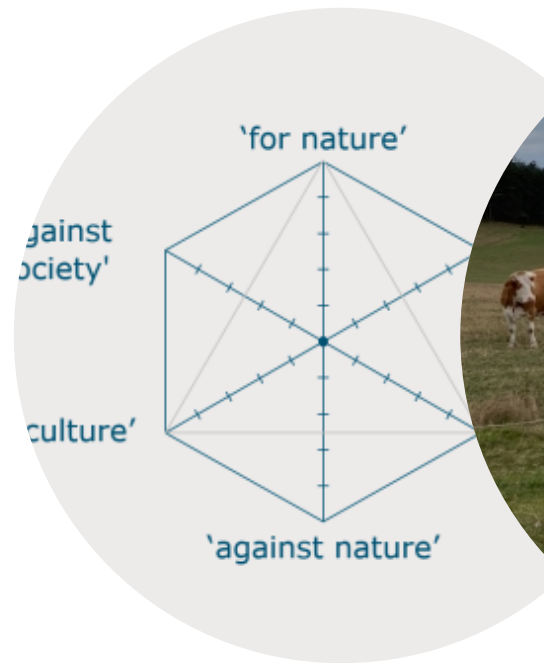


How pasture-based ruminants and biodiversity relate: an account of farmer's narratives from contrasting contexts

EAAP Annual Meeting 2023

V.J. Oostvogels, B. Dumont, H.J. Nijland, L. Allart, I.J.M. de Boer, R. Ripoll-Bosch




Background: ruminants, biodiversity, pluralism, ...

- Biodiversity: central theme in debates about ruminant's roles
- Calls for a more pluralistic approach to biodiversity
- What about farmers narratives?
→ key relevance for land-use decisions

Perspective | [Published: 25 March 2021](#)

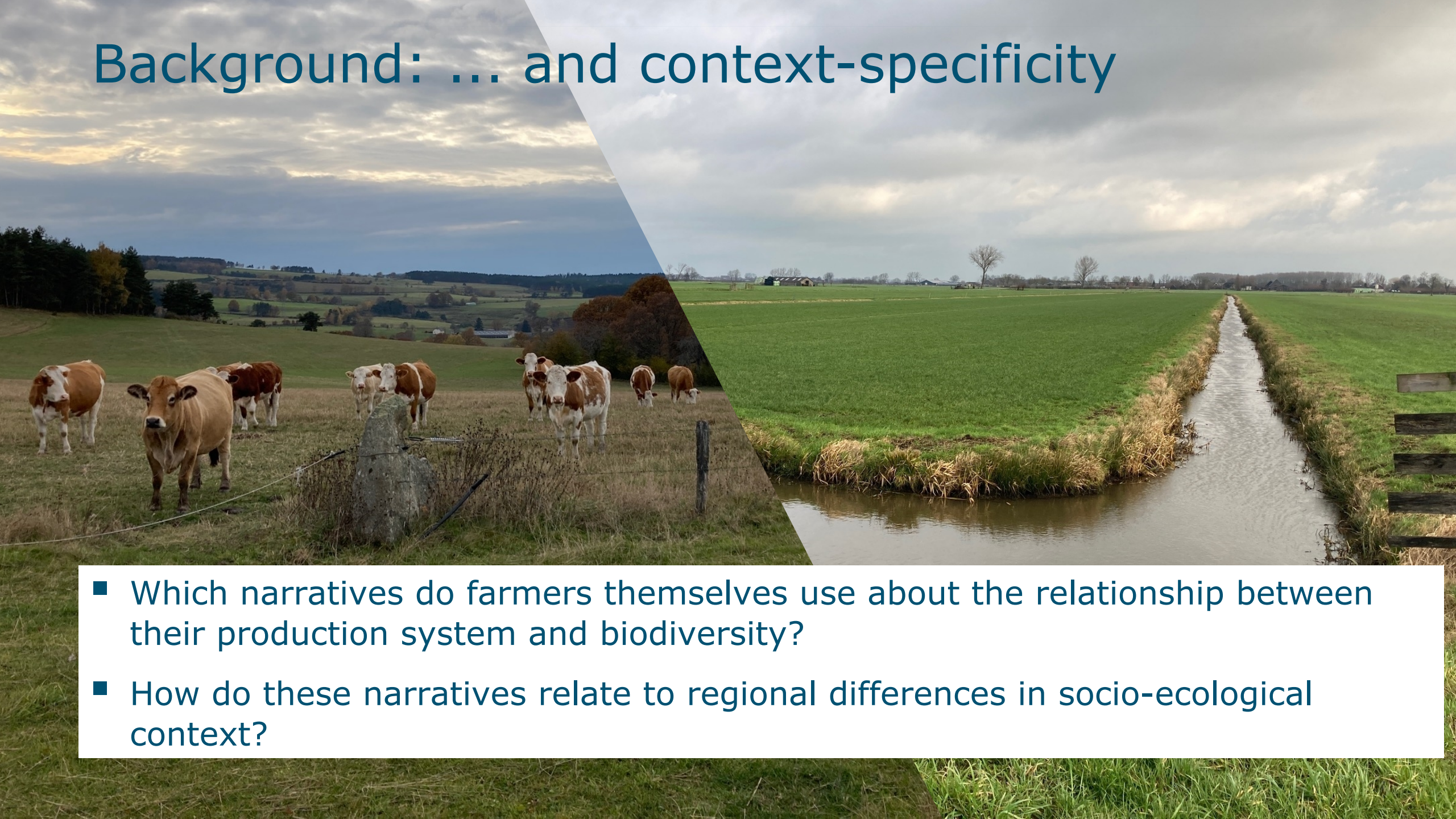
Biodiversity and the challenge of pluralism

