

# National Policy Uptake and Implementation of Nature-Human Wellbeing Concepts in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and the Americas

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1

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# Intergovernmental Platforms and Ecosystem Services Assessments

- ▶ MEA, IPBES, UNEP GEO, ....
- ▶ To address/inform global and regional issues (SDGs, CBD, ...)
- ▶ National Government and Expert involvement
- ▶ Global and regional assessments
  - ▶ The Americas
  - ▶ Europe and Central Asia
  - ▶ Asia and the Pacific
  - ▶ Africa
- ▶ Provide policy relevant information, but not policy-prescriptive advice
- ▶ **Problem: provide policy relevant information and recommendations without knowing the position from which they are starting.**



# Global Survey in 2016, cont'd

3

## Aims:

- 1/ to identify **how national governments are conceptualising nature human-wellbeing relationships**;
- 2/ to provide a 'snap shot' of where and how national governments are **incorporating nature human-wellbeing relationships into national policies**;
- 3/ to understand how they are **implementing these national policies through programs**; and
- 4/ to **identify the gaps, needs, challenges and opportunities** nations face when incorporating nature human-wellbeing relationships into national policies and implementing them through programs.
- 5/ **furthering dialogue and monitoring on national policy uptake** and implementation of nature - human wellbeing linkages.

# Survey: IPBES National Delegates and Focal Points

## ► **Target group:**

Authorised national government representatives (not a homogenous group).

## ► **Questions:**

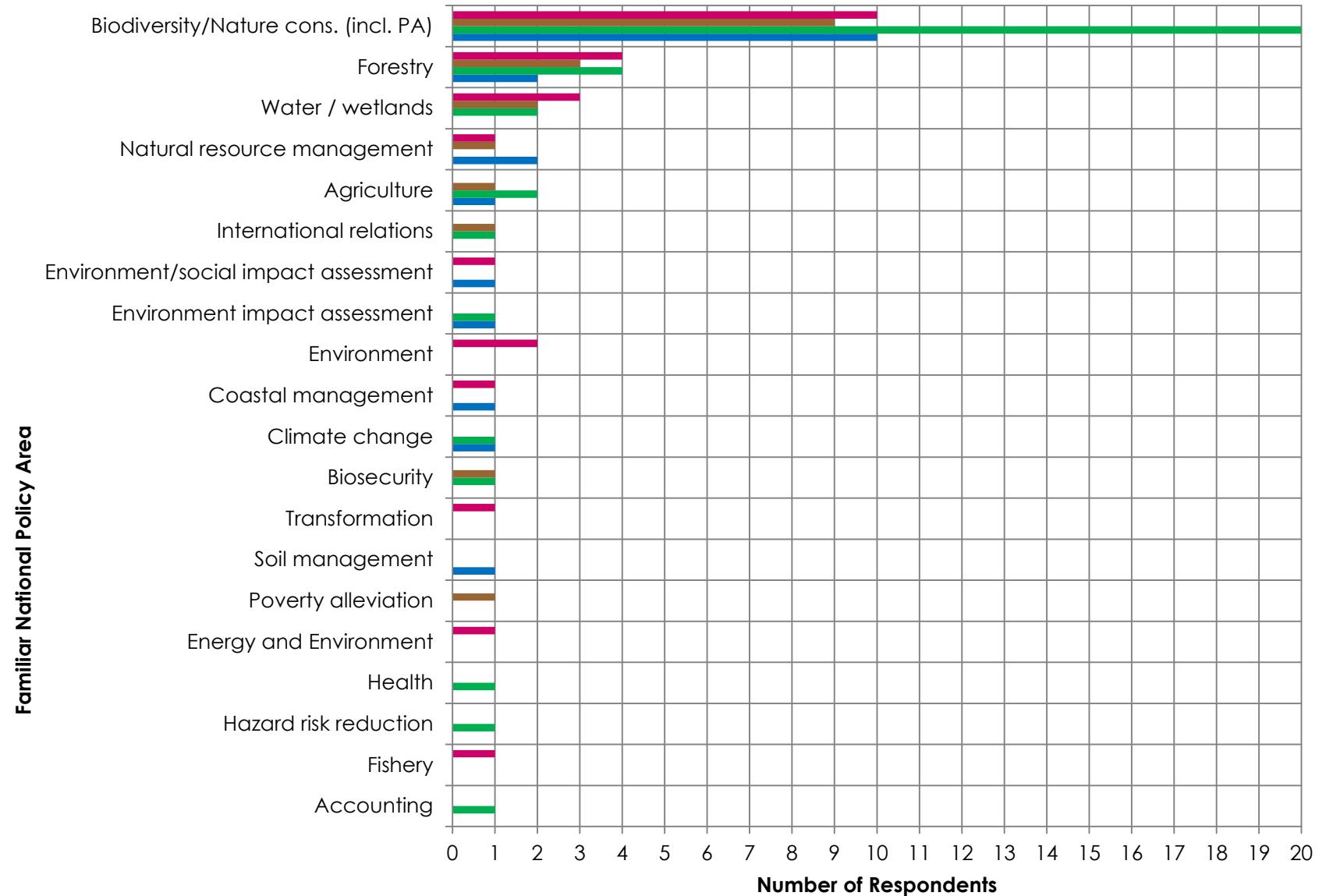
English - introduction page in five official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish).

