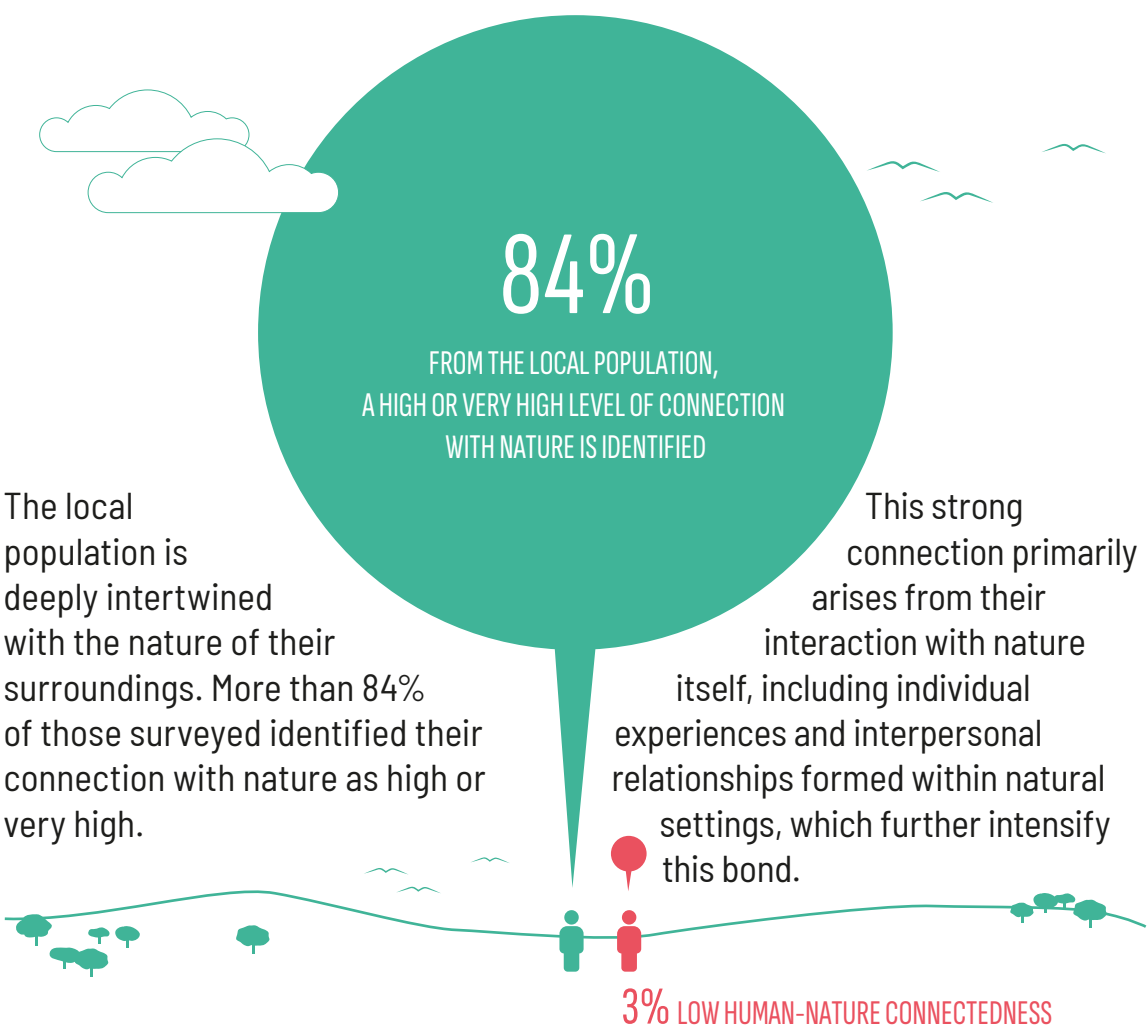


Human-nature connectedness in rural areas



Overall, the Mediterranean region is witnessing land and rural abandonment and gradual migration to urban areas. This situation increases the disconnection between people and nature, which can lead to and aggravate environmental crises. In addition, this disconnection may be the basis for rural abandonment.

