → Goods Quality of Life; Human Well Being

IPBES: Nature: Biodiversity and Ecosystems → Goods and Services benefiting people → Constituents of Well-being

UKNEA: Air, Land, Water, Life → Ecosystem Functions → Ecosystem Services → Benefits to People → Human Well-being

Different frameworks

Differences over the conceptualisation and categorisation of ecosystem services, functions and benefits.

Differences over meaning of poverty

Differences over appropriate institutions and goals for governing ecosystems

Differences over institutions governing benefit distribution

Difference of meaning, definition, concept and interpretation of data

Differences over spatial and temporal timescales under consideration

Different normative positions

Primary Motivation Nature and the Environment

Primary Motivation Economic Growth

Normative Positions

1. *Ecosystems should be managed to deliver services in ways that enable biodiversity conservation.*

2. *Ecosystems should be managed to deliver services in ways that maintain their functional integrity.*

3. *Ecosystems should be managed to deliver services in ways that protect and secure the existing lives and livelihoods of the poor.*

4. *Ecosystems should be managed to deliver services in ways that bring new benefits to the poor.*

5. *Ecosystems should be managed to deliver services in ways that maximise economic growth.*

Normative Positions
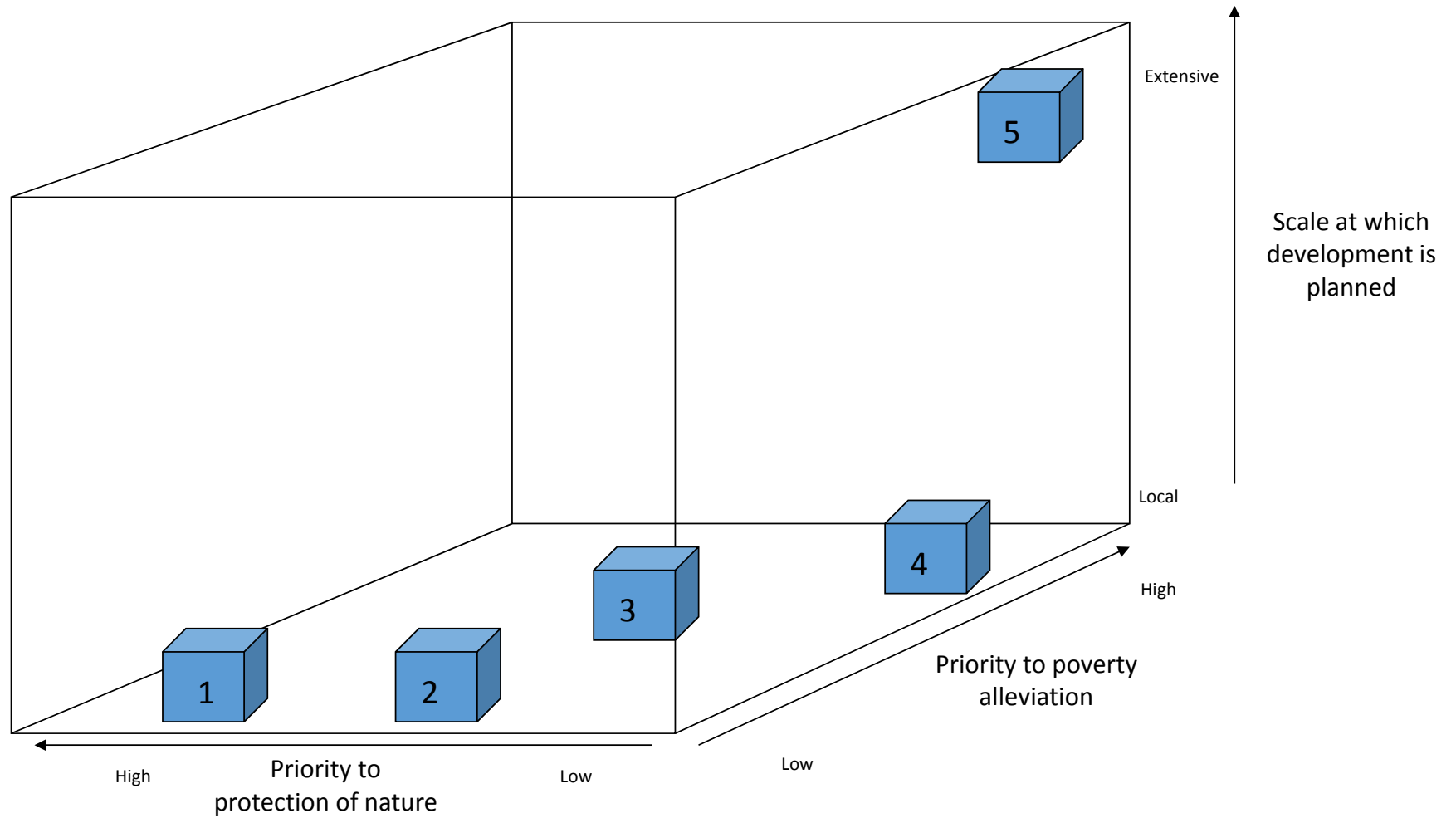
Questionnaire Structure

