



2025 National Landcare Conference

Landcare: Nature, Agriculture, Land and People Positive

Sunday 21 to Wednesday 24 September, 2025

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre

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What does success look like?

Partnering with practitioners to identify factors that help generate positive outcomes for Landcare and threatened-species recovery-team projects

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Special Acknowledgement

Vanessa Adams¹, Kate Andrews⁴, Angela Dean³, Darryl Ebenezer², Sarah Hoyle⁴, Silva Larson¹, Sandra Abell⁵, Harrison Mathias⁵, Melanie Tyas², and others⁶

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²National Landcare Network

³University of Queensland

⁴NRM Regions Australia

⁵Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

⁶The team from NSW DCEEEW and Western Sydney university



What does success look like? Factors resulting in positive outcomes for Landcare and threatened-species recovery-team project

Project information



National Environmental Science Program

Key research areas

1. Locally and nationally relevant indicators that can be used to assess ecological, social, and economic outcomes across scales.
2. Trade-offs and synergies in **objectives and perceptions of success across different actors** (e.g. farmers, volunteers, coordinators, managers).
3. Trade-offs and synergies **between different types of success** (e.g. social capital vs habitat condition).
4. **Social, economic, ecological factors that contribute to, or detract from different types of success** in varying contexts.

SUCCESS FACTORS FOR RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA Resilient Landscapes National Landcare Network NRM REGIONS

What helps or hinders your efforts to manage natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals?

If you are a land manager or engaged in what we call 'natural resource management activities' (this includes a very broad range of actions, to restore or rehabilitate landscapes, to protect threatened species, to change agricultural practices for sustainable outcomes, or to otherwise improve and maintain natural resources) — we invite you to share your unique experiences and insights on what truly makes your efforts effective.

For over 30 years, research has provided valuable insights into the factors that drive or hinder success in natural resource management activities. But we know that true success is best defined by those directly involved in these efforts.

Help us learn from your experiences, achievements, or aspirations in these activities—whether you're actively engaged or have yet to start.

By contributing your personal experiences to this research, you can help improve future programs, make efforts more effective across diverse communities and environments, and support your own success.

What does participation involve?

→ We hope participants will complete an online survey to collect 'baseline' information.

→ Access the survey at:
bit.ly/successlandscapes

Please enter this address in your desktop browser. The survey is not suited for mobile devices.

Further information

Visit: neslandscapes.edu.au/projects/nesp-rh/landcare-and-threatened-species

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This research is being conducted by researchers at the University of Tasmania, the National Landcare Network, the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and Western Sydney University, with support from the Resilient Landscapes Hub of the National Environmental Science Program. This study has been approved by the University of Tasmania Human Research Ethics Committee (H0030924).



The multi-layered system of natural resource management: actors, groups, programs and scales of decision-making



National Landcare Network
NRM Regions Australia
Environmental Stewardship Program
Saving Native Species Program
National Soil Conservation Program
Natural Heritage Trust
Caring-for Country
Citizen Science Association
Greening Australia



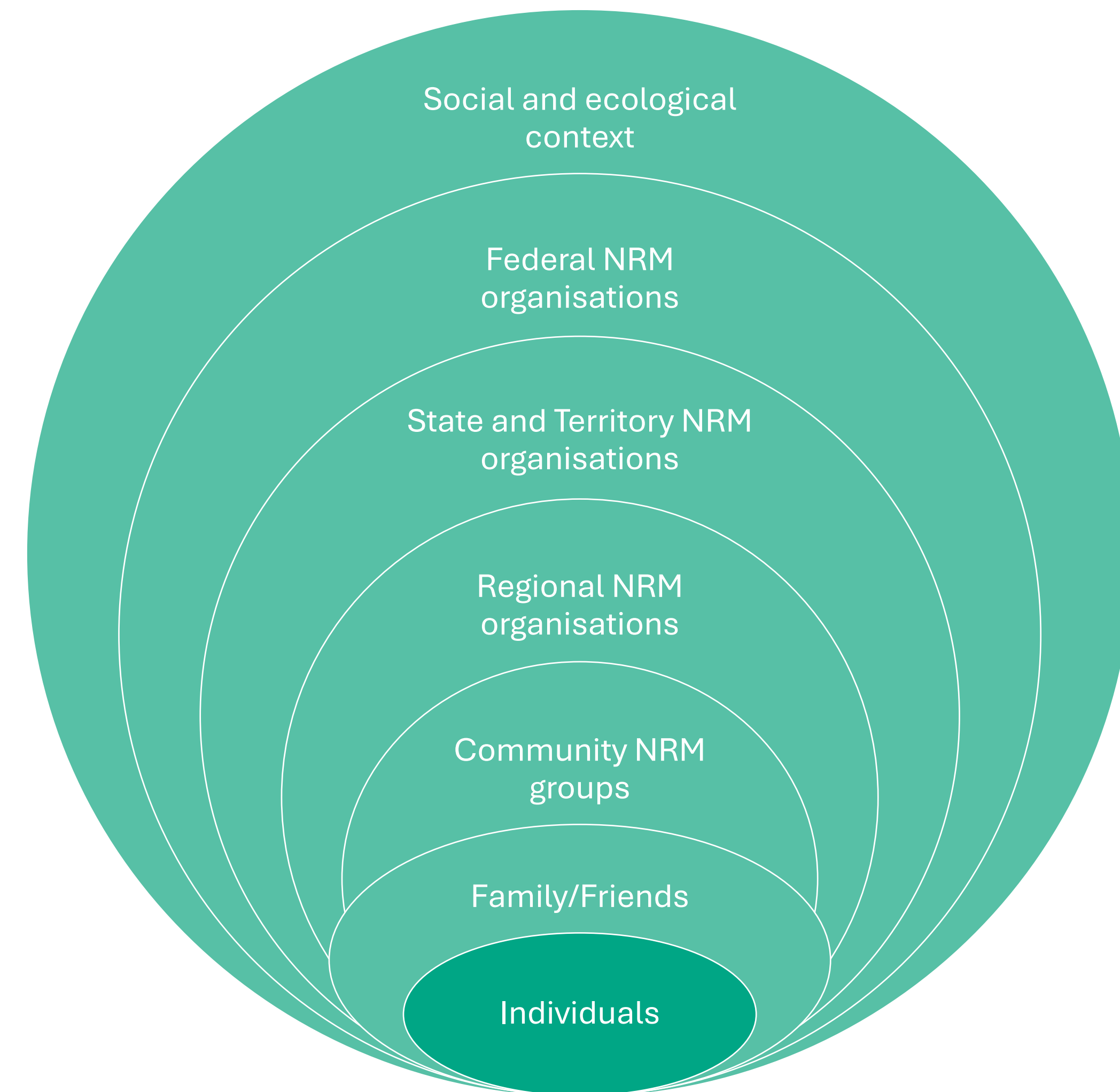
Landcare
Coastcare
Dunecare
Bushcare
Catchment care
Waterwatch
Threatened species recovery teams
...

Actors:

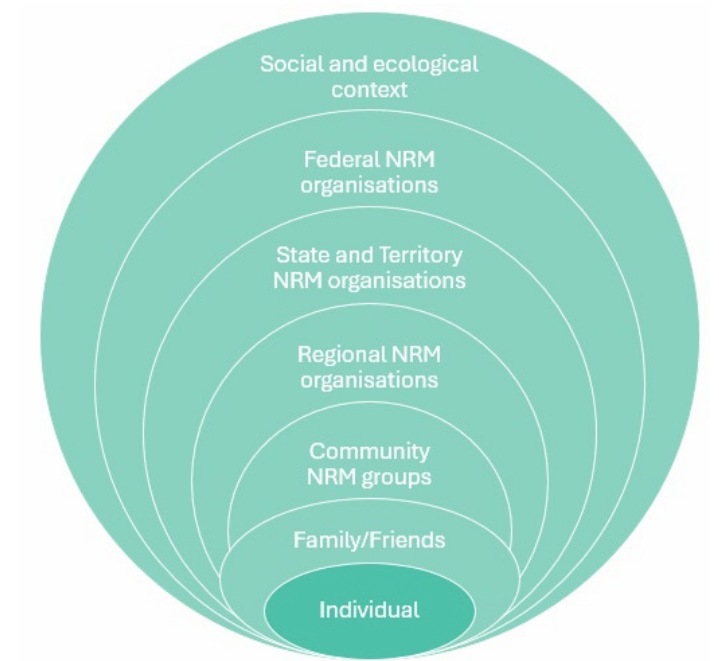
Landowners
Community volunteers
Coordinators
Expert advisors
Project managers
Fund managers
Traditional Owners

Doing natural resource management activities such as...

Plant native trees
Erosion control
Fire management
Co-ordinating volunteers
Invasive weeds control
Construct wetlands
Introduce logs or woody debris
Monitor invasive pests and weeds
Set aside land for conservation
Build nesting boxes
....



Different people tend to use different types of data when making decisions relevant to different scales



Good outcomes are most likely when objectives align across scales – so all are working together to achieve shared goals.

It may be possible to improve alignment or identify co-benefits by using metrics/measures that are meaningful across scales.

