ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AS A PLANNING TOOL IN FLORIDA

A CROSS-PERSPECTIVE OF AGENCIES

Annet Forkink (af11g@my.fsu.edu)
PhD Candidate, FSU
Department of Urban and Regional Planning
DeVoe L. Moore Dissertation Fellowship 2014-2015

GEER Conference

April, 2015

Use of Ecosystem Services in Florida

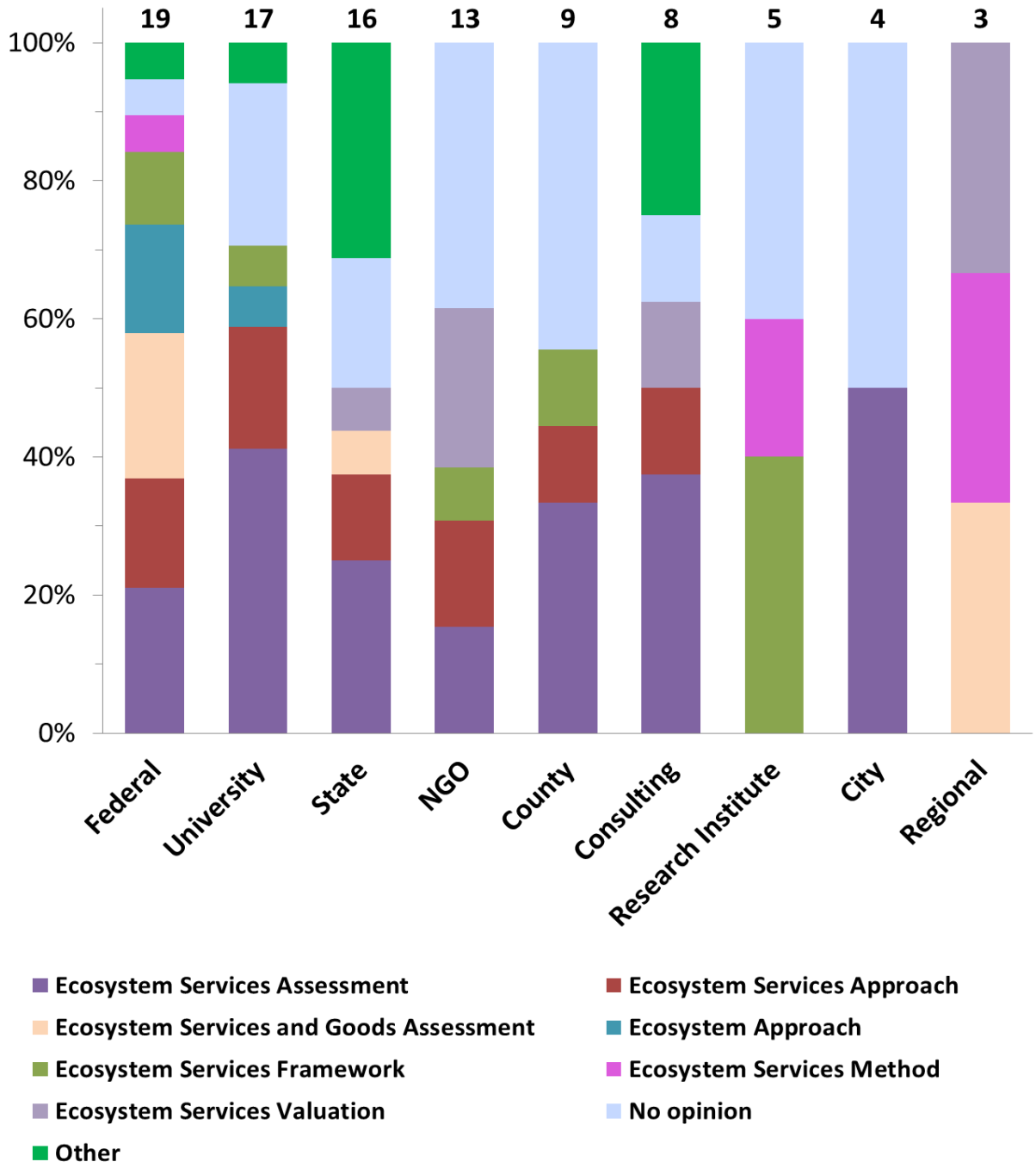
- **Research Questions:** how are ecosystem services assessments (ESA) used in Florida planning, perceived strengths and challenges