1. **Demographics**

2. **Background** – *are they interested in clarifying the relationships between ES and PA and why?*

3. **Ideas surrounding ES and PA** – *possibility of win-wins, definitions of ES and PA, and management and governance of ES and PA and ES for PA*

4. **Importance of different types of ES and their role in PA**

5. **Agreement with the normative positions** (keeping in mind their region of expertise)

6. **Governance of ES, PA and ES for PA** – *trade-offs in governance, role of new markets versus incentives versus state regulations versus civil society*

7. **Issues of language**

Preliminary Results
Background
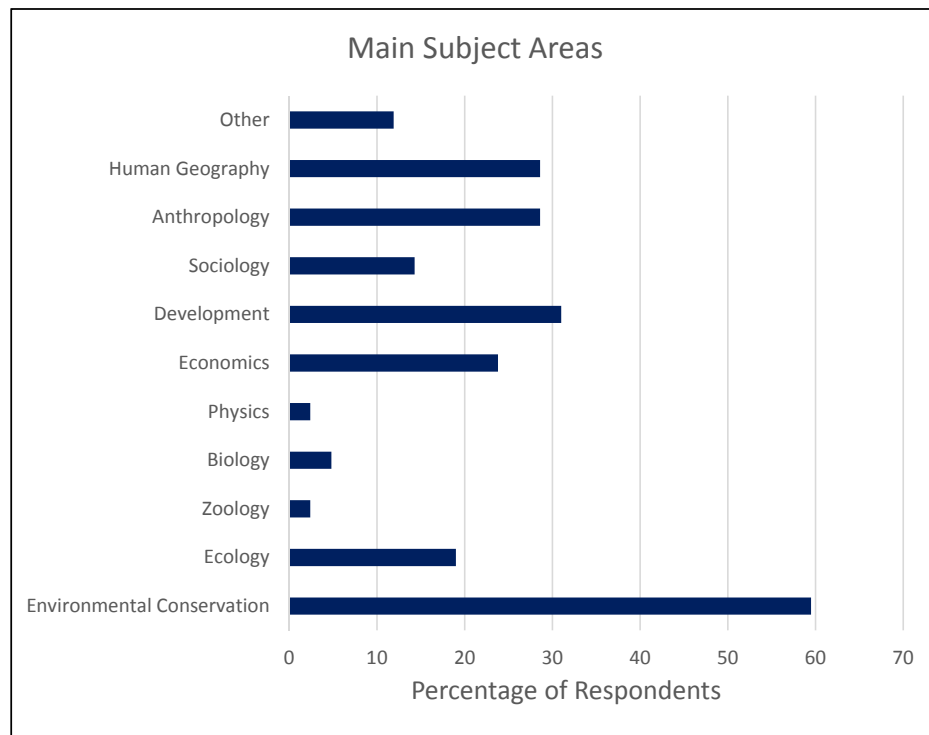
69% work in Higher Education/University

