Restoring Ecological Networks for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

James Bullock Centre for Ecology & Hydrology





Implementing a resilient ecological network

VISION: Resilient ecological network



 Develop, refine and calculate metrics of resilience "a resilient ecological network is one in which species can persist even in the face of natural perturbations and human activities"

 Implement and monitor the most promising actions for sites and species 2. Identify conservation actions for sites and species

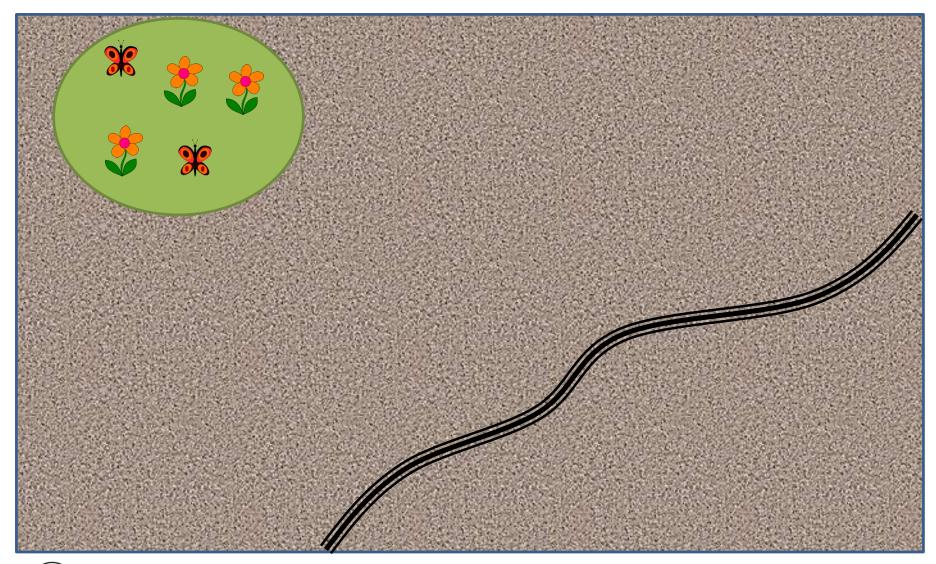
Better, Bigger More, Joined, Spatial context

Evaluate those actions to improve network resilience



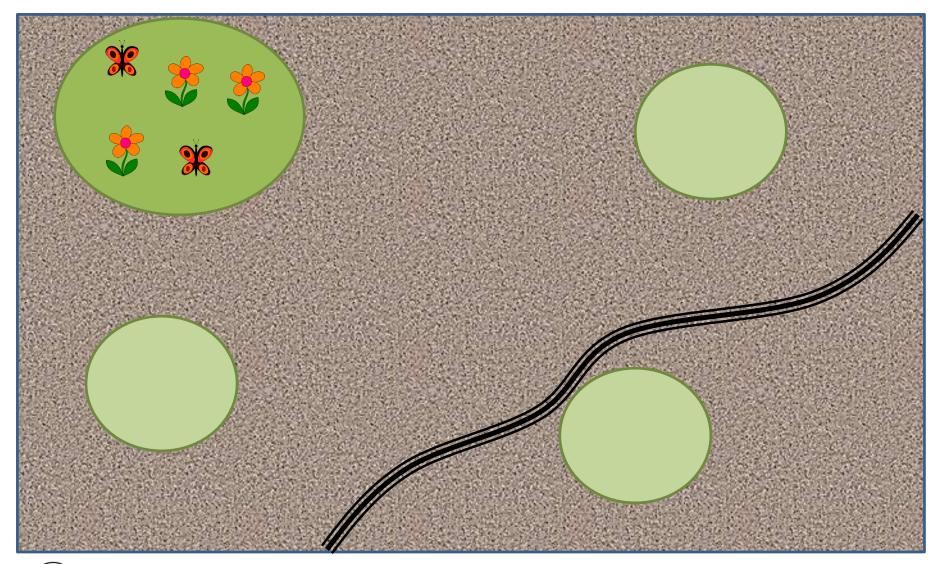
Isaac, Brotherton, Bullock et al (2018). Defining and delivering resilient ecological networks: Nature conservation in England. *J. Applied Ecology*