22 questions in 5 parts - reviewed by IPBES experts from different regions and who operate in different roles.

- Part 1 - respondent's profile information.
- Part 2 - national policy inclusion of nature-wellbeing relationships .
- Part 3 - link between policy inclusion and implementation in practice.
- Part 4 - explored strength of national policies, programs and strategies and areas for improvement.
- Part 5 - challenges, needs, gaps and opportunities related to policy uptake and implementation.

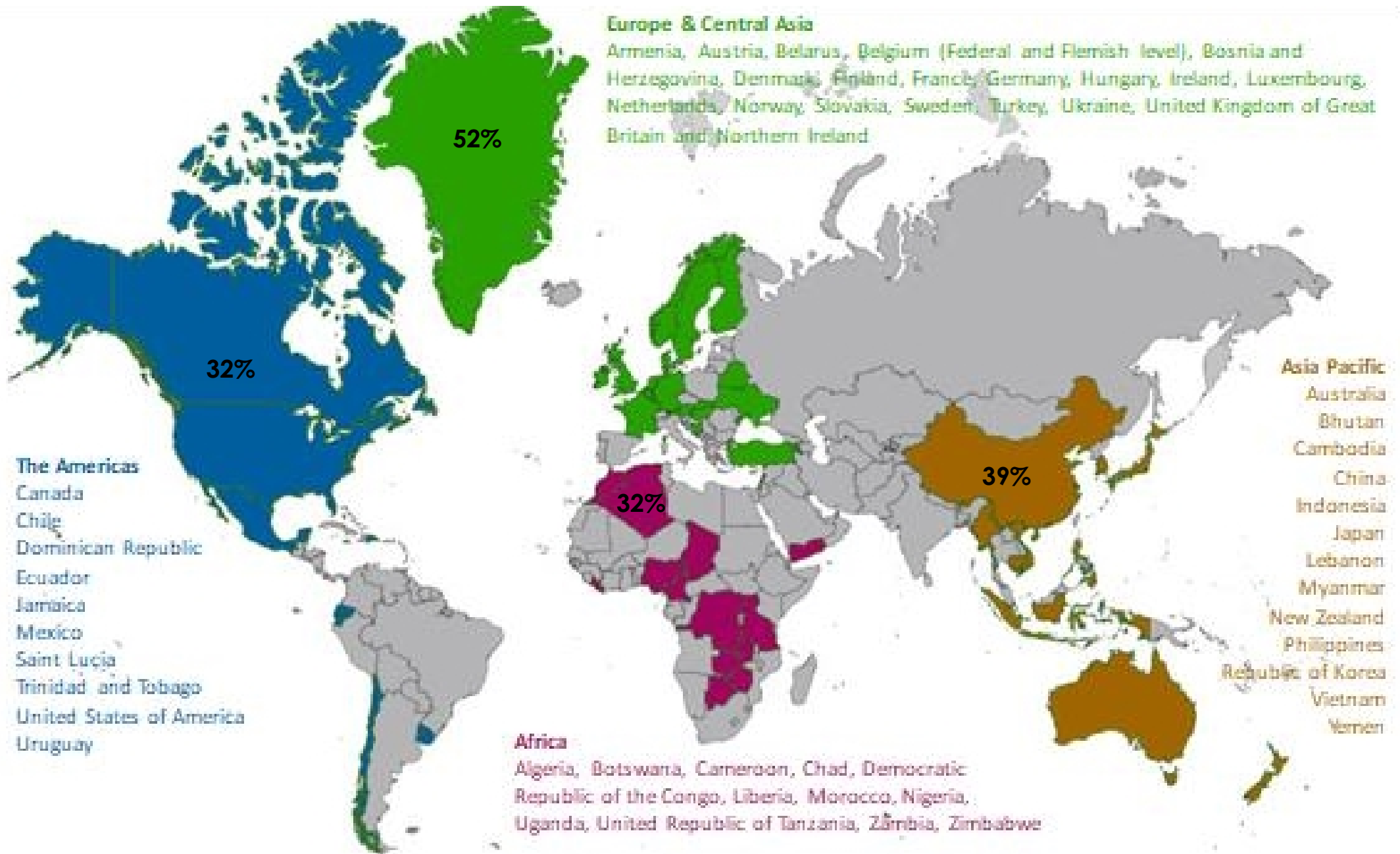
# Responses

- Delegates to seek assistance if knowledge did not span all national policy areas.
- 83 respondents from 54 countries
  - Europe and Central Asia (n=19)
  - Asia and Pacific (n=13)
  - Africa (n=12)
  - Americas (n=10).
- All regions and sub-regions, except for Central Asia,
- Respondents
  - National Focal Points (n=39)
  - National Delegation (n=23);
  - Other' (n=9) which included Observers to IPBES, members of national IPBES committees, members of IPBES expert groups or government officials.
- Which policy areas do you work?