[Unai Pascual](#) , [William M. Adams](#), [Sandra Díaz](#), [Sharachchandra Lele](#),
[Georgina M. Mace](#) & [Esther Turnhout](#)

[Nature Sustainability](#) **4**, 567–572 (2021)



Background: ... and context-specificity

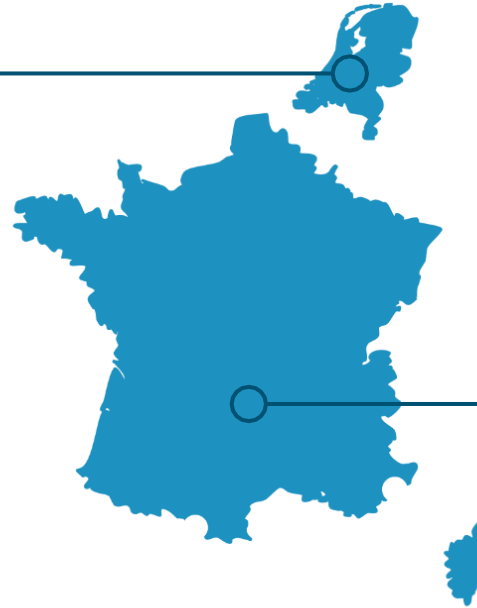


- Which narratives do farmers themselves use about the relationship between their production system and biodiversity?
- How do these narratives relate to regional differences in socio-ecological context?

Case study: pasture-based dairy in two areas



Living lab Alblasserwaard



Typologie des prairies
AOP du Massif Central

Methodology; data collection

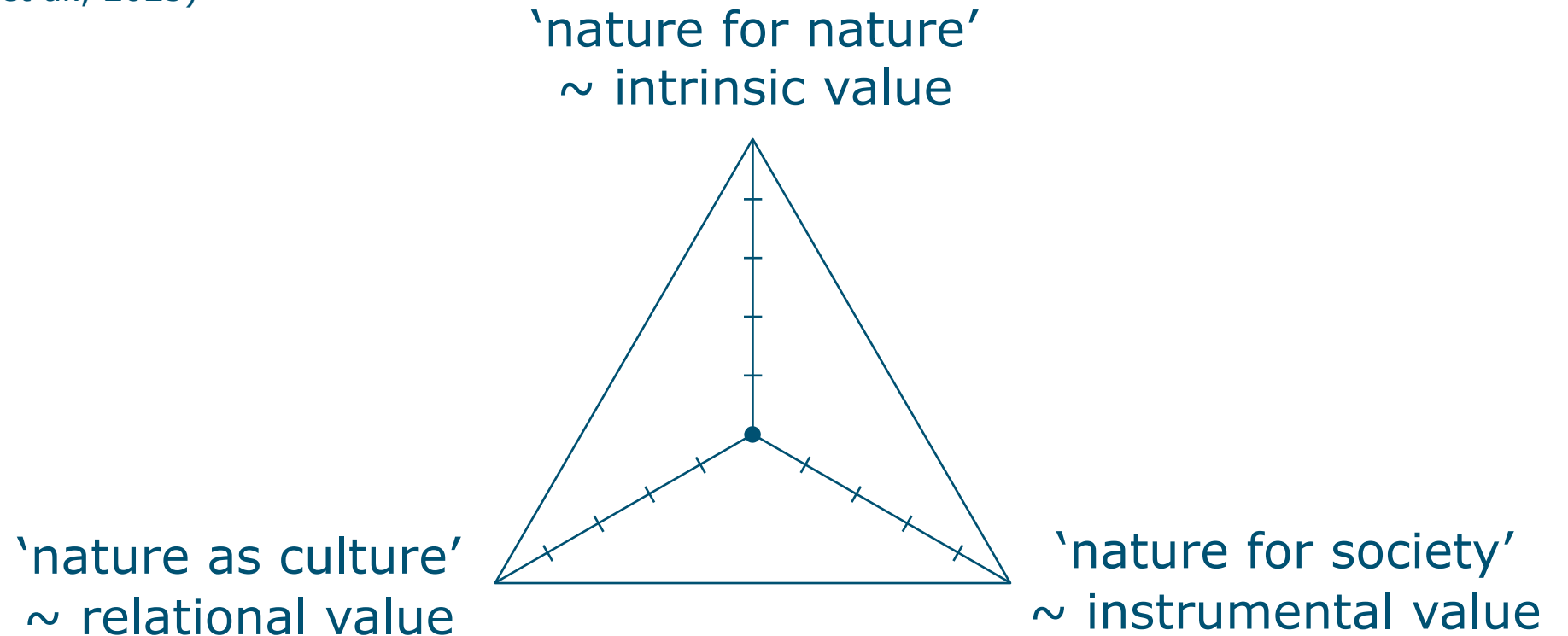
- 30 interviews, 15 per area
 - Semi-structured: questions about farm operations, conceptualisation of biodiversity, and biodiversity-farming interactions
 - 'Biodiversity part': 0.5 – 2 hrs
- Verbatim transcription, thematic coding