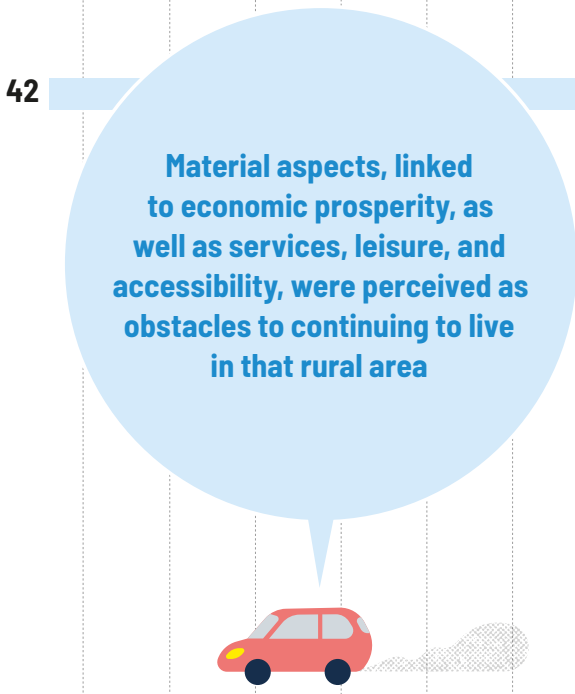
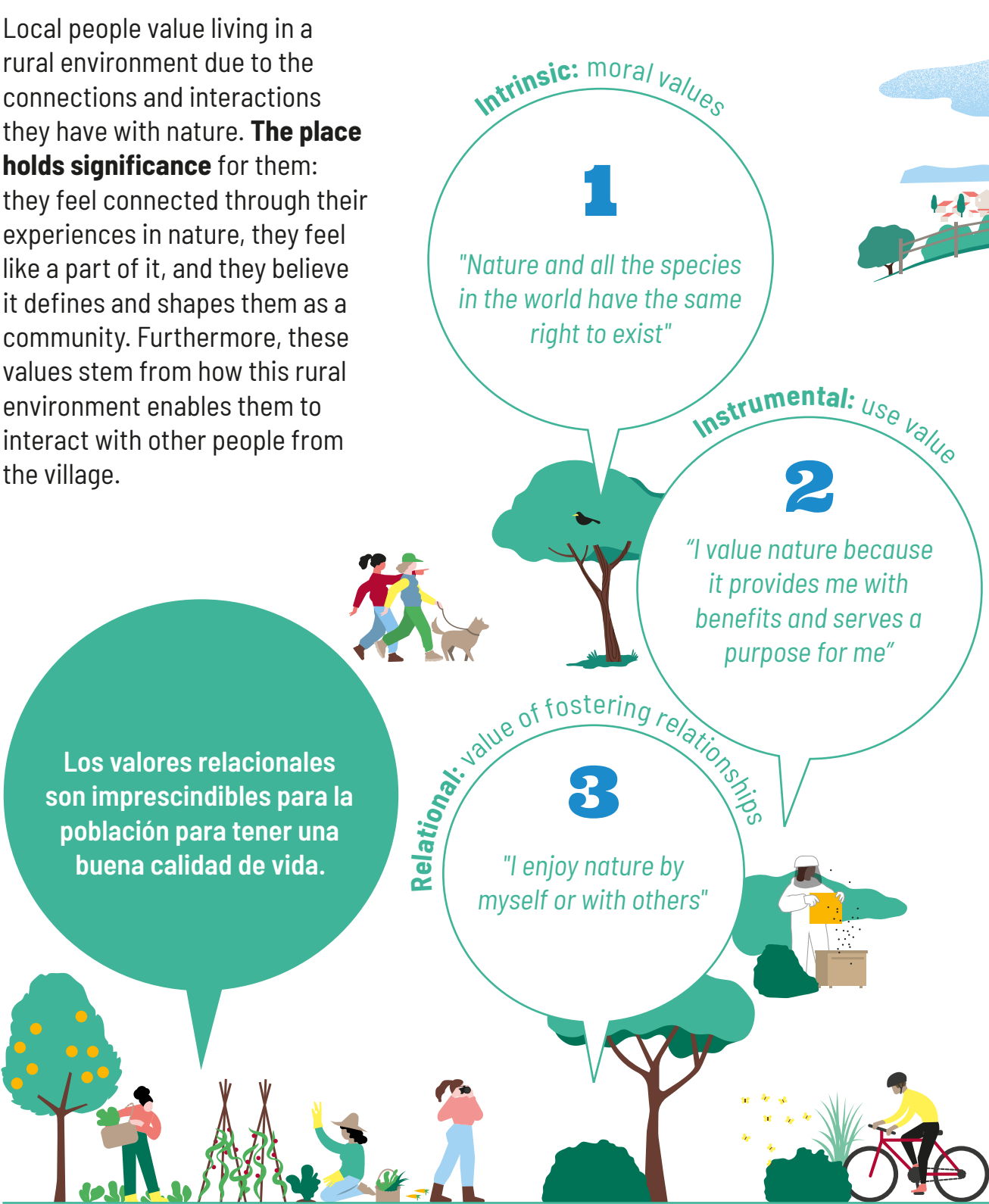
Human-nature connectedness