Broad global spread of research areas

BUT: Respondents are interested in clarifying the relationships between ES and PA because *"we may fail to protect ecosystems and their related ES" (64%)* or *" we may introduce new policies that have unintended consequences for ecosystems and their related ES" (17%)* versus those interested in delivery of ES to people in poverty or policies with unintended consequences for people in poverty.
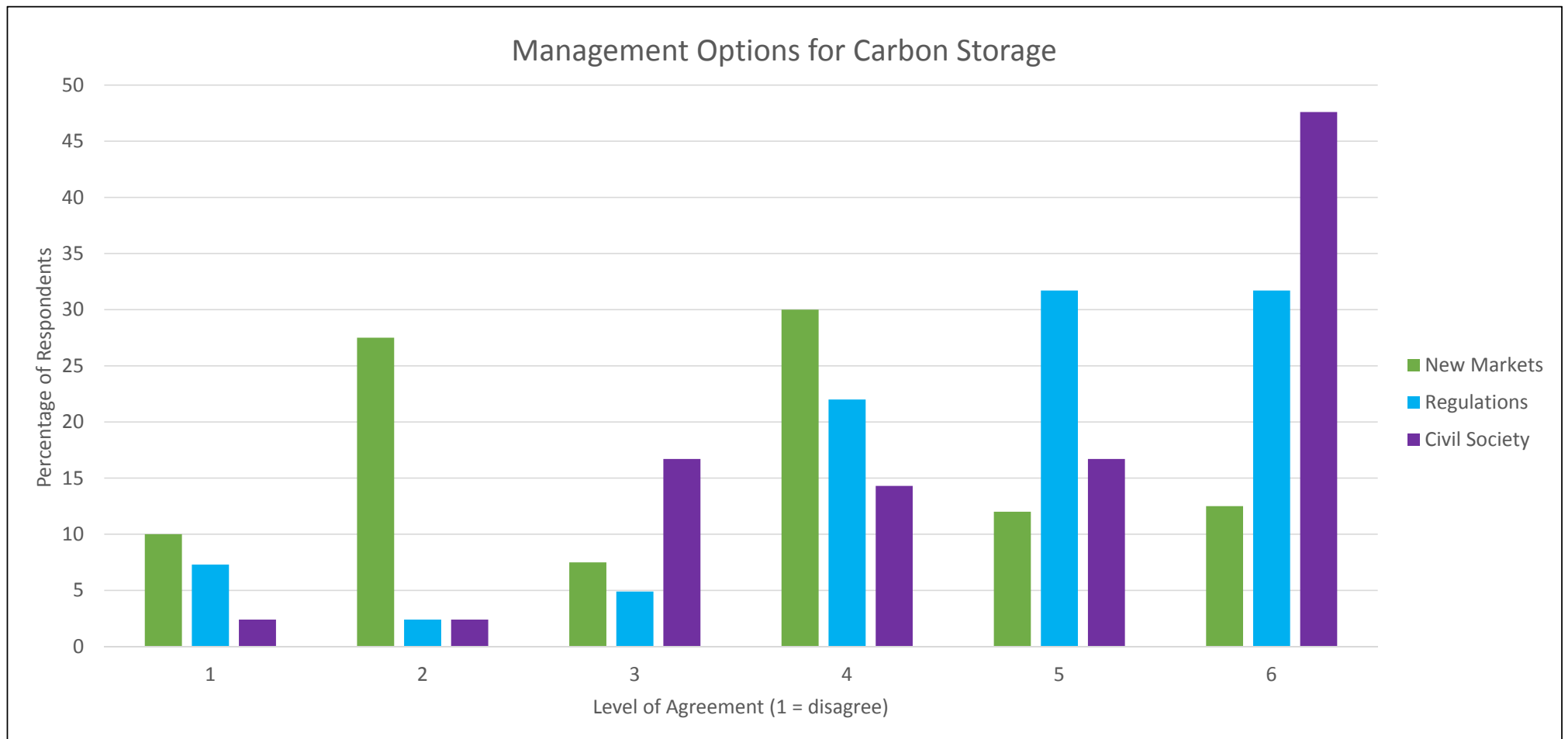
Preliminary Results
Trade-offs and Win-Wins

Trade-offs do occur at interface of ecosystem service management and poverty alleviation

