

Ecosystem Services

Exploring perceptions of stakeholders' roles in ecosystem services co-production

--Manuscript Draft--

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Abstract:	<p>Stakeholder engage in ecosystem services co-production as both co-producers and beneficiaries. Stakeholders' perceptions of their own and each other's roles in ecosystem services co-production therefore influences how ecosystem services are provided in a given landscape. However, only few studies shed light on these perceived and attributed stakeholder roles. The aim of this paper is to assess the self-perceived and attributed engagement and importance of stakeholders in the co-production of ecosystem services in a case study of the Lahn river landscape, Germany. The research questions address (i) local stakeholders' perceptions of their engagement in the co-production of ecosystem services, and (ii) differences and commonalities between self-perceived and attributed stakeholder importances in ecosystem services co-production.</p> <p>Our methods include a surveying local stakeholders regarding involvements in the co-production of twelve ecosystem services, and social network analysis assess survey data concerning network structures. Our findings indicate that self-perceived and attributed perceptions differ mainly regarding the central role of stakeholders in the collaboration networks. We further identify differences in perceived levels of importance of stakeholders within collaboration networks, but similarities in the understanding of their overall stakeholder network structure. We conclude by highlighting key implications for ecosystem services governance, among others the need to address power imbalances and to foster collaborative engagement for ensuring sustained and just ecosystem services delivery.</p>
Suggested Reviewers:	Anke Fischer anke.fischer@hutton.ac.uk Published a paper presenting an analytical framework of ecosystem services co-production
	Antonia Eastwood antonia.eastwood@hutton.ac.uk Published a paper presenting an analytical framework of ecosystem services co-production
	Paul Opdam Paul.Opdam@wur.nl Published a paper about the importance of ecosystem services to connect different actors
Response to Reviewers:	

Dear Editor Prof. De Groot,

Thank you very much for your review of our manuscript, for the encouragement to write a revision, and for the helpful advice from the two reviewers.

As suggested, we have revised the manuscript according to the comments of the reviewers. Please find attached our revised manuscript and our response letter with detailed responses to all review comments. We followed the guidance of the reviewers to provide additional information in several places. In order to still keep the manuscript length within the limits, we revised the entire manuscript to make it even more concise.

We are confident that the revision has led to a further improvement of the manuscript quality. In case you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you very much!

Yours sincerely,

The authors

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jericó-Daminello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Camila Jericó-Daminello

Manuscript Number: ECOSER-D-19-00026

Exploring perceptions of stakeholders' roles in ecosystem services co-production

Dear ...,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Ecosystem Services.

The evaluation of your manuscript is now completed and the handling editor recommends reconsideration of your manuscript following major revision. I therefore invite you to resubmit your manuscript after addressing the comments below.

...

When revising your manuscript, please consider all issues mentioned in the reviewers' comments carefully: please outline every change made in response to their comments and provide suitable rebuttals for any comments not addressed. Please note that your revised submission may need to be re-reviewed.

To submit your revised manuscript, please log in as an author at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/ecoser/>, and navigate to the "Submissions Needing Revision" folder.

We value your contribution and I look forward to receiving your revised manuscript.

With kind regards,

Rudolf de Groot
Editor-in-Chief
Ecosystem Services

Comments from the editors and reviewers:

Comments Associate Editor	
Please accept my personal apologies for the long delay in getting a decision on your manuscript. Getting two reviewers proved a difficult task. Between mid-January and early-September a total of 23 individuals were invited to be reviewers. After multiple reminder letters 10 responded by declining to do the review and 9 others were ultimately automatically "uninvited" due to non-response. In March and April, 4 agreed to review only to later withdraw or to be uninvited due to lack of	Dear Associate Editor, thank you for explaining the reason it took this long to get feedback on the paper. We appreciate your effort on this.

<p>response. The first reviewer to complete a review accepted in early June and completed the review in late July. The final reviewer agreed in early September and completed the review in early October.</p>	
<p>In the end you do have two thorough and detailed reviews that exhibit considerable consensus on what revisions are needed. Both reviewers agree that the paper has the potential to make an important contribution to the research literature, but both also emphasize the need for more detailed presentation of the methods, analysis and results of the study. Both have made numerous very specific suggestions for what is needed to make the paper acceptable for publication. Please do address the revisions suggested and resubmit your paper. Only the two reviewers will be asked to respond to your revision and I will make every effort to get you a decision as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Thank you very much for your management of the review and comments on our manuscript. We have revised the manuscript as suggested, thereby carefully taking into account each of the comments made by the two reviewers. We provide detailed responses to each reviewer comment in the remainder of this table.</p>
<p>Reviewer #1</p>	
<p>abstract language clumsy</p>	<p>Thank you for flagging this. We have revised the abstract carefully and polished the language.</p>
<p>why is it important to study the difference between perceived importance and attributed importance? It would be useful to read about why this particular study was conducted?</p>	<p>Thank you for your questions. We are confident that this information is of major importance for the following reasons, and we have added the following text in the manuscript:</p> <p>“Analyses of perceived and attributed importances of stakeholders’ roles in ecosystem services co-production, as well as of potential differences, may provide useful insights regarding relationships in actor networks engaged in ecosystem services management. While information on perceived importances reveals how actors see their own responsibilities, information on attributed importances illustrates perceptions from others (Fischer and Eastwood, 2016; Gissi and Garramone, 2018). Understanding the differences can help explain inadequate ecosystem services management where some actors are not aware of or do not want to assume the responsibility of ecosystem services management that other actors attribute to them. Vice versa, some actors might assign responsibilities to others who, in effect, do not have the capacities and intention to fulfill this role (Opdam et al., 2015; Loft et al., 2015). Taking this information into account can help planning, management, and governance of ecosystem services (Mann et al., 2015; Sattler et al., 2018).” (Lines 151-162).</p>
<p>SPECIFIC COMMENTS: 1.1 when describing the state of the river, it would be</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Indeed, a better understanding of the river ecosystem services</p>

<p>useful to connect the description to the state of the ecosystem services - this would help to connect the results to the broader concern about conservation status of the river</p>	<p>conservation status and management would be a very interesting route. For this specific manuscript, we won't bring in-depth discussions about it because we don't have this specific information about the ecosystem services.</p> <p>To acknowledge the relevance of the topic you brought, we added the following sentence: "A promising field for future research is also to explore relations between perceived and attributed importance on the one hand, and the actual management of ecosystem services, or their conservation status, on the other hand."(Lines 622-624).</p> <p>Unfortunately, no information is so far available on the status and trends of ecosystem services provision of the river, but several assumptions can be made based on the knowledge of the state of the river ecosystem. We have therefore added the following:</p> <p>"Up to now, no information on the status and trends of ecosystem services provision and demand has been published for the Lahn river. However, the generally poor ecosystem quality of the Lahn river according to the EU water framework directive suggests that the transformation of the river and its floodplain may have resulted in positive impacts for some ecosystem services (such as agriculture in the former floodplain area) but also negative impacts on several other, primarily regulation ecosystem services (such as water retention, nitrogen retention, carbon storage)". (Lines 616-622).</p>
<p>1.1 the 8 groups identified with "shared common interests" were identified by whom in what way? Do we know whether these groups recognize themselves and if so, what connects them besides common activities? (group self-recognition is not a necessity, but this is an important question since the groups are used in the survey and individual respondents seem to be required to be identified with one of them)</p>	<p>Thank you for this hint that we did not further explain how the interest groups were defined. As this research took place in a transdisciplinary research project, we collaborated with some practice partners (another, practice-oriented project called LiLa Project) who work on the development concept for the river and who were responsible for local stakeholder communication. They conducted so-called interest workshops with the local public in three different places along the river where people exchanged their interests regarding the development of the river landscape. As a result of these workshops the stakeholders built thematic working groups who then periodically met to develop a paper on the key goals of their group. Stakeholders could freely decide which working group they wanted to participate in.</p> <p>For our research we built upon this work and adopted the eight thematic working groups and</p>

	<p>conducted the survey amongst all participants of the working groups.</p> <p>To be more clear in the manuscript we adapted the text as follows: “As a result of these workshops the stakeholders built eight thematic working groups who then periodically met to develop a paper on the key goals of their group. Eight groups of local stakeholders were identified which shared common interests related to the same topics. Those eight stakeholder groups were formed around the topics of 'Nature and Ecology', 'Recreational Motor Boating', 'Rowing and Canoeing', 'Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting', 'Water Management', 'Tourism and Local Recreation', 'Municipal Development and Land Planning' and 'Recreational Angling'. Stakeholders could freely decide which working group they wanted to participate in. In the herein reported research, we apply the same stakeholder groups”. (Lines 203-211).</p>
<p>2.1 how was the sample created to whom the survey was sent? what is the base population? Please be much more quantitative here.</p>	<p>Thank you for the critical remark. The full sample consisted of the 98 stakeholders who had previously associated themselves with one of the eight thematic working groups in the LiLa project as described above. Participants could represent certain governmental or non-organizations or being interested citizens that wanted to participate in the process. The results therefore are limited to the identified interest groups which at this point participated in the development of the river management concept.</p> <p>We adapted the text in the manuscript as follows: “In July 2018, the online survey was sent to altogether 98 representatives of the above mentioned eight stakeholders' groups as established by LiLa”. (Lines 251-252).</p> <p>Further, we included the limitation of the sample in the discussion section: “The results further limited to the identified interest groups which at this point participated in the development of the river management concept.” (Lines 609-611).</p>
<p>2.1 the groups generated by the authors and the additional groups identified by the respondents are rather hard to interpret. It is not clear how they were defined, they are not all clearly connected to ecosystem services (but some of them are), sometimes it is likely, that memberships overlap, but this is not mentioned nor is it reflected upon in the methods - so what do these groups represent after all?</p>	<p>Thank you for noticing. As we describe above, respondents stem from the full sample of stakeholders who had previously associated themselves with one of those thematic groups. It was our purpose to survey stakeholders as they had associated themselves and not necessarily stakeholders strictly related to some ecosystem services because we wanted to explore relationships between stakeholders to multiple ecosystem services, and vice-versa. Individual group memberships do not overlap as members had</p>

	<p>previously associated themselves with only one such group.</p> <p>The connection of interest groups to ecosystem services was done by themselves as they were asked in the survey from which ecosystem services they benefit and which of them they provide.</p>
<p>* paragraph 2.2 is missing from the manuscript</p>	<p>Thank you for noting. It was a simple mistake of numbering the sections wrongly. We now corrected accordingly.</p>
<p>2.3 the survey contained 34 questions but none of them is cited. It is not clear for the reader what kind of questions were asked. From the 4 question categories and the description in this paragraph it seems that respondents had to answer questions related to "ecosystem services" and maybe other scientific terms, that may not have a clear definition for non-expert respondents. It is also a question how "collaboration" was formulated in the survey. This question (together with the definition of the groups) essentially generates the network data that is analysed later on, so clarity on these two points should be improved. Without these, it is very hard to judge the quality of the analysis. It is also not clear whether respondents had to identify with one of the groups and how overlaps between groups were treated in the survey? How was it treated if members of the same group described different relationships to others?</p>	<p>Thank you for raising these questions and concerns.</p> <p>The whole survey can be found in the supplementary material. Indeed, there was special attention to not apply specific scientific terms in the survey, but to use explanations instead that would be closer to interviewees reality. Please, note the whole survey was conducted in German and the version presented here is translated to English.</p> <p>The whole section '2. Methods' was restructured in accordance with many of the comments from both reviewers. We hope your questions are now clarified in the text.</p> <p>The group memberships do not overlap as people decide which group they want to belong to.</p> <p>Every time one respondent identified a link of collaboration with another actor, a link was added between the two stakeholder groups to which the respondent and the partner respectively belonged. So, if different relationships were identified by different stakeholders of the same groups, all these relations were included. The links of one group is a result of the sum of all links of its group members.</p>
<p>2.4.3 It is not defined in this paper what "importance" means for stakeholders. I do not see how importance can be connected to indegree or outdegree. For instance indegree could be interpreted as power, influence, trust, outdegree could be interpreted as communication or PR activity, lobby, or some kind of management work. It does happen that important players do not have a high outdegree since they do not need many connections and collaborators to be taken into account. Anyway, "important" has to be defined. I recommend using different interpretations for indegree and outdegree. As much as the survey structure can be reconstructed based on the manuscript, I also recommend using weighted edges - this would help interpret how much various group</p>	<p>Thank you for signaling that the method section was not quite understandable. We restructured the whole section and hope the understanding improved.</p> <p>We present the definition of importance right at the beginning of the methodological approach (section 2.2 Methodological approach: Social Network Analysis (SNA)), as well as our interpretation of indegree and outdegree centrality.</p> <p>One misunderstanding is also that we do not analyze communication networks but only the collaboration network for each co-produced ecosystem service. The respective survey question reads: "Do you cooperate with other actor groups</p>

