

Promoting a landscape-scale approach to wetlands: the filth and the fury



Robert McInnes

Director

RM Wetlands & Environment Ltd

The Filth

Wetland biodiversity or human dignity?

- 650 million people live without access to safe water
- Approximately 900 children die every day due to diarrhoeal diseases caused by dirty water
- 2.3 billion people don't have access to adequate sanitation



Source: WaterAid, 2015

The Filth

And we're worried about wetland biodiversity

- The world's poorest people do not have access to safe water, proper toilets, sanitation or hygiene
- c.33% of the world's population defecate outdoors



Source: WaterAid, 2015

The wetland biodiversity quiz

So what do we mean by 'wetland biodiversity'?



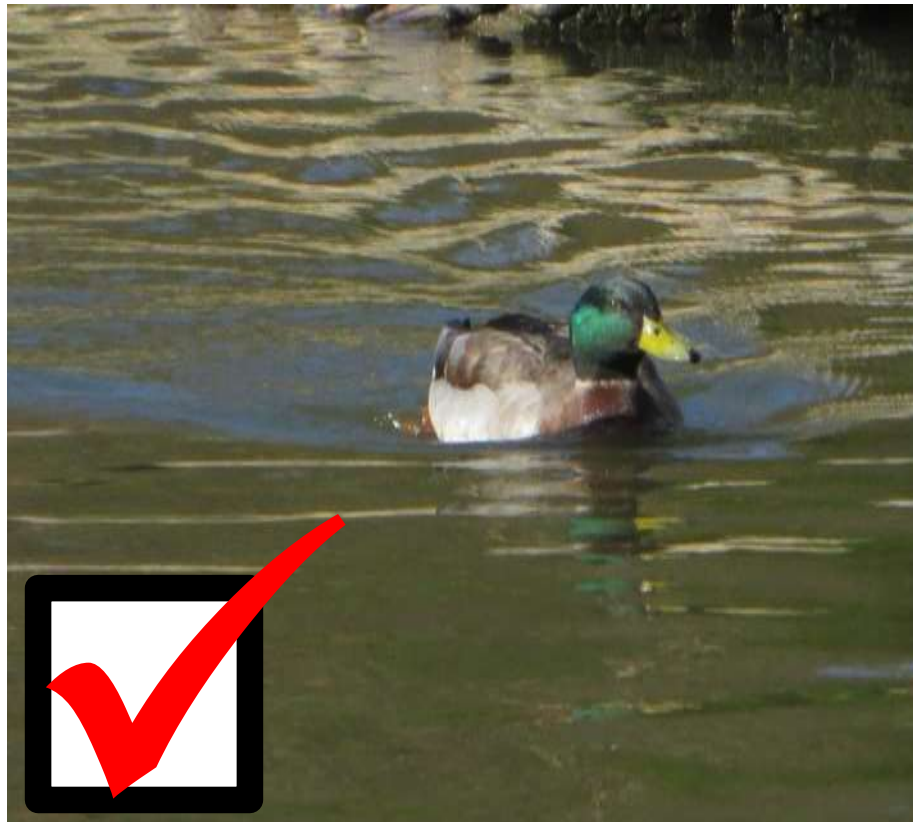
The wetland biodiversity quiz

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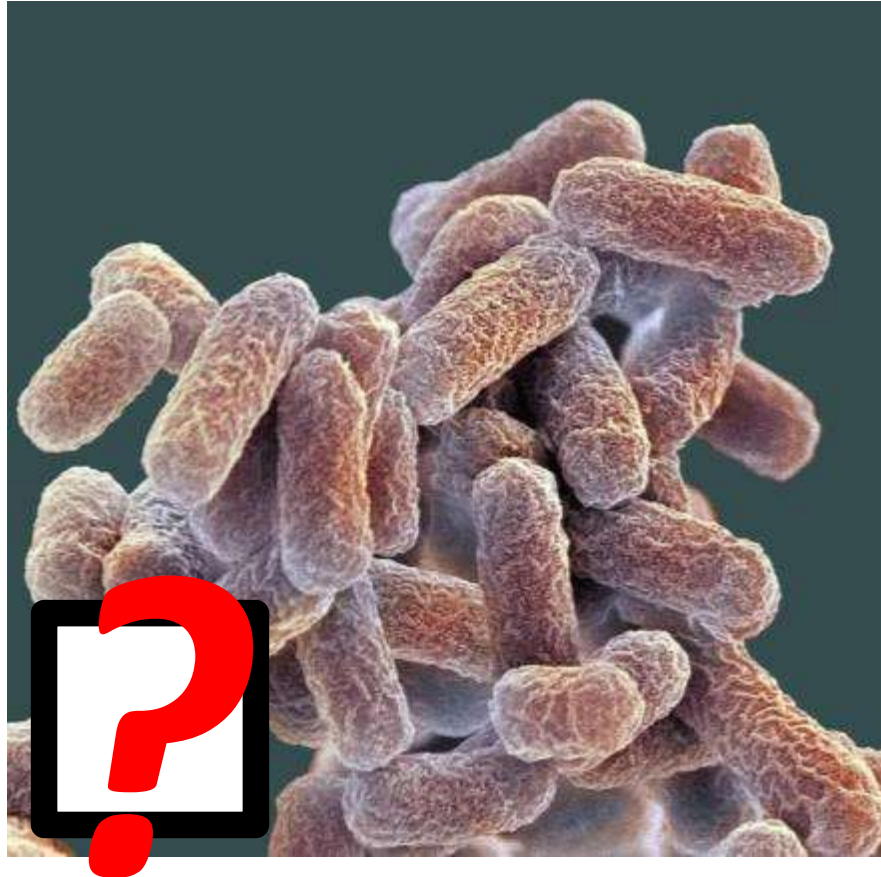
The wetland biodiversity quiz

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The wetland biodiversity quiz

So what do we mean by 'wetland biodiversity'?



Back to the Filth . . .

Can you imagine a landscape without these bacteria?

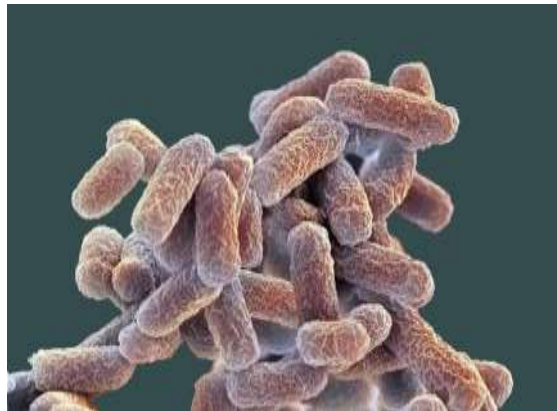
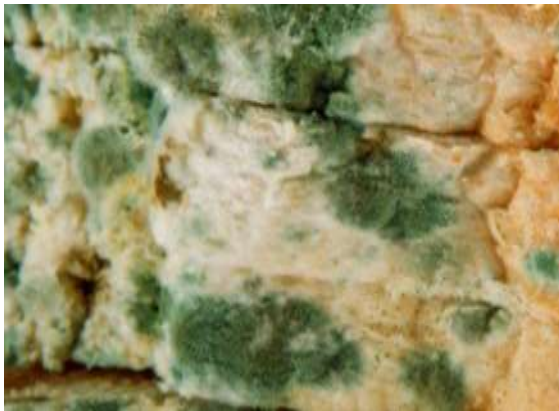
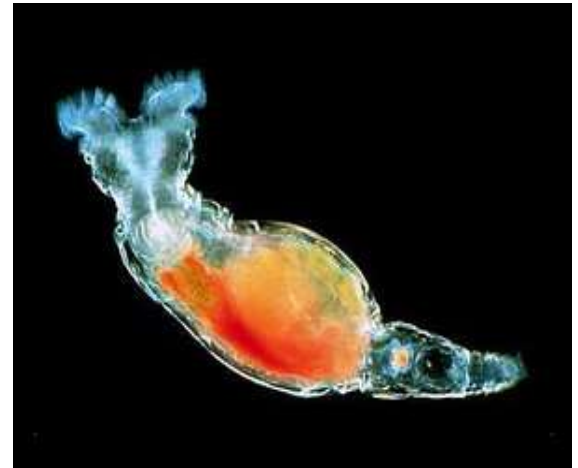