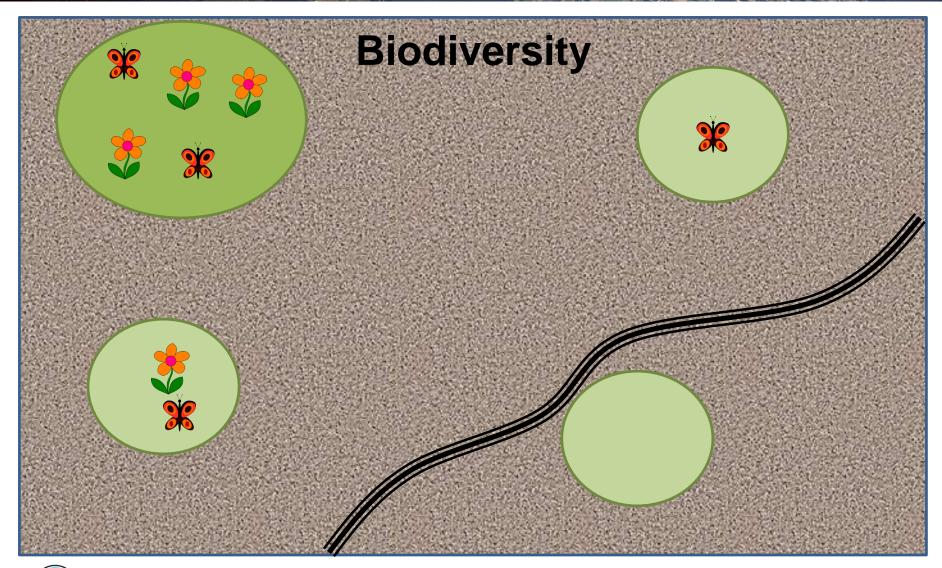






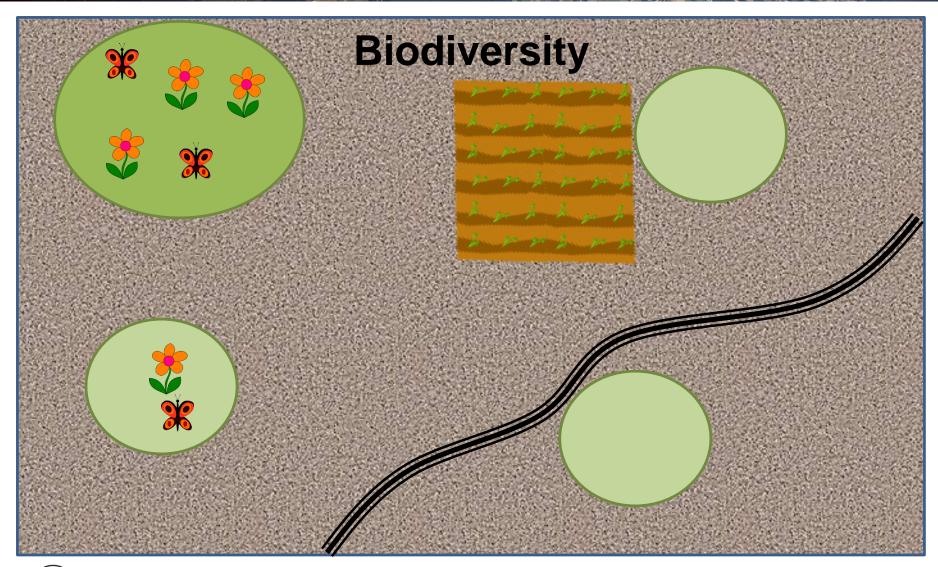






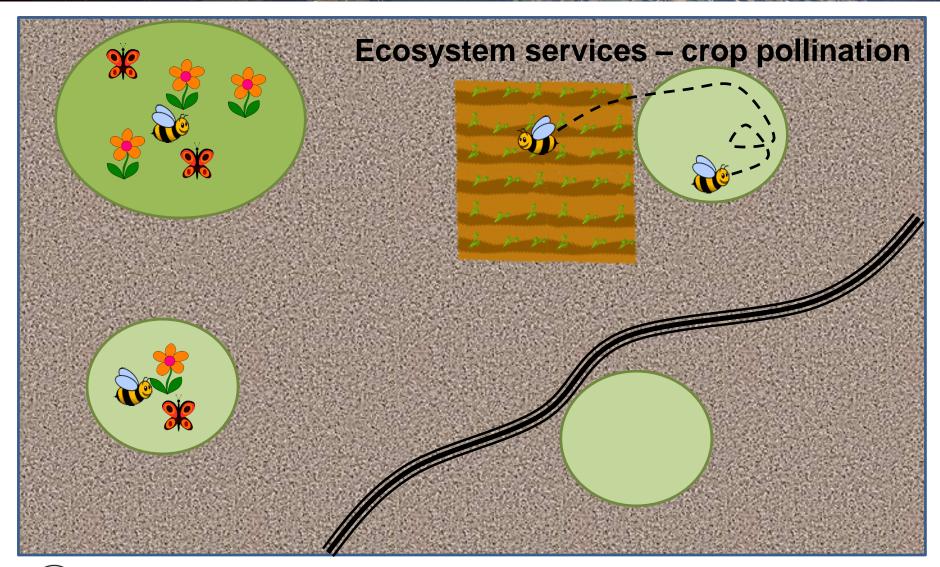






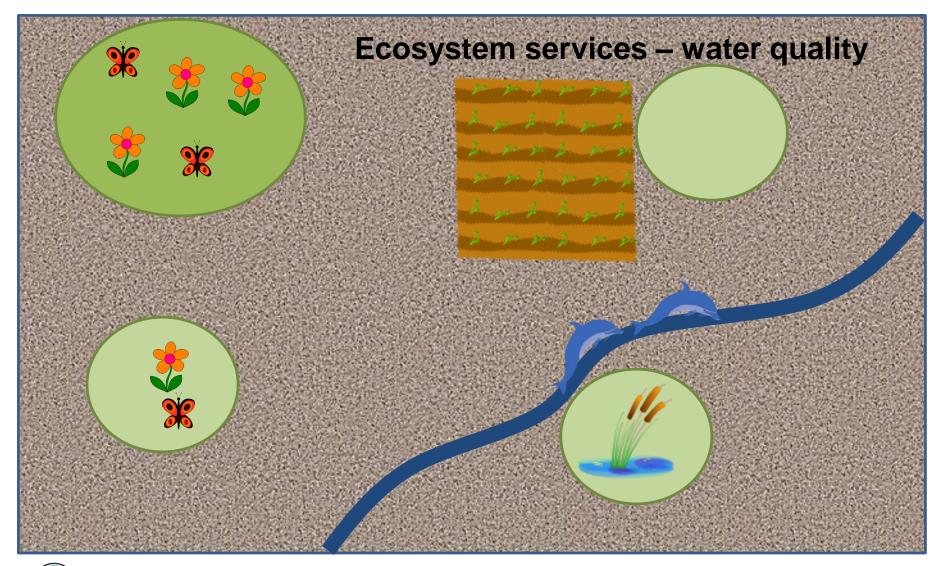






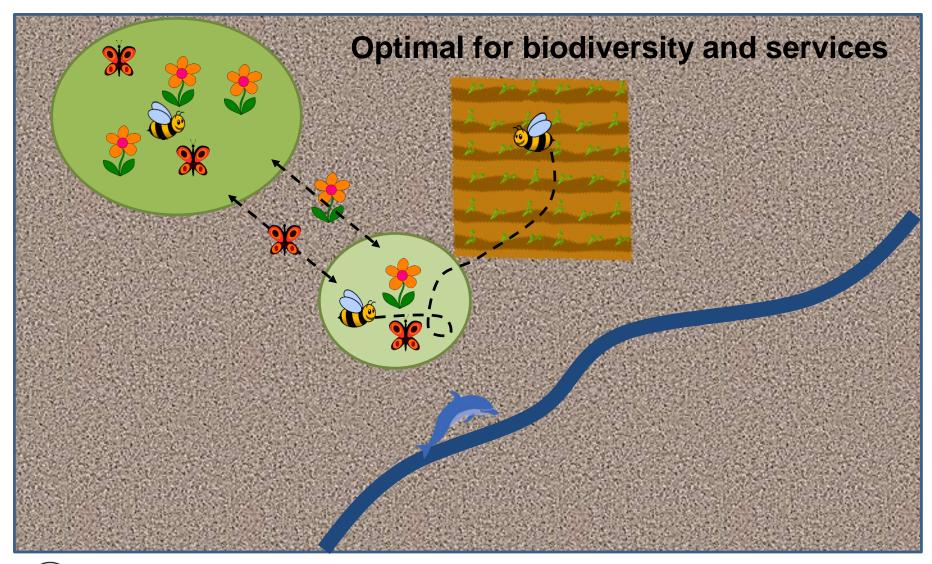








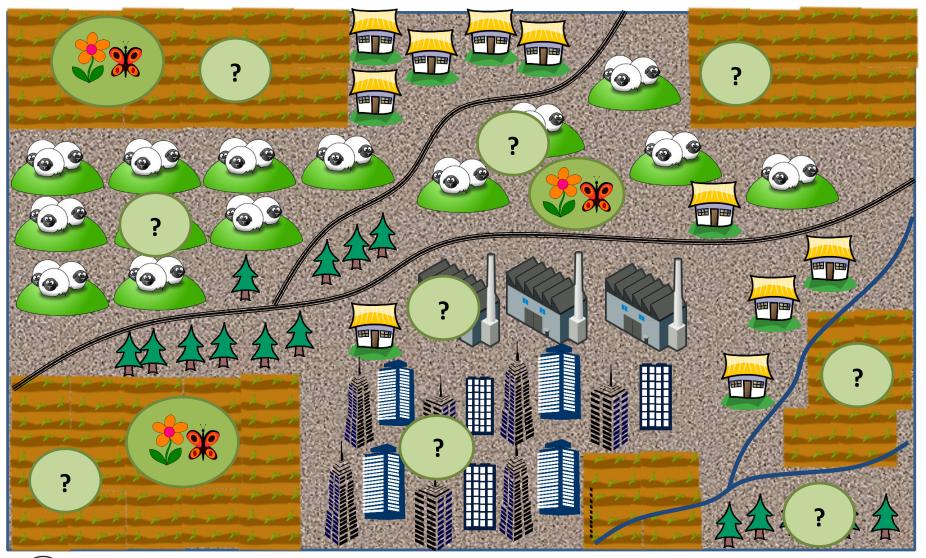








Planning restoration for resilient networks