<p>members agreed with each other on the existence of the connections.</p>	<p>for certain services to preserve the Lahn landscape?"</p> <p>We also present a justification why we did not use weight edges as we wanted to avoid underestimating potential existing links that were not mentioned by a group with a reduced number of respondents. You find our justification on section 2.4 Data analysis.</p>
<p>3. my comments to 2.4.3 apply here very much too. Indegree and outdegree are different, this is not a very surprising result. Definition of "importance" is still lacking, but a more detailed description of the survey would be helpful to see what kind of legitimate interpretations are possible here. Indegree and outdegree in this network should be similar, if "collaboration" would be defined clearly (meaning: in the survey it is clear to all respondents what is being asked) thus it could be expected that both ends of the edge recognizes some activity as "collaboration". Since in this dataset in- and outdegree are not the same, this network data seems to represent a social communication network, where power, trust, outreach, lobby and other activities are somehow mixed (again, depending on what questions were actually asked).</p>	<p>Thank you for flagging your concerns. Please see our detailed response above which in our view clarifies the matter.</p>
<p>* In the descriptions, stakeholders and groups are not clearly distinguished. For the reader it is hard to decide whether expressions like "participate" or "self-perceived" refer to groups or individuals. While the method section would suggest groups, it is hard to imagine how a group can "perceive itself". This is confusing.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. The data collection was all based on questions focusing on the individuals. We clarify this explicitly in the methods section 2.3 Data collection - online survey.</p> <p>In addition, we also follow your suggestion to include the translated questionnaire as supplementary information which should further clarify our approach.</p> <p>While we assessed responses individually, we then merged the responses of those individuals that perceived themselves as belonging to the same 'stakeholder group'. By that, we have inferred that the different answers from individuals of the same group could be understood as answers of that group. In other words, answers from individuals of the same group accounted for answers of that whole group. We are confident that this approach provides insights into the diversity of perceptions embodied within each stakeholder group, while acknowledging that we do not provide information on how many individuals reflected referred to a particular relationship.</p> <p>We added a sentence about it: "Each respondent was asked to identify him/herself as being part of</p>

	<p>one stakeholder group. Consequently, the group answers represent the merged responses provided by the respondents included in that specific group." (Lines 312-314).</p>
<p>* As the reader progresses, a clear definition of "importance" is more and more lacking. Re-interpretation of the network edges in this dataset is recommended.</p>	<p>Thank you! See clarification provided above and the definition of importance and our understanding of network edges in section 2.2 Methodological approach: Social Network Analysis (SNA).</p>
<p>4. I wonder why the authors assume that an actors self-perceived importance should ideally match the attributed importance? ("underestimated" and "overestimated" importance) Many people do very important conservation work in various landscapes that is not recognized by their peers, yet without them huge values would disappear. Maybe some of these people does recognize the crucial importance of their mission.</p>	<p>Thank you for the critical remark. In fact, we do not assume that an actor's self-perceived importance necessarily or ideally needs to match attributed importance. In contrast, we simply suggest that information about self-perceived or attributed levels of importance can help explain mis-management or too little stewardship of ecosystem services, resulting in sub-optimal provision and potentially deficits. The information we generate can thus provide insights into this, and help develop better governance models that either provide relevant information, e.g. to inform stakeholders of what responsibilities they have given their mandate or existing regulations, or to provide incentives for stakeholders who so far do not assume full responsibility.</p> <p>We now include this argument in the discussion section where we write:</p> <p>"This information can in a first step help to explain mis-management or too little stewardship of ecosystem services, resulting in sub-optimal provision and potentially deficits. And in a second step, it can help to develop better governance models that either provide relevant information, e.g. to inform stakeholders of what responsibilities they have given their mandate or existing regulations, or to provide incentives for stakeholders who so far do not assume full responsibility." (Lines 546-551).</p>
<p>* In summary: the authors should be much more transparent in their methodologies and in how theories are linked to the applied methods. Also, multiple important concepts applied in this manuscript should be defined much more clearly.</p>	<p>Thank you very much for the insightful review and the comments for further improvement.</p>
<p>* The applied survey might be added as supplementary information.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. The entire survey and extra information sent to the interviewees are now added as supplementary information (A. Appendices, A.1 Survey).</p>
<p>Reviewer #2</p>	

<p>The manuscript "Exploring perceptions of stakeholders' roles in ecosystem services co-production" addresses an important and innovative topic, however the wider applications of the obtained results and the potential of this approach replication to other ecosystems and contexts could be more explored. It is a very interesting idea, however the choice of the methods should be better detailed and it seems that there was room for more responses which would benefit the outcomes. Some suggestions are made in order to improve the presentation and understanding of the work. Overall the manuscript is well structured pointing out the main issues to be addressed in the context of this research.</p>	<p>Thank you very much for the kind words. We appreciate the value you see in our study. The wider application of the obtained results and a potential replication to other case studies would be indeed very interesting. So we are carefully taking into account each of the comments in the revised version of the manuscript.</p> <p>We understand the need for more clarification of the methodology. In this new version, we are bringing more detailed information in the text body, and we add the full version of the survey in the supplementary information..</p>
<p><u>Introduction:</u> The introduction is well written, highlighting the main topics under discussion. However, it would benefit the paper if the authors include here more works where the methods applied in this research were already used, for example Social Network Analysis for stakeholders perceptions on their dependency on Ecosystem Services (Lopes and Videira, 2016).</p>	<p>Thank you for this comment and for pointing out the relevance of this reference. We have included this interesting work in two different places of our manuscript, introduction and conclusion.</p> <p>In introduction, we brought it as one example of using SNA on perceptions from stakeholders in relation to ecosystem services (Lines 116-119). In conclusion, together with another, to highlight the relevance of this new field and our contribution to it while respecting the word limit (Lines 500-501).</p>
<p>The presentation of the case study seems more suitable for the beginning of the methodology or creating a different section. Having just a sub-section here (1.1) doesn't seem to work well. Additionally, it would be interesting to have a map of the case study, explaining better the area under study.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. We have decided to create a new section for the case study. Since some of the comments are about restructuring the Methods section, we felt it would be clearer to have the case study separately. A map of the Lahn river is included at the end of the section: 2.1 Case study description: the Lahn river landscape.</p>
<p><u>Methods:</u> Subsections are not well defined (2.2. is missing).</p>	<p>Thank you for noting. It was a simple mistake of numbering the sections wrongly. It is already corrected.</p>
<p>This section could be better presented. It should be more detailed and justified. The authors should have in mind the possibility of replication when describing the process, and because of this providing more details. For example how were the stakeholders mapped? What was the methodology used?</p>	<p>Thank you! We followed your advice and restructured the methods section. We hope that it becomes clear now that the stakeholders are mapped and grouped by themselves in the course of the LiLa project.</p>
<p>Table 1 - The selection of stakeholder groups is not very clear. How they were defined? Based on what criteria? The stakeholder groups defined in this study are not at the same level. For example "private business" and "recreational Motor Boating" could have the same stakeholders, the same for "nature and ecology" and "local clubs and associations". Why the authors did not organize the stakeholder groups by - private business; NGO; Public organizations, etc.</p>	<p>Thank you for this hint! Please see response to reviewer 1 above who criticized the same.</p> <p>For our research we built upon the work of the LiLa project and adopted the eight thematic working groups they developed together with the stakeholder and conducted the survey amongst all participants of the working groups.</p>

<p>and within this categories differentiate by topic (agriculture; nature and ecology; etc.)? Did the authors considered to send the survey to these additional six stakeholder groups? It is strange to consider them as a group and not having information collected from them.</p> <p>Regarding this table, the authors should provide more information and clarification on the choices that were made, having in mind they these choices could have impacts on the obtained outcomes and their reading.</p>	<p>To be more clear in the manuscript we adapted the text as follows: “As a result of these workshops the stakeholders built eight thematic working groups who then periodically met to develop a paper on the key goals of their group. Eight groups of local stakeholders were identified which shared common interests related to the same topics. Those eight stakeholder groups were formed around the topics of 'Nature and Ecology', 'Recreational Motor Boating', 'Rowing and Canoeing', 'Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting', 'Water Management', 'Tourism and Local Recreation', 'Municipal Development and Land Planning' and 'Recreational Angling'. Stakeholders could freely decide which working group they wanted to participate in.” (Lines 203-210).</p> <p>The six additional groups turned out as the question on which group the interviewees collaborated with contained others that were not mentioned in the survey. These extra groups were constructed based on the answers.</p> <p>To make the choices more clear we separated the eight original stakeholder groups from the six extra groups. The original ones are mentioned in section 2.3 Data collection - online survey and listed in Table 1.</p> <p>The six extra stakeholder groups are explained in section ‘3. Results’ and listed in Table 2.</p> <p>The survey has not been sent to the extra groups as we did not know the exact individuals that belong to them and we had limited our sample size to the stakeholders participating in the LiLa working groups.</p>
<p>Why did the authors follow the TEEB classification? There are a relatively recent common understanding on the use of CICES framework (despite some problems that could also be identified), and on the other hand MEA (2005) is a wider used alternative in the literature. By using TEEB classification are the authors showing a bias into economic valuation? Please provide a clarification on that.</p> <p>More information on the survey and on the questions should be provided. How was the duration, in average, to answer the survey? A suggestion is to present a table with the questions grouped in the four categories. Besides this, more information on the survey participants should be presented. Were they aware of the concept of "ecosystem services" and the term co-production?</p>	<p>Thank you for raising these questions.</p> <p>In relation to the TEEB classification, there are no expectations to connect this paper with ecosystem services economic valuation. The reason we mentioned the TEEB classification is that it was the basis for the RESI-Project (www.resi-project.info). We build our ecosystem services classification on the prior work of the RESI-Project which had proved as a useful and relevant classification for river ecosystem services.</p> <p>To make it more clear we had added the sentence "The selection of the ecosystem services included in the study was based on a list of ecosystem services for German river landscapes (Podschn et al. 2018), which in turn was inspired by the practically relevant TEEB project (2010). In addition, consultation with local actors was applied to adapt the list from Podschn et al. (2018) to the very</p>

	<p>specific context conditions of the Lahn river landscape and to suit it to stakeholder understandings" (Lines 269-273).</p> <p>In relation to the survey itself, the whole survey can be found in the supplementary material. Due to the word limit unfortunately we have decided to maintain the questions only in the supplementary material.</p> <p>More information on the survey itself has been added in the following sentence "Data collection took place during May - June/2018. An invitation was sent via e-mail to all potential respondents. The survey was open for almost four weeks and, in the meantime, a reminder e-mail was sent". (Lines 297-299").</p> <p>Indeed, there was special attention to not bring specific scientific terms, but instead, explanations that would be closer to interviewees reality. Please, note the whole survey was conducted in German and the version presented here is translated to English.</p>
<p>Why the authors selected on-line surveys to conduct this study instead of interviews? Some thoughts on the methods choices and their advantages and limitations should be provided.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. While we agree that interviews would have allowed for some more in-depth analyses, we content that the survey method is better suited to collect data from a high number of respondents as in our case. As we outline above, our full sample was already quite big with 98 individuals. Conducting interviews with such a high number of people would not have been feasible within the scope of this research.</p>
<p><u>Results:</u> This section should be divided in sub-sections for a better understanding. For example by the main groups of results, or the main messages (the ones from the discussion section).</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. We have divided section 3. Results into three subsections as follows: 3.1 Relative importance and centrality of stakeholders in ecosystem services co-production, 3.2 Differences between perceived and attributed stakeholder roles 3.3 Stakeholders' net importance in ecosystem services co-production. This line of thought is also reflected in the line of paragraphs in section 4. Discussion and conclusions.</p>
<p>Figure 2 seems more like a table.</p>	<p>Thank you for the suggestion. We have converted the figure into a table. Since there is a limitation on the number of characters to be used in a table title, we have now simplified the title and included the rest of the relevant information below the table body as notes.</p>
<p>The fact that the additional six stakeholder groups were not questioned poses a bias on the results. For example Figure 3 could have a misleading reading.</p>	<p>Thank you for bringing this up. In fact, a second survey was not conducted, which could be an opportunity to hear from these additional six stakeholder groups. However, it is noted the relevance of ask about groups we haven't mapped before, otherwise we would lose important data</p>