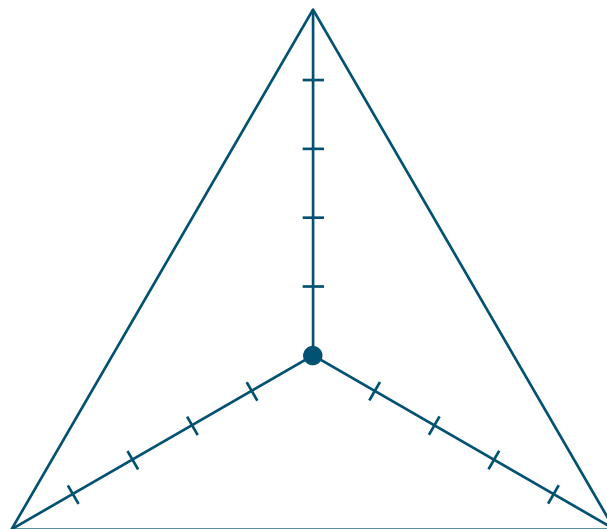
Methodology: framework

Nature Futures Framework

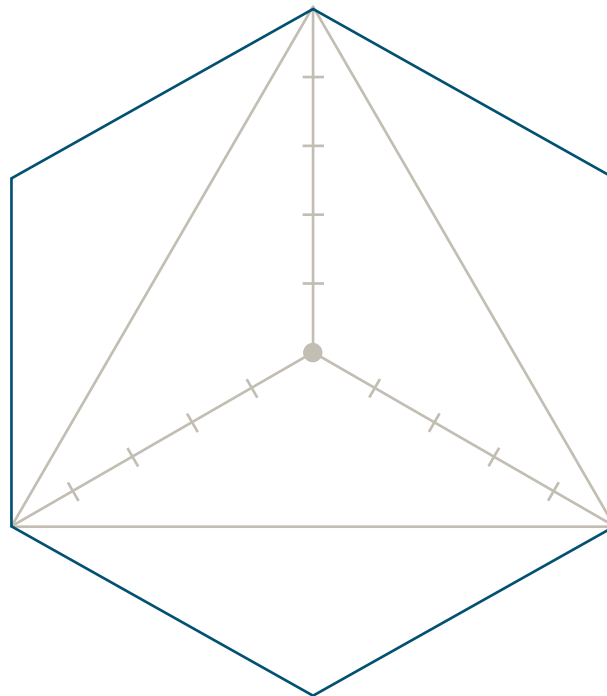
(Pereira et al., 2020; Kim et al., 2023)