- **Target group**: individuals who were involved in projects in which ecosystem services were assessed (valuated, quantified and/ or described)

- **Methods**: online survey

- **Recruitment:** via emails, forwarded to others:
  - May 1, 2014 – July 29, 2014
  - 136 (44% of 311) completed the online survey
  - 120 respondents familiar with the term ecosystem services
  - 99 respondents (73% of 136) worked on ESA projects

Gender (n=136)	Male	54%	**Ethnicity (n=126)**	Caucasian	83%
	Female	46%		Latino/ Hispanic	5%
Age (n=135)	18-24	2%		African American	4%
	25-34	16%		Multiple races	4%
	35-44	21%		Native American	2%
	45-54	27%		Asian	1%
	56-64	26%			
	>65	7%			
Education (n=135)	Master	39%	**Workplace (n=136)**	State	23%
	Doctoral	35%		University	18%
	Bachelor	20%		Federal	15%
	High School	2%		NGO	13%
	Some College	2%		County	10%
	Associate	1%		Consulting	8%
Regions Worked (n=97)	Florida	89%		Research Institute	4%
	South Central States USA	25%		City	3%
	South Atlantic States (except Fl)	16%		Regional Gov	2 %
	Western and Northeast region	6%, 5%		Other	5%

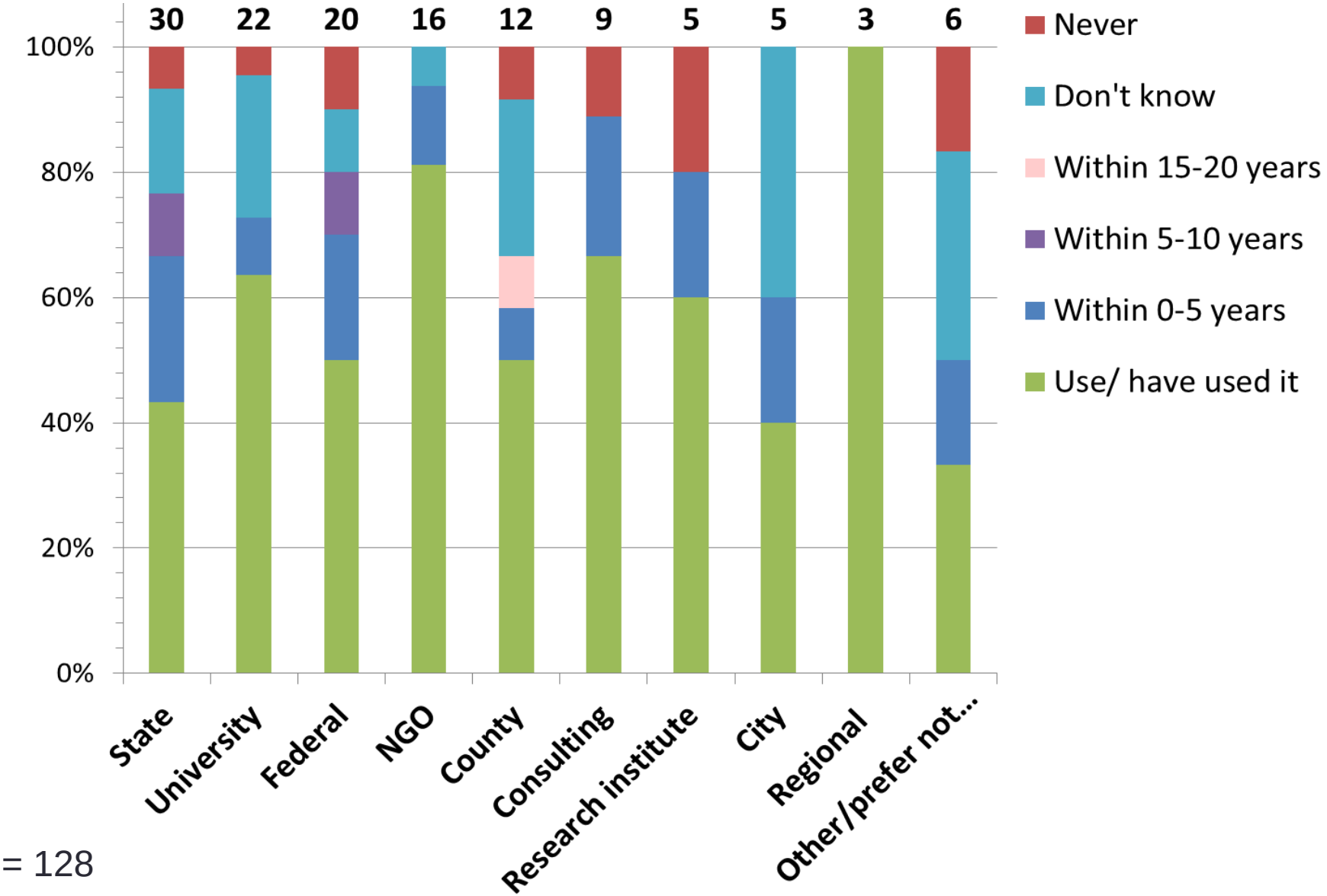


Preferred Term

1. Ecosystem Services Assessment (ESA) (27%)
2. No Opinion (23%)
3. Ecosystem Services Approach (13%)

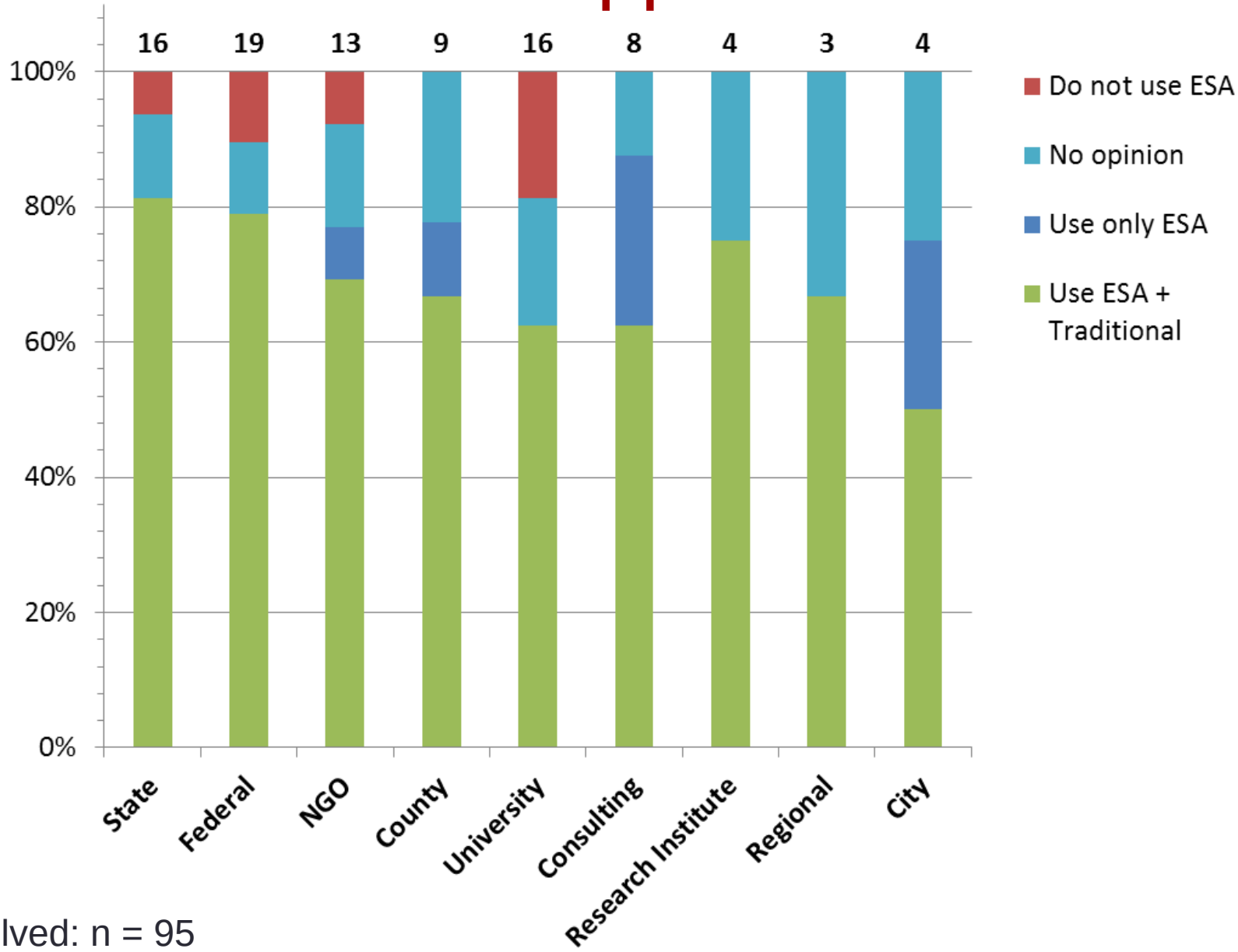
Respondents who worked on ESA projects: n = 94