Planning restoration for resilient networks

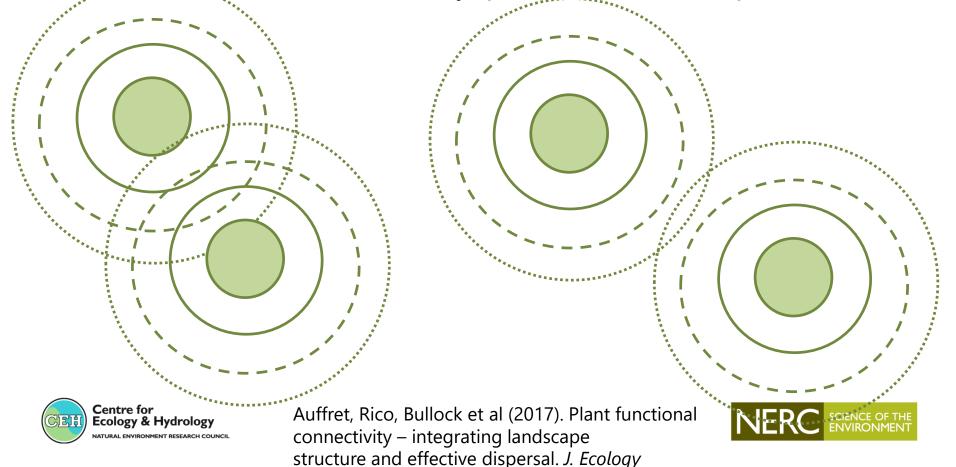




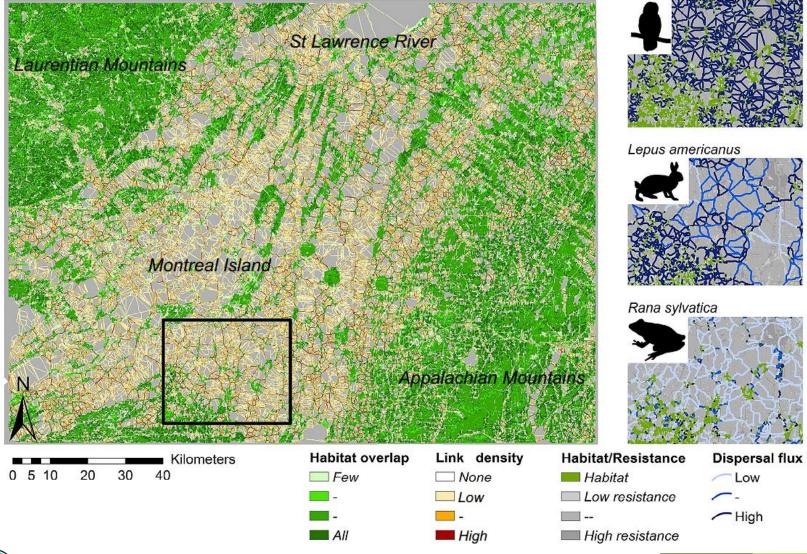


Modelling resilient networks for biodiversity

- Structural connectivity (Euclidean distance)
- Functional connectivity (the matrix)
- Effective connectivity (+ colonisation)



Functional connectivity

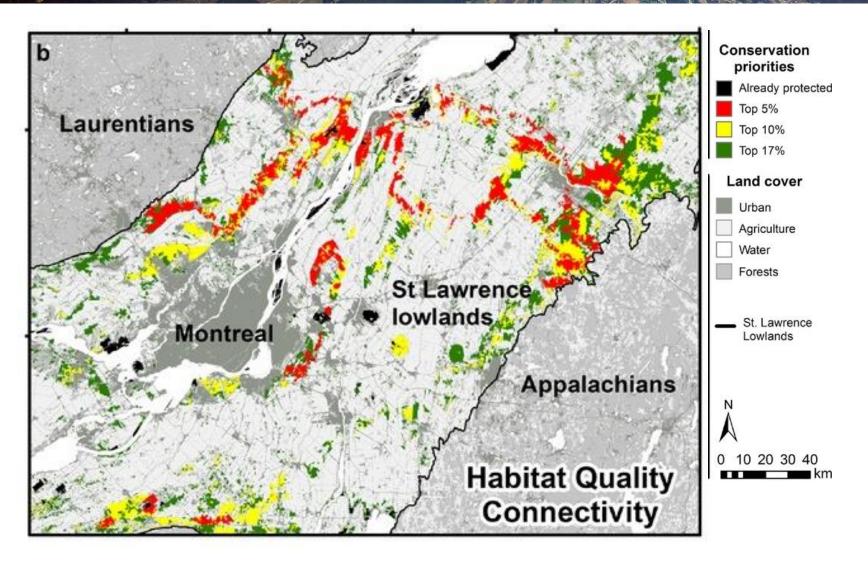