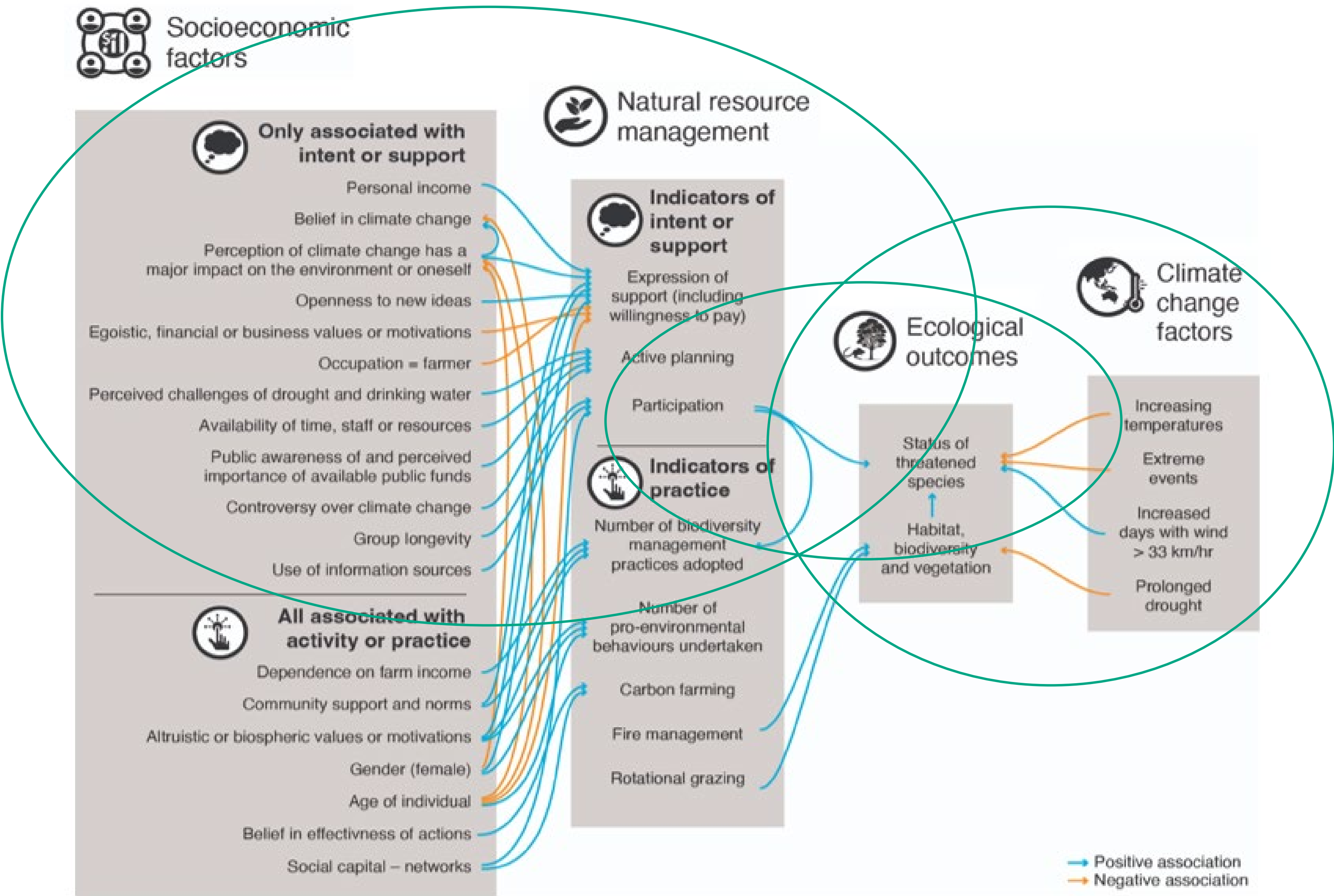


Pathways to ‘success’ identified from the literature

1. Social and economic studies tend to focus on social outcomes (e.g. attitudes, desire to participate) of social interventions (e.g. communications, carbon markets)

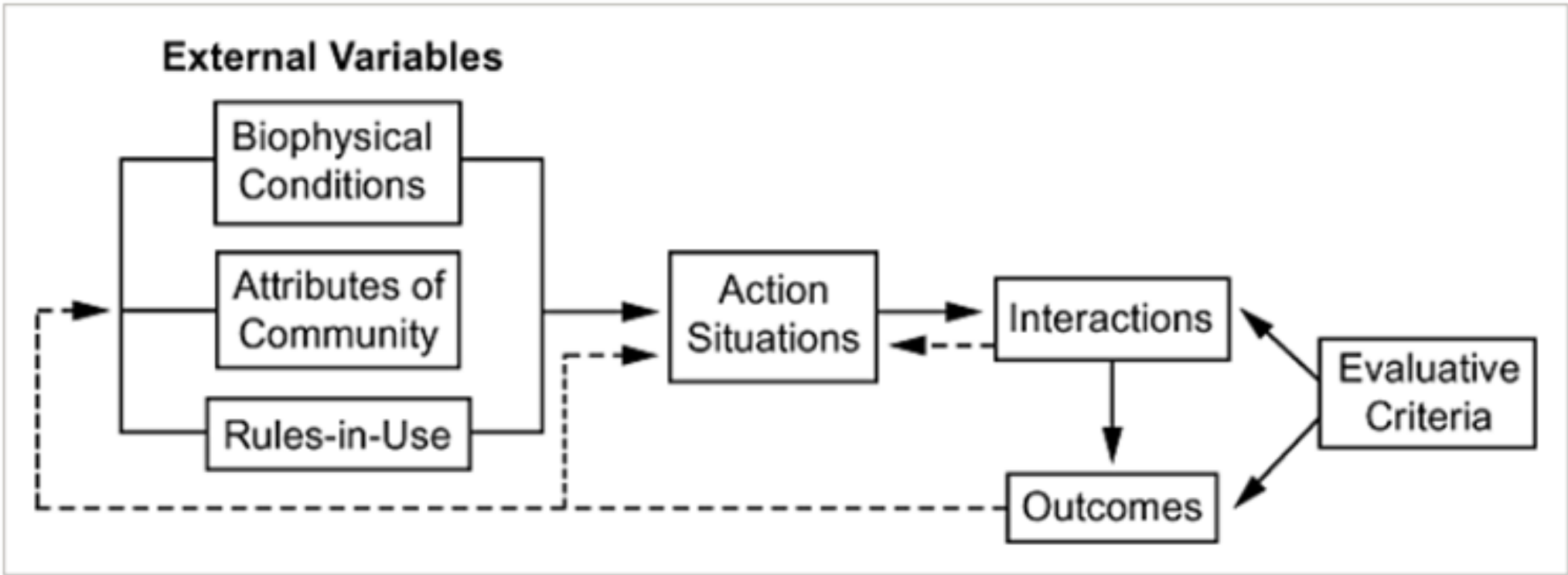
2. Biophysical science studies tend to focus on biophysical outcomes of biophysical interventions

3. Relatively few evaluate the ecological outcomes of ‘on ground’ activities



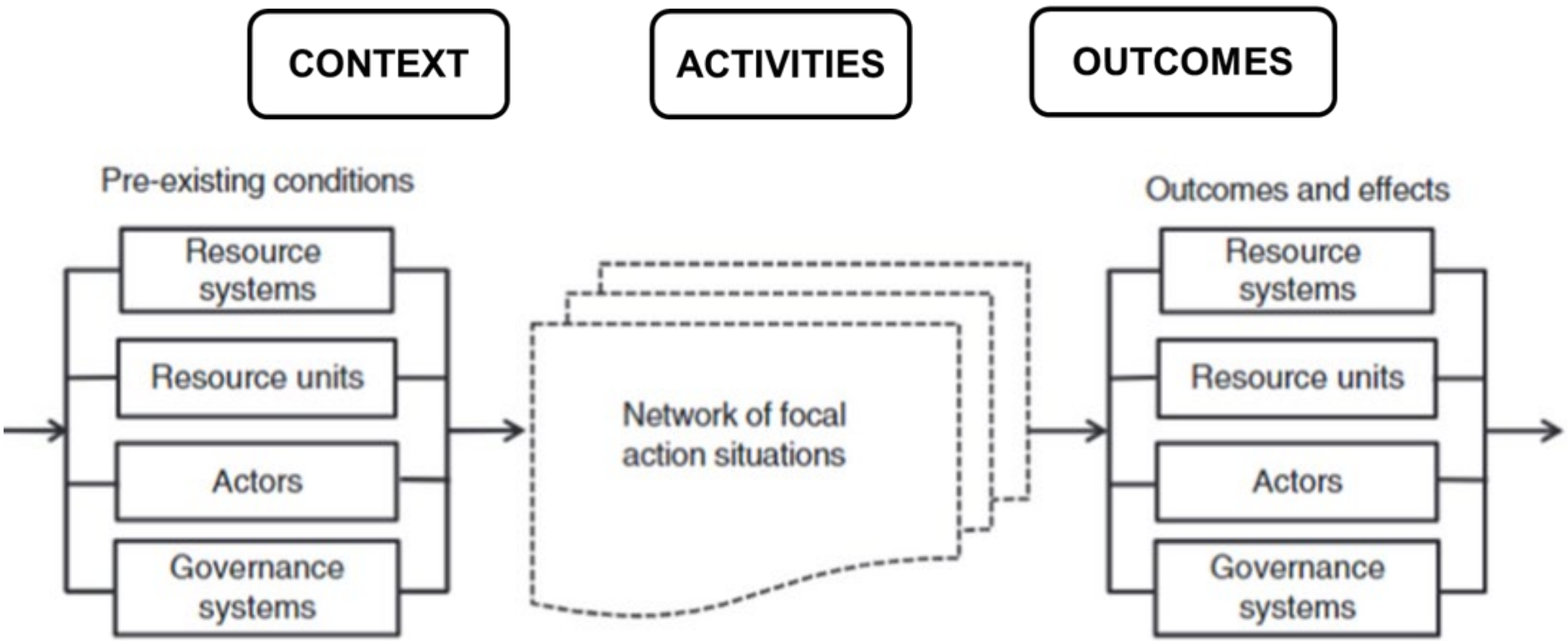
Limenih, B., Stoeckl, N., Larson, S., Tsai, A., Adams, V., & Dean, A. J. (n.d.). Pathways from socioeconomic values to natural resource management practices to ecological change: A systematic review (Manuscript under review).