Alternative wetland biodiversity

Non-charismatic species

The stuff that does the work

- Bacteria
- Rotifers
- Nematodes
- Fungi



Why do we need an alternative?

Our traditional approach isn't doing so well

State of Nature report published in May 2013 by 25 UK conservation and research organisations

- Out of 848 freshwater wetland plant species, more than 10% are threatened with extinction in the UK.
- 40% of all native freshwater fish species are declining.
- Almost two-thirds of all wetland moth species have declined in the last 40 years.



Why do we need an alternative?

Our traditional approach isn't doing so well

State of Nature report published in May 2013 by 25 UK conservation and research organisations

- *“.. targeted conservation has produced a legacy of inspiring success stories and, with sufficient determination, resources and public support, we can, and will, turn the fortunes of our wildlife around.”*

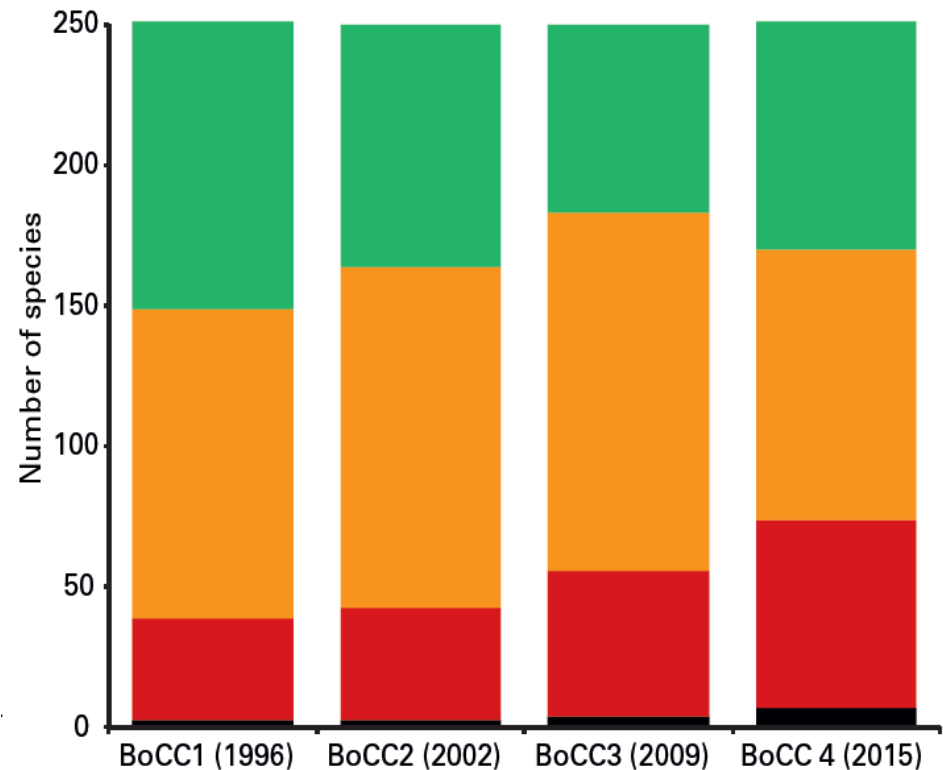


Why do we need an alternative?

