

THE ETHICS AND POLITICS OF 'LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND'?

- A core principle informing the SDGs
- A useful lens through which to view disciplinary differences in approaches to normative positions?
- A way to surface the roles of politics and ethics in conducting ecosystem services research?

Some questions:

1. Do we all agree that 'leaving no one behind' is an appropriate goal?
2. What does 'leaving someone behind' mean?
3. Is development language (or 'growth' and 'journey') fully compatible with sustainability?
4. What does ESPA research tell us about people left behind?
5. What can we do – as researchers, decision-makers or citizens – to ensure no one is left behind?

We all agree, but...

- Is the concept about basic needs? Partly, but it should include relative, contextual issues too.
 - for example, SPACES mixed objective and subjective measures of well being to define locally appropriate thresholds
- Freedom is key.. People may choose to be left behind?
- Environmental limits may constrain people's freedom and choices

What does the research show?

- Inequality and injustice are rife
- 'Elite capture' is common
- A methodological or rhetorical commitment to 'community' or 'development' is not enough to ensure justice and 'no-one left behind'
- A priori, it can be hard to know who and what to look at

What can, and should, we do?

A group of people, including men and women in traditional and modern clothing, are gathered outside a long, single-story building with yellow walls and a corrugated metal roof. The scene is set in a rural area with trees and a dirt path. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue box containing text.

- Disaggregate, disaggregate, disaggregate..
-Plan for this from the start, use rapid participatory tools if too expensive
- Expect social inclusion and well being to be multi-dimensional and use appropriate approaches
- Adaptive management – if you see someone left behind, raise the issue, invite consideration
- What is the role of action research? We can construct our research, from the outset, to aim for social justice.. The commitment comes first?