A Framework for Institutional Analysis and Development



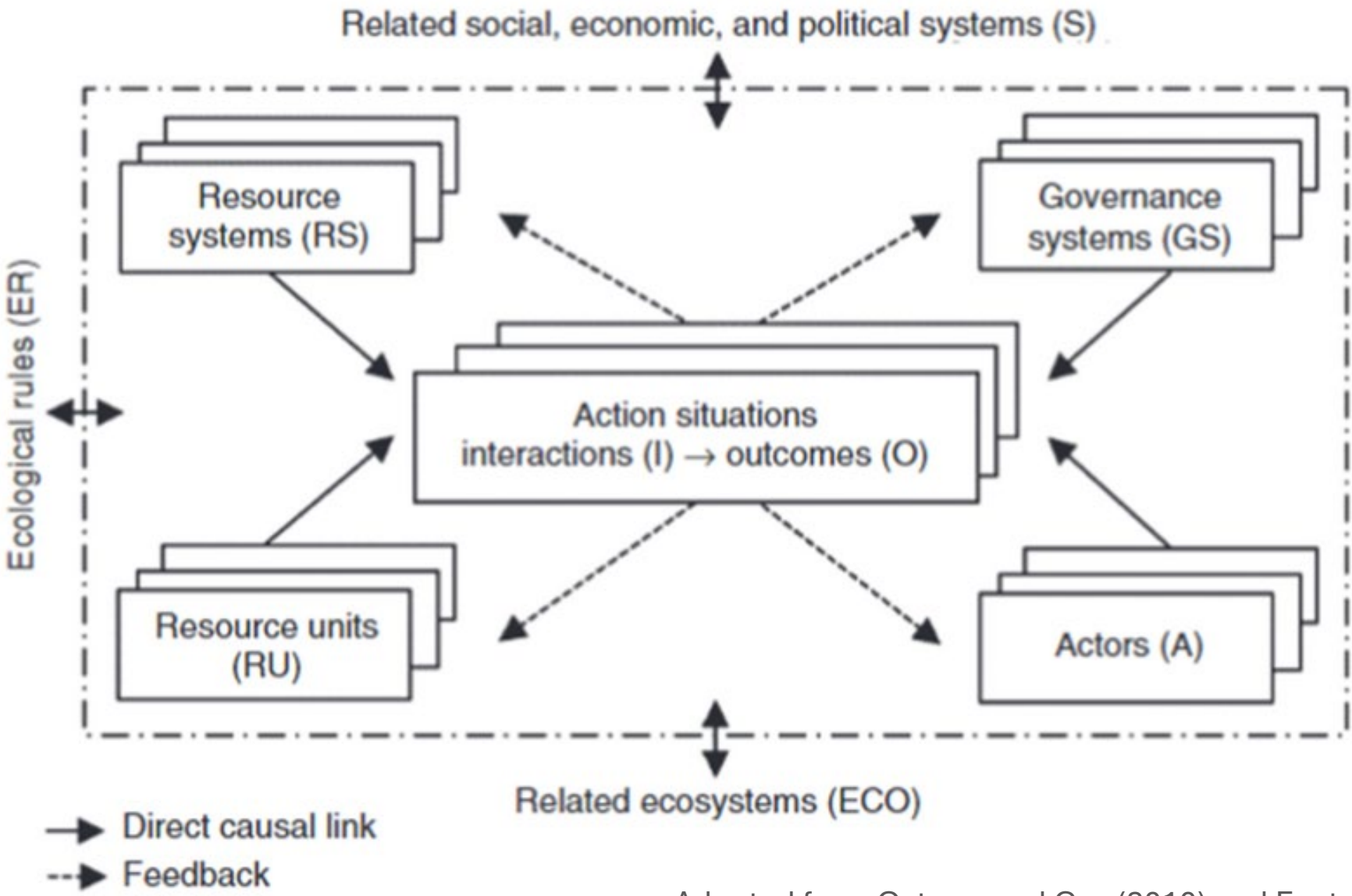
Ostrom, Elinor. "Background on the institutional analysis and development framework." Policy studies journal 39, no. 1 (2011): 7-27.

IAD-SES framework



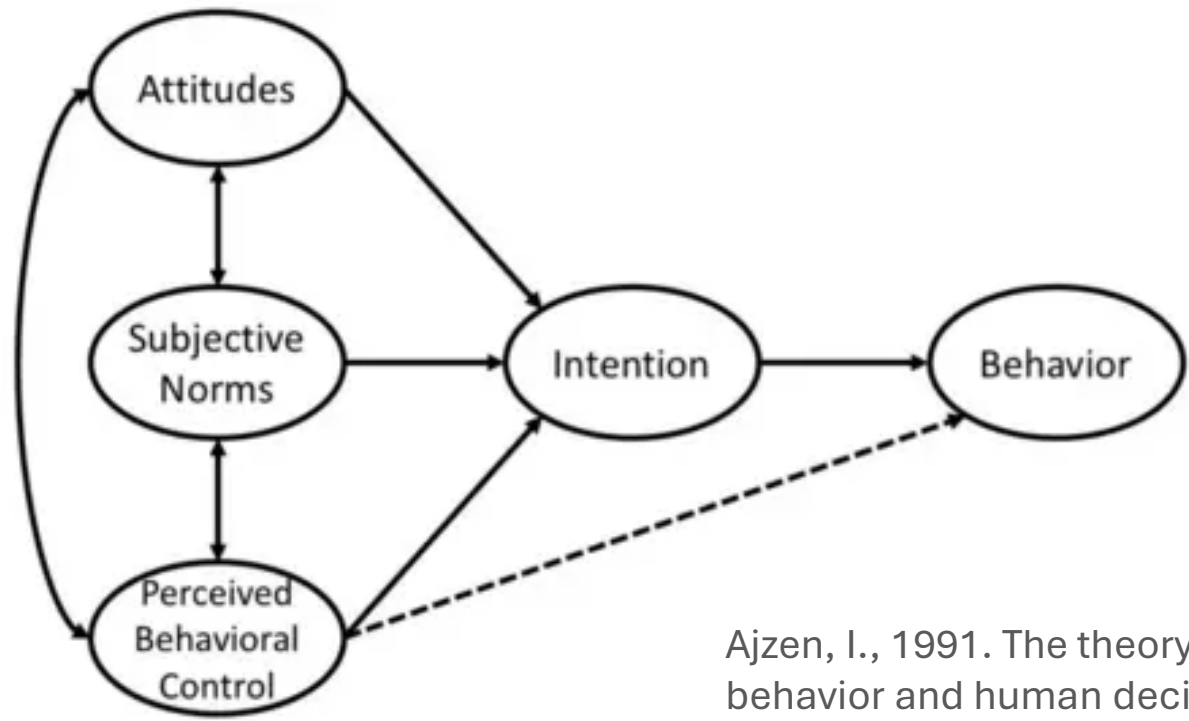
Cole DH, Epstein G, McGinnis MD. Combining the IAD and SES frameworks. International Journal of the Commons. 2019 Jan 1;13(1):244-75.