	<p>about these groups. That is the reason why we have decided to keep them on our analysis even if only in the “networks in the attributed participation”.</p>
<p>Figure 4 is a very interesting way to communicate, however it could be a bit confusing, so a suggestion is to integrate the information that is on the legend in the text body as an introduction to the figure.</p>	<p>Thank you for the kind words and your suggestion. We have incorporated the information in the text body. Please note, because of one of the reviewers’ comments the figures' numbers have changed.</p>
<p>In Figure 5 the authors only consider 8 groups of stakeholders, It would be better to have a coherence in terms of what stakeholder groups to consider throughout the results presentation. It would be interesting to have a reading of this figure by column, understanding the implications of these results for the management of this ecosystem services. For example, are the services perceived as having less contribution to co-production the ones that are more threatened or less preserved in this area?</p>	<p>Thank you for bringing this interesting discussion. For Figure 4, the stakeholder importance was calculated by the difference between perceived and attributed importance. This means that only the groups that had perceived importance (i.e. that had respondents on the survey) were included.</p> <p>To avoid any potential misunderstandings, we have changed the term "stakeholder importance" to "stakeholder net importance". The "stakeholder net importance" is calculated by the difference (P-A) between the perceived (P) and attributed (A) importance.</p> <p>Concerning connecting the results of Figure 4 with the management of the ecosystem services, we agree with your comment and see this being one of the promising next steps of this study. For this specific manuscript, we will not bring in-depth discussion because we do not have the information on the ecosystem services preservation or conservation status.</p> <p>Against this background we added the sentence "A promising field for future research is also to explore relations between perceived and attributed importance on the one hand, and the actual management of ecosystem services, or their conservation status, on the other hand." (Lines 622-624).</p>
<p>In this study Ecosystem Services are analyzed in an isolated way. Since ecosystem services are interlinked and their provision and sustainable flow are dependent on each other (Lopes and Videira, 2017), is it possible that this approach loses information on the co-production process?</p>	<p>Thank you for this contribution. We certainly agree with the reviewer that ES are interlinked and interdependent. The article however focuses on actors’ perceptions and therefore does not inform on the existing interdependencies. We have acknowledged this as part of the limitations of the study and called for future research to look into it. In the Introduction section we have included this study as one example of connection perception with ecosystem services, from the optic of interdependence (Lines 118-119). And in the Discussion and Conclusion section, we have included the following sentence: “An interesting avenue for future research would be to investigate whether actors’ perceptions of involvement also reveal existing ES interdependencies.” (Lines 615-617).</p>
<p><u>Discussion and Conclusion:</u> Line 51 page 18 it is not clear the affirmation "our</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. With this affirmation, we wanted to highlight the relevance of our study</p>

<p>stakeholder analysis for co-production of ecosystem services is generating knowledge and providing information about the linkages between ecosystem services and their provision". Please provide explanation on that.</p>	<p>on contributing to building knowledge on the linkages between ecosystem services and how they are provided. Specifically, the linkage between ecosystem services and the stakeholders responsible for their provision.</p> <p>In an attempt to make our affirmation clearer, the new sentence reads: "Finally, our study contributes in generating knowledge and providing information about the linkages between ecosystem services and how they are provided, more specifically, who is co-responsible for their provision." (Lines 557-559)</p>
<p>The authors have choose to present the results and the discussion in different sections. Despite this could work, I think that in this case the results could have helped to draw some lessons and discuss the implications more deeply. Having said this, these two sections could remain like this, however discussion section should be better framed. Organizing the discussion by lessons learned or main messages could help to provide this frame.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. We have divided section 3.Results into three subsections as follows:</p> <p>3.1 Relative importance and centrality of stakeholders in ecosystem services co-production,</p> <p>3.2 Differences between perceived and attributed stakeholder roles</p> <p>3.3 Stakeholders' net importance in ecosystem services co-production.</p> <p>This train of thought is also reflected in section 4. Discussion and conclusion, even if not being divided in sub-sections.</p> <p>In addition, we have refrained from merging results and discussions as this might confuse readers. We are confident that the better organisation of the results and discussion make the reading more clear and enjoyable.</p>
<p>References:</p> <p>* Lopes, R. and Videira, N. 2017. Modelling feedback processes underpinning management of ecosystem services: The role of participatory systems mapping. <i>Ecosystem Services</i>, 28: 28-42.</p> <p>* Lopes, R. and Videira, N. 2016. A collaborative approach for scoping ecosystem services with stakeholders: The case of Arrábida Natural Park. <i>Environmental Management</i>, 58 (2):323-342.</p>	<p>Thank you. We read the suggested references and found them very useful. We have now included them as citations and references in the manuscript.</p>

Highlights

- Stakeholders' perceived roles in ecosystem services co-production rarely studied
- Perceived and attributed roles investigated via social network analysis
- Lahn landscape case study shows differences in perception of central role
- However, perceived network structure very similar across stakeholders

Declaration of interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

Exploring perceptions of stakeholders' roles in ecosystem services co-production

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Exploring perceptions of stakeholders' roles in ecosystem services co-production

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Highlights

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Abstract

~~Stakeholders can assume dual roles. Stakeholder engage in ecosystem services co-production of~~
~~In ecosystem services can co-production assign stakeholders with can assume two roles: as as~~
~~both co-producers and beneficiaries and producers. Stakeholders' perceptions~~
~~How stakeholders~~
~~perceptions of perceive their own and each other's own roles in co-production, and the role of~~
~~others in ecosystem services co-production this process therefore may thus influences play an~~
~~important issue in~~
~~how ecosystem services are delivered and provided in a given landscape.~~
~~However, only few studies~~
~~very little research scholarship is hitherto available that~~
~~sheds light on~~
~~the~~
~~perceived and attributed stakeholder roles.~~
~~The aim of this paper is to assess the self-~~
~~perceived and attributed engagement and importance of stakeholders in the co-production of~~
~~ecosystem services in a case study of the Lahn river landscape, Germany. The research questions~~
~~address concern~~
~~(i) how local stakeholders' perceptions perceive of their own engagement in the~~
~~co-production of ecosystem services, and (ii) which differences and commonalities exist between~~
~~self-perceived and attributed stakeholder importances in ecosystem services co-production.~~

40 ~~Our methods include First, we applied~~ a surveying ~~of~~ to local stakeholders ~~regarding~~
41 ~~involvements in asking about their own involvement and the involvement of others on~~
42 ~~collaboration networks for~~ the co-production of twelve ecosystem services, ~~and~~. ~~Second, we~~
43 ~~used~~ social network analysis ~~assess survey data concerning to construct the network structures~~
44 ~~and understand some differences between opposite perspectives~~. Our findings indicate that self-
45 perceived and attributed perceptions differ mainly regarding the central role ~~of stakeholders in~~
46 the collaboration networks, ~~while the network structure is very similar~~. We further identify
47 differences in ~~perceived perceptions of the levels~~ of importance of ~~various stakeholders~~ within
48 the collaboration networks, but similarities in the understanding ~~of their overall in the stakeholder~~
49 network structure ~~of who is involved and how they are connected~~. We conclude ~~by with a~~
50 ~~reflection on key highlighting key~~ implications for ecosystem services governance, ~~among others~~
51 ~~the need to including the issue of how to~~ address power imbalances and to foster collaborative
52 engagement ~~for ensuring sustained and just ecosystem services delivery~~.

53 54 55 **Keywords**

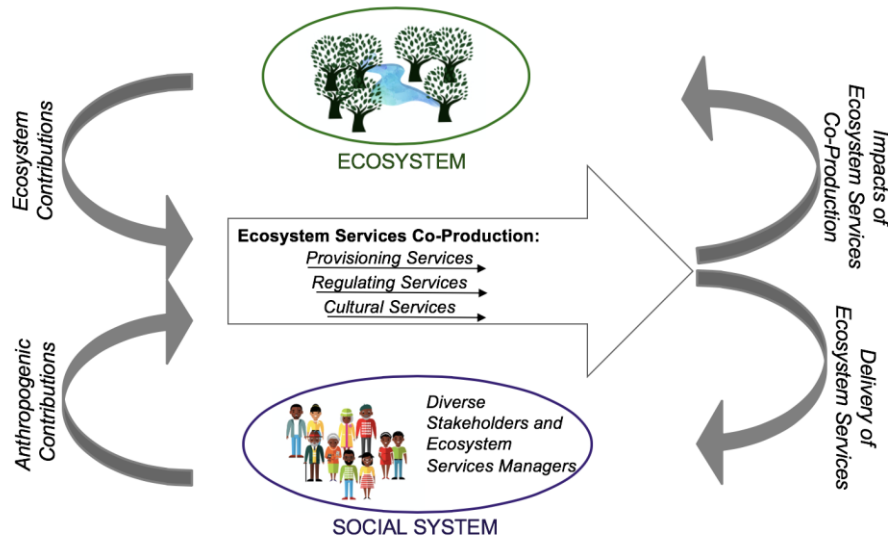
56 Ecosystem services co-production; Collaboration; Social network analysis; Stakeholders'
57 perspectives; Lahn river landscape
58

59 **1. Introduction**

60 The flow of ecosystem services to people often does not function independently but requires
61 substantial human contributions (Diaz et al., 2018; Albert et al., 2016; Burkhard et al., 2014; UK
62 NEA, 2011). Those human contributions are also termed "other inputs" (Burkhard et al., 2014),
63 "human inputs" (Albert et al., 2016; von Haaren et al., 2014), "social and human capital" (Daniel
64 et al., 2012), "complex social processes" (Spangenberg et al., 2014b), or "human activity" (which
65 leads the authors to propose the "social-ecological services" denomination) (Huntsinger and
66 Oviedo, 2014). Ecosystem services are thus co-produced through natural and anthropogenic
67 contributions (Gissi and Garramone, 2018; Raymond et al., 2017; Berbés-Blázquez et al., 2016;
68 Fischer and Eastwood, 2016; Palomo et al., 2016). When it comes to provisioning ecosystem
69 services, the need for human intervention in the process is relatively obvious. For example, water
70 needs to be pumped, cleaned, and delivered to human settlements to serve as drinking water; or
71 food needs to be harvested, hunted, or produced by the various kinds of agricultural practices (von
72 Haaren et al., 2014). In regulating ecosystem services, human contributions tend to be indirect,
73 ~~An~~ example is the need for targeted management of urban green spaces in ways that maximize
74 local climate regulation and air purification (Scholz et al., 2018). Finally, cultural ecosystem
75 services require human interventions as well, namely to preserve specific cultural landscape
76 characters or to provide information and infrastructure that enables and enhances humans'
77 aesthetic appreciation of landscapes (Hudson, 2001). It is known and well documented that people
78 are important in co-producing ecosystem services. ~~From this starting point, we argue the~~

79 [importance of studying how people perceive their own role in this production as well as how they](#)
80 [perceive the role of others.](#)

81
82 The starting point of humans' involvement with ecosystem services is the possibility of assuming
83 two different roles (Fig.1). On [the](#) one hand, stakeholders can be active in co-producing ecosystem
84 services (Rova and Pravoni, 2017; Loft et al., 2015, Opdam et al., 2015). For example, farmers
85 manage their soils to grow food and energy crops, landscape stewards develop green and blue
86 infrastructure for natural pest control and the regulation of extreme weather events, and regional
87 managers engage in the education of citizens and visitors in the context of nature-based recreation
88 (Andersson et al., 2019; Loos et al., 2019; Keestra et al., 2018; Weijerman et al., 2017). On the
89 other hand, stakeholders and citizens also benefit from the delivery of (often co-produced)
90 ecosystem services, such as enjoying local dishes, safeguarding against flood risks, or appreciating
91 beautiful landscapes (Dou et al., 2017; Kaltenborn et al., 2017).



92
93
94 Figure 1: Ecosystem services are produced through ecosystem contributions combined with anthropogenic
95 contributions. The former happens in the ecosystem through a diverse set of processes and functions, while the latter
96 happens in the social system through the action of different stakeholders which can include ecosystem services
97 management. Ecosystem services co-production is observed in provisioning services, regulating services, and cultural
98 services. The co-production processes have impacts on ~~the~~ ecosystems and benefits the social system. Thus, people
99 can assume a dual role in ecosystem services co-production - as active contributors to co-production, and as
100 beneficiaries from ecosystem services delivery.

101
102 A stakeholder's dual role is not only when they act as beneficiaries vs co-producers, as described
103 before, but it can also be observed [when taking a when we look closer look at](#) the co-provider role.