■ Yes ■ No
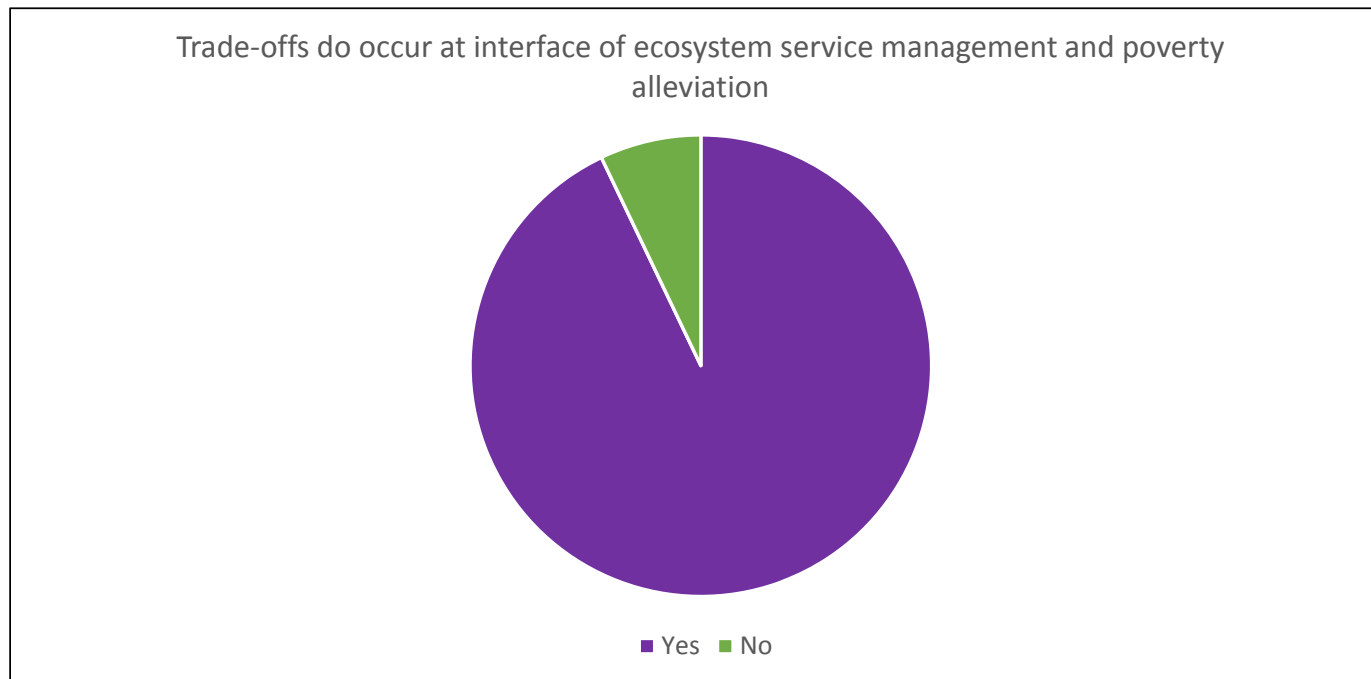
83% of respondents think win-wins are possible with the right knowledge and management strategy