**Figure:** Policy areas respondents across regions were most familiar with.



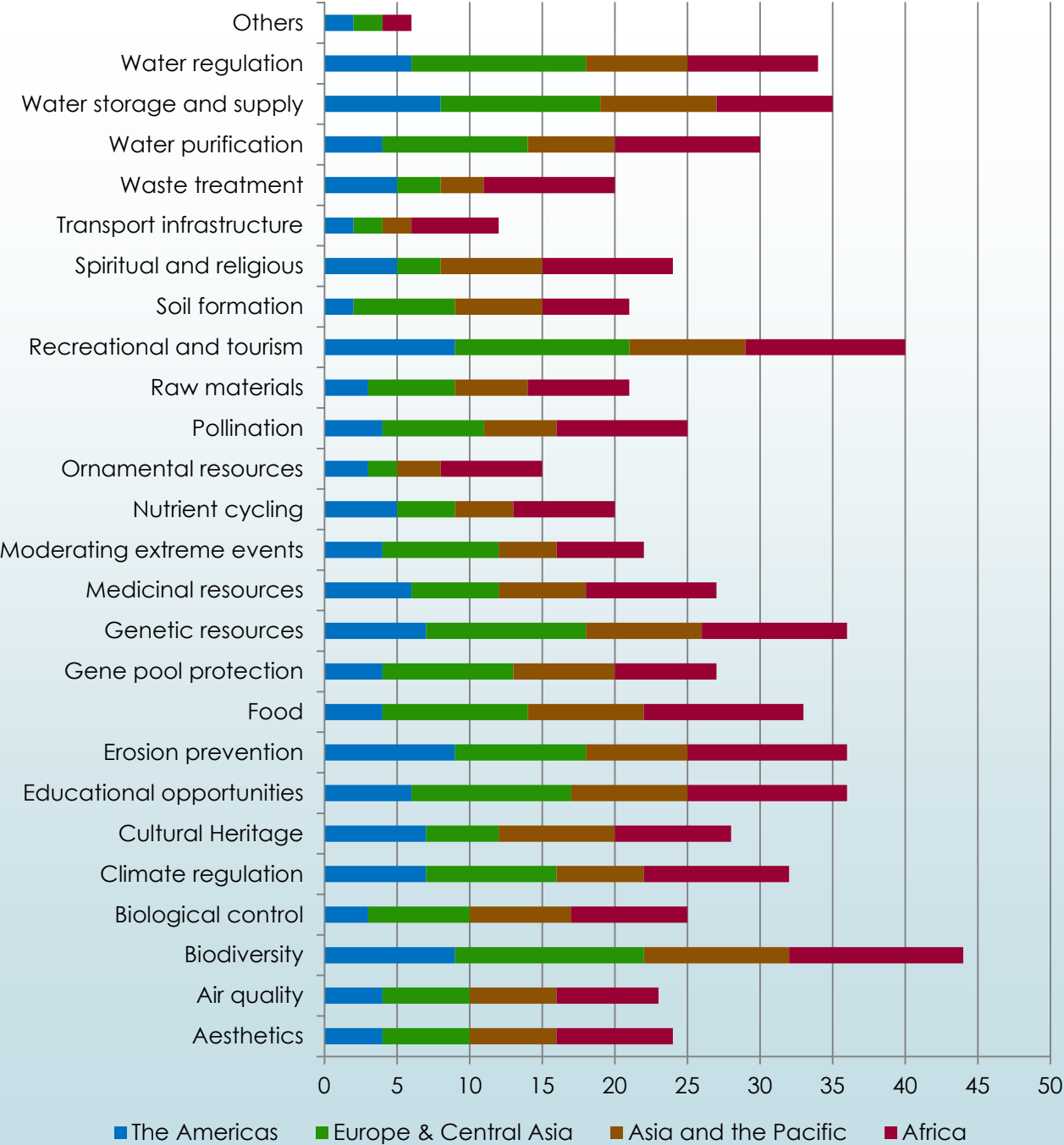


# Results:

Term Used / IPBES Region	Ecosystem goods & services	Ecosystem goods & services + Natural resources	Ecosystem goods & services + Nature's gifts	Ecosystem goods & services + Nature's benefits to people	Ecosystem services	Nature's benefits to people	Total # Countries
Africa	11	1					12
Asia - Pacific	11		1			1	13
Europe & Central Asia	14			1	1	3	19
The Americas	10						10
Global Total	46	1	1	1	1	4	54

Different terms used to describe the relationship between people and nature and the number of countries in each region using them.

# Global perspective of the ecosystem services incorporated into national policies



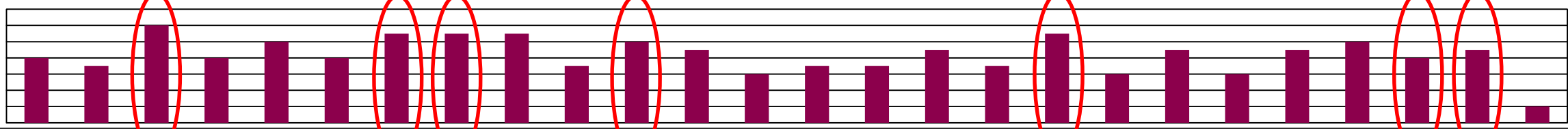
TEEB list of ecosystem services, plus others