Albert et al (2017). Applying network theory to prioritize multispecies habitat networks that are robust to climate and land-use change. *Cons. Biol.*



Functional connectivity



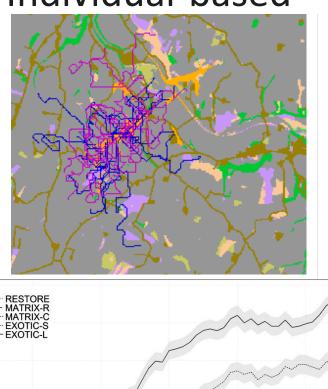


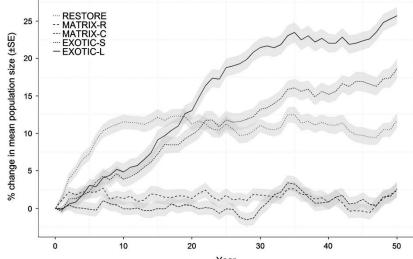
Albert et al (2017). Applying network theory to prioritize multispecies habitat networks that are robust to climate and land-use change. *Cons. Biol.*



Effective connectivity - simulation models

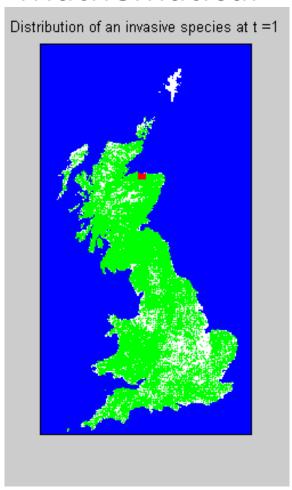
Individual-based





Bocedi et al (2014). RangeShifter: a platform for modelling eco-evolutionary dynamics and species' responses to environmental changes. *Methods Ecol. Evol*