Our traditional approach isn't doing so well

UK Birds of Conservation Concern (2015)

- Red list species increasing over the last 20 years
- Almost 50% of the red list species are wetland birds

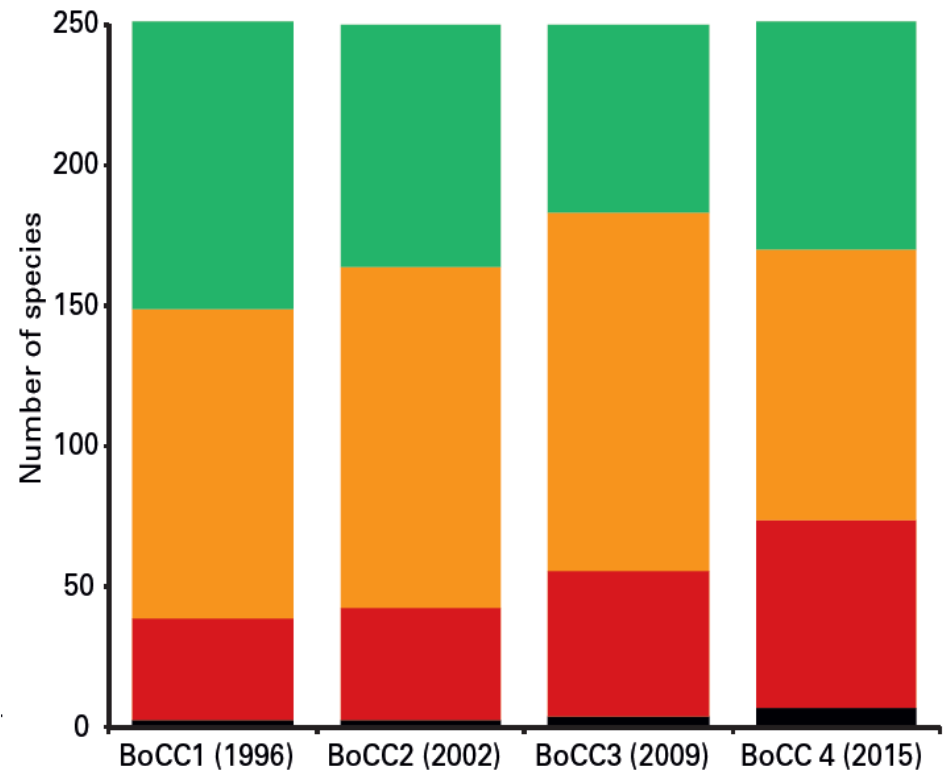


Why do we need an alternative?

Our traditional approach isn't doing so well

UK Birds of Conservation Concern (2015)

- *“There is some cause for hope, as the review demonstrates that conservation can work if properly targeted and funded.”*



Why do we need an alternative?

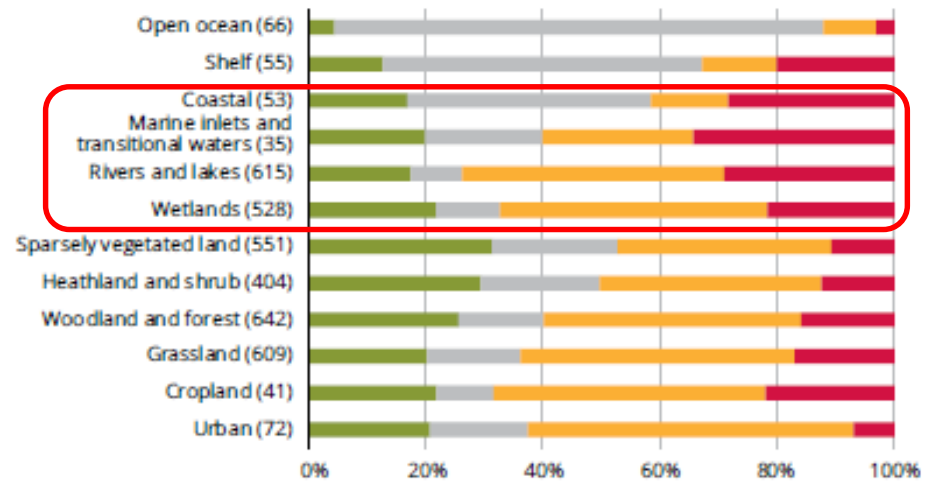
Our traditional approach isn't doing so well