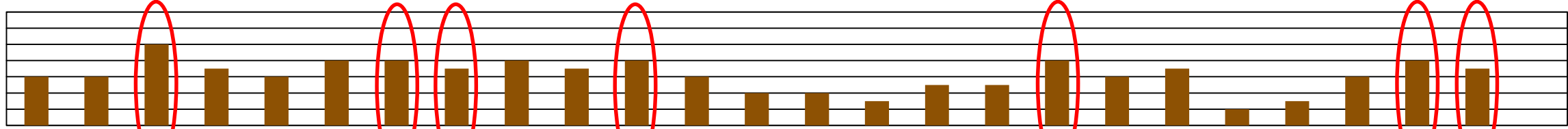
Number of Countries in each Region



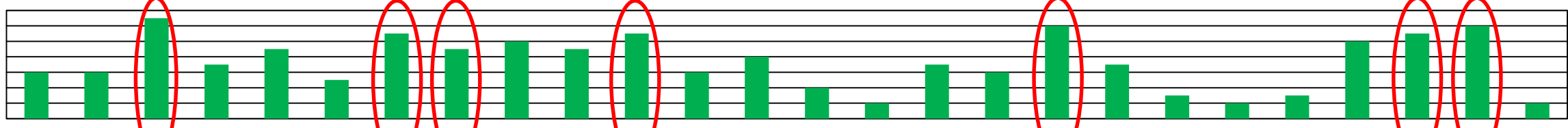
### Africa



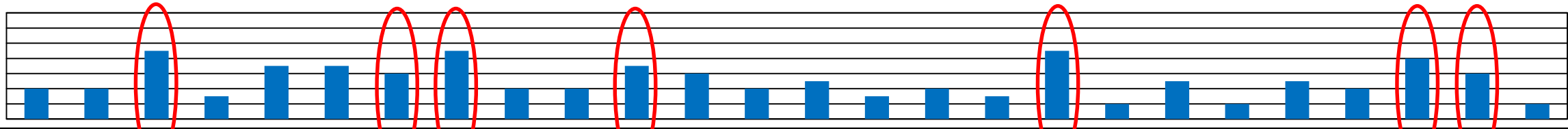
### Asia Pacific



### Europe & Central Asia



### The Americas



Ecosystem Services

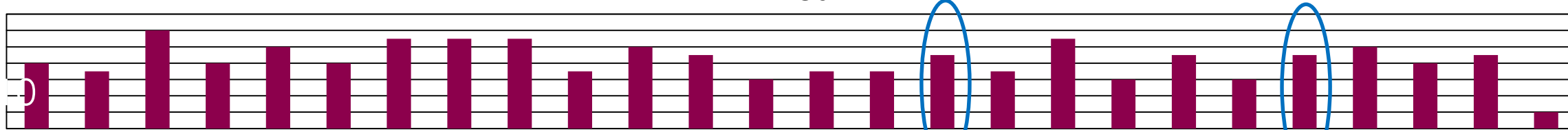
- Aesthetics
- Air quality
- Biodiversity
- Biological control
- Climate Reg.
- Cultural Heritage
- Educational opp.
- Erosion Prev.
- Food
- Gene pool Prot.
- Genetic Res.
- Medicinal Res.
- Mod.Ext.Events
- Nutrient cycling
- Orna. Resources
- Pollination
- Raw materials