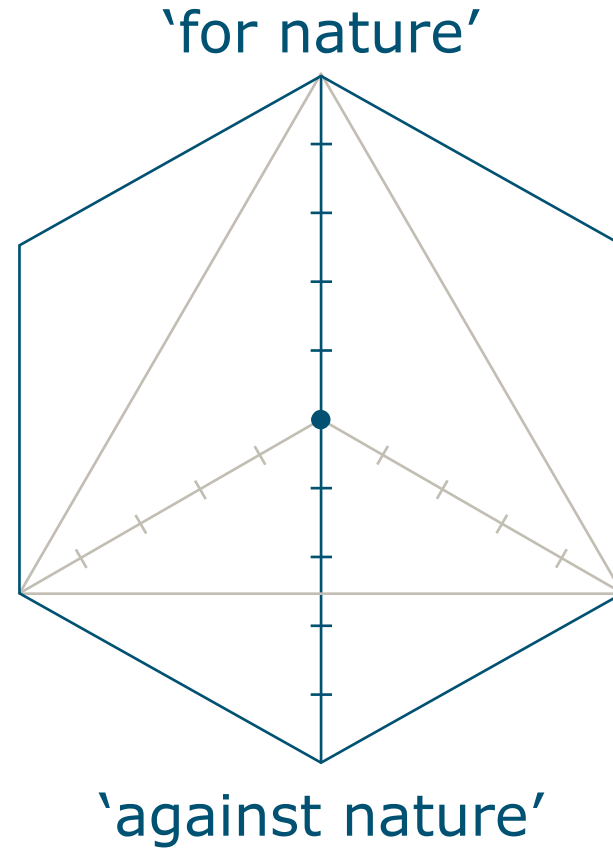
Methodology: framework



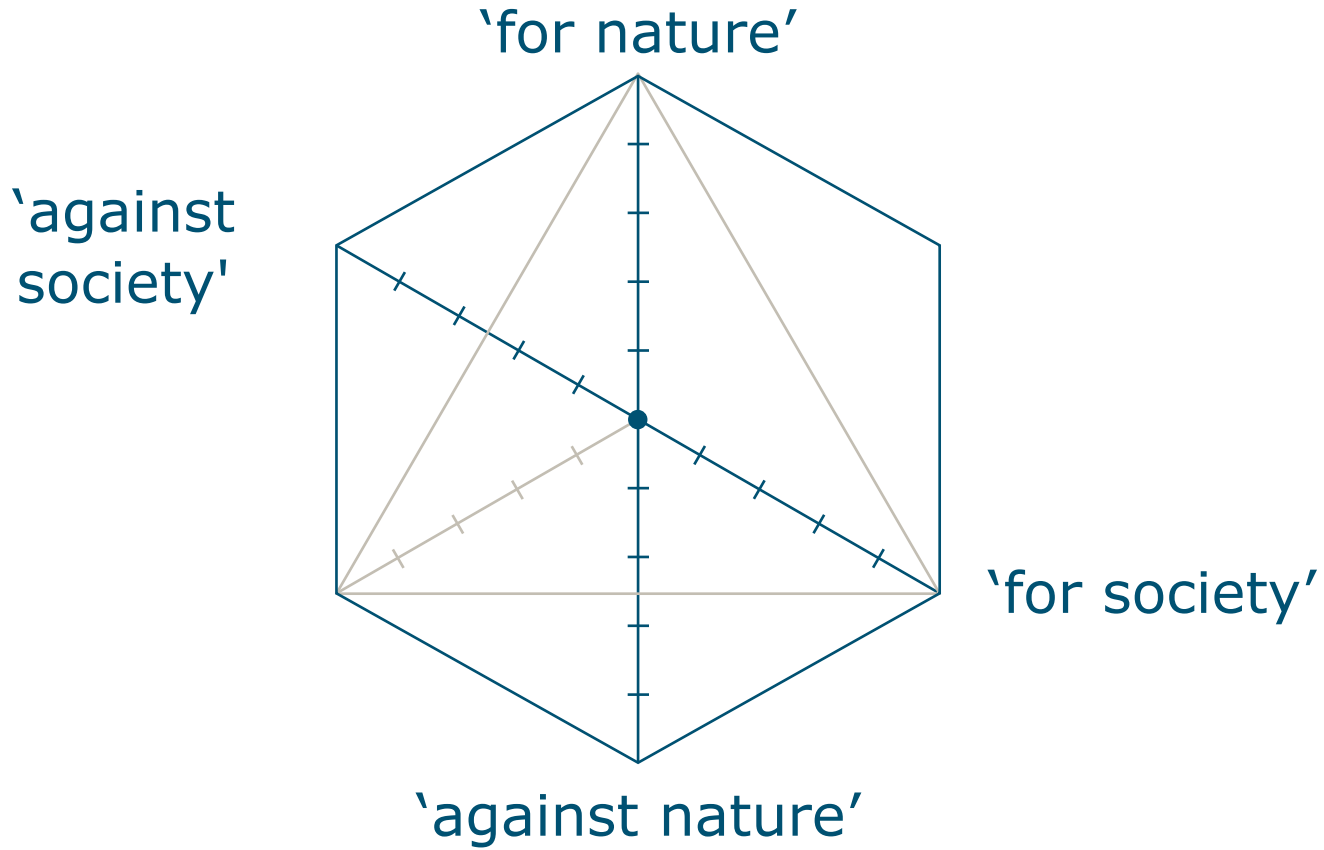
Methodology: framework



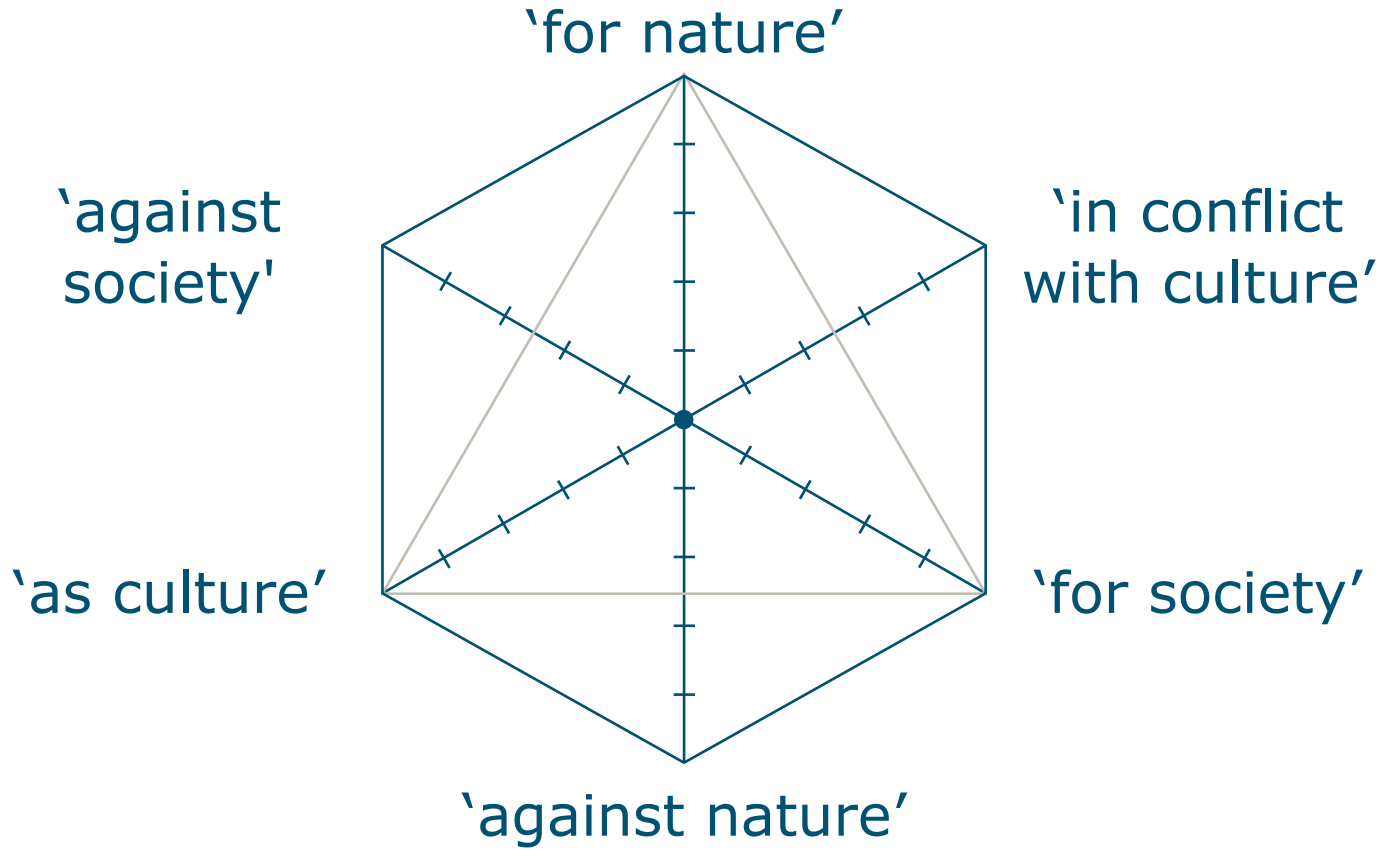
Methodology: framework



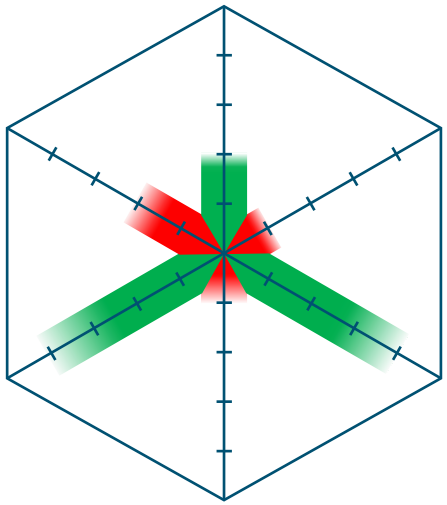
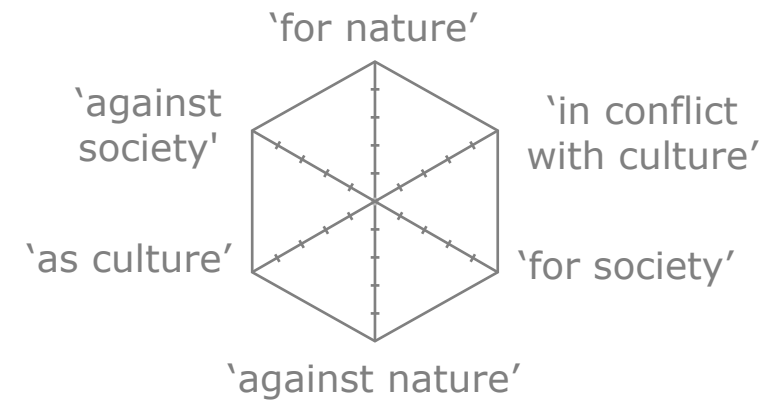
Methodology: framework



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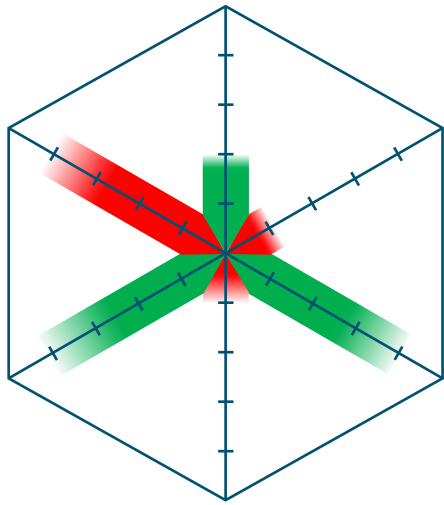