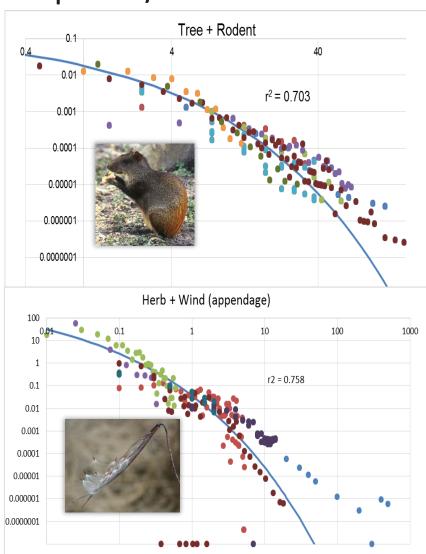
Mathematical



Gilbert, White, Bullock & Gaffney (2017). Speeding up the simulation of population spread models *Methods Ecol. Evol*

Data for models?

Dispersal/Movement



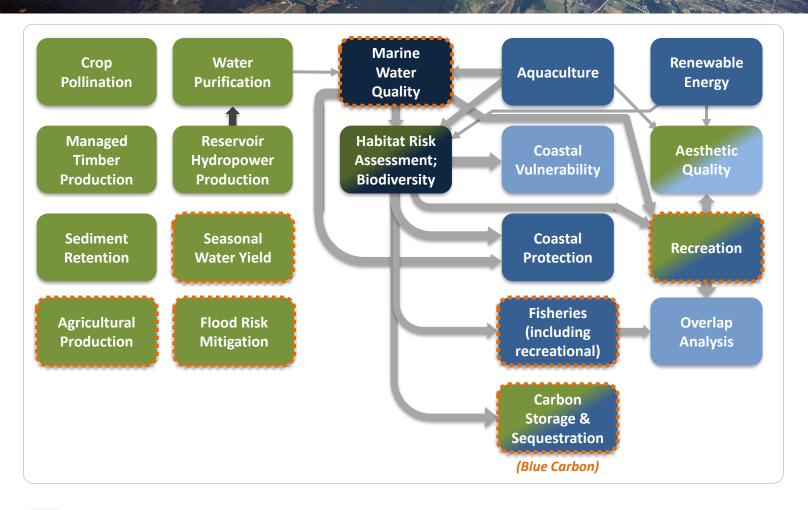
Bullock et al (2017). A synthesis of empirical plant dispersal kernels. *J. Ecology*