- Rec. Tourism
- Soil formation
- Spiritual and Rel.
- Transport infrast.
- Waste Treatment
- Water purification
- Water stor/sup
- Water regulation
- Others

Number of Countries in each Region

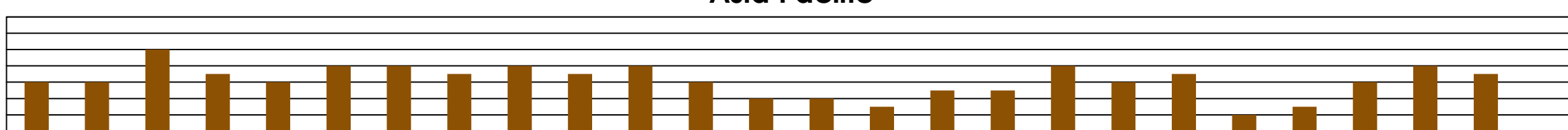
Ecosystem Services



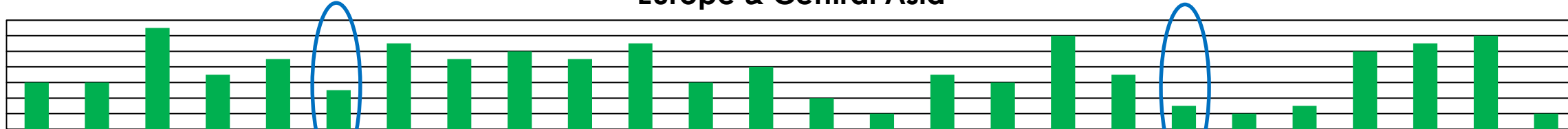
### Africa



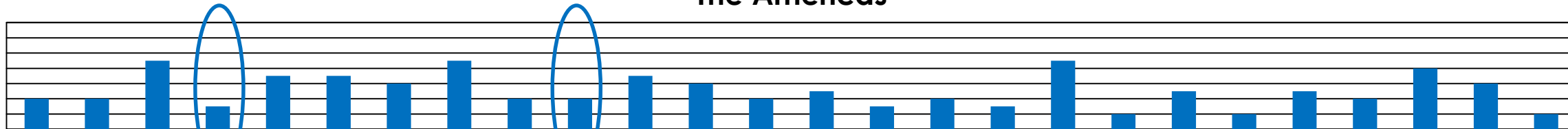
### Asia Pacific



### Europe & Central Asia



### The Americas



Aesthetics

Air quality

Biodiversity

Biological control

Climate Reg.

Cultural Heritage

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Erosion Prev.