Results: 5 narratives



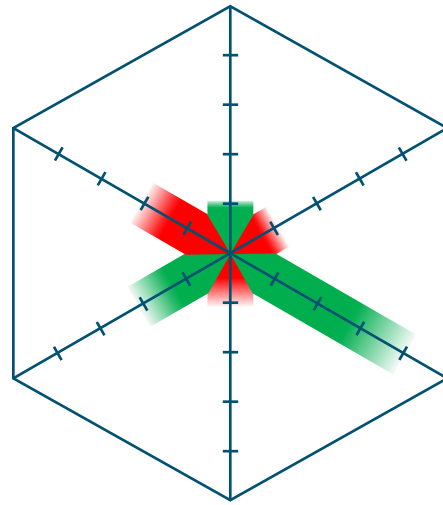
'farming with biodiversity'

(integrated & complementary)



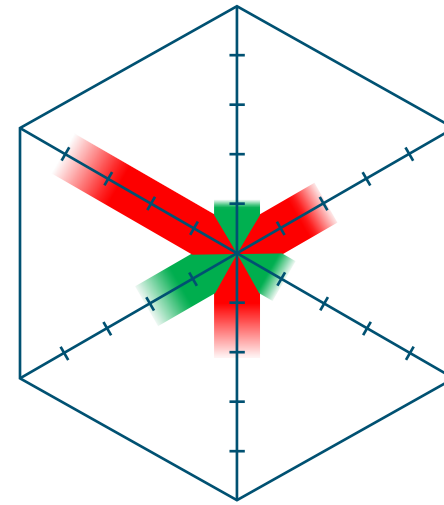
'farming for biodiversity'

(conservation alongside)

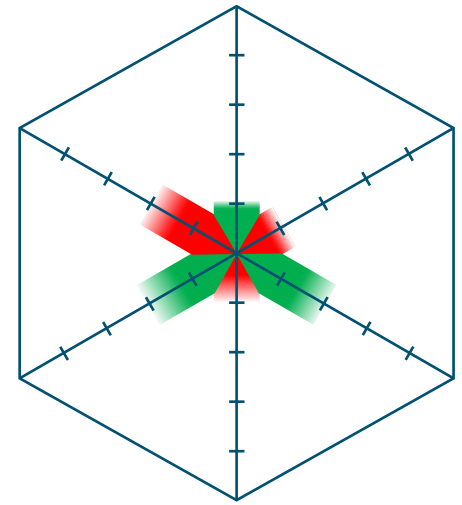


'farming from biodiversity'

(functional biodiversity)