The European Environment State Outlook 2015 (EEA, 2015)

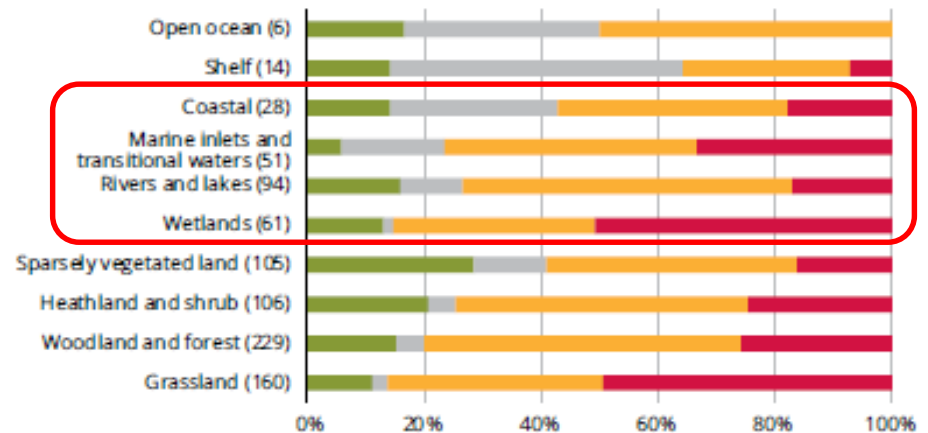
- 60% of protected species assessments and 77% of habitat assessments recorded an unfavourable conservation status
- Wetlands not doing so well ...

■ Favourable
■ Unknown
■ Unfavourable — inadequate
■ Unfavourable — bad

Conservation status of species by ecosystems



Conservation status of habitats by ecosystem

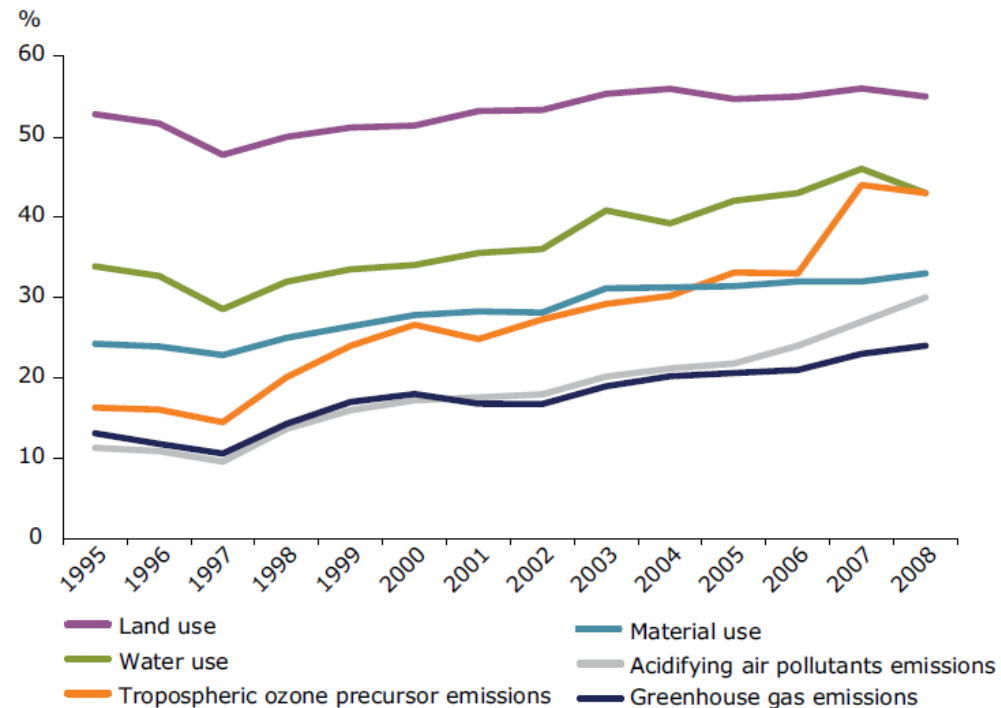


Why do we need an alternative?