1104 ~~The co-provider role can be observed as as-~~ how people perceived themselves being co-providers
1105 of ecosystem services vs how others perceived them in that same role. Research on the dual role
1106 of stakeholders in ecosystem services co-production has only recently emerged. For instance,
1107 Bérbes-Blázquez et al., (2016) explored how power relations influence the delivery of ecosystem
1108 services ~~delivery~~; Palomo et al., (2016) assessed the effect of co-production on ecosystem services
1109 trade-offs, resilience, distributional equity, among other characteristics; Rival and Muradian
1110 (2013) observed the behavior of co-producers ~~behaviors~~ especially in transactional processes like
1111 payment for ecosystem services; Fortnam et al. (2019) debated the influence of cultural norms on
1112 gender relation in ecosystem services co-production; Ernstson (2013) discussed the role of social
1113 and political processes on environmental justice related to the delivery of ecosystem services; ~~and~~
1114 Opdam et al. (2015) argued the importance of ecosystem services in connecting actors in landscape
1115 planning, suggesting the significance of actor's contextual aspects and the need ~~for~~ further
1116 investigation on substantial coordination among co-producers; and Lopes and Videira
1117 ~~demonstrated in one study (2016) the perceived dependencies of stakeholder groups on different~~
1118 ecosystem services, while in another study (2017), they shed a light on the linkage between
1119 ecosystem services interdependencies and perceptions of stakeholders' involvement. However,
1120 in-depth investigations of how people themselves perceive their roles, or how their roles are
1121 perceived by others, have so far been largely missing. An exception is the work ~~of~~ Fisher and
1122 Eastwood (2016) who, in reflecting the relations between people and ecosystems, recognize the
1123 importance of identity (including perceptions of themselves) which would shape how people
1124 engage and understand ecosystem services. The studies and frameworks developed so far ~~make~~
1125 good progress in enlightening co-production of ecosystem services and the existence and
1126 importance of the people involved. Yet, those studies do not discuss people's own perspectives
1127 and relevance of this approach. New research is necessary in order to start understanding what
1128 such involvement entails and how it can be influential on the thematic of ecosystem services. ~~In~~
1129 ~~order to start understanding what such involvement entails and how it can be influential on~~
1130 ~~ecosystem services thematic, new research is necessary.~~ This article seeks to contribute to such an
1131 endeavor.

1132
1133 River landscapes arguably provide very suitable context conditions to study the dual role of
1134 stakeholders in ecosystem services co-production. River landscapes are hotspots for the delivery
1135 of ecosystem services ~~delivery~~, and at the same time are areas where diverse demands for the
1136 delivery of ecosystem services ~~delivery~~ exist. For example, the mitigation of flood risks and the
1137 provision of recreation opportunities (Tomscha et al., 2017). A case in point is the Lahn river
1138 landscape, situated in Germany, where several initiatives are currently underway to explore the
1139 provision of ecosystem services to people, to understand the human contributions, and to design
1140 comprehensive strategies for sustainable landscape development in the future (Albert et al., 2019;
1141 'LiLa Project' website).

1142

143 Therefore, the aim of this paper is to assess the self-perceived and attributed engagement and
144 importance of stakeholders in the co-production of ecosystem services in ~~the~~ case study of the
145 Lahn river landscape, Germany. More specifically, we investigate two main research questions:

- 146 • How do local stakeholders perceive their own engagement in the co-production of
147 ecosystem services in the case study area?
- 148 • What differences and ~~commonalities~~ similarities exist between self-perceived and
149 attributed importance in ecosystem services co-production?

150
151 Analyses of perceived and attributed importances of stakeholders' roles in ecosystem services co-
152 production, as well as of potential differences, may provide useful insights regarding relationships
153 in actor networks engaged in ecosystem services management. While information on perceived
154 importances reveals how actors see their own responsibilities, information on attributed
155 importances illustrates perceptions from others (Fischer and Eastwood, 2016; Gissi and
156 Garramone, 2018). Understanding the differences can help explain inadequate ecosystem services
157 management, where some actors are not aware of, or do not want to assume, the responsibility of
158 ecosystem services management that other actors attribute to them. Vice versa, some actors might
159 assign responsibilities to others who, in effect, do not have the capacities and intention to fulfill
160 this role (Opdam et al., 2015; Loft et al., 2015). Taking this information into account can help
161 planning, management, and governance of ecosystem services (Mann et al., 2015; Sattler et al.,
162 2018).

163 The paper is structured as follows. First, we describe the Lahn river landscape study case together
164 with the explanation of important components of the research: 'Stakeholders involved' and 'Local
165 ecosystem services' ~~before. Second, we~~ presenting the methodological approachs ~~for~~ data
166 collection, and analysis. After describing our results, we discuss these with respect to their
167 implications for co-production of ecosystem services and governance structures.

168 2. Methods

169 2.1. ~~Case study description: the Lahn river landscape case study~~

170 The case study site is the Lahn river landscape, whose river basin contains about 5.931 km² and is
171 situated in the German federal states of Hesse (4.756,6 km²), North Rhine-Westphalia (181,3 km²)
172 and Rhineland-Palatinate (992,7 km²) (RP Gießen 2005) (Fig. 2). The river originates near
173 Lahnkopf and flows around 240 km from the estuary into the Rhine near Lahnstein, one of the
174 most important rivers of Europe. There are around 1 million people living in the region,
175 notwithstanding the tourists who use the Lahn and its surroundings s for outdoor activities after
176 work, on weekends, or during holidays.

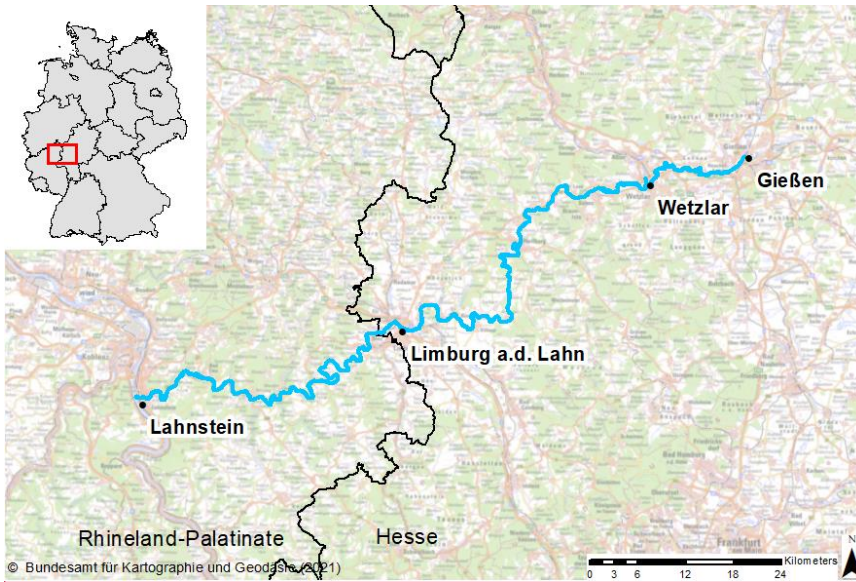
177
178
179 The river's ecological condition and the ecological potential are currently evaluated as "not
180 satisfying" or "bad" (Umweltbundesamt, 2017). In the course of the Lahn valley's urbanization
181 through e.g., the allotment of areas for settlement and agriculture, landward traffic infrastructure,
182 mining, waterpower, and shipping, the river's natural development was restricted through diverse
183 dams, watergates, and boat channels. Today, around 150km in the lower part of the river is ~~are~~ still

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184 a federal waterway. The historic use of the river as a transportation route for goods has been
185 abandoned, and today the river is ~~today~~ used only for recreational navigation. Recently, however,
186 the Administration of Federal Waterways declared the Lahn as secondary waterway (BMVI,
187 2016), thus emphasizing its inferiority as a federal transportation route. In addition, the federal
188 “Blue Ribbon” Program (Blaues Band Deutschland, 2017), initiated to further enhance the
189 ecological quality of all German rivers, openings a window of opportunity. A needs-based
190 adjustment of existing infrastructure opens up a new scope for natural developments and the
191 restoration of ecological patency. The potential ~~of a~~ the Lahn river is fathomed in a current Lahn
192 river development concept.

193
194
195 The study presented here is part of the PlanSmart research project to investigate novel approaches
196 to the planning and governance of nature-based solutions in river landscapes (Albert et al. 2019).
197 The research also relates to and cooperates with an ongoing integrated EU Life Project “Living
198 Lahn – one river, many interests” (known as the 'Lila Project') which aims “to enhance the
199 ecological health and connectivity of the river itself while simultaneously enriching the quality of
200 life along the river.” (<https://www.lila-livinglahn.de/en/the-project/project-goals/>) As part of the
201 LiLa project, a diverse group of stakeholders haves been consulted to develop concepts for
202 securing a good ecological state of the river Lahn, sustainably protect against flooding, and
203 facilitating nature-based tourism. Local stakeholders such as owners of local businesses, public
204 sector workers, and citizens in general were invited to take part in workshops to identify their
205 respective interests and to take them into account in the subsequent planning process. As a result
206 of these workshops the stakeholders built eight thematic working groups who then periodically
207 met to develop a paper on the key goals of their group. Eight groups of local stakeholders were
208 identified which shared common interests related to the same topics. Those eight stakeholder
209 groups were formed around the topics of 'Nature and Ecology', 'Recreational Motor Boating',
210 'Rowing and Canoeing', 'Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting', 'Water Management', 'Tourism and
211 Local Recreation', 'Municipal Development and Land Planning' and 'Recreational Angling'.
212 Stakeholders could freely decide which working group they wanted to participate in. In the herein
213 reported research, we apply the same stakeholder groups.

214



Commented [CJD1]: Colors should be used to highlight the river (in blue) and the square in the country map (red)

Figure 2: The case study, the Lahn river located in central-west Germany.

3. Methods

2.2. Methodological Approach: Social Network Analysis (SNA)

To answer our research questions we used a combination of Social Network Analysis (SNA) and descriptive statistics. SNA is an approach for analysing social relations and their structures based on graph theory (Scott, 1988; Prell 2012). We analyzed the networks of collaboration amongst the stakeholders. To determine the importance of actors in the networks we used the SNA measures of centrality and calculated the actors in-degree centrality and out-degree centrality. If an actor is more central in the network, he/she is/they are more important for the whole collaboration network as he/she is/they are cooperating more with other actor groups for certain ES. We did distinguished between in-degree and out-degree centrality. Degree centrality measures the number of immediate contacts an actor has in a network. In-degree centrality measures the number of ties received by an actor from others, while out-degree centrality measures the number of ties given by that actor to others (Prell, 2011). High degree centrality of a node in a network points to the importance that a node has respective to all other nodes in the network, since that node has a high number of connections in that network. Derived from that, in our interpretation, high in-degree and out-degree centrality also shows importance, but in opposite ways. Keeping Having in mind that our respondents were asked to give a self-reported perspective, a high in-degree centrality indicates how important stakeholders are perceived by others. — A stakeholder's in-degree value of equal

13 shows it was mentioned 13 times by other stakeholders when they were asked to identify with whom they were collaborating. If a stakeholder's in-degree value is low, it means it was mentioned by a small number of other stakeholders. Out-degree centrality informs instead on each stakeholder's self-perceived importance. — A stakeholder's out-degree value of equals five shows that that particular stakeholder reported collaborating with five other stakeholders. Based on this interpretation of in-degree and out-degree centralities, we consider in-degree centrality a representation of attributed importance (“How many different stakeholders identified me as connected with them?”), and out-degree centrality of self-perceived importance (“With how many stakeholders I identify myself connected?”).

2.3 ~~3.1~~ Data collection - online survey

For data collection, we chose a quantitative methodology based on a short online survey regarding the perspectives of local stakeholders in the Lahn region on ecosystem services co-production. ~~For data collection this research we chose a quantitative methodology based on a short online survey amongst local stakeholders in the Lahn region regarding their perspectives on ecosystem services co-production.~~ In July 2018, the online survey was sent to a total of ~~altogether~~ 98 representatives of ~~the above (Section 2.1) mentioned~~ eight stakeholder groups, as established by LiLa (Table 1). A total of 57 completed online questionnaires were returned (response rate of 55,87%).

Participants in the survey had the opportunity to mention new stakeholder groups in addition to the eight pre-determined groups, resulting in six extra ones. To establish the link of interest to ecosystem services, we added ~~These new groups as were seen as relevant to the~~ ~~theon the networks~~ collaboration of local ecosystem services co-production. These are: 'Private Business', 'Education', 'Other Government Agencies', 'Family and Friends', 'LiLa', and 'Local Clubs and Associations' (Table 1).

Table 1 - List of the fourteen stakeholder groups (~~eight~~ considered since the beginning of the study ~~plus six added by the interviewees~~). Included is a brief explanation of who they are and the number of people who took part in the survey.

Stakeholder group	Description	N° of respondents
<i>Nature and Ecology</i>	People and institutions (public, private or NGO) focused on nature conservation (ex: State-Society for Nature Protection and Ornithology and National Nature Protection Association)	8

<i>Recreational Motor Boating</i>	People and organizations which rely on motorboats for different economic activities (ex: shipping enterprises and motor shipping associations)	11
<i>Rowing and Canoeing</i>	People and organizations which rely on muscle-driven boats rentals for tourism and sports (ex: regional rowing association and local tourist association)	8
<i>Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting</i>	People and institutions focused on the management of agricultural and forest land and its biodiversity (ex: farmers and Regional Administration for Rural Development)	3
<i>Water Management</i>	People and the public institution responsible for local water management (ex: citizens and group on water and gardening <u>groups</u>)	5
<i>Tourism and Local Recreation</i>	People and institutions responsible for touristic and recreational activities (ex: city representatives and tourist information <u>groups</u>)	7
<i>Municipal Development and Land Planning</i>	Public institutions responsible for municipal development and land planning (ex: city and regional representatives)	4
<i>Recreational Angling</i>	Institutions and groups of people who have fishing as a leisure activity (ex: Sport Fishing Clubs and Fishing Administration)	7
<i>Private Business</i>	Private business of different activities, excluding directly related to tourism and boats (ex:	-

	ice cream sellers and winemakers)	
<i>Education</i>	People and institutions related to education formally or informally (ex: local schoolteachers and universities)	-
<i>Other Government Agencies</i>	Different governmental agencies, which were not listed before (ex: general public authorities)	-
<i>Family and Friends</i>	People related to the interviewees in personal context	-
<i>LiLa</i>	Decision makers from institutions of different levels and focuses joining the same European Life Project	-
<i>Local Clubs and Associations</i>	Local hobby clubs or interest associations (ex: sports, history, beekeepers, nature conservation and religion)	-

269

270

271 [32.23 Local ecosystem services](#)

272 [The selection of the ecosystem services included in the study was based on a list of ecosystem](#)
273 [services for German landscapes \(Podschn et al., 2018\), which in turn was inspired by the](#)
274 [practically relevant TEEB project \(2010\). In addition, consultation with local actors was applied](#)
275 [to adapt the list from Podschn et al. \(2018\) to the very specific context conditions of the Lahn](#)
276 [river landscape and to suit it to stakeholder understandings.](#) Through a short survey delivered to
277 partners from [the](#) LiLa project, the authors determined a preliminary set of priority ecosystem
278 services for the region. The set considered twelve ecosystem services evaluated as important by at
279 least one respondent: 'Food', 'Freshwater', 'Habitat for Species', 'Moderation of Flooding Events',
280 'Local Climate and Air Quality', 'Carbon Sequestration and Storage', 'Pollination', 'Historical and
281 Cultural Meaning', 'Aesthetic Appreciation', 'Recreation and Tourism', 'Hydropower Energy' and
282 'Aqatic Sports and Recreational Shipping'.

283

284 [The questionnaire was conducted in German with the use of simplified explanations instead of](#)
285 [specific scientific terms.](#)~~The questionnaire was conducted in German and and there was careful~~
286 [attention to not bring specific scientific terms, but instead, simplified explanations.](#) It contained 34

287 questions distributed ~~over~~ four main categories: a) Socio-demographic; b) Co-production of
288 ecosystem services; c) Collaboration with other stakeholders for the co-production of ecosystem
289 services; d) Influence on ecosystem services management (for the whole questionnaire see
290 supplementary material).- The number of questions posed to each participant depended on the
291 answers provided to some core questions. Respondents were asked to report if they felt they were
292 taking part in any activity related to ecosystem services, i.e., if they considered themselves as being
293 co-producers of each ecosystem service presented and if they collaborated with other stakeholders
294 to promote that co-production.

295
296 Regarding the questions about collaboration for ecosystem services co-production, the respondents
297 were able to identify stakeholders they collaborated with. It was also possible to actively include
298 stakeholders that were not listed in the survey.

299
300 Data collection took place during May - June 2018. An invitation was sent via e-mail to all
301 potential respondents. The survey was open for almost four weeks and, in the meantime, a reminder
302 e-mail was sent. Data collection took place during May ... Month/Year... It was open for two weeks.
303 An invitation was send per email. After ... time a reminder email was sent.

304 305 2.4 32-34 Data analysis

306 For the analysis of the stakeholders' positions in the networks, SNA measures were calculated
307 using the software for social network analysis UCINET 6 (Borgatti et al., 2002). We chose to use
308 non-reciprocated collaboration ties, i.e., a an indication of collaboration indicated from only one
309 side would be understood as a potential reciprocated tie. We also decided to use unweighted links,
310 in order to avoid underestimating potential existing links that were not mentioned by a group with
311 a reduced number of respondents.

312
313 32.34.1 Network definition—~~T~~he networks for the co-production of ecosystem services were
314 defined based on responses about the collaborative relationships each respondent perceived being
315 a part of. Each respondent was asked to identify him/herself as being part of one stakeholder group.
316 Consequently, the group answers represent the merged responses provided by the respondents
317 included in that specific group. We therefore constructed networks representing patterns of
318 collaboration for the co-production of each ecosystem service. Each node represents one
319 stakeholder group and the links represent whether collaboration between the groups exists. In total,
320 ~~twelve~~12 networks were created, one for each ecosystem service. Every time one respondent
321 identified a link of collaboration with another actor, a link was added between the two stakeholder
322 groups to which the respondent and the partner respectively belonged.

323
324 32.34.2 Defining the stakeholders' positions—~~for the analysis of the stakeholders' positions in the~~
325 ~~networks, SNA measures were calculated using the software for social network analysis UCINET~~
326 ~~6 (Borgatti et al., 2002). We chose to use non-reciprocated collaboration ties, i.e. an indication of~~

327 collaboration from only one side would be understood as a potential reciprocated tie. We also
328 decided to use unweighted links, in order to avoid underestimating potential existing links that
329 were not mentioned by a group with a reduced number of respondents.

330
331 32.34.3 Indegree and outdegree centralities—we calculated the stakeholders' indegree and
332 outdegree centrality for the co-production networks to find out which stakeholders are more
333 important than others for the co-production of certain ecosystem service. Degree centrality
334 measures the number of immediate contacts an actor has in a network. Indegree centrality measures
335 the number of ties received by an actor from others, while outdegree centrality measures the
336 number of ties given by that actor to others (Prell, 2011).

337
338 High degree centrality of a node in a network points to the importance that a node has respective
339 to all other nodes in the network, since that node has a high number of connections in that network.
340 Derived from that, in our interpretation, high indegree and outdegree centrality also show
341 importance, but in opposite ways. Having in mind that our respondents were asked to give a self-
342 reported perspective, a high indegree centrality indicates how important stakeholders are perceived
343 by others—a stakeholder's indegree value equal 13 shows it was mentioned 13 times by other
344 stakeholders when they were asked to identify with whom they were collaborating. If a
345 stakeholder's indegree value is low, it means it was mentioned by a small number of other
346 stakeholders. Outdegree centrality informs instead on each stakeholder's self-perceived
347 importance—a stakeholder's outdegree equals five shows that that particular stakeholder reported
348 collaborating with five other stakeholders. Based on this interpretation of indegree and outdegree
349 centralities, we consider indegree centrality a representation of **attributed** importance (*"How*
350 *many different stakeholders identified me as connected with them?"*), and outdegree centrality of
351 **self-perceived** importance (*"With how many stakeholders I identify myself connected?"*)

352
353 For the 32.34.4 \checkmark Visual interpretation of the networks—network graphs were generated with the
354 help of the Flourish.studio website tools. Across all twelve analyzed networks, the colors used to
355 represent each stakeholder remained the same. Two sizes of nodes were used, with "big size"
356 nodes to represent highest centrality (in some networks there is more than one node with the
357 highest value), the "small size" to illustrate all the other ones.

358 359 34. Results

360 Participants in the survey had the opportunity to mention new stakeholder groups in addition to
361 the eight pre-determined groups, resulting in six extra ones. To establish the link of interest to
362 ecosystem services, we added these new groups as they were seen as relevant to the ~~the~~ ~~on the~~
363 networks' collaboration of local ecosystem services co-production. These are: 'Private Business',
364 'Education', 'Other Government Agencies', 'Family and Friends', 'LiLa', and 'Local Clubs and
365 Associations' (Table 2).
366

367
 368 [Table 2 - List of the six extra stakeholder groups added by the interviewees in their responses. Included is](#)
 369 [a brief explanation of who they are.](#)

Extra stakeholder group	Description
Private Business	Private businesses of different activities, excluding directly related to tourism and boats (ex: ice-cream sellers and winemakers)
Education	People and institutions related- to formal and informal education formally or informally (ex: local schoolteachers and universities)
Other Government Agencies	Different governmental agencies- which were not listed before (ex: general public authorities)
Family and Friends	People related to the interviewees in personal context
LiLa	Decision makers from institutions of different levels and focuses on joining the same European Life Project
Local Clubs and Associations	Local hobby clubs or interest associations (ex: sports, history, beekeepers, nature conservation, and religion)

370
 371 [3.1 Relative importance and centrality of stakeholders in ecosystem services co-production](#)

372 A diverse set of collaboration relations between stakeholders in the co-production of ecosystem
 373 services was identified, with differences between perceived and attributed perceptions ([Fig-Table](#)
 374 [32](#)). Comparison between each network of the same pair (i.e., for the same ecosystem service)
 375 shows consistency of stakeholders involved (same colors) and the distribution of the links among
 376 them (i.e., the network overview looks similar in the same pair).

377
 378 The size of the nodes is the biggest discrepancy in the pairs. It represents the centrality value,
 379 understood here as the importance of that stakeholder in the network. Big nodes have the highest
 380 centrality value, while the small ones have smaller values. There was not a single pair for which
 381 in both networks the biggest node was the same ~~one~~. This shows that self-perceived and attributed
 382 views strongly differ on which stakeholder is the most influential for the co-production of that
 383 ecosystem service. The 'Hydropower Energy' network is the only ecosystem service which shows
 384 the same stakeholder as the most important on both networks, but with an important difference
 385 between the two networks. While the stakeholder 'Municipal Development and Land Planning' is
 386 indeed the biggest node in both networks, it is the only one on the attributed perspective. In the
 387 network constructed on self-perceived perspectives, it shares its position with two other
 388 stakeholders ('Recreational Motor Boating' and 'Nature and Ecology'). Another important insight
 389 that we obtain from this analysis is ~~thus~~ that the exclusiveness of one node's importance is not
 390 always maintained on both perspectives. In almost half of the cases, it is shared by two or more

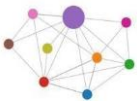

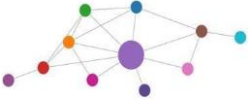
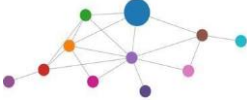












391 stakeholders. In most of the cases, it is shared on the attributed perspective, while it is exclusive
 392 on the self-perception one (with the exception in the 'Hydropower Energy' case).

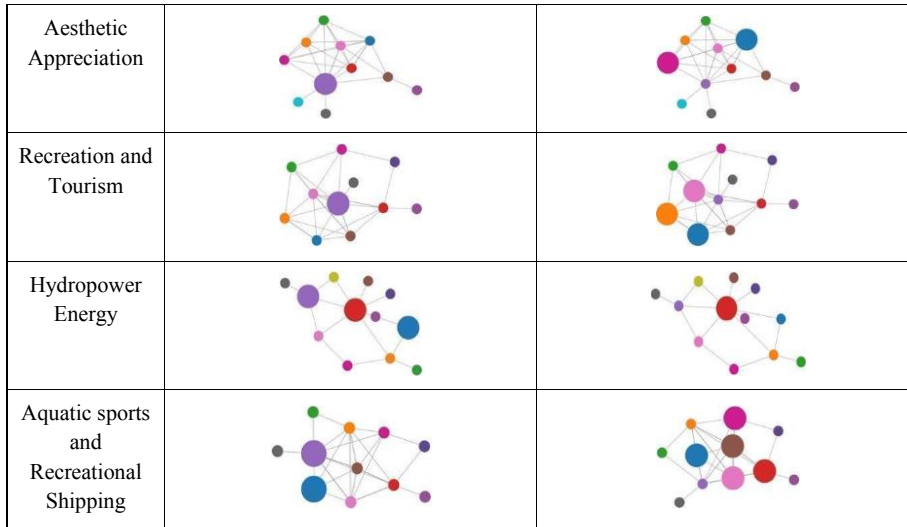
393

394

395

Table 3 - Networks of collaboration between stakeholders on the co-production of twelve ecosystem services.

Ecosystem Services	Self-Perceived	Attributed
Food		
Freshwater		
Habitat for Species		
Moderation of Flooding Events		
Local Climate and Air Quality		
Carbon Sequestration and Storage		
Pollination		
Historical and Cultural Meaning		



■ Nature and Ecology ■ Recreational Angling ■ Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting ■ Water Management ■ Recreational Motor Boating
■ Rowing and Canoeing ■ Tourism and Recreation ■ Municipal Development and Land Planning ■ Private Business ■ Education
■ Other Government Agencies ■ Family and Friends ■ Lila ■ Local Clubs and Associations

396
 397 ~~The Figure 2: Networks of collaboration between stakeholders on the co-production of~~ twelve ecosystem services ~~are:~~
 398 Food, Freshwater, Habitat for Species, Moderation of Flooding Events, Local Climate and Air Quality, Carbon
 399 Sequestration and Storage, Pollination, Historical and Cultural meaning, Aesthetic Appreciation, Recreation and
 400 Tourism, Hydropower Energy and Aquatic Sports and Recreational Shipping. Each stakeholder is represented by the
 401 same node color on the different networks. There are two sizes of nodes: big (represents the stakeholders with the
 402 highest centrality value), small (represents stakeholders with smaller centrality values). Sizes vary depending on
 403 centrality measures for each of the networks.

404

405

406 [3.2 Differences between perceived and attributed stakeholder roles](#)

407 The number of networks each stakeholder participates in, from self-perceived and attributed
 408 perspectives, is illustrated in figure 3. This figure shows another illustration on how different the
 409 two perspectives are for each stakeholder. In general, stakeholders' self-assessment of their
 410 participation seems to correspond to what others think of them. The biggest discrepancy is the case
 411 of 'Municipal Development and Land Planning', which perceives themselves as of relevance in
 412 only half the number of collaboration networks compared with what is attributed to it. 'Recreational
 413 Motor Boating' and 'Nature and Ecology' also showed substantial differences between both
 414 perspectives. For the ~~former~~ ~~first one~~, the self-perceived level is higher than the attributed level, for
 415 the latter the opposite is true.

416

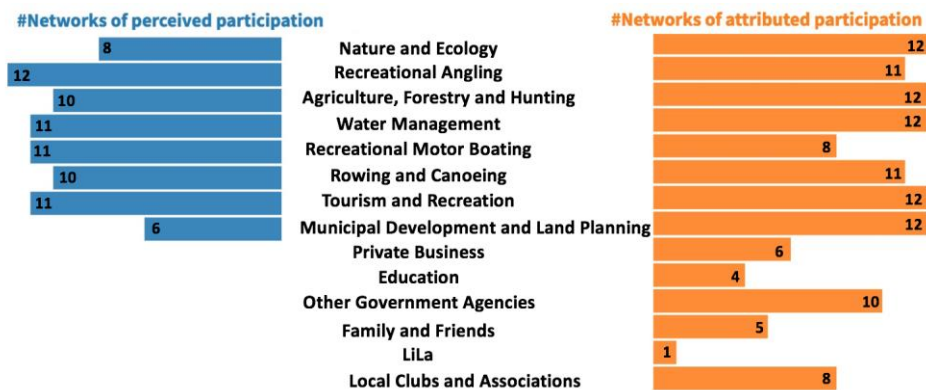
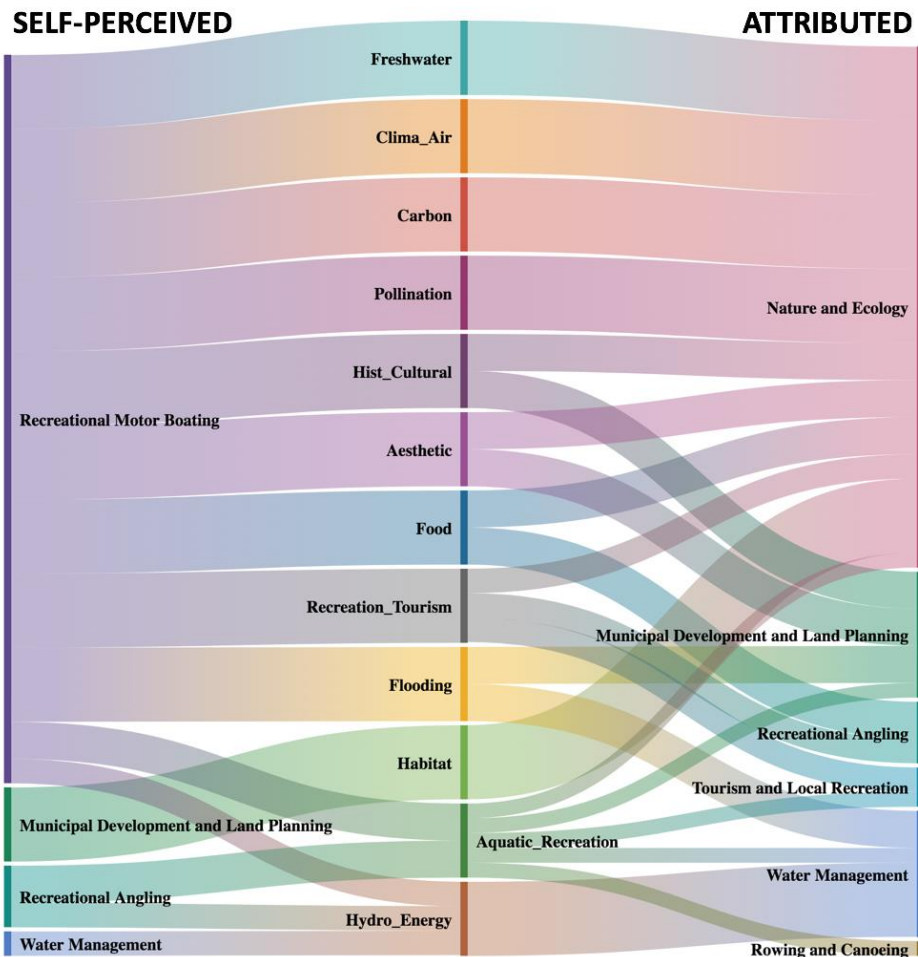


Figure 3: Number of collaboration networks for the ecosystem services co-production that each stakeholder perceives themselves participating in (*#Networks of perceived participation*) and the number of networks in which others consider them to participate in (*#Networks of attributed participation*).

The most important stakeholder for collaboration on each ecosystem service co-production can be observed in figure 4. In the middle, there is a list of the twelve ecosystem services. The left row shows which stakeholders perceived themselves as most important for the co-production of the ecosystem services linked to them. The right row illustrates stakeholders that were identified by others as most important for the ecosystem services as shown by the curved lines. A comparison shows that stakeholders' attributed significance in all the ecosystem services networks is more spread than self-perceived importance. For the twelve networks, four stakeholders perceived themselves as having the highest importance, in contrast to six stakeholders being attributed as the most important. Besides, in the attributed perspective, there is a greater distribution when analyzing the number of important stakeholders for each ecosystem service. Six ecosystem services present a shared central role among two or more stakeholders in the attributed perspective, in comparison with two in this situation of the self-perceived perspective.

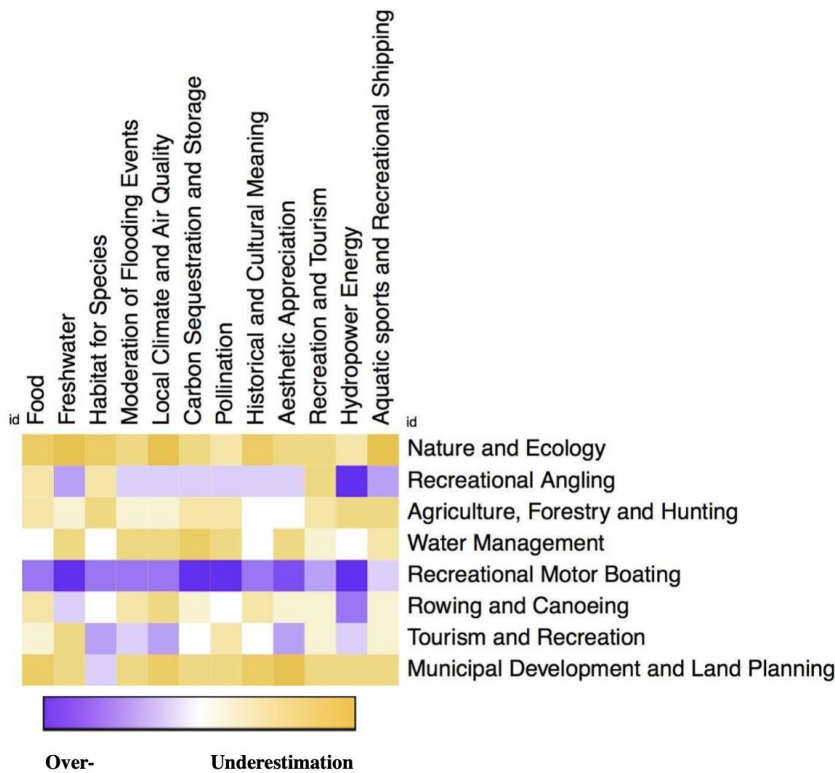
Comparing the self-perceived versus the attributed perspective, only three stakeholders appear on both sides ('Municipal Development and Land Planning', 'Recreational Angling' and 'Water Management'). 'Recreational Motor Boating' perceive themselves as the most important in eleven networks, but they do not appear in none of the attributed perspectives. The opposite situation occurs with 'Nature and Ecology': While they do not show a self-perception in any central role, it is attributed to them in ten of these roles. In the case of 'Rowing and Canoeing' and 'Tourism and Local Recreation', both only appeared in the attributed perspective.



443
 444 Figure 4: Illustration of differences in the self-perceived and attributed identification of the most important stakeholder
 445 (central role) in the co-production for each of the twelve selected ecosystem services. The left row shows which
 446 stakeholders perceived themselves as most important for the co-production of the one or more ecosystem services
 447 linked to the stakeholder. The right row illustrates stakeholders that were identified by others as most important for
 448 one or more ecosystem services as shown by the curved lines. In the middle, the ecosystem services are listed as
 449 follows: Freshwater, Local Climate and Air Quality (*Clima_Air*), Carbon Sequestration and Storage (*Carbon*),
 450 Pollination, Aesthetic Appreciation (*Aesthetic*), Moderation of Flooding Events (*Flooding*), Historical and Cultural
 451 meaning (*Hist_Cult*), Habitat for Species (*Habitat*), Food, Aquatic Sports and Recreational Shipping
 452 (*Aquatic_Recreation*), Recreation and Tourism (*Recreation_Tourism*), Hydropower Energy and Aquatic Sports
 453 (*Hydro_Energy*).

454
 455 [3.3 Stakeholders' net importance in ecosystem services co-production](#)

456 An analysis of the difference between the self-perceived and attributed perspectives regarding each
457 stakeholders' ~~net~~ importance on each collaboration network is presented in figure 5. According
458 to this figure, if the self-perceived perspective is higher than the attributed one, we understood the
459 stakeholder ~~to have has~~-an overestimation of her/his importance on that specific network. The
460 contrary is true. If the attributed perspective has a higher value than the self-perceived one, the
461 stakeholder is considered to have an underestimation of her/his role on that network. In general,
462 there is a tendency of underestimation among the stakeholders, meaning that stakeholders tend to
463 perceive ~~more~~ the importance of others more than of themselves. From 96 cells that could have
464 the same value for perceived and attributed importance (P=A), only ten fell in this category. This
465 means that only in ten cases ~~there was there~~ no under- or overestimation. ~~This it~~ means the
466 perception of the level of importance between the self-perceived and attributed perspectives was
467 the same. 'Water Management' is the stakeholder that shows a better balance between the two
468 perspectives. 'Nature and Ecology' and 'Municipal Development and Land Planning' are
469 stakeholders who ~~show~~ more frequently show a higher underestimation perspective. While, in
470 contrast, 'Recreational Motor Boating' and 'Recreational Angling' have a higher overestimation
471 perspectiveone.
472



473
 474
 475
 476 Figure 5: Cartesian heatmap representing the overestimation (dark purple) and underestimation (dark yellow) of each
 477 stakeholder's [net](#) importance on the collaboration networks for all the ecosystem services co-production. The
 478 estimations were calculated by the difference (P-A) between the perceived (P) and attributed (A) importance.
 479

480 **4.5. -Discussion and conclusion**

481 This paper provided insights regarding the engagement of relevant stakeholders in the co-
 482 production of local ecosystem services in the Lahn river landscape. More specifically, our paper
 483 sheds new light on commonalities and differences between self-perceived and attributed roles of
 484 stakeholders in ecosystem services co-production in the specific case study. To our knowledge,
 485 this paper presents the first assessment on the self vs attributed perspective in the ecosystem
 486 services context in general. It therefore constitutes an innovative approach to the co-production
 487 of the ecosystem services scholarship. We conclude [by with a reflection on key-highlighting key](#)
 488 implications for ecosystem services governance, [among others the need to including the issue of](#)
 489 [how to](#) address power imbalances and to foster collaborative engagement [for ensuring sustained](#)
 490 [and just ecosystem services delivery.](#)

491
492
493 Studies on self-perceived and attributed stakeholder roles in ecosystem services co-production
494 provides an important and hitherto rarely considered lens in this thematic. As stated by Fischer
495 and Eastwood (2016), people's identities, i.e., the way they perceive themselves, shape ecosystem
496 services co-production. There is a complex interaction between ecological and social factors that
497 results ~~in ecosystem on ecosystem~~ services creation, and ~~the~~ people's perceptions, alongside with
498 needs and values, is an important part of that (Gissi and Garramone, 2018). This study in particular
499 explores ~~perception of self in respective to others and vice-versa, for which we found social~~
500 ~~network analysis particularly useful. Indeed, social network analysis allows to reflect on~~ actors'
501 position in a particular configuration of social relations through social network analysis. The
502 usefulness of social network analysis for the study of ecosystem services has recently been
503 highlighted in diverse studies. For example, Lopes and Videira (2016) used it as part of a
504 collaborative process; Cárcamo et al. (2014) instead deployed the method to reflect on different
505 links between ES, uses, and biodiversity features. With this article we want to contribute to the
506 literature that brings social network analysis to the study of ecosystem services, by focusing on
507 actors' perception of self in respective to others and vice-versa.
508

509 Ecosystem services have tremendous potential to connect people, both conceptually and
510 practically, which in a landscape context can potentially promote collaborative actions towards
511 common goals or solutions towards adversity (Opdam et al., 2015). This affirmative dialogues
512 with our research, since an agreement between both perceptions of the collaborations established
513 (who is involved, the links established etc.) could show a tendency of group cohesion for
514 ecosystem service co-production. For instance, if others perceive you the way you perceive
515 yourself, it can mean your skills and commitment are perceived adequately by the group and
516 yourself and therefore can be openly discussed and negotiated, promoting alignment of
517 expectations. This might be the case of increasing chances to succeed collectively in the face of a
518 challenge. In general, the results show similarities similarity between self-perceived and attributed
519 positions in the networks of collaboration for the co-production of twelve different ecosystem
520 services. The networks structure, their size (how many nodes and links are presented), which nodes
521 are involved, and how the links are distributed are very similar when comparing the self and
522 attributed perspectives. There is no literature regarding ecosystem services which brings related
523 discussions.

524
525 An analysis related to the central role is how it is distributed on each network. In the self-perceived
526 perspective, ~~the~~ the central role is highly concentrated in one actor (by 'Recreational Motor Boating')
527 and poorly distributed¹ (by four stakeholders), while in the attributed perspective there is a better
528 distribution (by six stakeholders), but the concentration is still high (by 'Nature and Ecology). From

¹ High concentration and wide distribution is possible in this analysis since a network can have as many central roles as its number of nodes.

529 [these results, there is a tendency of concentrating the central role for each ecosystem service co-](#)
530 [production on one stakeholder group, although taking into consideration that this group is](#)
531 [composed of by different actors.](#)

532
533 Our results show a relevant difference between the attributed and self-perceived importance (in-
534 degree and out_degree values). In other words, how stakeholders perceive their own importance
535 on a network is not the same way how other stakeholders perceive it. Within each network,
536 differences exist between the stakeholders assuming central roles in ecosystem services co-
537 production with respect to the self-perceived and attributed perspectives. An overestimation of a
538 stakeholder's role is particularly prominent with respect to some groups, while others show an
539 underestimated attitude, and few perceive their roles relatively in line with others. These
540 differences could demonstrate a power imbalance or even a current conflict shown by the (un)
541 conscious mention of themselves and other stakeholders. Zoderer et al. (2019) considered the
542 discrepancy between stakeholders' perspectives in supply and demand bundles of ecosystem
543 services, which also lead to conclude the potential existence of conflicts and power imbalance.
544 The authors argued that such conflicts could be avoided if processes of ecosystem services and
545 landscape management would include stakeholders' perspectives from the outset and make these
546 mismatches visible to everyone involved. In addition to what was brought to the discussion by
547 Zoderer et al. (2019), we argue that studying both the self-perception and attributed perspectives
548 is necessary in order to have a clear understanding of who is involved and their importance in the
549 networks of ecosystem services co-production. [This information can in a first step help to explain](#)
550 [mis-management or too little stewardship of ecosystem services, resulting in sub-optimal provision](#)
551 [and potentially deficits. And In a second step, it can help to develop better governance models](#)
552 [that either provide relevant information, e.g., to inform stakeholders of what responsibilities they](#)
553 [have given their mandate or existing regulations, or to provide incentives for stakeholders who so](#)
554 [far do not assume full responsibility.](#)

555
556
557 [In addition, the differences in perception of participation and role in the networks for the co-](#)
558 [provision of certain ecosystem services, allow to discuss more openly diverging interests and value](#)
559 [systems and to negotiate trade-offs in the provision of these ecosystem services \(Loft et al., 2015;](#)
560 [Mann et al., 2015\). Finally, our study contributes in generating knowledge and providing](#)
561 [information about the linkages between ecosystem services and how they are provided, more](#)
562 [specifically, who is co-responsible for their provision. Finally, our stakeholder analysis for co-](#)
563 [production of ecosystem services is generating knowledge and providing information about the](#)
564 [linkages between different ecosystem services and their provision. n-which- According to Loft et](#)
565 [al. \(2015\) this understanding is is still a huge research gap as “precise and measurable information](#)
566 [on the status and quality of ecosystem services provision is often missing” \(Loft et al., 2015\).](#)

567

568 ~~Another analysis related to the central role is how it is distributed on each network. In the self-~~
569 ~~perceived perspective, it is highly concentrated (by 'Recreational Motor Boating') and poorly~~
570 ~~distributed² (by four stakeholders), while in the attributed perspective there is a better distribution~~
571 ~~(by six stakeholders), but the concentration is still high (by 'Nature and Ecology'). From these~~
572 ~~results, there is a tendency of concentrating the central role for each ecosystem service co-~~
573 ~~production on one stakeholder group, although taking into consideration that this group is~~
574 ~~composed by different actors.~~

575
576 Our analysis further addresses some challenges of governance for ecosystem services. It sets a
577 basis to designing governance structures and policy instruments in a more inclusive and adaptive
578 process (Loft et al., 2015). A first step for this is becoming aware of who are the actors involved
579 in co-production of ecosystem services. Using both self-perceived and attributed measures is
580 useful for this. Based on this, the design of governance structures can be changed, for instance
581 from top-down models to multi-stakeholder governance as adaptive management, co-
582 management, or community-based management (Mann et al., 2015). Particularly, stakeholders that
583 have not necessarily been included in participatory models when first designed, can be invited at
584 a later stage if they are found to have key roles in the co-production of ecosystem services. The
585 discussion about governance highlights the need for a better inclusion of the range of concerned
586 stakeholders for ecosystem service supply and demand. As concerned stakeholders, their ideas,
587 motives, and interest need to be better integrated, which means community-based, participatory or
588 multi-actor governance approaches are needed in order to get everyone informed about their
589 interests, values and motivations, interpretations of problems and solutions, and struggles over
590 needs and demands (Sattler et al., 2018). Addressing the challenge of “Balancing actors’ interests
591 and values” (Loft et al., 2015). In this sense, our methodology supports the gathering of this
592 knowledge. The dynamics of asking self-perception versus attributed perspective reveal the
593 stakeholders' view and interpretation of ecosystem service co-production and may also lead to
594 inclusion of new actors (addressed by the interviewees) into the respective co-production
595 networks.

596
597 ~~In addition, the differences in perception of participation and role in the networks for the co-~~
598 ~~provision of certain ecosystem services, allow to discuss more openly diverging interests and value~~
599 ~~systems and to negotiate trade-offs in the provision of these ecosystem services (Loft et al., 2015;~~
600 ~~Mann et al., 2015). Finally, our study contributes in generating knowledge and providing~~
601 ~~information about the linkages between ecosystem services and how they are provided, more~~
602 ~~specifically, who is co-responsible for their provision. Finally, our stakeholder analysis for co-~~
603 ~~production of ecosystem services is generating knowledge and providing information about the~~
604 ~~linkages between different ecosystem services and their provision which according to Loft et al.~~

² High concentration and wide distribution is possible in this analysis since a network can have as many central roles as its number of nodes.

605 [\(2015\) this understanding is](#) still a huge research gap as “precise and measurable information on
606 [the status and quality of ecosystem services provision is often missing”](#) (Loft et al., 2015).

607
608 Limitations of our study can be found in the method. Because of the shortness of this project and
609 the relatively large original sample size, we decided to apply the survey as an online survey. This
610 prevented us ~~from getting to get~~ some additional qualitative information and narratives on the
611 reasons why the different groups collaborate in the provision of a certain ecosystem service and
612 ~~on~~ examples of how these collaborations unfold. [The results are further limited to the identified](#)
613 [interest groups which at this point participated in the development of the river management](#)
614 [concept.](#)

615
616 [Additionally, our study exclusively focuses on actors’ perceptions and therefore does not get into](#)
617 [the interdependencies between ES, while we acknowledge that these exist \(Lopes and Videira,](#)
618 [2017\). An interesting avenue for future research would be to investigate whether actors’](#)
619 [perceptions of involvement also reveal existing ES interdependencies. Up to now, no information](#)
620 [on the status and trends of ecosystem services provision and demand has been published for the](#)
621 [Lahn river. However, the generally poor ecosystem quality of the Lahn river according to the EU](#)
622 [water framework directive suggests that the transformation of the river and its floodplain may have](#)
623 [resulted in positive impacts for some ecosystem services \(such as agriculture in the former](#)
624 [floodplain area\) but also negative impacts on several other, primarily regulation ecosystem](#)
625 [services \(such as water retention, nitrogen retention, carbon storage\). A promising field for future](#)
626 [research is also to explore relations between perceived and attributed importance on the one hand,](#)
627 [and the actual management of ecosystem services, or their conservation status, on the other hand.](#)

628 629 **56. Acknowledgments**

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829
830 **A. Appendices**
831 [A.1 Survey](#)
832 [Survey: relationships of stakeholders to the Lahn river landscape](#)
833 [What relationship do stakeholders have to the Lahn landscape?](#)
834 [Welcome page and information about the project](#)
835 [The Lahn river landscape is used by many stakeholders in different ways and thus also contributes](#)
836 [to personal well-being. We would like to investigate exactly what benefits the river landscape](#)
837 [provides and how these benefits are evaluated by different stakeholders. We are interested in the](#)
838 [following questions:](#)

839 [. How do the stakeholders use the river landscape?](#)

840 [. How do the stakeholders evaluate certain services provided by the river landscape?](#)

841 [. To what extent do the stakeholders actively participate in the management of the river](#)
842 [landscape?](#)

843 [We would like to invite you to participate in a short survey that highlights the above questions.](#)
844 [We look forward to your interest and participation.](#)

845 [The survey is divided into three sections: benefits and relationships between people and landscape,](#)
846 [personal information and further comments. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. We](#)
847 [would like to ask you to answer each question. The survey consists of several pages. Each page](#)
848 [allows you to review the answers you gave on the previous page. Your answers will be saved](#)
849 [automatically. They will be treated anonymously and confidentially.](#)

850 [The survey is part of the PlanSmart research project funded by the Ministry of Education and](#)
851 [Research \(BMBF\). PlanSmart works closely with the integrated EU-LIFE project "Living Lahn",](#)
852 [which is developing a sustainable Lahn concept for the river. The results of the survey will be](#)
853 [made available to the Living Lahn project as supporting information. Junior Professor Dr.](#)
854 [Christian Albert and Dr. Barbara Schröter are responsible for the PlanSmart project. For more](#)
855 [information on PlanSmart, please visit \[www.plansmart.info\]\(http://www.plansmart.info\). For more information on the survey,](#)
856 [please contact Ms. Camila Jericó-Daminello \(\[daminello@umwelt.uni-hannover.de\]\(mailto:daminello@umwelt.uni-hannover.de\)\).](#)

857 [Thank you in advance for your interest! Your help is of great importance to us.](#)

858 [We will raffle three REWE vouchers worth €30 among all participants!](#)

859 [With kind regards.](#)

860 [Camila Jericó-Daminello, Barbara Schröter and Christian Albert](#)

861

862 [What importance does the Lahn river landscape have for the stakeholders?](#)

863 [1. Please think of the Lahn river landscape. Which landscape features are typical for you](#)
864 [when you think of the Lahn and its surroundings?](#)

865 [\(Please mark the three most important landscape elements\)](#)

Landscape features	
Farmland	
Urban green spaces	
Pastureland	
Industry and commerce	
Forest	
Settlement area	
Riparian vegetation (e.g., shrubs, etc.)	
Transport infrastructure	
Lakes and ponds	
Rivers and streams	

866

867 [2. In principle, river landscapes can provide many services that we humans benefit from or](#)
868 [value. From which of the following services of the Lahn do you personally profit from?](#)

869 [\(Please select one answer for each service!\)](#)

Services	Ye s	No
Provision of food		

Provision of fresh water		
Habitats for animal and plant species		
Moderation of flooding events		
Regulation of the local climate and air quality		
Reduction of (climate-damaging) greenhouse gases		
Pollination of plants by insects and other animals		
Presence of sites of historical or cultural meaning		
Presence of an attractive landscape		
Presence of opportunities for recreation and tourism		
Enabling energy from hydropower		
Enabling aquatic sports and recreational shipping		

870

871 [3. So that the Lahn river landscape can provide many services, an appropriate land use and](#)
872 [an adapted management of the landscape are partly necessary. Are you personally committed to](#)
873 [ensuring the maintenance of these services? If yes, for which services?](#)

874 [\(Please select one answer for each service!\)](#)

Services	Ye s	No
Provision of food		
Provision of fresh water		

Habitats for animal and plant species		
Moderation of flooding events		
Regulation of the local climate and air quality		
Reduction of (climate-damaging) greenhouse gases		
Pollination of plants by insects and other animals		
Presence of sites of historical or cultural meaning		
Presence of an attractive landscape		
Presence of opportunities for recreation and tourism		
Enabling hydropower energy		
Enabling aquatic sports and recreational shipping		

875

876 [4. You have indicated that you are personally committed to ensuring that certain services of](#)
877 [the Lahn River Landscape are maintained. Do you cooperate with other stakeholders? If yes, with](#)
878 [which groups of stakeholders do you cooperate in this regard \(the categories refer to the](#)
879 [stakeholders identified by the project "Living Lahn"\).](#)

880 [\(Please select one answer for each service! You do not have to answer for your own group\).](#)

881 [a\) With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with for the provision of food?](#)

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	

Water Management	
Recreational Motor Boating	
Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	
Municipal Development and Land Planning	
None of the above	

882

883 [b\) With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with for the provision of fresh water?](#)

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	
Water Management	
Recreational Motor Boating	
Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	
Municipal Development and Land Planning	

None of the above	
-----------------------------------	--

884

885 [c\) With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with to provide habitats for animals and](#)
886 [plant species?](#)

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	
Water Management	
Recreational Motor Boating	
Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	
Municipal Development and Land Planning	
None of the above	

887

888 [d\) With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with for moderation of flooding events?](#)

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	

Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	
Water Management	
Recreational Motor Boating	
Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	
Municipal Development and Land Planning	
None of the above	

889

890 e) [With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with to regulate the local climate and](#)
891 [air quality?](#)

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	
Water Management	
Recreational Motor Boating	
Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	

Municipal Development and Land Planning	
None of the above	

892

893 [f\) With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with to reduce \(climate-damaging\)](#)
894 [greenhouse gases?](#)

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	
Water Management	
Recreational Motor Boating	
Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	
Municipal Development and Land Planning	
None of the above	

895

896 [g\) With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with for the pollination of plants by](#)
897 [insects and other animals?](#)

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	
Water Management	
Recreational Motor Boating	
Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	
Municipal Development and Land Planning	
None of the above	

898

899 h) [With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with for the presence of sites of](#)
900 [historical or cultural meaning?](#)

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	
Water Management	
Recreational Motor Boating	

Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	
Municipal Development and Land Planning	
None of the above	

901

902 i) [With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with for the presence of an attractive](#)
903 [landscape?](#)

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	
Water Management	
Recreational Motor Boating	
Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	
Municipal Development and Land Planning	
None of the above	

904

905 j) With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with for the presence of opportunities
906 for recreation and tourism?

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	
Water Management	
Recreational Motor Boating	
Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	
Municipal Development and Land Planning	
None of the above	

907
908 k) With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with for enabling hydropower energy?

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	
Water Management	

Recreational Motor Boating	
Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	
Municipal Development and Land Planning	
None of the above	

909

910

911

1) [With which stakeholder groups do you cooperate with for the enabling of aquatic sports and recreational shipping?](#)

Nature and Ecology	
Recreational Angling	
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	
Water Management	
Recreational Motor Boating	
Rowing and Canoeing	
Tourism and Local Recreation	
Municipal Development and Land Planning	
None of the above	

912

913 5. How much influence do you think you have on all decisions concerning the following
914 services?

915 (Please select one answer for each service!)

916 Please rate the degree of influence on a scale from 0 to 5, where:

917 0 = no influence at all

918 1 = very little influence

919 2 = little influence

920 3 = moderate influence

921 4 = large influence

922 5 = very large influence

923

<u>Services</u>	<u>Degree of influence</u>
<u>Provision of food</u>	
<u>Provision of fresh water</u>	
<u>Habitats for animal and plant species</u>	
<u>Moderation of flooding events</u>	
<u>Regulation of the local climate and air quality</u>	
<u>Reduction of (climate-damaging) greenhouse gases</u>	
<u>Pollination of plants by insects and other animals</u>	

Presence of sites of historical or cultural meaning	
Presence of an attractive landscape	
Presence of opportunities for recreation and tourism	
Enabling hydropower energy	
Enabling aquatic sports and recreational boating	

924

925

926

[Personal Information](#)

927

928 [1. How old are you?](#)

929 [\(Please choose one of the possible answers!\)](#)

930 [a\) 18 - 40 years](#)

931 [b\) 41 - 65 years](#)

932 [c\) over 65 years](#)

933

934 [2. Which gender do you identify as?](#)

935 [\(Please choose one of the possible answers!\)](#)

936 [a\) Female](#)

937 [b\) Male](#)

938 [c\) Other](#)

939

940 [3. What is your highest educational qualification?](#)

941 [\(Please choose one of the possible answers!\)](#)

942 [a\) No secondary school qualification](#)

943 [b\) Secondary/elementary school diploma](#)

944 [c\) Realschule or equivalent qualification](#)

945 [d\) Advanced technical college entrance qualification](#)

946 [e\) General/subject-specific higher education entrance qualification \(Abitur\)](#)

947 [f\) Apprenticeship](#)

948 [g\) Bachelor](#)

949 [h\) Master](#)

950 [i\) Doctoral](#)

951

952 [4. In which field do you work professionally?](#)

953 [\(Please choose one of the possible answers!\)](#)

954 [a\) Public administration \(municipalities, public authorities, administrative bodies etc.\)](#)

955 [b\) Private sector \(agriculture, industry, etc.\)](#)

956 [c\) Civic sector \(non-governmental organisations etc.\)](#)

957 [d\) I am already retired](#)

958 [e\) In another sector](#)

959

960 [5. What is your postcode?](#)

961 _____

962 [6. In which working group did you participate in the interest survey for the development of the](#)

963 [Lahn concept?](#)

964 [\(Please choose one of the possible answers\)](#)

965 [a\) Nature and Ecology](#)

966 [b\) Recreational Angling](#)

967 [c\) Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting](#)

968 [d\) Water Management](#)

969 [e\) Recreational Motor Boating](#)

970 [f\) Rowing and Canoeing](#)

971 [g\) Tourism and Local Recreation](#)

972 [h\) Municipal Development and Land Planning](#)

973

974 [Further comments](#)

975 [7. Do you have any other comments on this survey?](#)

976 _____

977

978 [If you would like to take part in the competition for a €30 voucher from REWE, please send an e-](#)
979 [mail with the subject "PlanSmart competition" to the following address: \[hannover.de\]\(mailto:daminello@umwelt.uni-
980 <a href=\)](#)

981 _____

982 [Final page](#)

983 [Thank you very much!](#)

984 [Thank you very much for participating in our survey. If you have any further questions, please](#)
985 [contact Ms. Camila Jericó-Daminello \(\[daminello@umwelt.uni-hannover.de\]\(mailto:daminello@umwelt.uni-hannover.de\)\).](#)

986

987

988 [A.2 In-degree and out-degree values](#)

989 A.24.1 Food

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
Nature and Ecology	0.308	0.154
Recreational Angling	0.308	0.308
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.231	0.154
Water Management	0.231	0.462
Recreational Motor Boating	0.077	0.615
Rowing and Canoeing	0.231	0
Tourism and Recreation	0.154	0
Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.231	0
Private Business	0.154	0
Education	0	0
Other Government Agencies	0	0
Family and Friends	0	0
LiLa	0	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0	0

990
991 A.24.2 Freshwater

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
Nature and Ecology	0.308	0
Recreational Angling	0.077	0.308
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.154	0.154
Water Management	0.231	0.077
Recreational Motor Boating		0.615
Rowing and Canoeing	0.077	0.231
Tourism and Recreation	0.154	0

Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.154	0
Private Business	0	0
Education	0.077	0
Other Government Agencies	0.077	0
Family and Friends	0	0
LiLa	0	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0.077	0

992
993

A.21.3 Habitat for Species

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
Nature and Ecology	0.538	0.231
Recreational Angling	0.462	0.308
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.385	0.077
Water Management	0.385	0.385
Recreational Motor Boating	0.154	0.538
Rowing and Canoeing	0.231	0.308
Tourism and Recreation	0.231	0.538
Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.462	0.692
Private Business	0	0
Education	0	0
Other Government Agencies	0.154	0
Family and Friends	0	0
LiLa	0	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0.077	0

994
995

A.21.4 Moderation of Flooding Events

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
---------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------

Nature and Ecology	0.308	0.077
Recreational Angling	0.077	0.308
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.154	0.231
Water Management	0.385	0.231
Recreational Motor Boating	0.077	0.615
Rowing and Canoeing	0.154	0.077
Tourism and Recreation	0.154	0.385
Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.385	0.231
Private Business	0.154	0
Education	0	0
Other Government Agencies	0.154	0
Family and Friends	0	0
LiLa	0	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0.154	0

996
997

A.24.5 Local Climate and Air Quality

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
Nature and Ecology	0.308	0
Recreational Angling	0.077	0.308
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.154	0.154
Water Management	0.231	0.077
Recreational Motor Boating	0.077	0.615
Rowing and Canoeing	0.154	0
Tourism and Recreation	0.077	0.385
Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.231	0

Private Business	0.077	0
Education	0	0
Other Government Agencies	0.077	0
Family and Friends	0	0
LiLa	0.077	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0	0

998
999

A.24.6 Carbon Sequestration and Storage

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
Nature and Ecology	0.385	0.154
Recreational Angling	0.154	0.308
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.154	0.077
Water Management	0.231	0
Recreational Motor Boating	0	0.615
Rowing and Canoeing	0.154	0.154
Tourism and Recreation	0.154	0.308
Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.231	0.077
Private Business	0.077	0
Education	0.077	0
Other Government Agencies	0	0
Family and Friends	0	0
LiLa	0	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0	0

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A.24.7 Pollination

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
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Nature and Ecology	0.462	0.231
Recreational Angling	0.154	0.308
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.154	0.077
Water Management	0.231	0.077
Recreational Motor Boating	0	0.615
Rowing and Canoeing	0.077	0.154
Tourism and Recreation	0.154	0.077
Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.154	0
Private Business	0	0
Education	0	0
Other Government Agencies	0.077	0
Family and Friends	0	0
LiLa	0	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0.077	0

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A.24.8 Historical and Cultural Meaning

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
Nature and Ecology	0.308	0.077
Recreational Angling	0.077	0.231
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.077	0.154
Water Management	0.077	0.154
Recreational Motor Boating	0.077	0.462
Rowing and Canoeing	0.154	0.077
Tourism and Recreation	0.231	0.385
Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.308	0.077

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Private Business	0.154	0
Education	0	0
Other Government Agencies	0.077	0
Family and Friends	0	0
LiLa	0	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0.077	0

A.2.9 Aesthetic Appreciation

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
Nature and Ecology	0.462	0.231
Recreational Angling	0.154	0.308
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.231	0.308
Water Management	0.385	0.154
Recreational Motor Boating	0.077	0.692
Rowing and Canoeing	0.154	0.154
Tourism and Recreation	0.154	0.462
Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.462	0
Private Business	0	0
Education	0.077	0
Other Government Agencies	0.077	0
Family and Friends	0.077	0
LiLa	0	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0	0

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1p08

A.2.10 Recreation and Tourism

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
Nature and Ecology	0.308	0.154

Recreational Angling	0.308	0.154
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.231	0.154
Water Management	0.231	0.308
Recreational Motor Boating	0.154	0.615
Rowing and Canoeing	0.231	0.308
Tourism and Recreation	0.308	0.538
Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.231	0.077
Private Business	0	0
Education	0	0
Other Government Agencies	0.077	0
Family and Friends	0.077	0
LiLa	0	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0.154	0

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1p10

A.24.11 Hydropower Energy

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
Nature and Ecology	0.154	0
Recreational Angling	0	0.308
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.077	0
Water Management	0.308	0.308
Recreational Motor Boating	0	0.308
Rowing and Canoeing	0	0.077
Tourism and Recreation	0.077	0.154
Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.154	0
Private Business	0.154	0

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Education	0	0
Other Government Agencies	0.077	0
Family and Friends	0.077	0
LiLa	0	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0.077	0

A.2.12 Aquatic Sports and Recreational Shipping

Stakeholder groups	Indegree value	Outdegree value
Nature and Ecology	0.308	0
Recreational Angling	0.154	0.538
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	0.154	0
Water Management	0.308	0.308
Recreational Motor Boating	0.231	0.538
Rowing and Canoeing	0.308	0.462
Tourism and Recreation	0.308	0.462
Municipal Development and Land Planning	0.308	0.077
Private Business	0	0
Education	0	0
Other Government Agencies	0.077	0
Family and Friends	0.077	0
LiLa	0	0
Local Clubs and Associations	0.154	0

1013