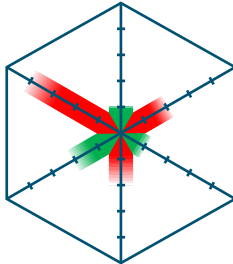
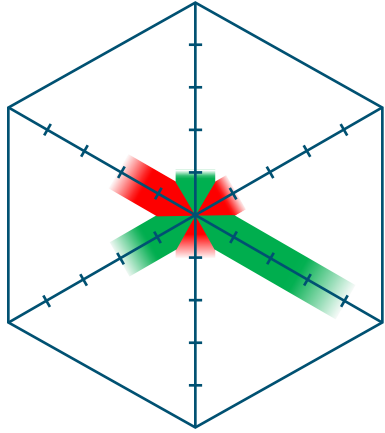
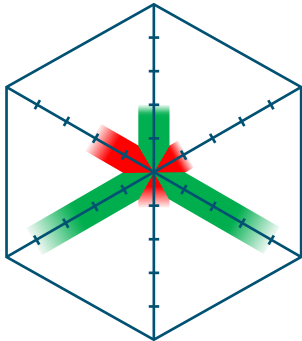
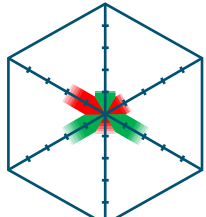
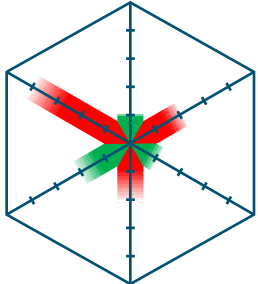
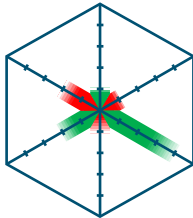
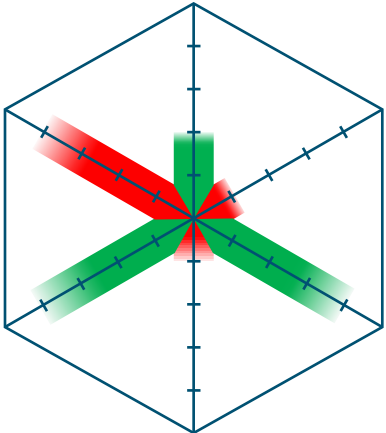
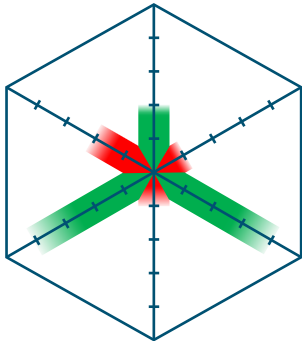
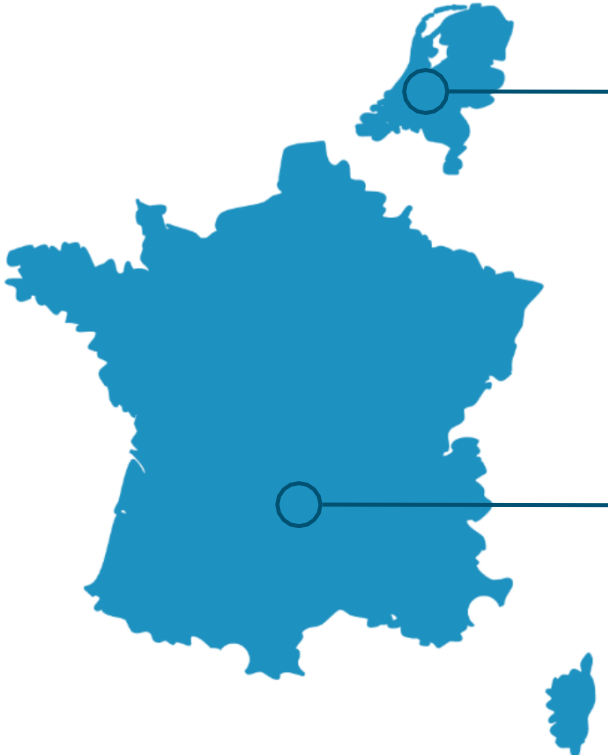


'farming separate from biodiversity'



'hesitation about biodiversity'

Results: distribution across areas



'farming with biodiversity'
(integrated & complementary)

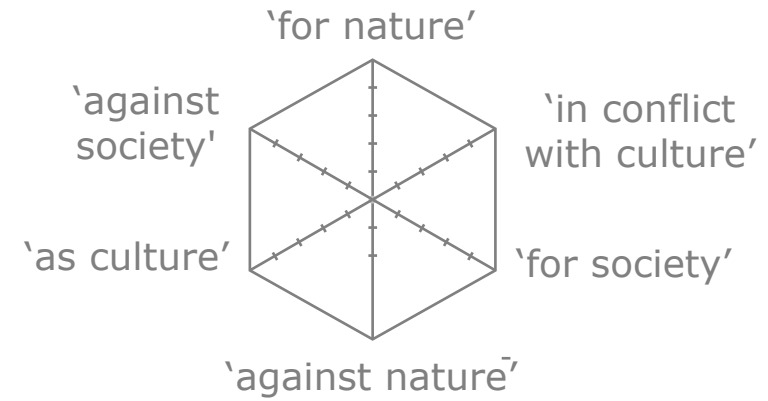
'farming for biodiversity'
(conservation alongside)

'farming from biodiversity'
(functional biodiversity)

'farming separate from biodiversity'

'hesitation about biodiversity'

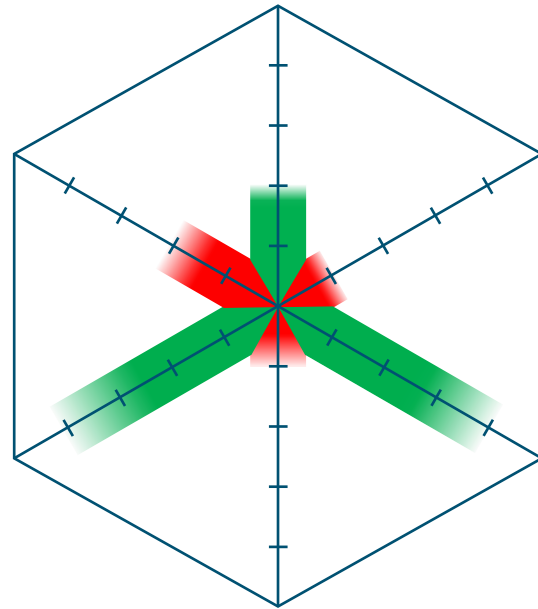
Results: context-specific nuances - 'farming with biodiversity' (NL)



