

THE DIVERSE VALUES AND VALUATION OF NATURE¹

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Valuation to equitably consider the diverse values of nature in decision-making

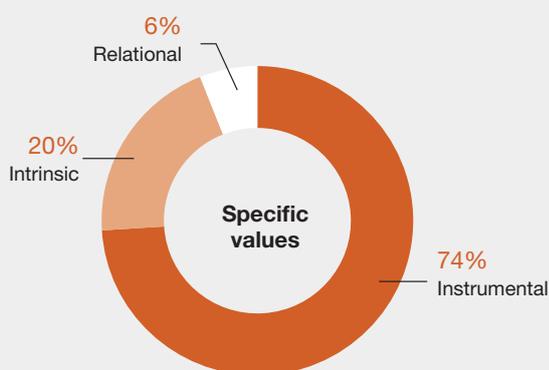
- The causes of the global biodiversity crisis and the opportunities to address them are tightly linked to the ways in which nature is valued in political and economic decisions at all levels {A4, A9, C1, C7, C8}² (KM1.) Despite the diversity of nature's values, most policymaking approaches have prioritized a narrow set of values at the expense of both nature and society {A4, A8, A9, B10, C1, C3} (KM2).
- More than 50 valuation methods and approaches are available to date to assess nature's values; choosing appropriate and complementary methods requires assessing trade-offs between their relevance, robustness and resource requirements {B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B8, B9, B10} (KM5).
- Valuation processes can be tailored to equitably take into account the values of nature of multiple stakeholders in different decision-making contexts {A5, A6, B1, B6, B8, C2} (KM 4).
- Valuation processes can support policymaking across the different stages of the policy cycle (*well established*) {C2}.
- Transformative change towards more sustainable and just futures relies on a combination of actions that target different values centred leverage points, in particular: (i) undertaking valuation that recognizes the diverse values of nature; (ii) embedding valuation into decision-making; (iii) reforming policies and regulations to internalize nature's values; and (iv) shifting underlying societal norms and goals (established but incomplete) {C9}.

1. IPBES (2022). Summary for Policymakers of the Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Pascual, U., Balvanera, P., Christie, M., Baptiste, B., González-Jiménez, D., Anderson, C.B., Athayde, S., Barton, D.N., Chaplin-Kramer, R., Jacobs, S., Kelemen, E., Kumar, R., Lazos, E., Martin, A., Mwampamba, T.H., Nakangu, B., O'Farrell, P., Raymond, C.M., Subramanian, S.M., Termansen, M., Van Noordwijk, M., and Vatn, A. (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6522392>

2. The references enclosed in curly brackets (e.g., {A5, B9, C7}) are traceable accounts and refer to sections of the summary for policymakers of the IPBES assessment of the diverse values and valuation of nature. A traceable account is a guide to the section in the summary for policymakers and the chapters that contains the evidence supporting a given message and reflecting the evaluation of the type, amount, quality, and consistency of evidence and the degree of agreement for that statement or key finding.

Valuation makes visible the diverse values of nature

- Predominant economic and political decisions have prioritized certain values of nature, particularly market-based instrumental values, often at the expense of non-market instrumental³, relational⁴ and intrinsic values⁵ (*well established*) {A9}.
 - Globally, economic decisions have generally prioritized a narrow suite of instrumental values, particularly those of nature's material contributions to people that are traded in markets (e.g., food, fibre, energy) {A9}.
 - These decisions have often ignored the negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems and people (*well established*) {A9}.
 - Policymakers have the potential to ensure a more balanced consideration of nature's diverse values, but success in this regard has been limited (*well established*).