The SES framework

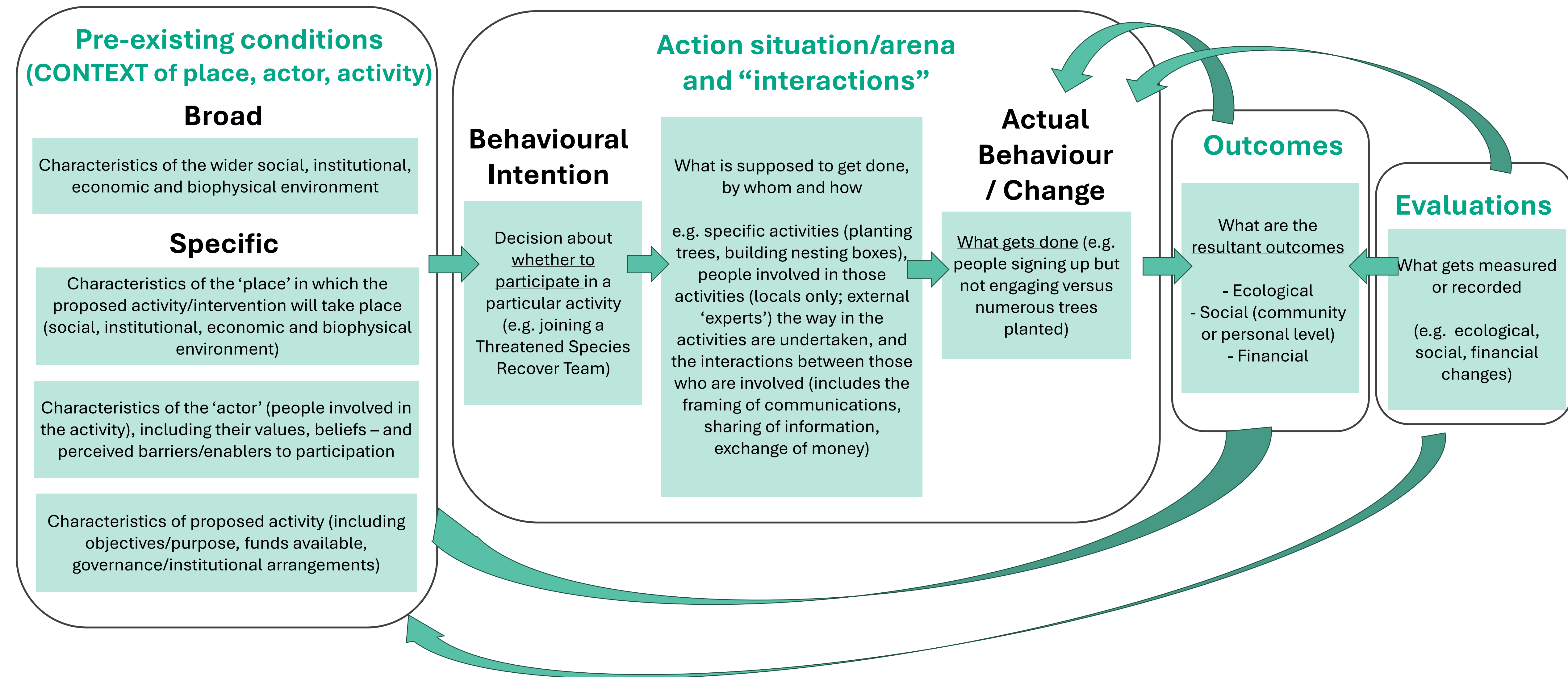


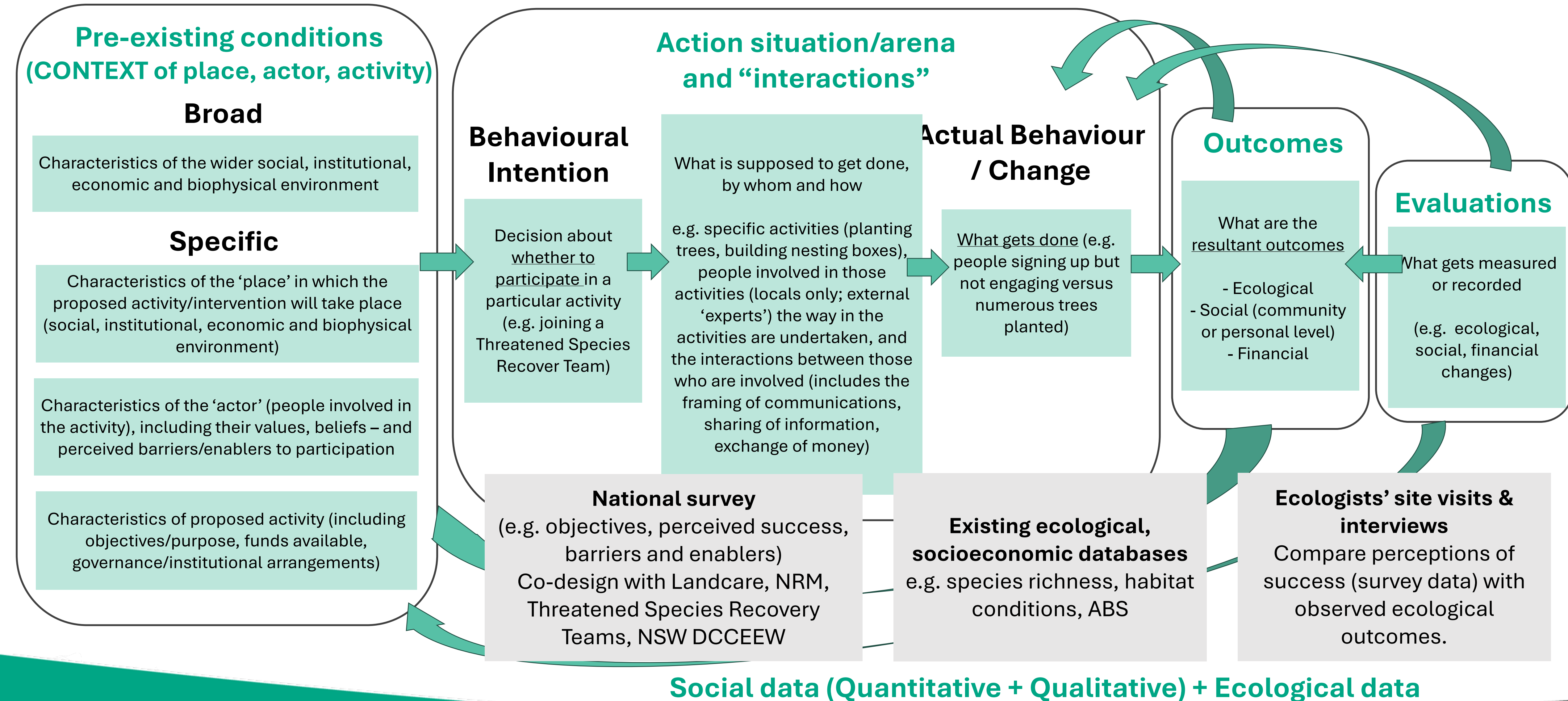
Adapted from Ostrom and Cox (2010) and Epstein et al. (2013)

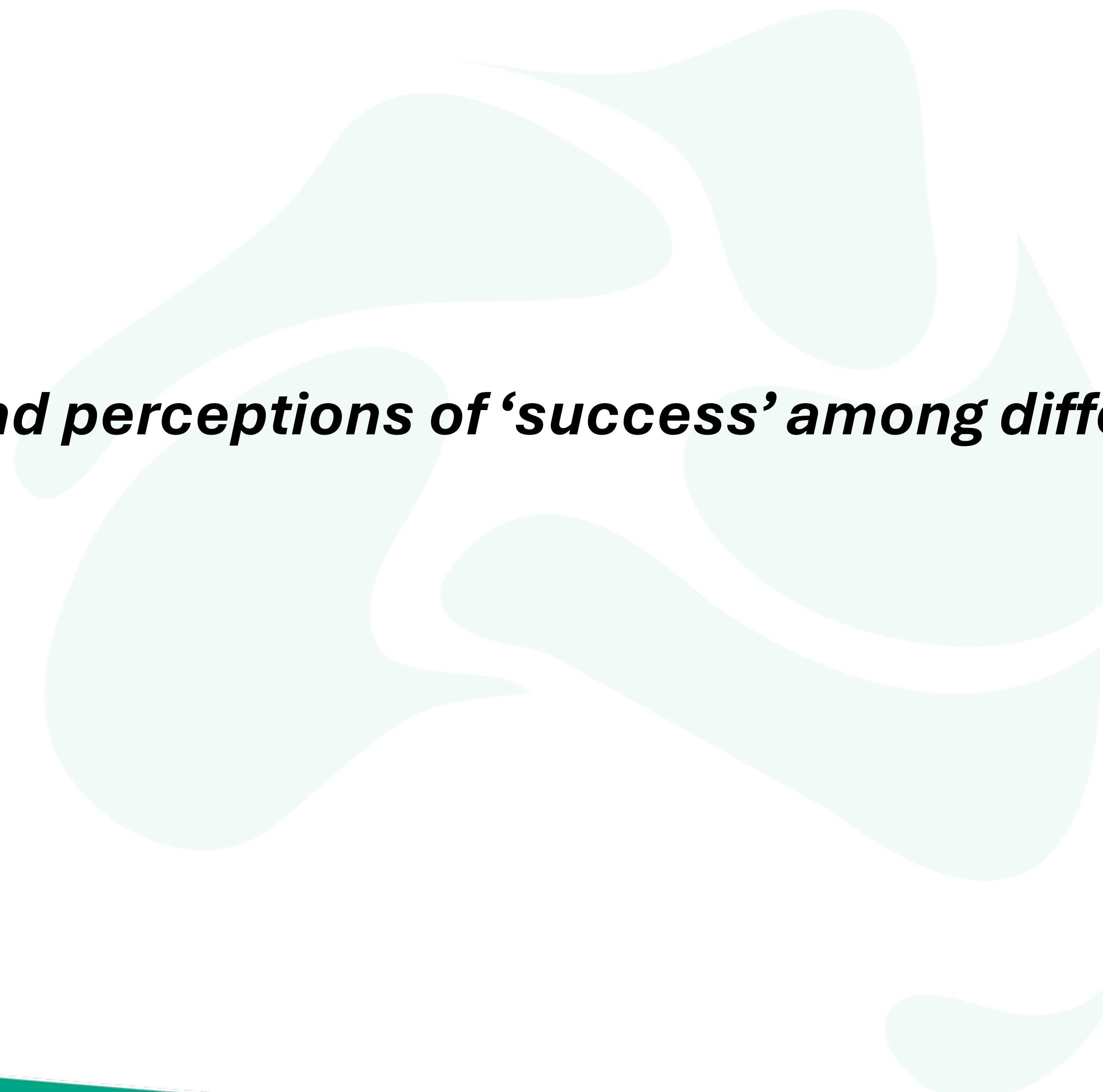
The theory of planned behaviour



Ajzen, I., 1991. The theory of planned behavior. Organizational behavior and human decision processes, 50(2), pp.179-211.



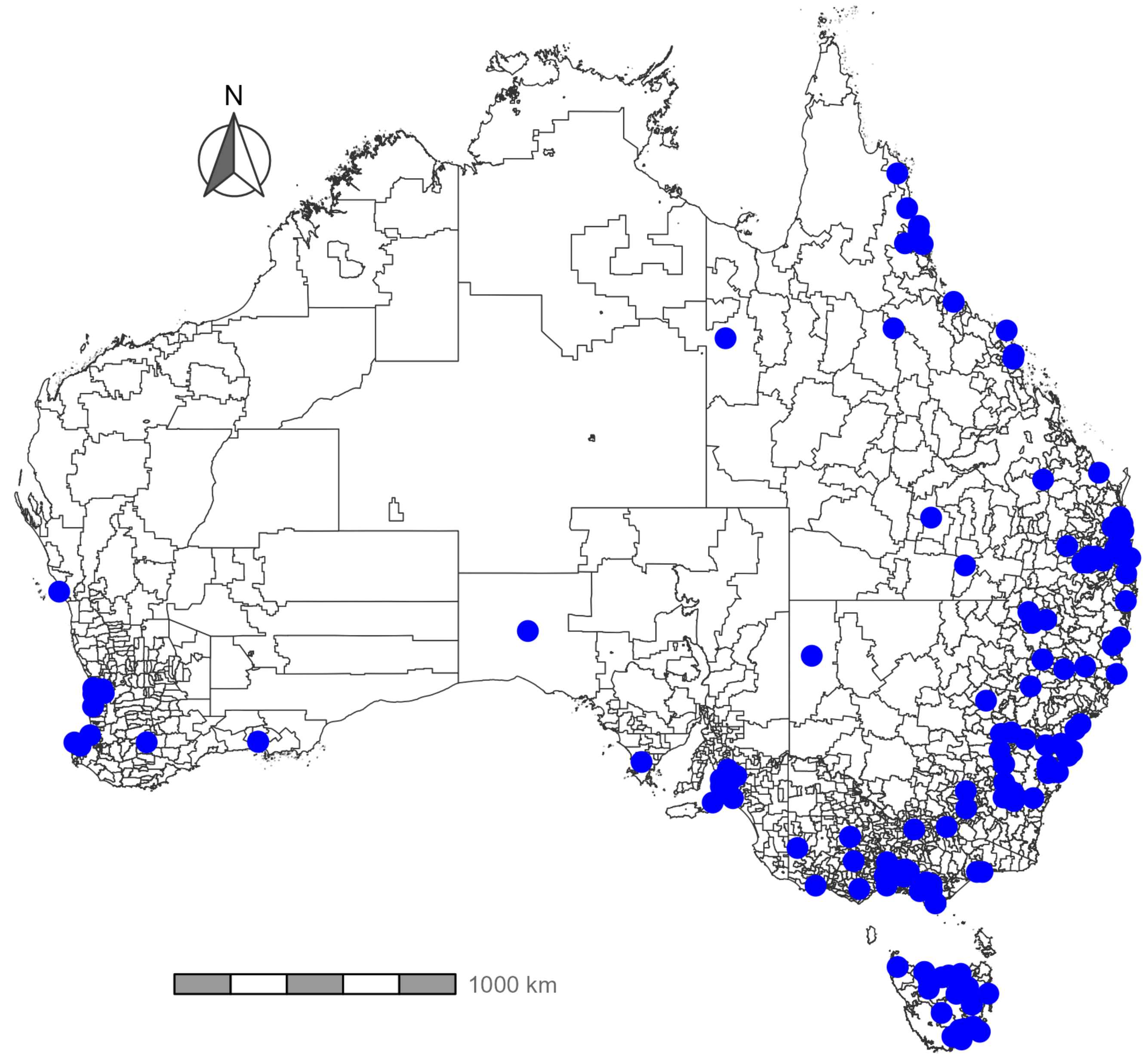
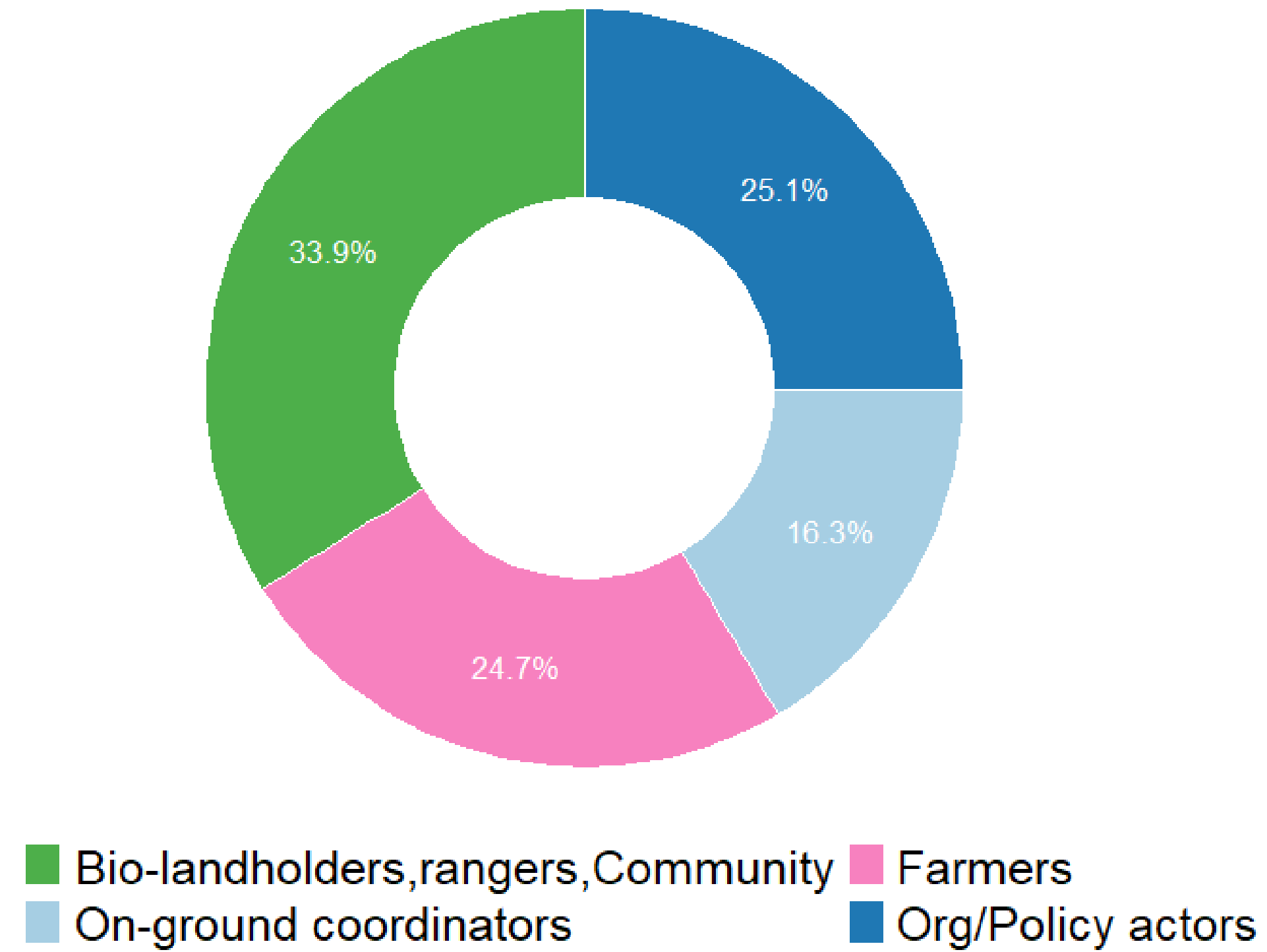


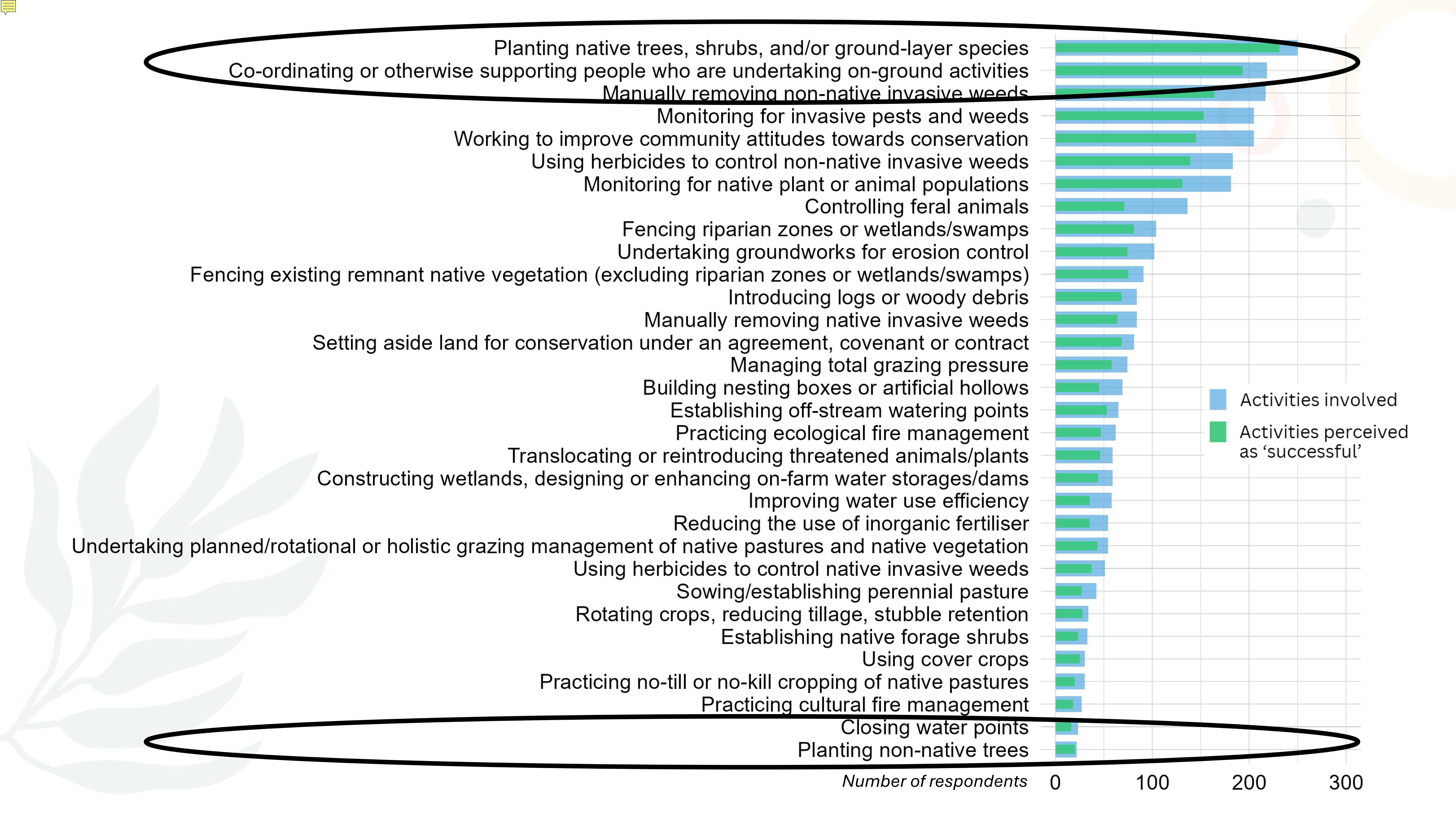
An abstract graphic consisting of several overlapping, organic, teal-colored shapes that resemble liquid droplets or flowing smoke, positioned behind the main title.