- care for endangered species

- toxic weeds

- **stewardship**
- symbolic species
- social interaction



- societal polarization

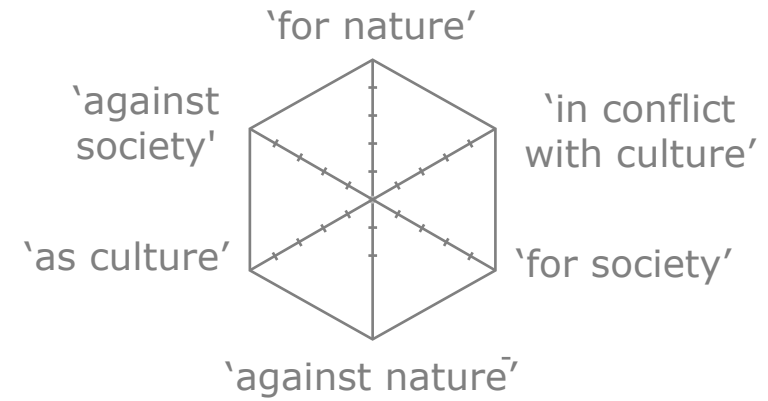
- nutrient cycling, sward resilience, animal health, ...
- biodiversity payments

- impact anthelmintics



Results: context-specific nuances

- 'farming with biodiversity' (NL)



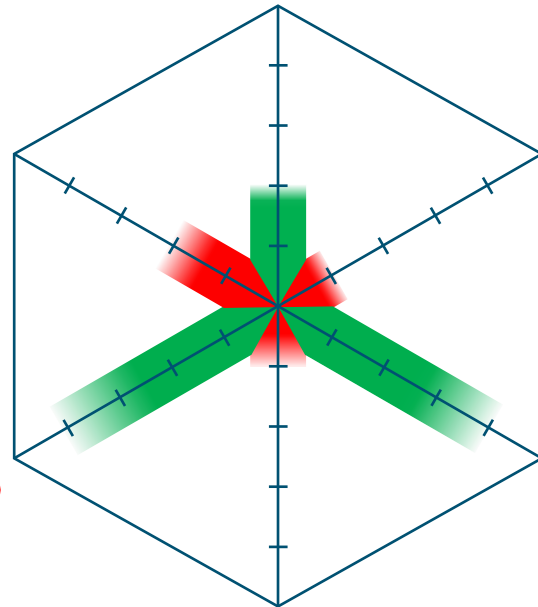
• care for endangered species

• toxic weeds

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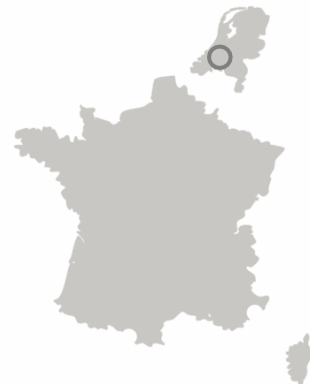


• societal polarization

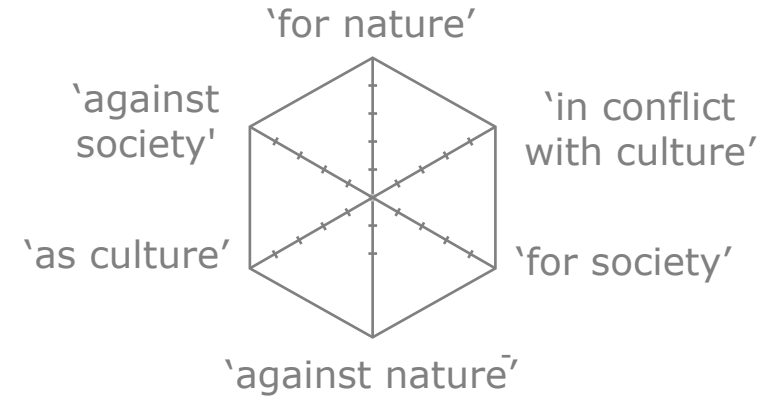
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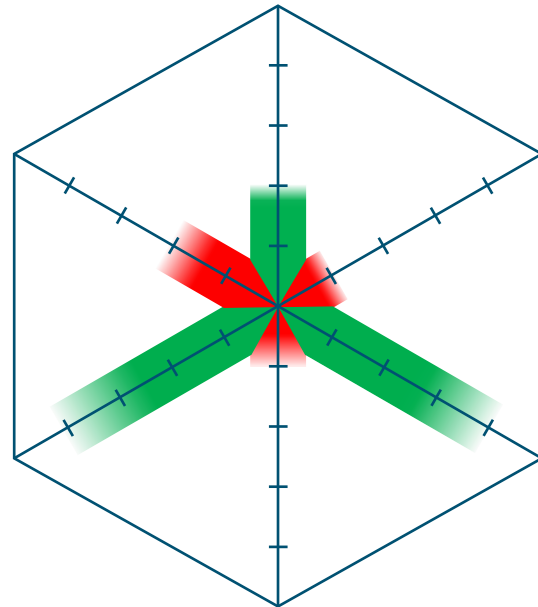


Results: context-specific nuances - 'farming with biodiversity' (FR)