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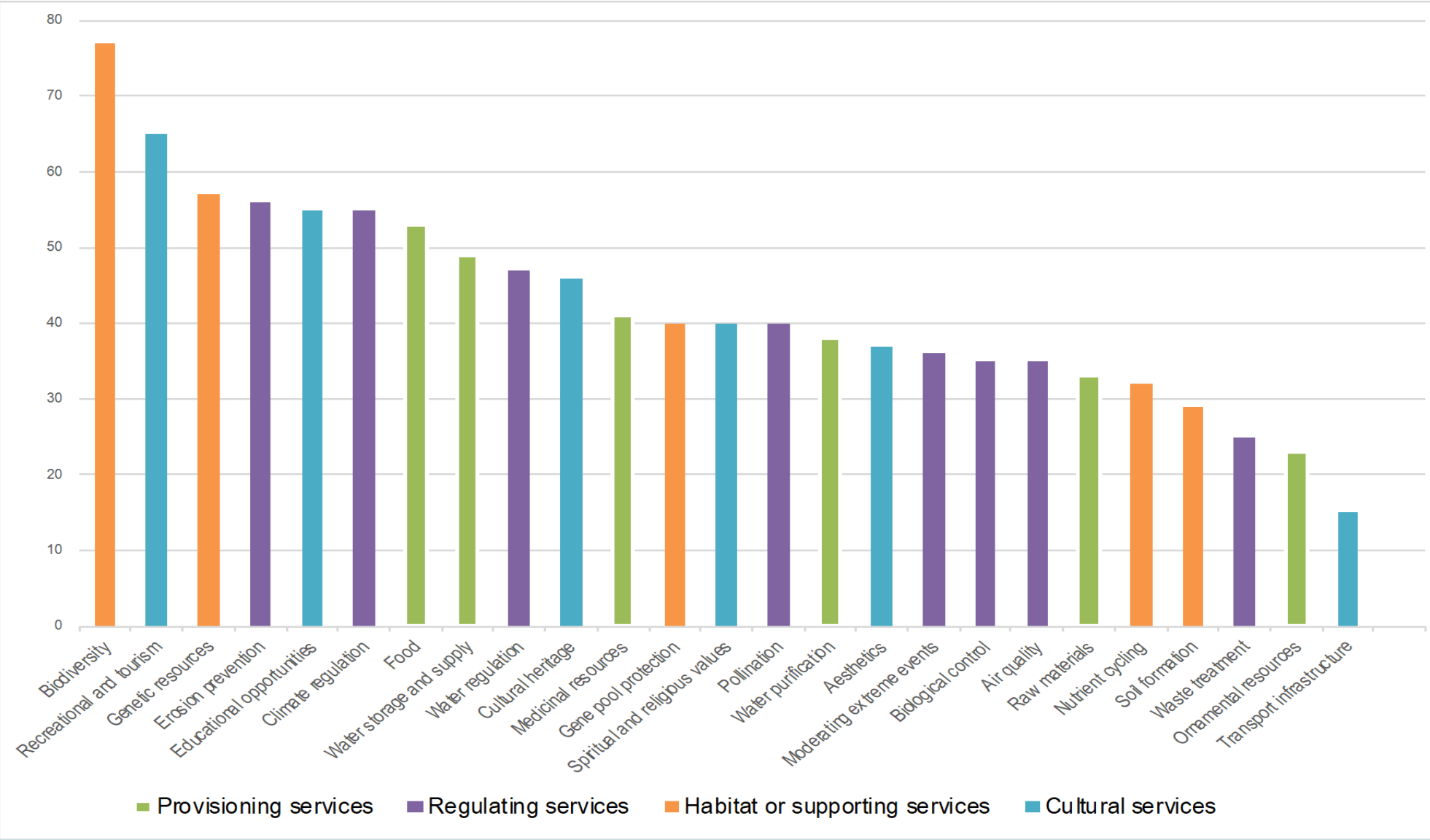
Water purification