Our traditional approach isn't doing so well

The European Environment State and Outlook 2015 (EEA, 2015)

- And are we now exporting the problem?



Note: The footprint relates to total final demand, comprising household consumption, government consumption and capital investment.

Source: EEA, 2014f; based on JRC/IPTS analysis of World Input-Output Database (WIOD), EC, 2012e.

Repackaging yesterday's failures?

Are landscape scale approaches another false dawn?

Do people really care about wetland biodiversity?

- Report produced in 2013, reviewed the economic data of 139 environmental organisations
- Income was close to £985m
- Or approximately 0.06% of GDP
- Does income reflect value?



Repackaging yesterday's failures?

Are landscape scale approaches another false dawn?

Should we consider alternative landscapes?

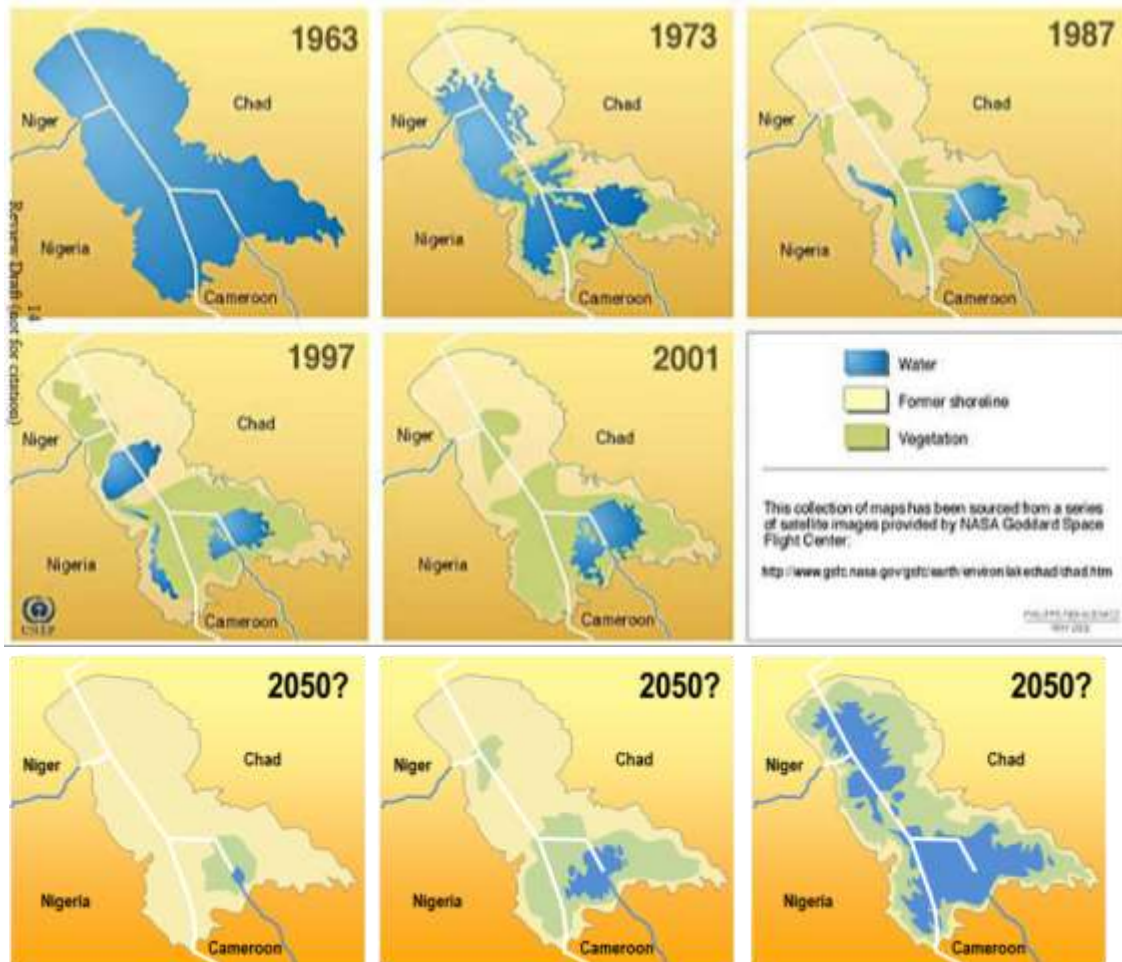
- Rethinking wetland biodiversity as a utilitarian solution provider?
- Promoting 'natural capital'?
- Highlighting the multiple values of wetlands?
- Integrating across social, political and economic landscapes?