Objectives and perceptions of ‘success’ among different actors

Preliminary findings

Role and geographic spread of respondents (N=249)

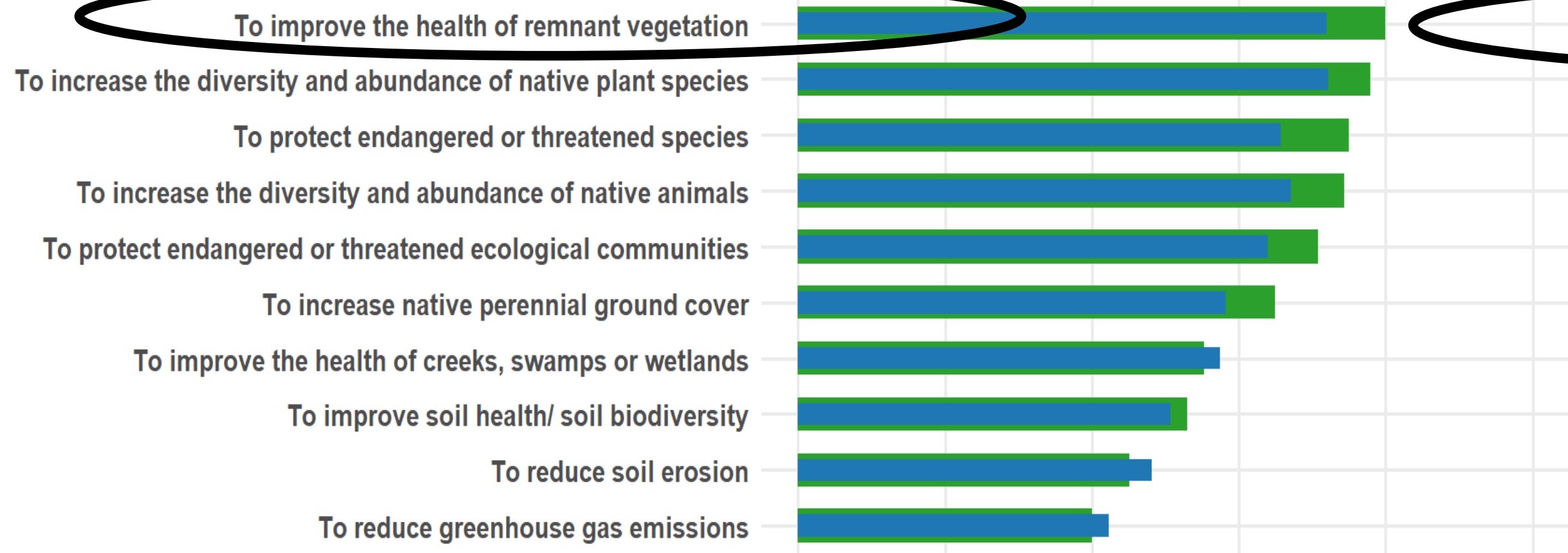




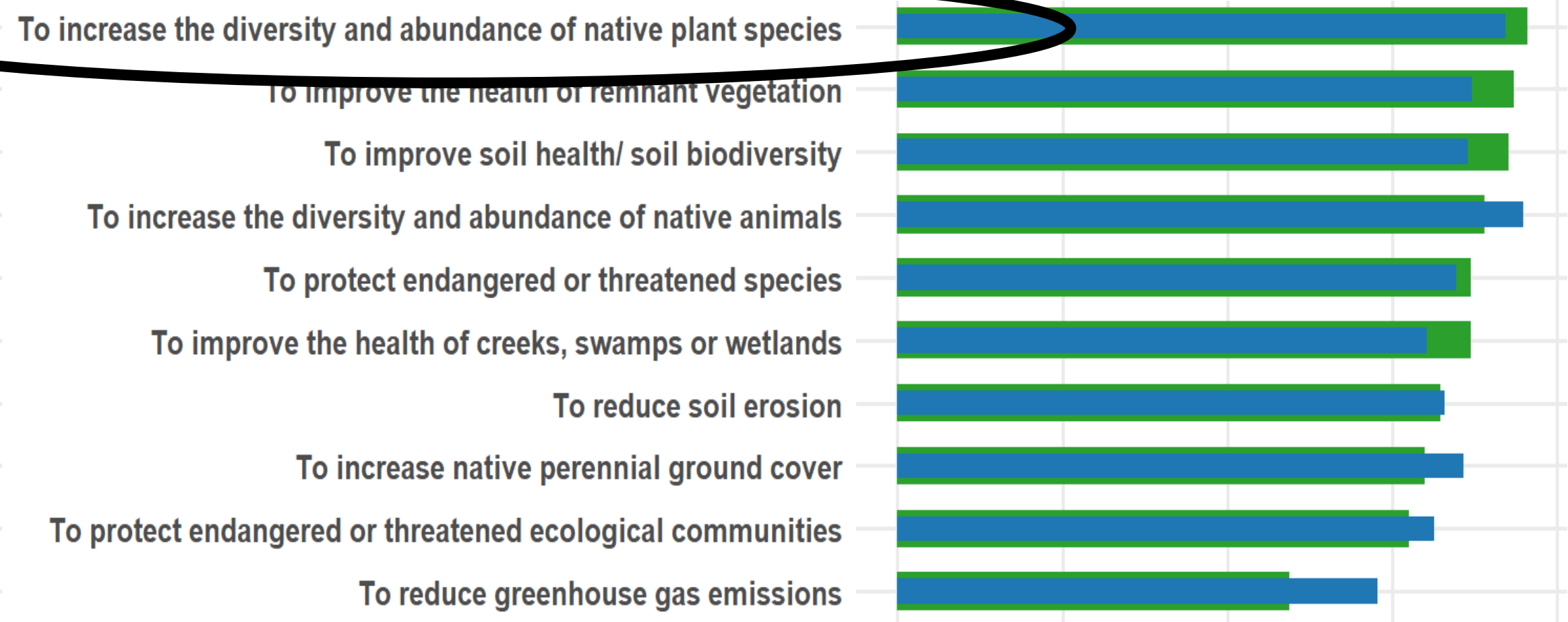
How important were these ecological objectives and which do you feel you achieved?

■ Perceived success ■ Perceived importance

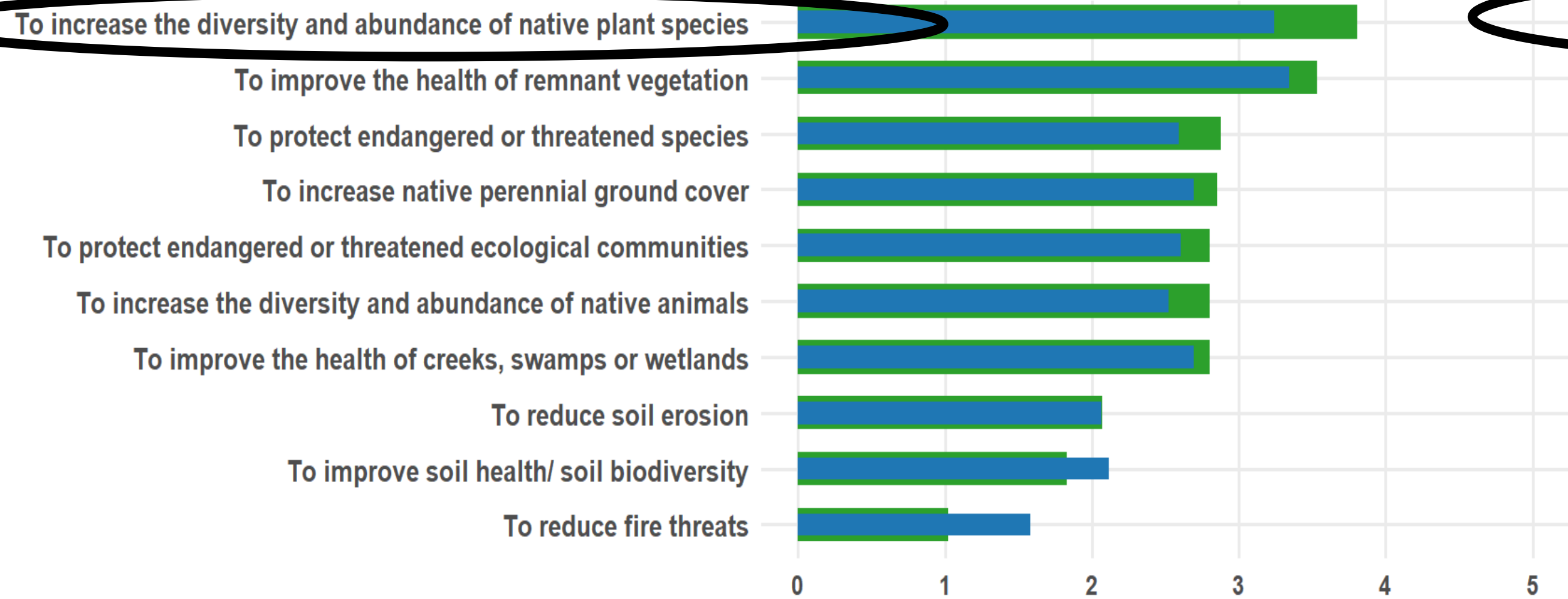
Bio-landholders, rangers, community members



