

Personalised Ecologies

**unlocking interactions
with nature**



University
of Exeter

Green Futures
Network

Introduction

- 7.00-7.15 How do we experience nature?
- 7.15-7.30 What is a personalised ecology?
- 7.30-7.45 How can we use personalised ecologies?
- 7.45-8.00 What is your personalised ecology?
- 8.00-8.15 How can we engage others?
- 8.15-8.30 What's next?



Introduction

Personalised Ecology

Prof Kevin Gaston et al

Traditionally, ecologists have focused on understanding the ecological world unbiased by how human observers interact with it.

However, both the positive and negative nature interactions that people experience are the result of biases.

Scientists and policymakers need to determine and account for this 'personalised ecology', to better understand and balance the benefits that people gain from the natural world, whilst limiting negative impacts upon it.



University
of Exeter

Green Futures
Network



Introduction

Nature*

(*according to Wikipedia)



Images: Wikimedia Commons, licenced under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence

What is a Personalised Ecology?

the direct (especially sensory) interactions that each of us has with nature

- We all have one
- They are unique
- They ebb and flow over time (short and long-term)
- They will be different in different parts of our lives (e.g. weekend, weekday)



What is a Personalised Ecology?

Immediacy



More immediate

Image: Unsplash/Katie Moum



Less immediate

Image: Unsplash/Etienne Boulanger

What is a Personalised Ecology?

Consciousness



More conscious

Image: Unsplash/Sandra Seitamaa



Less conscious

Image: Unsplash/Roman Fox

What is a Personalised Ecology?

Intentionality



More intentional

Image: Unsplash/Red Charlie



Less intentional

Image: Unsplash/Mithil Girish

What is a Personalised Ecology?

Degree of human mediation



More mediated

Image: Unsplash/Daiga Ellaby



Less mediated

Image: Unsplash/Diana Parkhouse

What is a Personalised Ecology?

Direction of outcomes (for humans)



Positive

Image: Unsplash/Peter Conlan



Negative

Image: Unsplash/Nick Bolton

What is a Personalised Ecology?

Direction of outcomes (for nature)



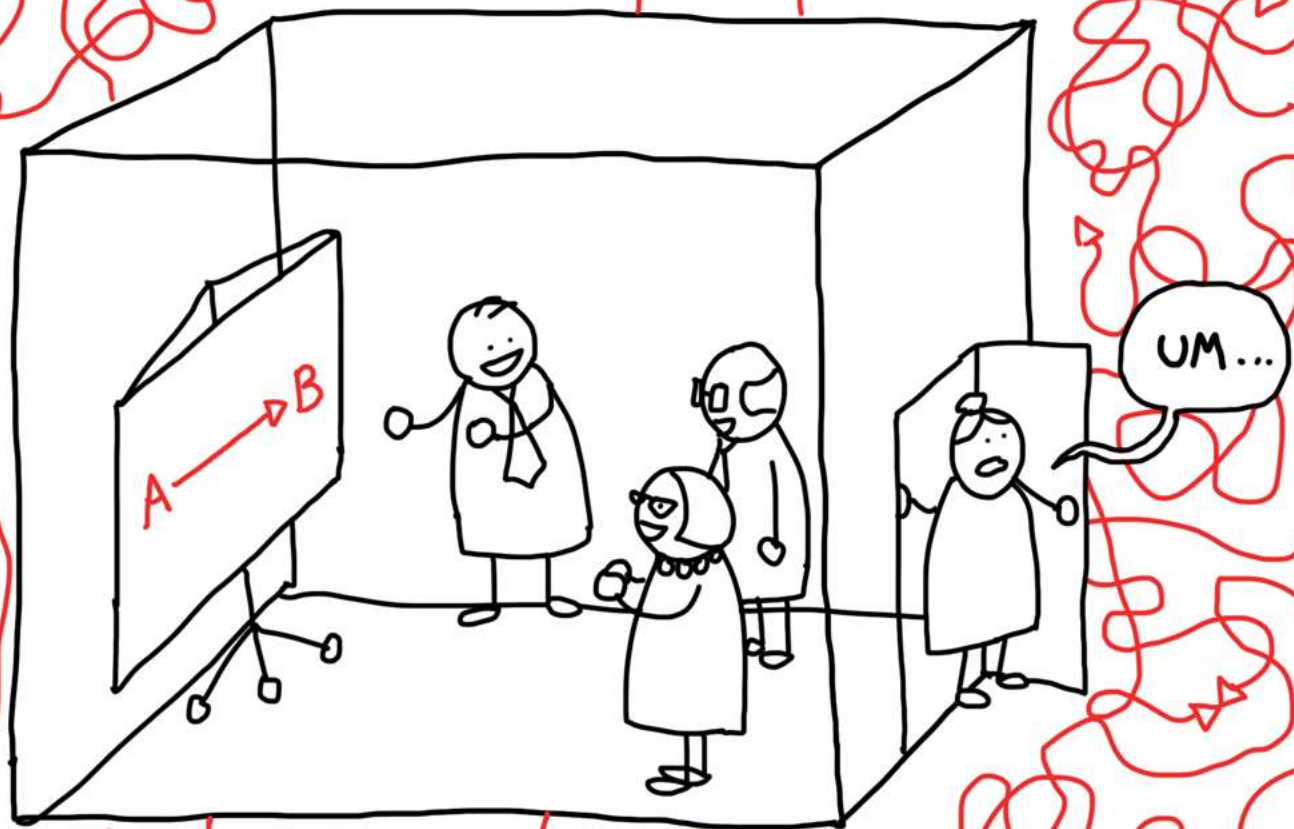
Positive

Image: Unsplash/CDC



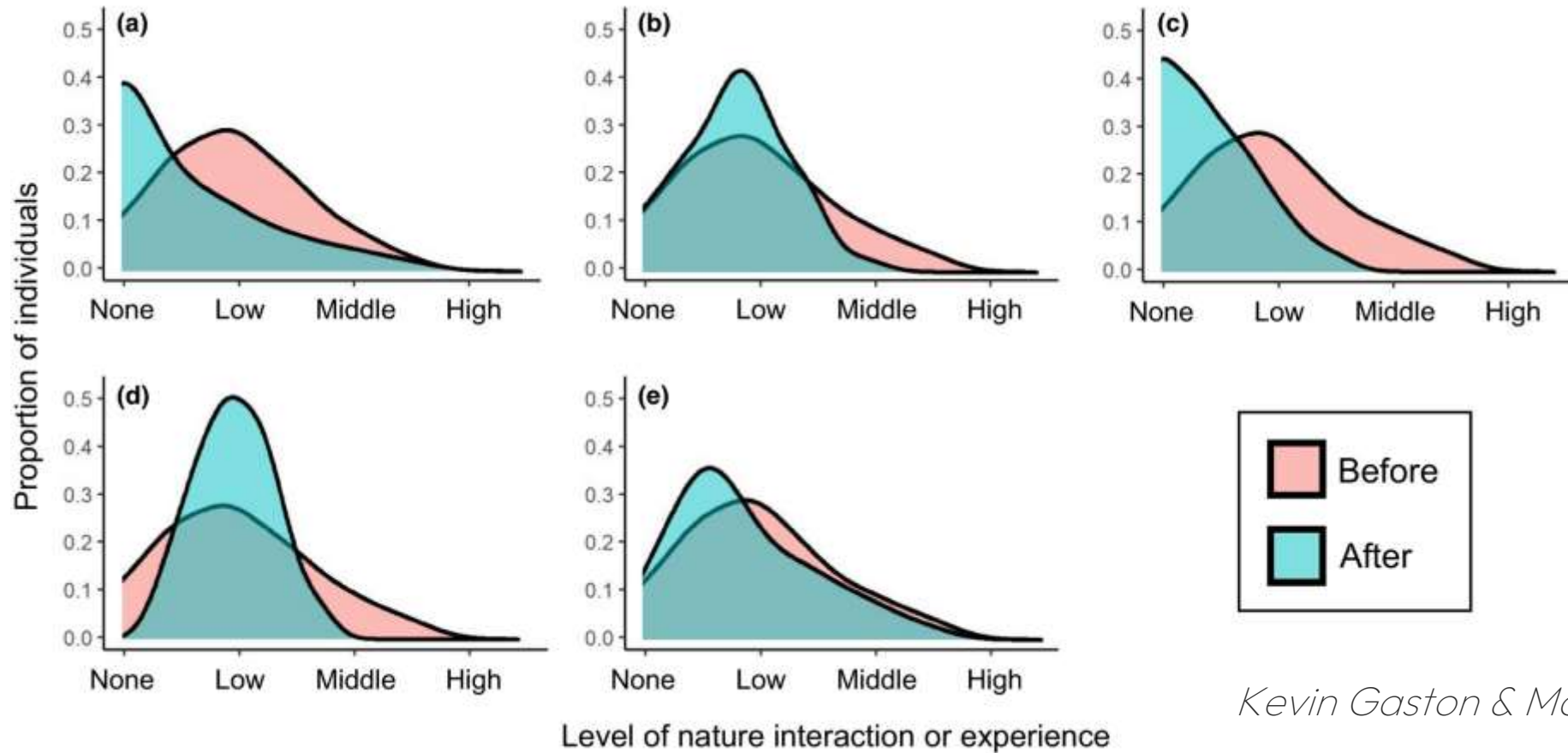
Negative

Image: Green Futures



How can we use Personalised Ecologies?

Why is this important?



Kevin Gaston & Masashi Soga (2020)



How can we use Personalised Ecologies?

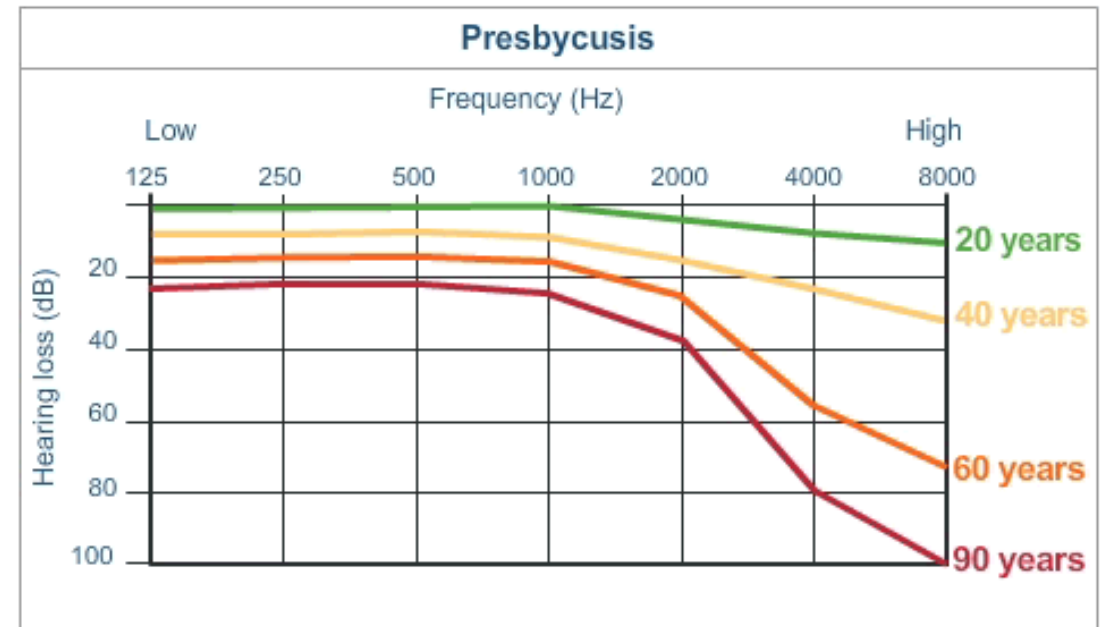
What are our drivers?

Opportunity



Image: Unsplash/Julian Ackroyd

Capacity



Source: Hear Birds Again

How can we use Personalised Ecologies?

What are our motivations?

**The
Guardian**

Three-quarters of UK children spend less time outdoors than prison inmates - survey

Time spent playing in parks, woods and fields has shrunk dramatically due to lack of green spaces, digital technology and parents' fears



📷 A fifth of children did not play outside at all on an average day, the poll found. Photograph: Iain Masterton / Alamy/Alamy



University
of Exeter

Green Futures
Network

How can we use Personalised Ecologies?

What are the consequences?

People

Nature

Benefits



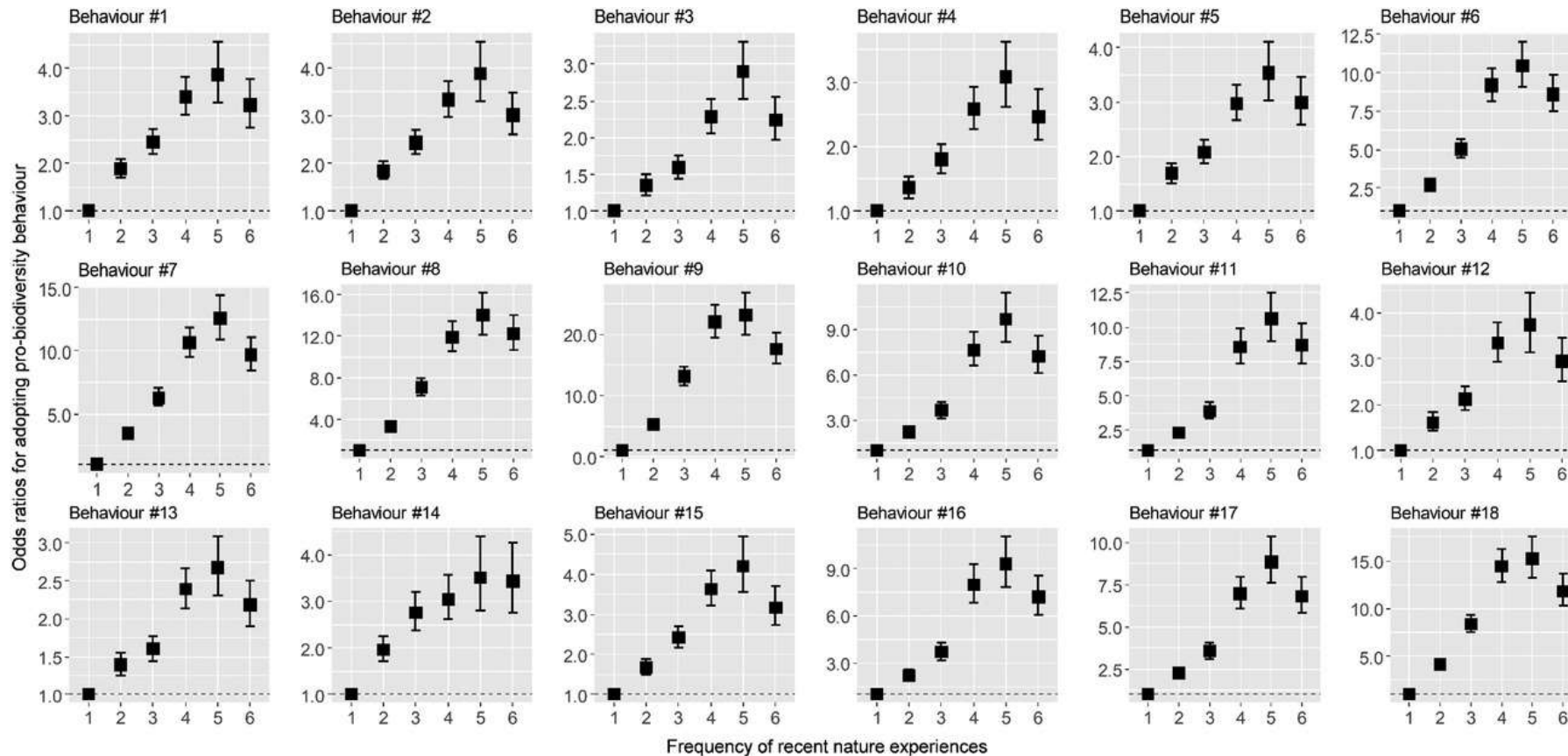
Costs



Images (clockwise from top left): Unsplash/Maja Petric, Unsplash/Mark Timberlake, Unsplash/Jo Anne McArthur, Unsplash, Syed Ali

How can we use Personalised Ecologies?

What are the feedback loops?

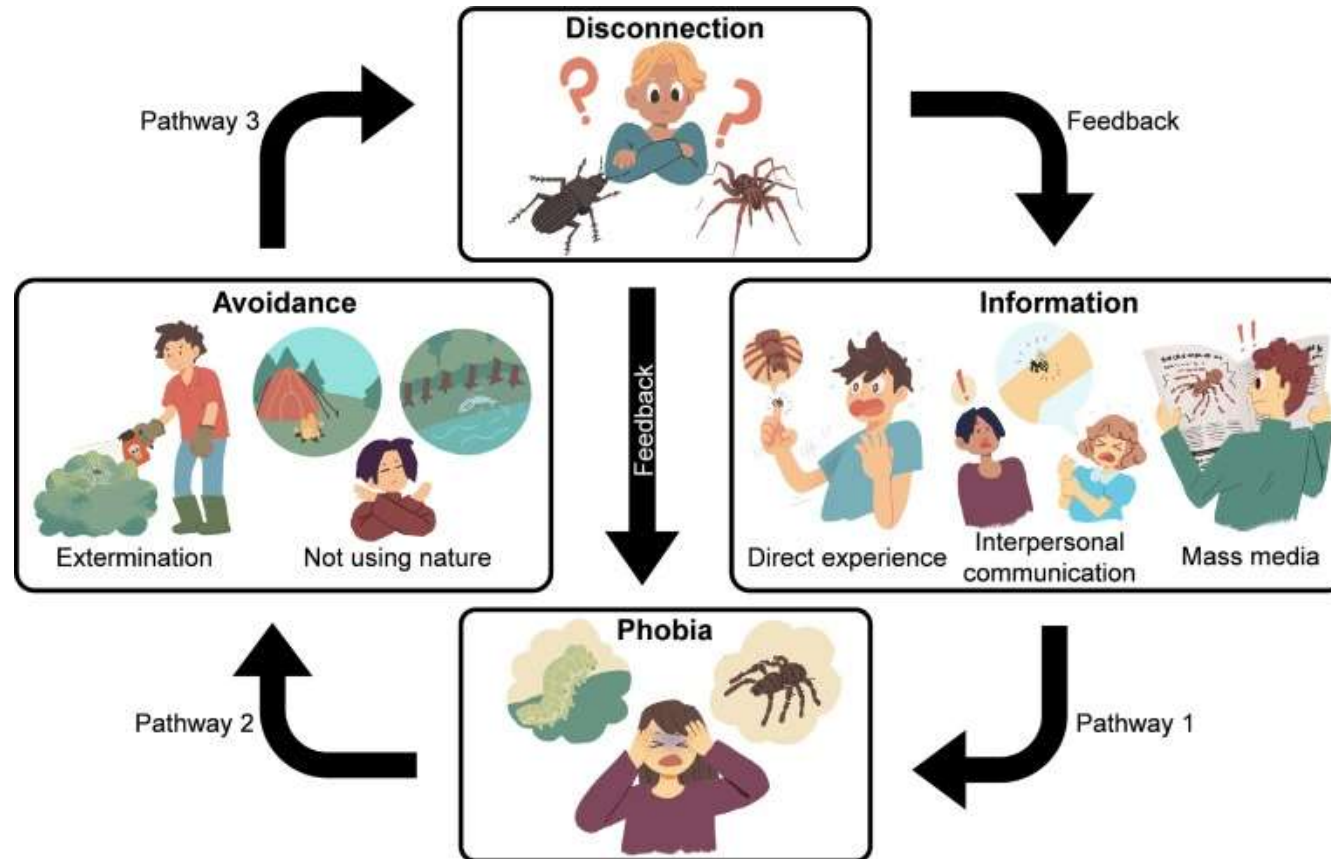


Masashi Soga & Kevin Gaston (2023)



How can we use Personalised Ecologies?

What are the feedback loops?



Source: Trends in Ecology & Evolution

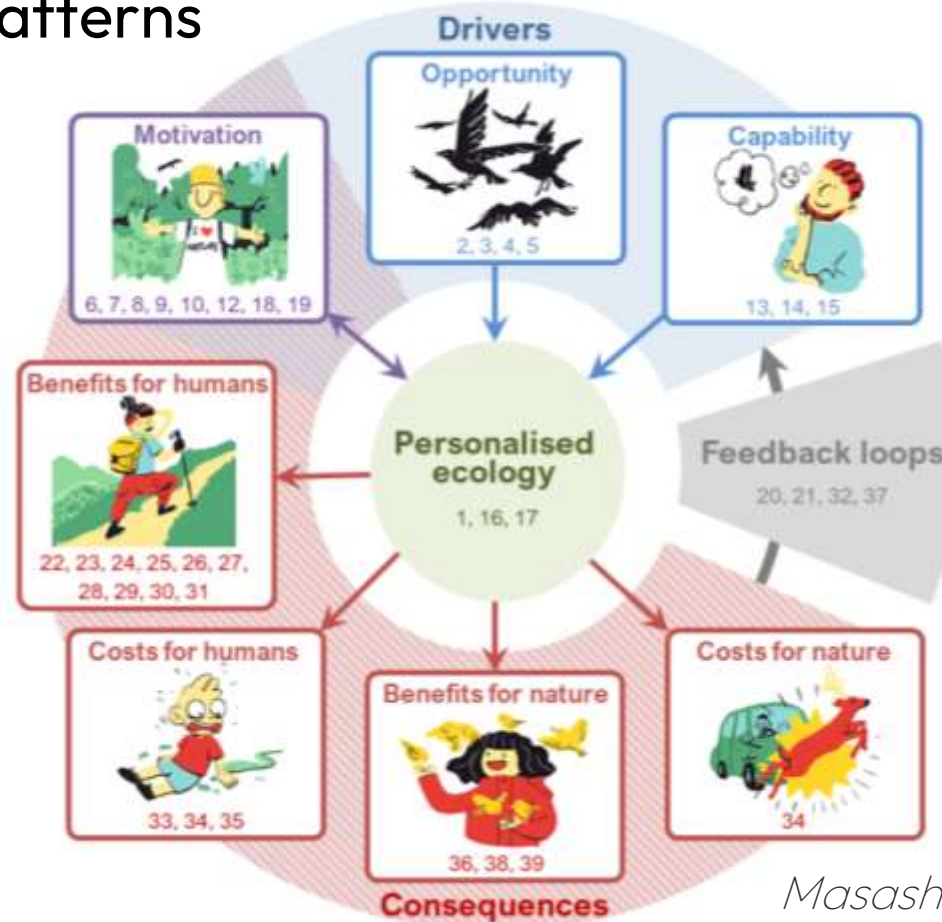
Trends in Ecology & Evolution

How can we use Personalised Ecologies?

Understanding the patterns

Impacts:

Loss
Protection
Renewal



Masashi Soga & Kevin Gaston (2021)



University
of Exeter

Green Futures
Network



How can we engage others with the idea?

What does this mean for businesses, or communities?

Initial suggestions:

Increasing self-awareness

(What is my own Personalised Ecology?)

Targeted engagement

(How to respond specifically to someone else's Personalised Ecology?)

Impact

(How are we improving the Personalised Ecology of those we reach?)



What's next?

Staying connected to research



Public events

Including a Wildlife Trust Youth Festival and Book Trust Summit

Decision support

Informing a nature-positive approach for organisations

Solutions generator

ExCASES – submit a mission (30 underway currently)

Research projects

Tools and studies to use or connect with

More coming soon

Including a podcast and further collaboration