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Alternative landscape approach

The benefits of wetland restoration



Alternative landscape approach

The benefits of wetland restoration

Understanding the barriers

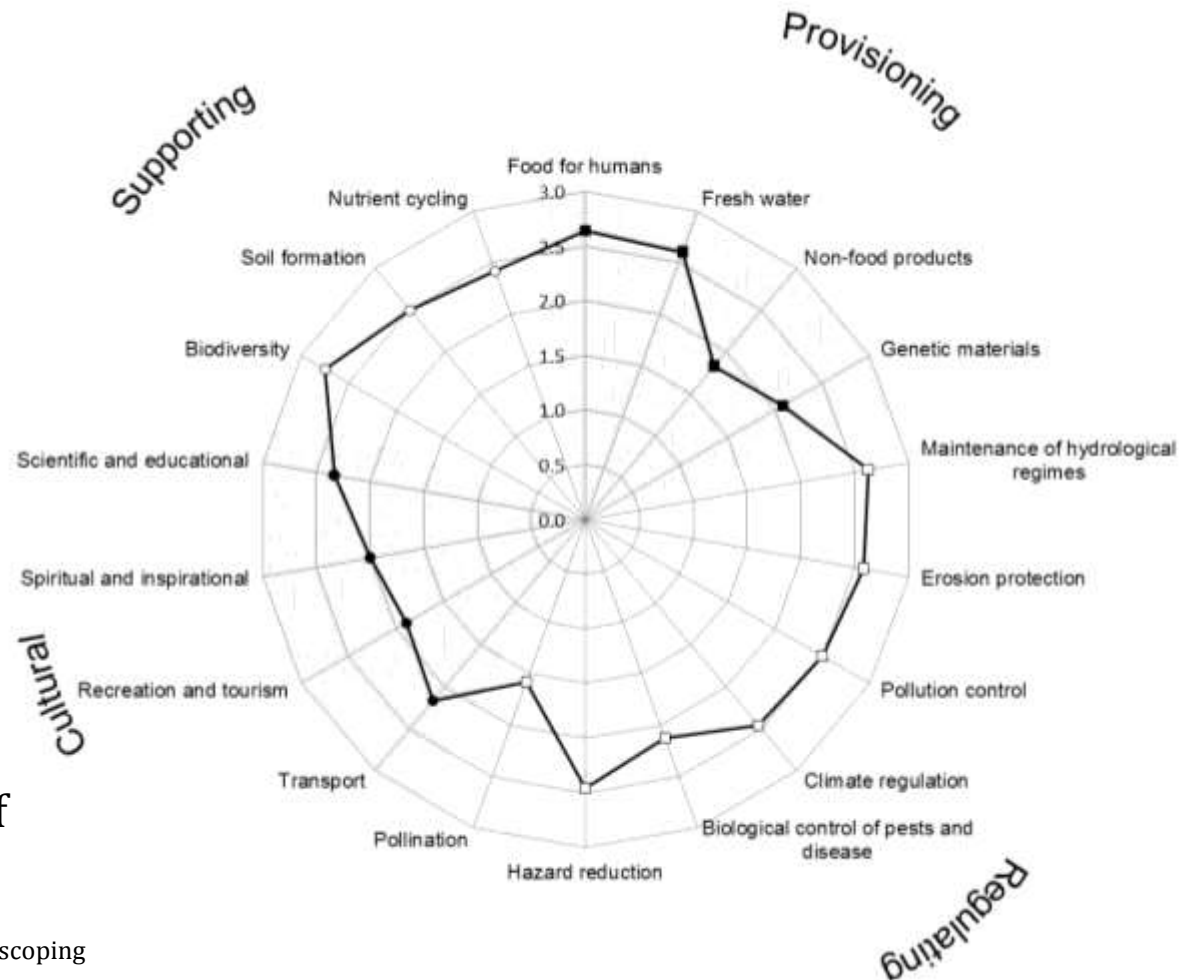
- Institutional and sectoral constructs – silo mentality
- Adoption of formulaic solutions – business as usual/regulatory capture
- Resource limitations – both financial and expertise
- Lack of understanding of value – recognising or monetising
- Conflict perceptions – conservation or utilitarianism