Population ecology



Number of animal matrix population models per country

Modelling ecosystem services: InVEST-



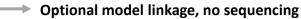


Terrestrial/freshwater model: Tier 1 that quantifies service

Marine model: Tier 1 supporting service

Marine model: Tier 1 that quantifies service

Marine model: Tier 0



Required/optional model linkage, sequencing needed



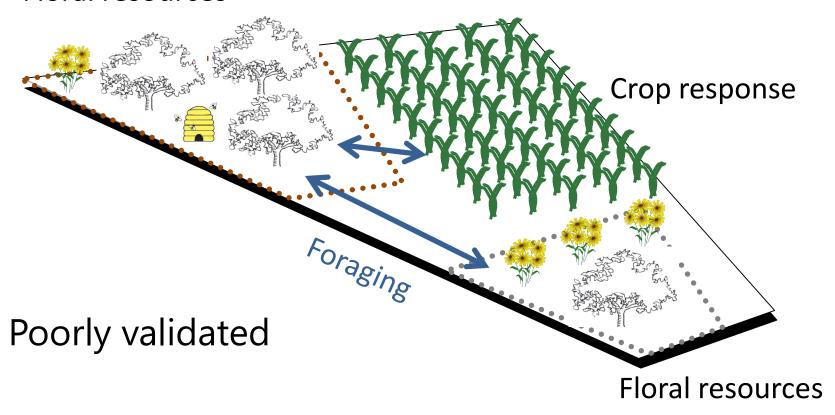




Modelling pollination services: InVEST

Nesting resources

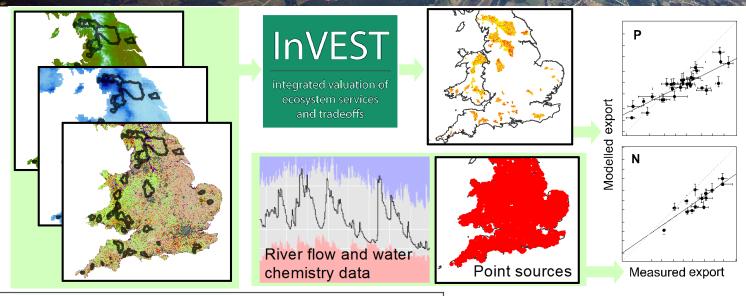
Floral resources

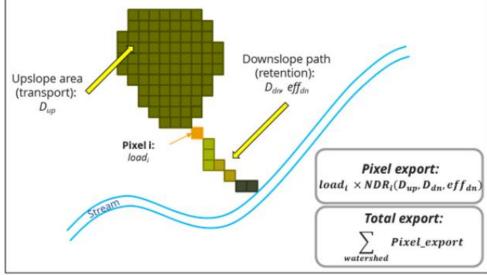






Modelling water purification: InVEST





Validated for the UK – i.e. model matches data

Redhead... & Bullock (2018). National scale evaluation of the InVEST nutrient retention model in the United Kingdom. *Science of the Total Environment*

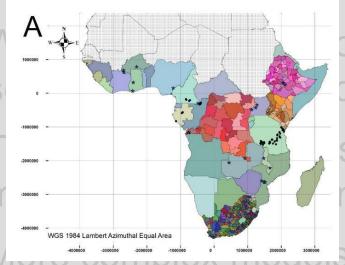


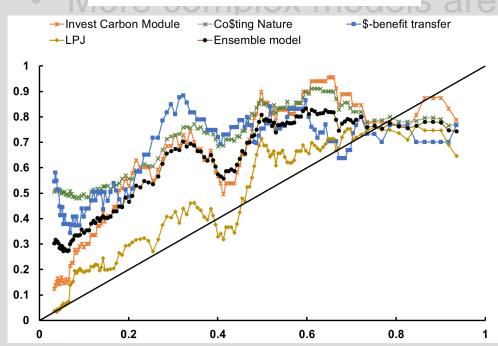


- What is the network for: biodiversity, specific services, multiple outcomes (multi-functionality)?
- There is no one-stop shop for modelling the multiple aspects of a network
- More complex models are more accurate and/or flexible





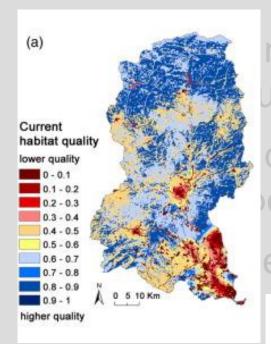




Model accuracy ecific

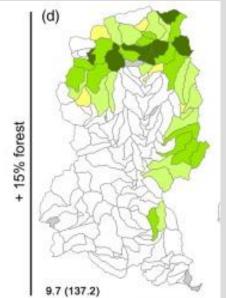
- Several ecosystem service models tested for accuracy in sub-Saharan Africa
- e.g. carbon stocks more accurate and/or
- Process models (e.g LPJ) best
- Simple benefits transfer worst

Willcock ... & Bullock (in review) A continental scale validation of ecosystem service models



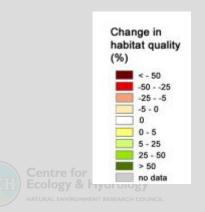


- Itiple outcomes Models of habitat quality often have no/limited spatial one-stop shop fodynamics ling the
- ects of a network • e.g. InVEST Habitat Quality ex models are mmodel ccurate and/or



- Simple classification of land use to habitat value
- (although some mapping of threat from nearby adjacent land uses)

Terrado et al (2016). Model development for the assessment of terrestrial and aquatic habitat quality in conservation planning. Science of the Total Environment



- What is the network for: biodiversity, specific services, multiple outcomes (multi-functionality)?
- There is no one-stop shop for modelling the multiple aspects of a network
- More complex models are often more accurate and/or flexible
- But (more complex) models need (more) data
- Need for concerted and integrated effort among researchers, Gov't, NGOs, industry to:
 - Align activities
 - Plan and fund data gathering
 - Develop and use a consistent set of appropriate models





Thanks to

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