Water stor/sup

Water regulation

Others

# ES most commonly included by ES category



Policy Area / Ecosystem Services	Biodiversity/nature conservation	Protected area management	Forestry	Coastal zone management	Environment policy	Fisheries	EIA / SIA	Ecosystem conservation / management	Wetlands	Natural resource management	Water	Agriculture	National accounting	Soil Management	Natural hazard risk reduction	Rural livelihood, poverty alleviation	Climate change	Biosecurity	International relations
	Provisioning																		
Ornamental resources	A, AP, E, TA	A, TA	A, AP, E, TA		A	A	A, TA	A	A, AP				E					E	
Raw materials	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA		A	A	A, TA		A	AP		AP	E					E	E
Food	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, TA		A	A	A, TA	A	A, AP		E	E	E					AP	E
Genetic resources	A, AP, E, TA	A, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	TA	A	A	A, TA	A	A, AP			E	E					E	AP, E
Medicinal resources	A, AP, E, TA	A, TA	A, AP, E, TA		A		TA	A	A, AP, TA				E					E	E
Transport infrastructure	A, AP, E	E, TA	A, AP, TA				E, TA		AP									E	
Regulating																			
Air quality	A, AP, E, TA	A, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA		A		E, TA		AP			TA	E					E	AP, E
Biological control	A, AP, E, TA	A, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA		A	A	A, E, TA		A, AP			E						E	
Climate regulation	A, AP, E, TA	A, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	A, TA	A		E, TA	A	A, AP, E			E	E				TA	E	E
Moderating extreme events	A, AP, E, TA	A, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA		A		TA	A	A, AP, E		E		E		E			E	E
Erosion prevention	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	A, TA	A	A	A, E, TA	A	A, AP, E	TA	AP, E	AP		TA		E	E, TA	E	AP, E
Soil formation	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E	A, AP, E, TA		A		E, TA	A	A	AP		AP	E					E	E
Waste treatment	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, TA	A, AP, TA		A	A	A, E, TA	A	A, AP				E				TA		
Water purification	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA		A	A	A, E, TA	A	A, AP, E		AP, E	AP, E	E					E	E
Water storage & supply	A, AP, E	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA		A		E, TA	A, TA	A, AP, E	AP	AP, E	AP, E, TA	E				TA	E	E
Water regulation	A, AP, E, TA	E, TA	A, AP, E, TA		A		E, TA	A, TA	A, AP, E		AP, E	AP, E	E		E		TA	E	E
Carbon stocks			A					TA				TA							
Nutrient cycling	A, AP, E, TA	A, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	TA	A		TA	A	A, AP			E						E	E
Pollination	A, AP, E, TA	A, E	A, AP, E, TA		A		E, TA	A, TA	A, AP			E, TA	E					E	AP, E
Cultural																			
Aesthetics	A, AP, E, TA	A, E, TA	A, AP, TA		A	A	A, TA	A	A	TA			E					E	
Cultural heritage	A, AP, E, TA	A, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA		A		TA	A	A, AP	TA		E	E			E		E	AP, E
Recreational and tourism	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	TA	A	A	A, E, TA	A, TA	A, AP, E	AP	E	AP, E	E				TA	E	E
Spiritual and religious values	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, TA	A, AP, E, TA		A		TA	A	A, AP	AP		AP	E					AP, E	
Habitat																			
Gene pool protection	A, AP, E, TA	A, E	A, AP, E, TA		A	A	A, TA	A	A, AP			E						E	E
Biodiversity	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	A, AP, E, TA	A, TA	A	A	A, E, TA	A	A, AP, E	TA		E, TA	E			E	TA	AP, E	E

## How are these policies being implemented in practice?

what programs have been developed to support these policies and how they are being applied?

- ▶ Environmental programs and strategies
  - ▶ e.g. Forestry Management Plans and National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans.
- ▶ Within NBSAPs, there appear to be concrete measures for the implementation of concepts linking nature to human wellbeing.
  - ▶ e.g. within the European Union efforts are linked to Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy (European Union, 2011). Under this Action member states are mandated to map and assess the state of ecosystem services in their national territories and several reports have been published to provide guidance on how to do so (European Commission, 2013, 2014).
- ▶ Some respondents still seek ways to incorporate such concepts and have started with assessments and valuation projects.
- ▶ Others mention the lack of resources to sufficiently and effectively implement such concepts through policies.
- ▶ Results illustrate a distinct need for action: only few practice were described by respondents. Respondents referred to NBSAPs but without mentioning specific measures or applications.
  - ▶ not aware of practical implementation of such concepts.
  - ▶ practice uptake of such concepts has not yet evolved (focus has been more on assessment the current state of nature/biodiversity).