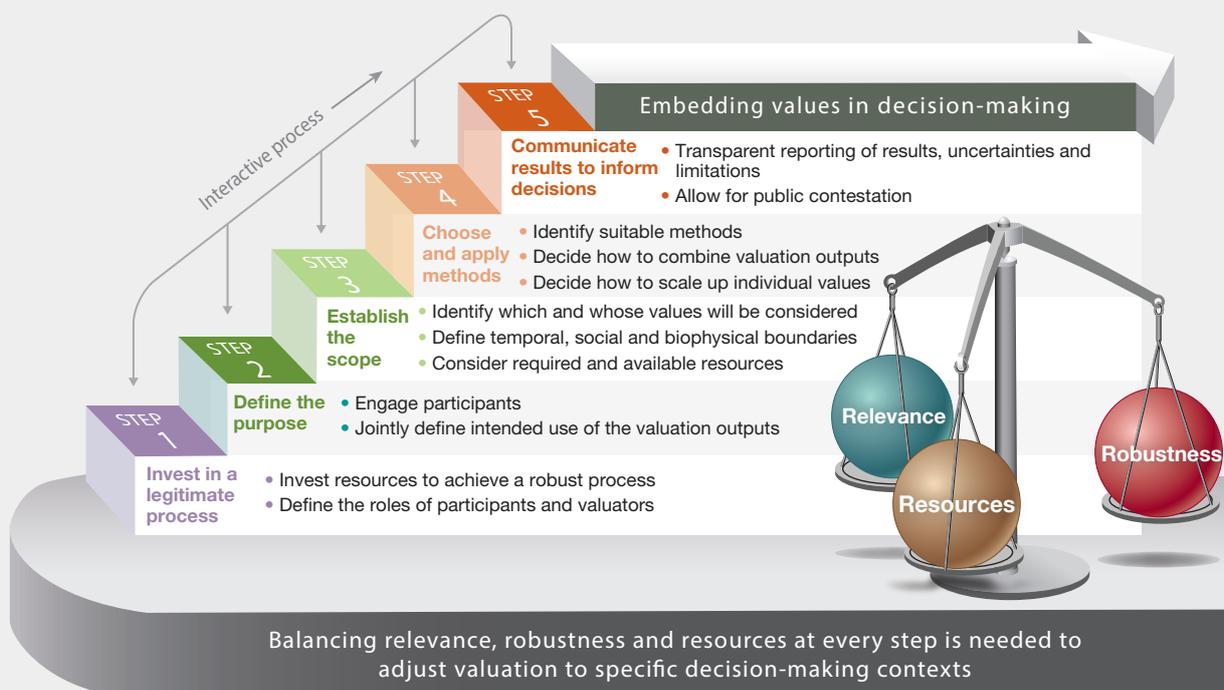


Types of specific values reported in valuation studies.

Characterization of global nature valuation studies reported in the scientific literature.

- The large portfolio of valuation methods, originating from diverse disciplines and knowledge systems (including indigenous and local knowledge systems), can be grouped into four non-disciplinary method families that consist of (1) nature-based, (2) behaviour-based, (3) statement-based and (4) integrated methods (*well established*) {B2}. Valuation can also include other approaches, such as including ancestors and non-human entities, as is the case in the context of many indigenous peoples and local communities, and inform on collective decisions such as when to undertake farming activities and what hunting quotas to set (*established but incomplete*) {B3}.
- The type and quality of information obtained from valuation depend on how, why and by whom valuation processes are designed and implemented. The way valuation is conducted, including the methods chosen, is in part determined by power relations in society (KM4).
- There are five steps which can help tailoring valuations to each decision-making context, including in the context of indigenous peoples' and local communities' territories (KM4).

- Instrumental values:** means to an end, nature as a resource and asset, satisfaction of needs and preferences, usefulness for people
- Relational values:** importance of desirable, meaningful and often reciprocal human relationships
- Intrinsic values:** agency of other-than-humans, inherent worth of biodiversity as ends in and of themselves.



Valuation processes can follow five iterative steps to enhance the relevance and robustness of valuation and its incorporation into decision-making.