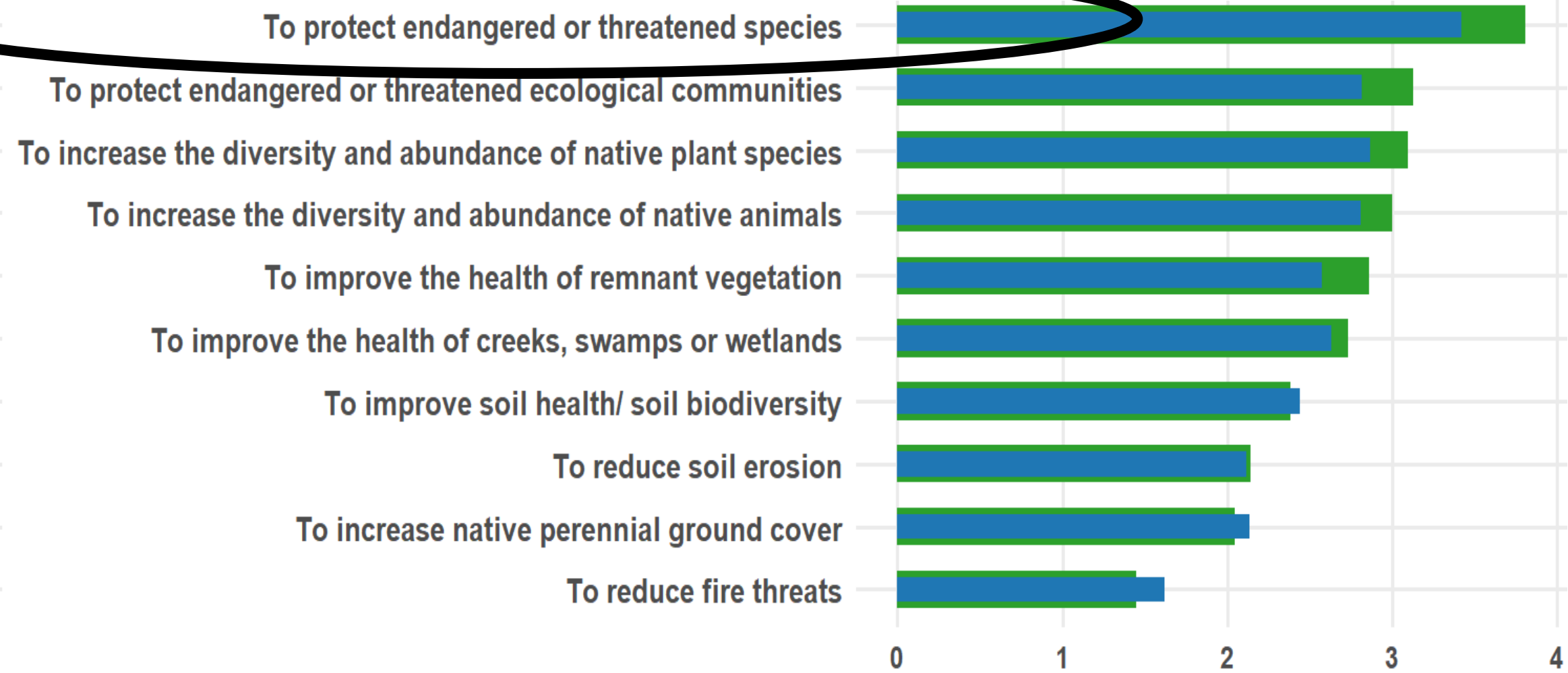
Farmers



On-ground coordinators



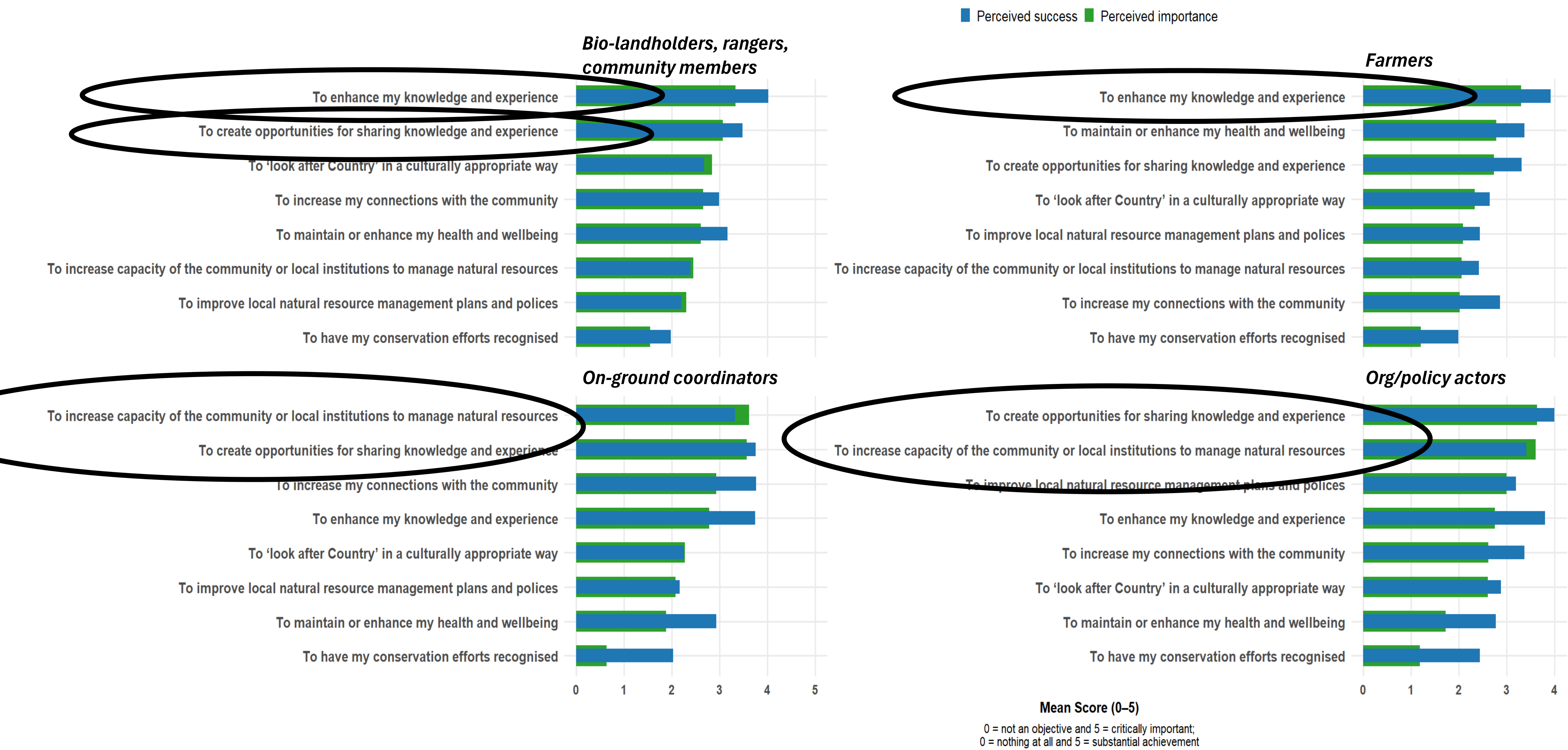
Org/policy actors



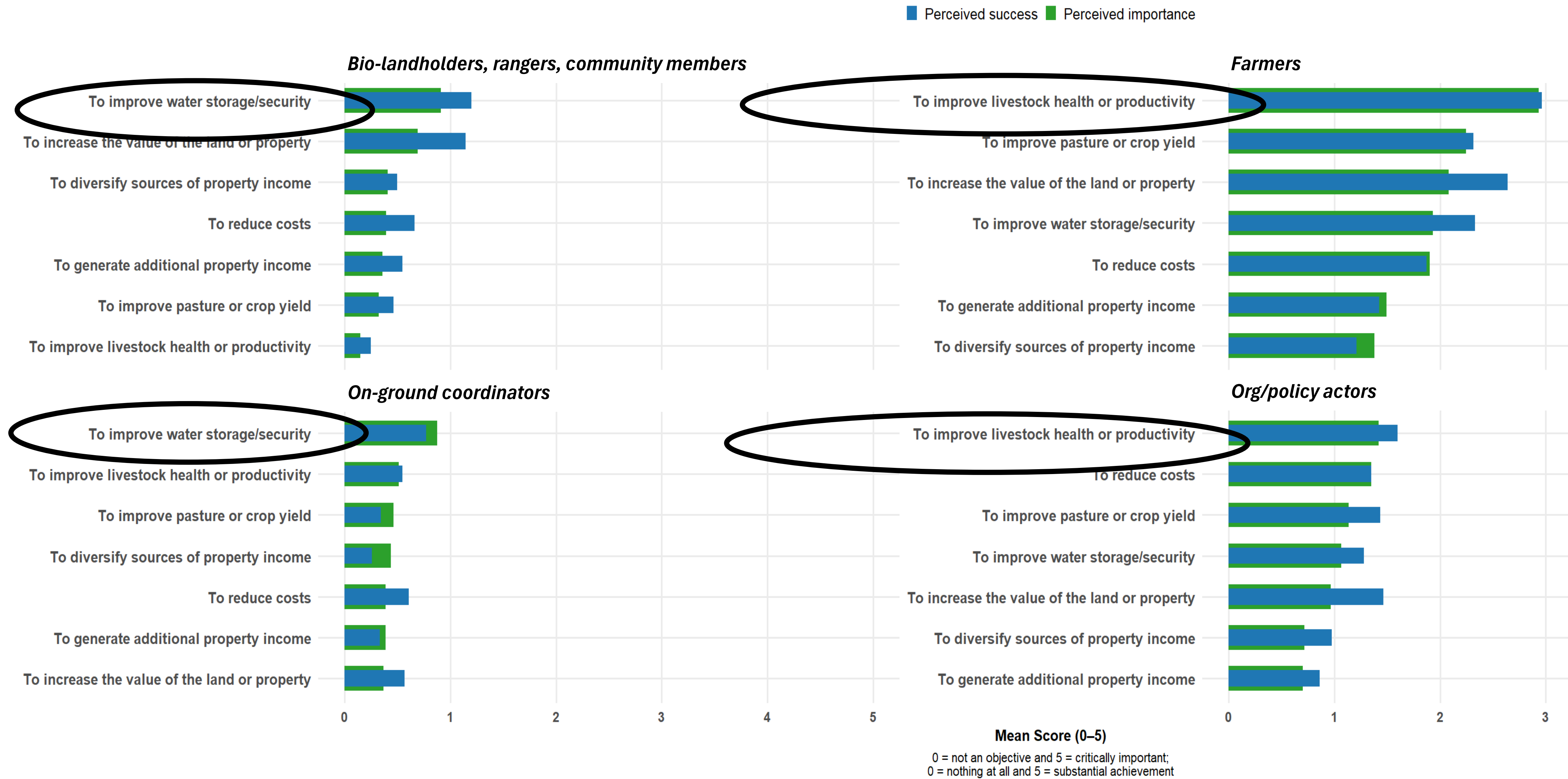
Mean Score (0–5)