# Challenges

## Africa

- **regulatory agency capacity;**
- lack of **enforceable regulations;**
- **budgetary** support;
- the **links** between ES and biodiversity not well known;
- **lack of data** (baseline, trends, indicators, valuations);
- low **awareness** of ES concepts by decision makers and communities;
- **inadequate resources** for carrying out awareness programmes;
- **capacity to collect data and information** on trends;
- **technical capacity / technology;**
- sectors **collaboration;**
- **political will.**

## Asia-Pacific

- knowledge of TEEB;
- **widening gap rich/poor;**
- **"tragedy of the commons";**
- **urban development;**
- lack of **understanding;**
- **technical capacity** - regulatory mechanisms;
- **financial resources;**
- **enforcement** systems;
- **facilities** for analysing risk assessment;
- inadequate **institutional capacity;**
- lack of **human resources;**
- overlapping of environmental **regulations;**
- weak **administrative procedures, framework;**
- over **use natural resources;**
- weak **monitoring** - international boundaries;
- **conflict of interest.**

## Europe

- effective **integration of values** into policy decisions and national accounts;
- development of **inter-regional mapping , database;**
- getting more **education;**
- **mainstreaming** the concept and into practice;
- lack of **expertise;**
- lack of **funding;**
- **intrinsic values** of the goods;
- development of **legal obligations;**
- integration into **sectoral strategies, plans and sectoral policies**, such as energy, industry, forestry, mining, etc;
- better **understanding of the values** of biodiversity and ES;
- **data, definitions.**

## The Americas

- **convincing political relevant authorities**
- **uptake by sectors** - urban, agriculture, fishing, aquaculture and forest policy and practice;
- incorporate into **EIA**
- improve **understanding;**
- getting information, **methodologies and tools into the hands of the policy makers;**
- **technical support and training** in the use of tools, data and methodology;
- **dissemination of information;**
- **knowledge of the linkages;**
- many ES are the responsibility of **sub-national governments;**
- **coordination across governments** is a major challenge with respect to definitions, policies and their implementation.

# Opportunities

## Africa

- **constitution and laws** support needs of people;
- high **political will**;
- **national vision** being developed;
- **national development plan**;
- overarching **national environmental legislation**;
- Development of a **national SD strategy**;
- high **institutional willingness**;
- the **concept of ES** is important to convince the decision makers if well presented;
- the whole **world depends on ES** for its existence;
- **donor support**;
- various **sectoral policies** recognise their role.
- international bilateral and **multilateral cooperation**;
- the **CBD and Ecosystem Approach** in national policies.

## Asia-Pacific

- **reform structure** and **political will** of ministry for the environment;
- **knowledge exchange** (between countries);
- **international organisation cooperation**;
- **international conventions** and platforms (e.g. CBD, IPBES);
- if the forestry sector changes as recommended above: 1/ the agriculture sector **will follow**; 2/ changes on the mainland will benefit the agriculture sector in all islands and provinces;
- the review of **national biodiversity strategies**;
- better **inter-sectoral cooperation**;
- creation of **Payments for ES**.

## Europe

- **experts and data could assist capacity building and influence** decision-makers opinion;
- change the paradigm by using the **knife for good, not for bad**;
- **IPBES and MAES** are major opportunities at the national level;
- concrete **linking of ES to human wellbeing makes the concept easier to understand and communicate**;
- set of **indicators adopted by the Government**- conservation and recovery of biodiversity and ecosystems and their services through restoration and development of green infrastructure.

## The Americas

- an appropriate **national legal framework** to support the change;
- **a global context that supports change**;
- **improved understanding of society** the link between conservation, protected areas and human welfare;
- **democratic and participatory local practices**;
- **biodiversity law** is under discussion in congress - **opportunity to introduce concept of ES** and to incorporate in the text of the law methodologies and guidelines to assess it;
- **EIA** processes;
- the development of **models**;
- **willing partners at the local level**.

# Strengths and Limitations

- ▶ English
- ▶ Mere glimpse
- ▶ Perspectives of a select group of government representatives, from a few governments.
- ▶ Respondents have exceptional knowledge on nature – human well-being policy uptake and implementation in their field (e.g. biodiversity), however, their knowledge may be limited on policies outside this field.
- ▶ Implementation of national policies usually occurs at scales other than national.
- ▶ Survey at an early stage of development of IPBES assessments, hence, information from these assessments were unable to inform or guide this research.
- ▶ Outcomes further assist national governments including the IPBES community in directing resources to the challenges, gaps, needs and opportunities.
- ▶ the method and the outcomes presented allow for the perspectives of experienced national government representatives to contribute to strengthening the link between science and policy for nature – human well-being relations





**Thank you  
and  
Questions**

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