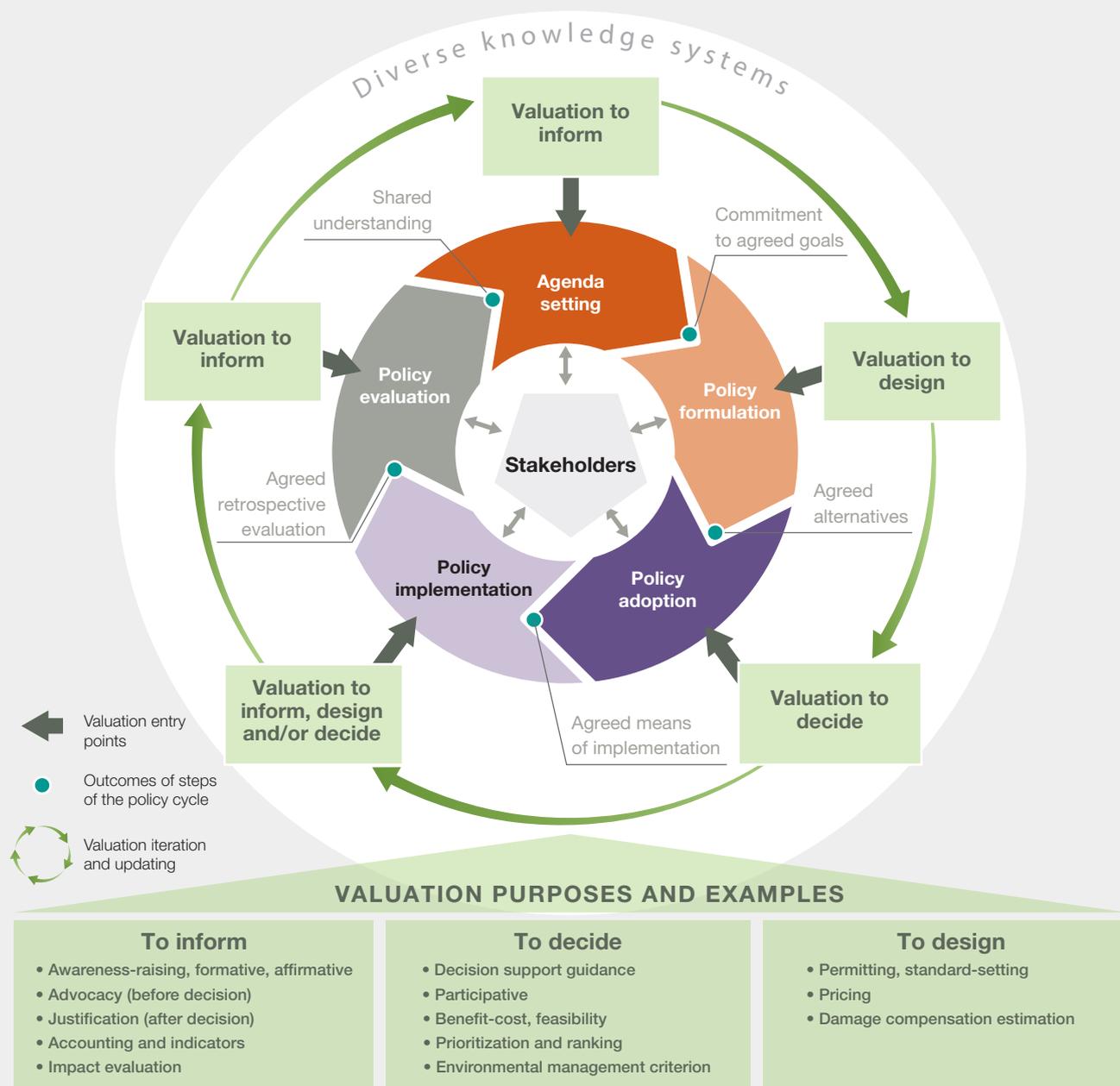
	VALUATION METHOD FAMILIES			
	Nature-based valuation 	Statement-based valuation 	Behaviour-based valuation 	Integrated valuation 
What is assessed? What is the source of information?	Nature, physical or ecological components of nature and nature's contributions to people	What people say or express when asked about the importance of nature and nature's contributions to people	What people do in nature, for nature, with nature, to nature or nature's contributions to people	Different outputs from one or more methods to support decision-making
Examples of methods and approaches	Biodiversity inventory, ecosystem services mapping, Delphi method, participatory mapping of ecological values	Group discussions, Q-methodology, contingent valuation, choice experiments, deliberative methods	Participant observation, travel cost method, cost-based methods, hedonic pricing, livelihood dependence, photo-series analysis	Ecosystem service valuation, cost-benefit analysis, multi-criteria decision analysis, integrated modelling, scenario building, deliberative decision methods
"Specific values" elicited and examples of value indicators	Mainly intrinsic and instrumental values Species counts, carbon stored, ecological health indicators	Instrumental, intrinsic and relational values Subjective well-being indicators, narratives of human-nature relationships, willingness to accept compensation for setting aside land, willingness to pay for access to nature	Mostly instrumental values Time spent, share of household income, prevalence of disease, price of a hectare of land, use of indigenous plants	Instrumental, intrinsic and relational values Strength of support or objections to policy options, welfare gains or losses from projects of indigenous plants

Diverse methods available across method families. Overview of the four main valuation method families and their distinctive characteristics.

Measuring the diverse values of nature to incorporate them into decisions

- The diverse values of nature can be measured using a wide range of biophysical, monetary and sociocultural indicators {A5}.
 - There are challenges to combining different indicators. Values are directly comparable when they are measured using the same metric. Compatible values share features that allow them to be considered together even when they were measured through different indicators. Yet, other values cannot be brought together because they are neither comparable nor compatible (i.e., they are incommensurable).
- For example, while a development project may be assessed on the basis of societal benefits (e.g., in terms of economic benefits, including jobs), it may also affect values associated with the loss of sacred sites {A5}.
- While these different values may not be directly comparable, nor made compatible (and hence ranked or compensated for), decisions can still consider them, such as through respectful deliberative discussions with affected parties (*well established*) {A5}.

Using valuation for policymaking



Valuation activities can support different informative, decision-making and policy design purposes by providing different types of knowledge to policymakers and stakeholders throughout the policy cycle.

➤ Valuation can support policymaking across the different stages of the policy cycle (*well established*) {C2}. It can be used in policymaking to:

- (i) help set agendas and support commitment to agreed goals;
- (ii) provide technical assistance for policy formulation and design, such as agreeing on the alternatives under consideration or designing economic incentives;
- (iii) aid policy adoption and agreements about the means of implementation,

- such as assessing cost effectiveness of different alternatives for policy action;
- (iv) monitor to support in-course adjustments to implementation measures or justification for continued budget allocations; and
 - (v) undertake retrospective policy evaluation. The five steps of valuation can be applied at each stage in the policy cycle to increase the likelihood of policy uptake {C2}.