Alternative landscape approach

The benefits of wetland restoration

- A scoping assessment of the ecosystem services for Lake Chad was conducted in 2013.
- Used a range of approaches including a simple scoring system to recognize benefits.
- Identified 18 different ecosystem services and 42 details of service.
- 20 of these services were considered to be of high importance (with high level of agreement).



McInnes, R.J., Noupa, P., Bunu, Z.M. & Bdliya, H.H. (in press) A scoping assessment of the ecosystem services of Lake Chad. *Wetlands*.

Alternative landscape approach

The benefits of wetland restoration

Understanding the different types of landscape



Alternative landscape approach

The benefits of wetland restoration

It is about biodiversity

- But more than the cute and the charismatic
- Or the rare and threatened (as noble as their cause may be)
- It is about demonstrating value across other landscapes
- .. and speaking to the right audiences



Alternative landscape approach

What links football, carpets, fishing nets, a zoo and wetland restoration?



Interface[®]



Delivering wetland restoration
with multiple benefits spread
across multiple stakeholders

The Filth and the Fury

Evolution or revolution?

- Have we all become too comfortable?
- Do we need to provoke uproar?

Daily Mirror
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DAILY SALE
6p Thursday, December 2, 1976 No. 22,658

TV's Bill Grundy in rock outrage

?!★!

Judge in 'murder' pardon shocker
By ANNOT MURKIN

THE GROUP IN THE BIG TV RUMPUS
Johnny Rotten, leader of the Sex Pistols, opens a can of beer. Last night their language made TV viewers flush.

When the air turned blue..

Uproar as viewers jam phones

THE FILTH AND THE FURY!

A POP group shocked millions of viewers last night with the filthiest language heard on British television.

The Sex Pistols, leaders of the new "punk rock" cult, hosted a sitting of four bitter obscenity at interviewer Bill Grundy on Thames TV's family testime programme "Today".

The Thames watershed was flooded with profanity. Sexists got angry, viewers threatened the Mirror. One man was so upset that he turned on the screen of his 4288 colour TV.

Grundy was immediately accused of bias and was accused of being a hypocrite.

Shocker

A Thames spokesman said: "Because the programme was live, we could not prevent the language which would be used. We apologise to all viewers."

The show, watched at peak children's viewing time, turned into a shocker when Grundy asked about SEX PISTOLS. The Sex Pistols reacted.

WHO ARE THESE PUNKS? PAGE NINE

The Filth and the Fury

Evolution or revolution?

Two quotations

We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.

Albert Einstein

Natural science will in time incorporate into itself the science of man, just as the science of man will incorporate into itself natural science: there will be one science.

Karl Marx

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THANK YOU

Robert McInnes

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