0 = not an objective and 5 = critically important;
0 = nothing at all and 5 = substantial achievement

How important were these personal, social, institutional or cultural objectives and which do you feel you achieved?



How important were these farm, business or property objectives and which do you feel you achieved?

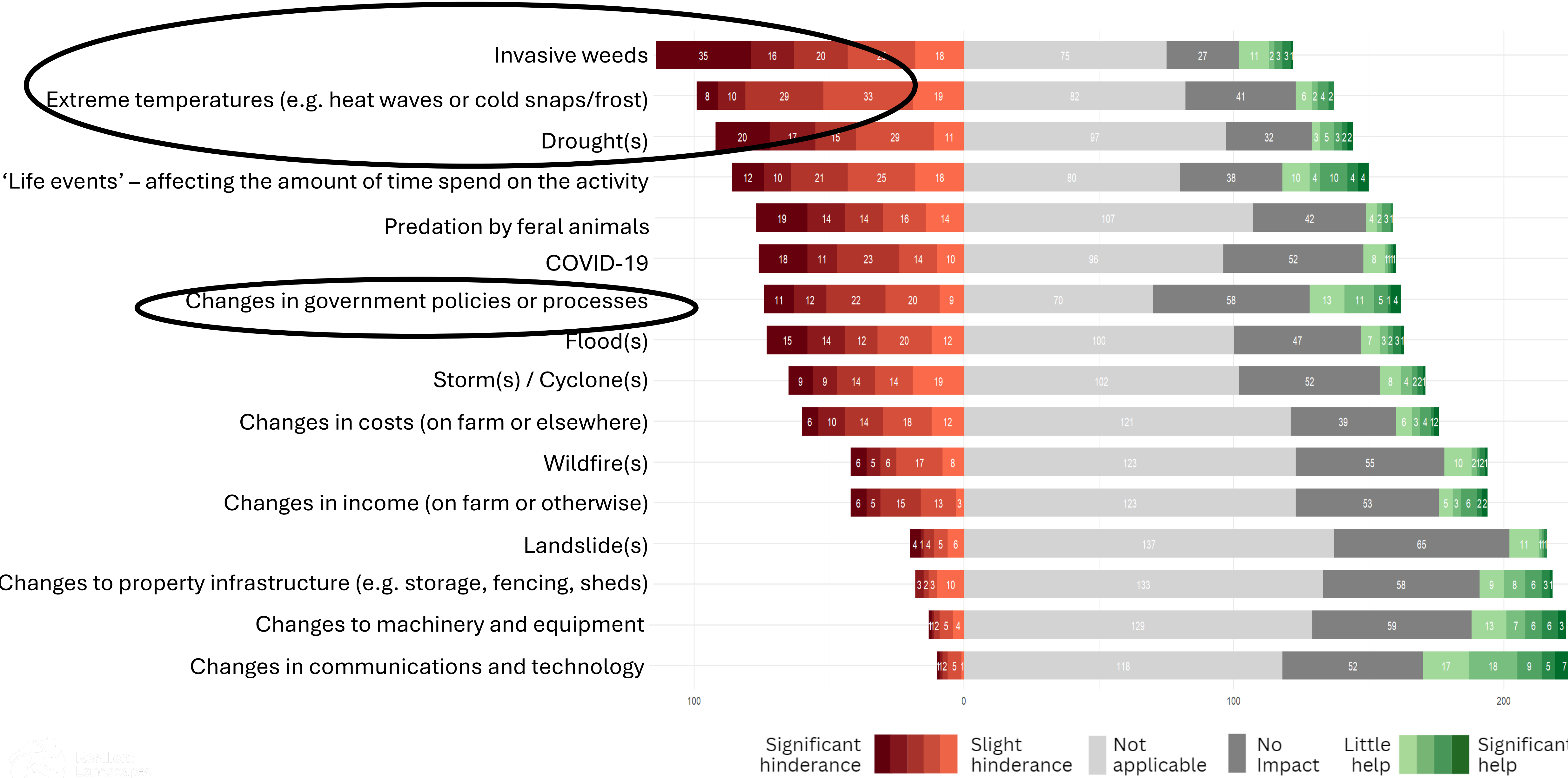


Which of the following factors were available to support your activities?



Not available Available, but did not use Do not know Rarely available As needed

What other external events occurred, and what impact did they have?



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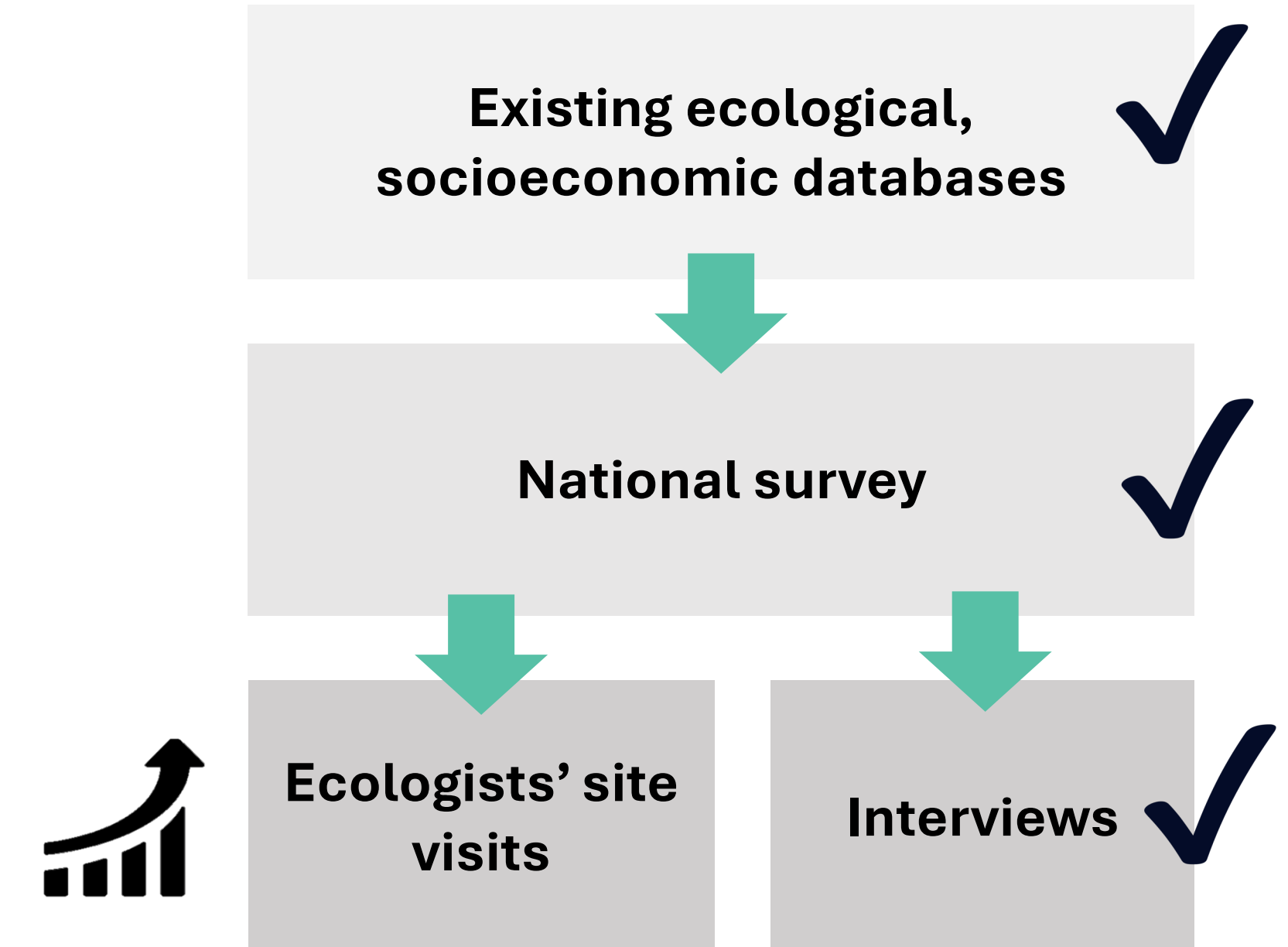
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