Preliminary Results
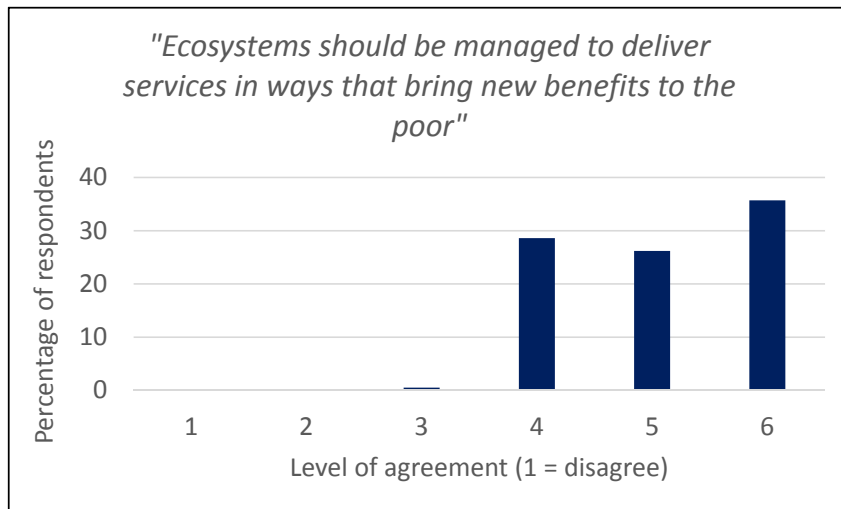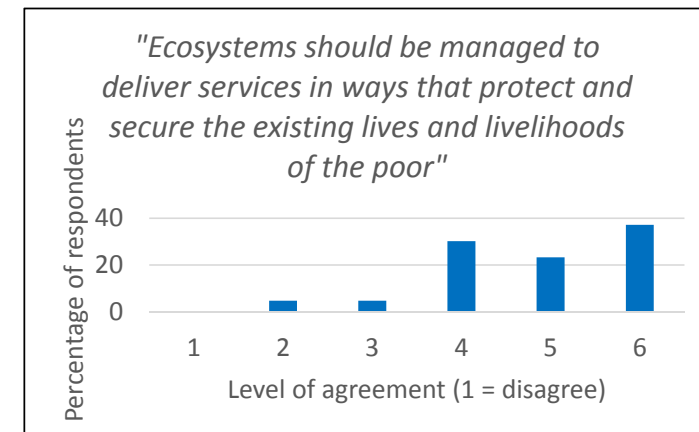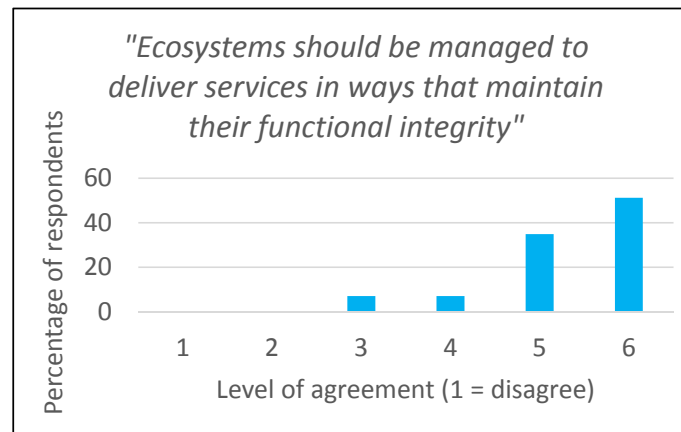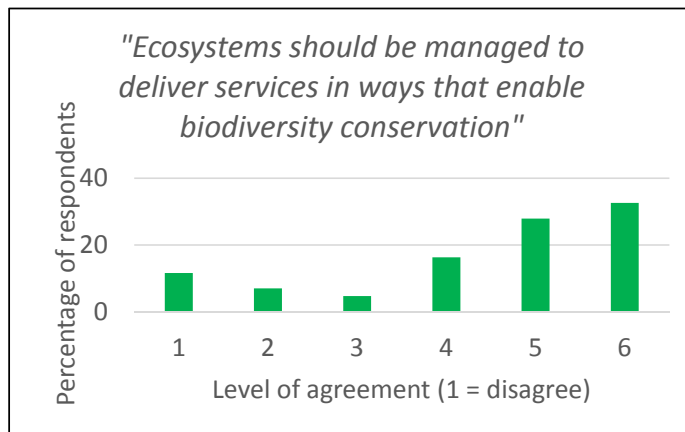# Governance of Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation

Preliminary Results
Normative Positions

"Ecosystems should be managed to deliver services in ways that enable biodiversity conservation"

"Ecosystems should be managed to deliver services in ways that maintain their functional integrity"

"Ecosystems should be managed to deliver services in ways that protect and secure the existing lives and livelihoods of the poor"

"Ecosystems should be managed to deliver services in ways that bring new benefits to the poor"

"Ecosystems should be managed to deliver services in ways that maximise economic growth"

Percentage of respondents

Level of agreement (1 = disagree)

Thanks!

Please fill in the questionnaire before the 14th October 2016 at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ihT4x8_yf4ZcgD80Lf9yUqB6AHhe3GZewExBBREuEv0/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link

Email me: caroline.howe@sheffield.ac.uk if you would like me to send you the link, or alternatively visit our website:

https://ecosystemservicesandpovertydebates.wordpress.com which also has more details of other aspects of the project.

Thanks to my collaborators on this project:

Dan Brockington (University of Sheffield)
Bill Adams (University of Cambridge)
Bhaskar Vira (University of Cambridge)
Esteve Corbera (Unversitat de Autonoma de Barcelona)
Sara Maestre Andres (Unversitat de Autonoma de Barcelona)