ESA use and workplace

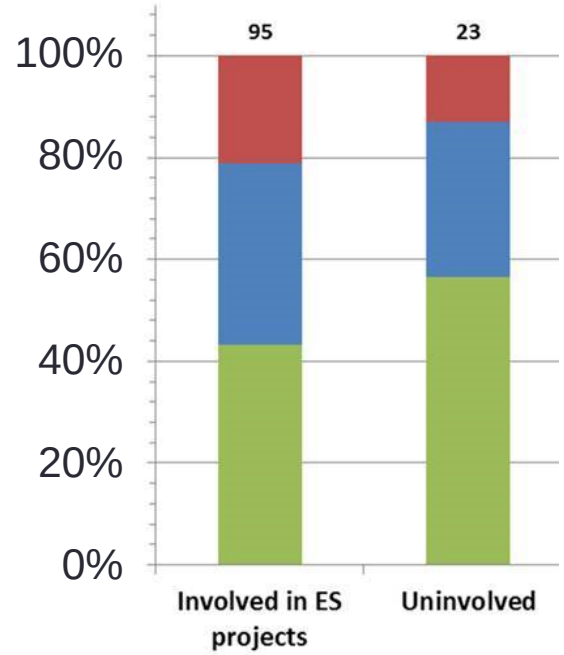


n = 128

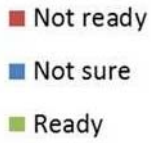
ESA vs. traditional approach

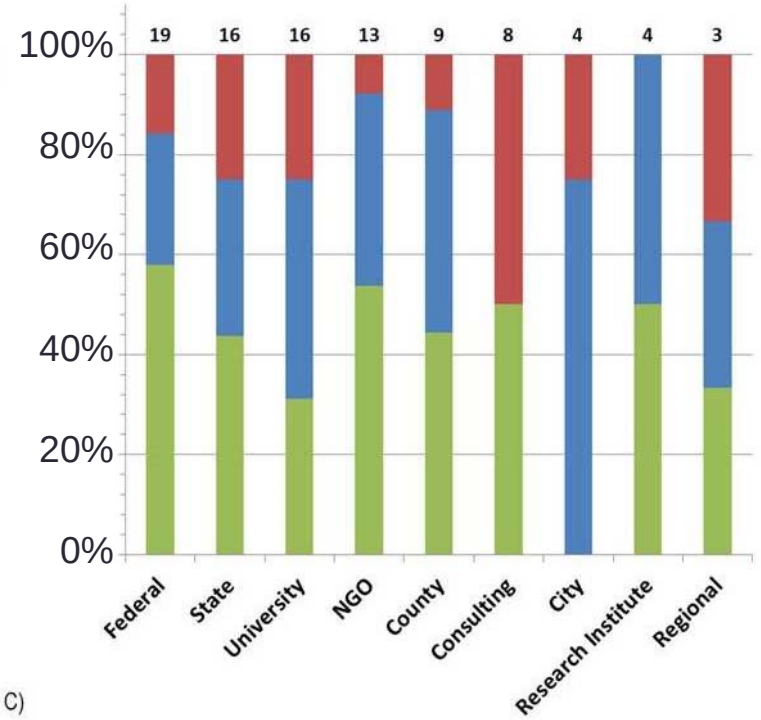


Involved: n = 95

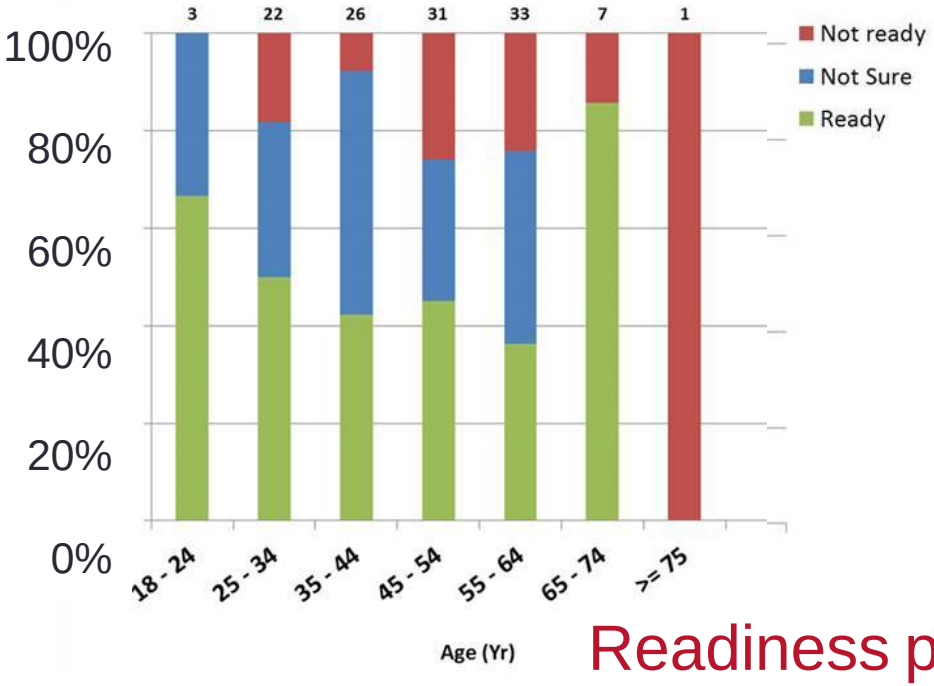


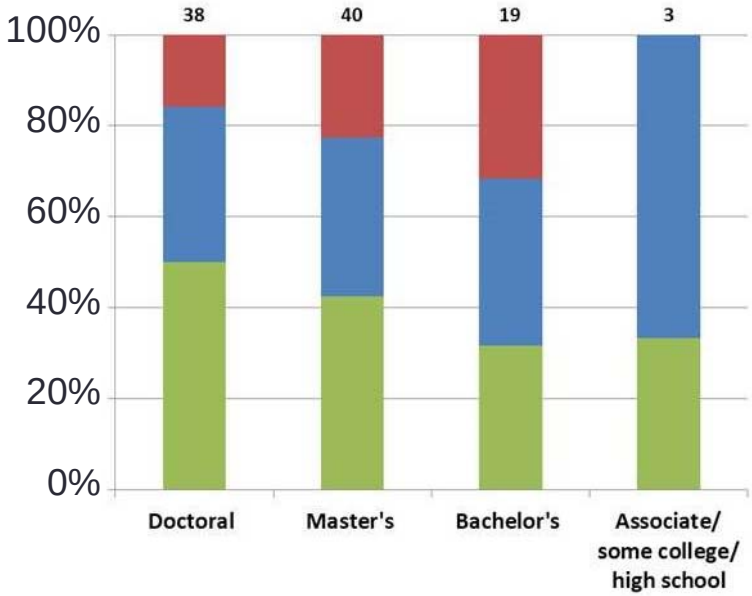
A)





C)





B)

Readiness planning field

Strengths & Challenges

- Strengths:
  - The ESA approach is comprehensive & holistic
  - Tracks, values and weighs benefits and costs; analyzes trade-offs

Strengths & Challenges

- Challenges:
  - Unclear guidelines and concepts
  - Varying approaches
  - Methods needs more testing and validation
  - Original research (local ecosystem services data)
  - Resources

Conclusions Survey

- Multiple agencies/ institutions use ESAs or expected to use it within 5 years
- ESAs perceived as a comprehensive approach
- Need consensus on framework, guidelines, methods
- ESA approaches vary
- Respondents across multiple agencies/ institutions are supportive of using ESA in planning
- Use ESA together with traditional approach
- Expand ecosystem service databases