- maintenance open habitats

- wildlife damage



- food culture
- identity
- sense of place

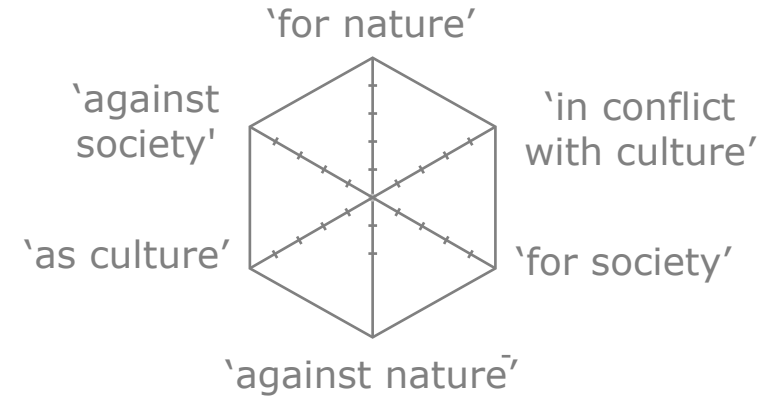
- feeling unfairly criticized

- sward resilience, animal health, pest regulation, ...
- product quality and image

- modification flora



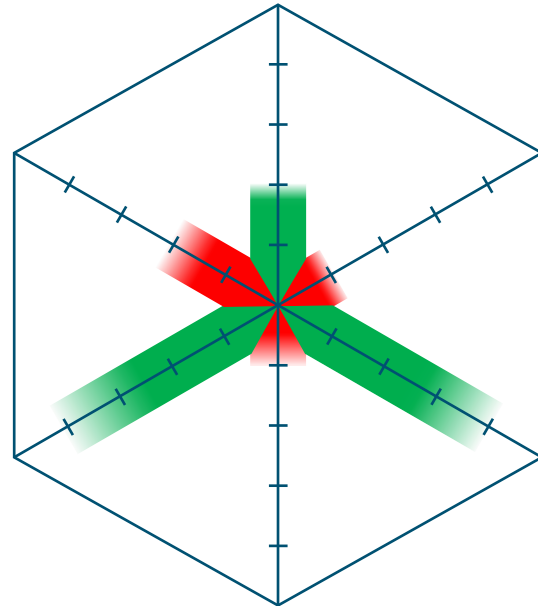
Results: context-specific nuances - 'farming with biodiversity' (FR)



- maintenance open habitats

- wildlife damage

- food culture
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- modification flora

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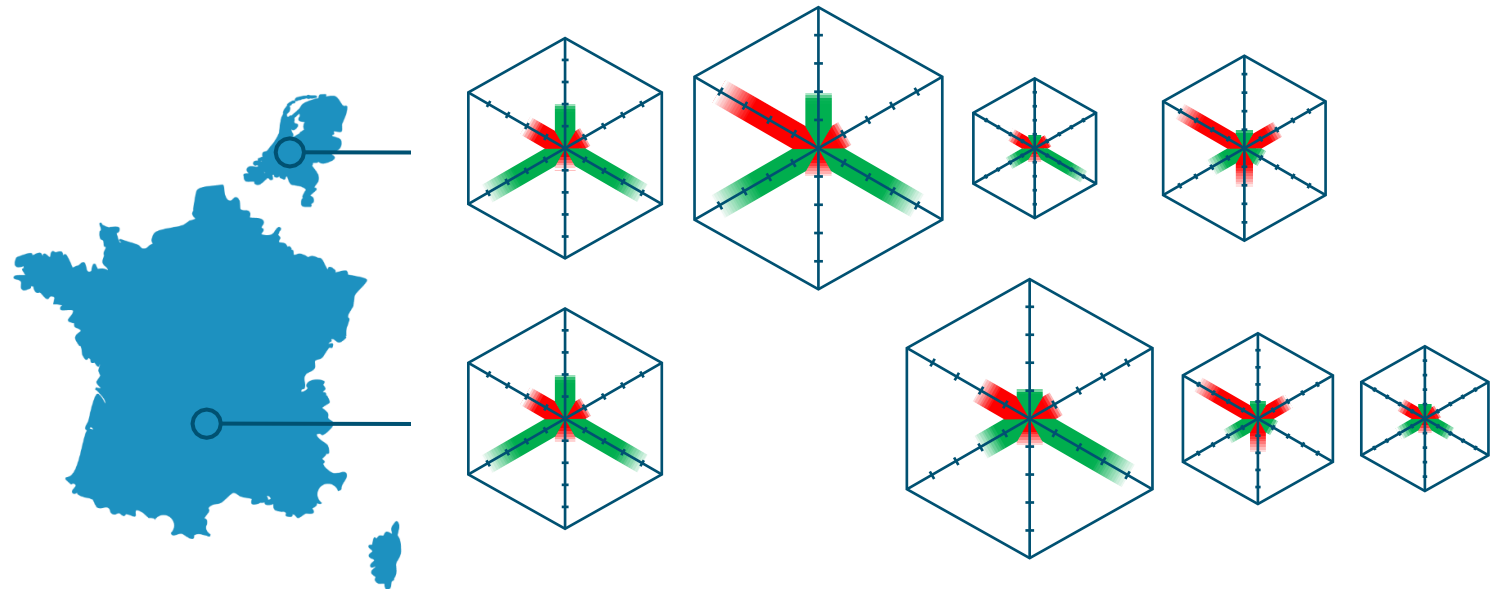


Discussion

- Context-specific as well as 'shared' narratives
- Context-specific nuances
 - Need for context-specific policy approaches

- Pluralism on many fronts:
individual narratives,
interviews, areas

→ Need for a plurality of
policy approaches?



Thanks for your attention!

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