The importance of rural areas

Local people value living in a rural environment due to the connections and interactions they have with nature. **The place holds significance** for them: they feel connected through their experiences in nature, they feel like a part of it, and they believe it defines and shapes them as a community. Furthermore, these values stem from how this rural environment enables them to interact with other people from the village.

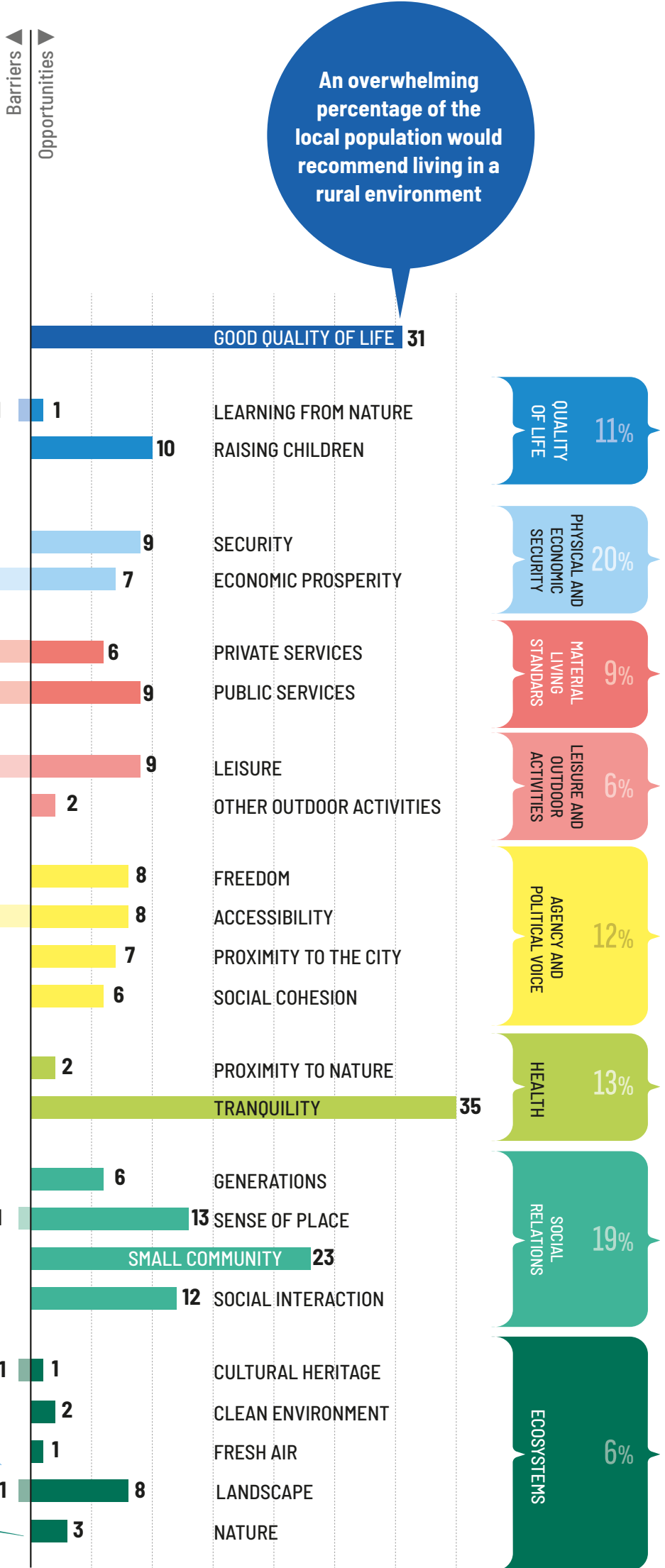
Type of nature's values:



Living in rural areas offers a good quality of life

An overwhelming percentage of the local population would recommend living in a rural environment. This is influenced by the multitude of components of **human well-being** that the region provides. However,

other well-being components that act as **barriers** to life in rural settings were identified, primarily the lack of professional and economic opportunities.



Dimensions to stop rural abandonment:

