

# Deciding what's priority:

how stakeholders frame research questions for conserving  
biodiversity

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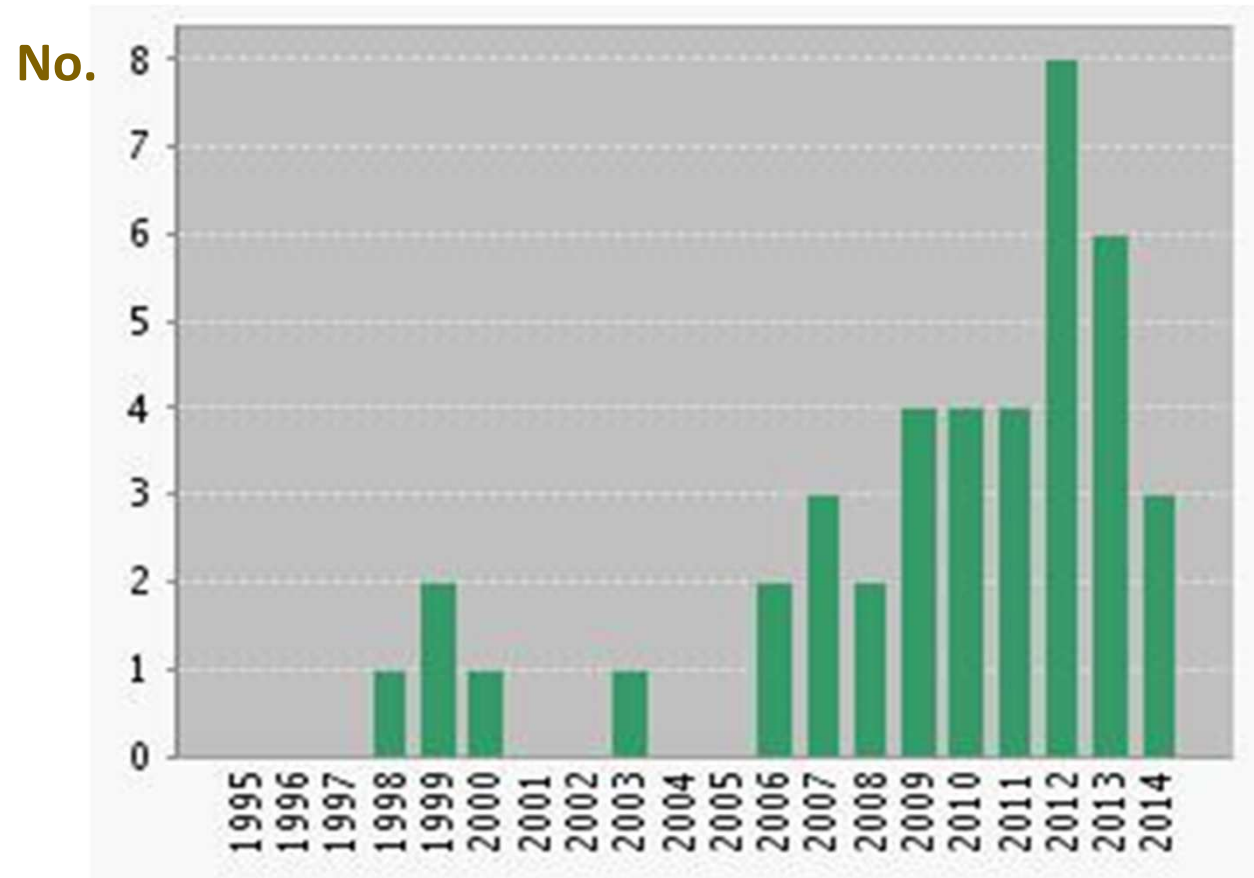
Participatory research  
prioritizing:

a good tool to explore  
stakeholder perspectives



Web of Science:

## Conservation AND research priorities AND participatory



42 papers

# Benefits and potentials

- Demand-driven
- Evidence-based policy making
- Pragmatic

Critical self-reflection?  
Deeper understanding?

The 50 Most Important Research Questions for  
the Conservation of Biodiversity in Hungary...

**...and the arguments behind prioritization**

# Research process

1. Stakeholder analysis
2. Interviews (2013 spring)
3. Online national survey (2013 summer)
4. **Expert workshop** (2014 winter) - 24



# Stakeholders

- State administration
- National parks
- Natural resource managers
- NGOs

# ANALYSES: Arguments and perspectives

- Notes during group discussions: reasoning
- Meaning condensation and categorization





## Results: Four Perspectives

**Pragmatic**

**Economic**

**Conflict**

**Legitimacy**

## I. Pragmatic Perspective

Feasibility of the research and the usability of the results.

Contributes to day-to-day work

Lack of evidence



## II. Conflict Perspective

Identifies the main conservation issues along opposing interests

Conflicts of values

Conflicts of interest

Conflicts are manageable



### III. Economic Perspective

Search for economic arguments that support conservation interests

Availability of state support

Lowest cost/highest net benefit

Impact of state payments

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## IV. Legitimacy Perspective

**Seeks to reconcile conservational and societal needs**

Social acknowledgment

Engagement



## Lessons and surprises...

- Who represents Conservation in Hungary? Who is a legitimate actor?
- Beyond a research agenda – emotional attitude, lobby
- Constrains of a role

# Conclusions

- Conscious and critical approach
- Better understanding of perspectives

## Further steps

- Feedback for stakeholders
- Different stakeholders – different arguments
- Methodological development

Thank you for your attention!

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