



Value of biodiversity

Theo Thewys, dr.

Research group environmental economics

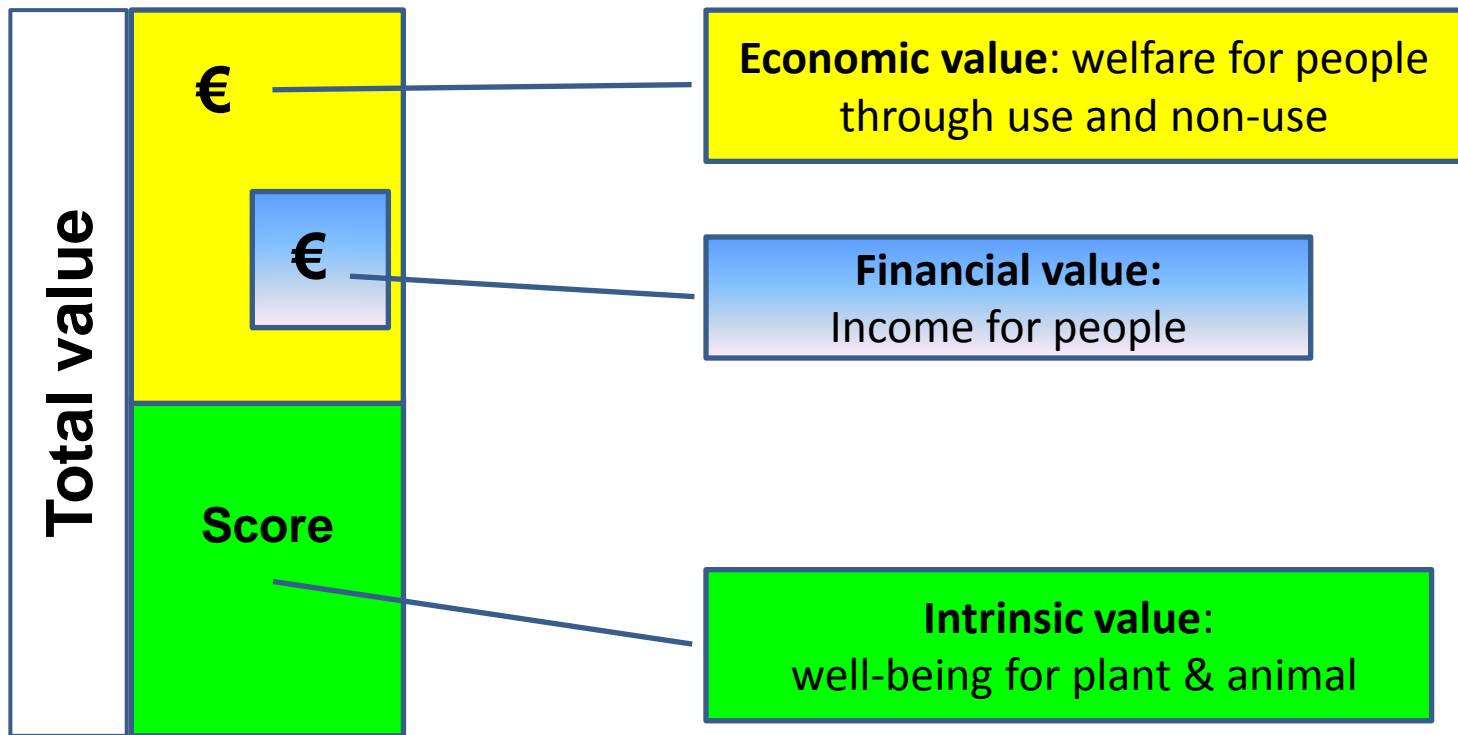
Center for Environment & Faculty Applied economics



Overview

- Value of biodiversity
 - Species as *structural components of the* ecological system
 - Ecosystem services contributing to human welfare
- 'National Park 'Hoge Kempen''
 - Costs: investments and management
 - Benefits: = contribution to environmental quality
 - CO₂ capture
 - Water purification
 - Air 'filtering' (capture of particle matter)
 - Benefits les Costs : Net Present Value (30 years)
 - Sensitivity of NPV
- Conclusion

Three values of an ecosystem



Methods to monetize

Use value

Direct

Food / Wood / Biomass
Recreation

Market prices

Revealed preferences
(hedonistic price method;
travel cost method)

Expressed preferences
(contingent valuation.)

Indirect

Water purification
CO2 capture
Particle matter capture

Replacement cost
Avoided costs
'External' costs

Non use value.

Legacy
Option value

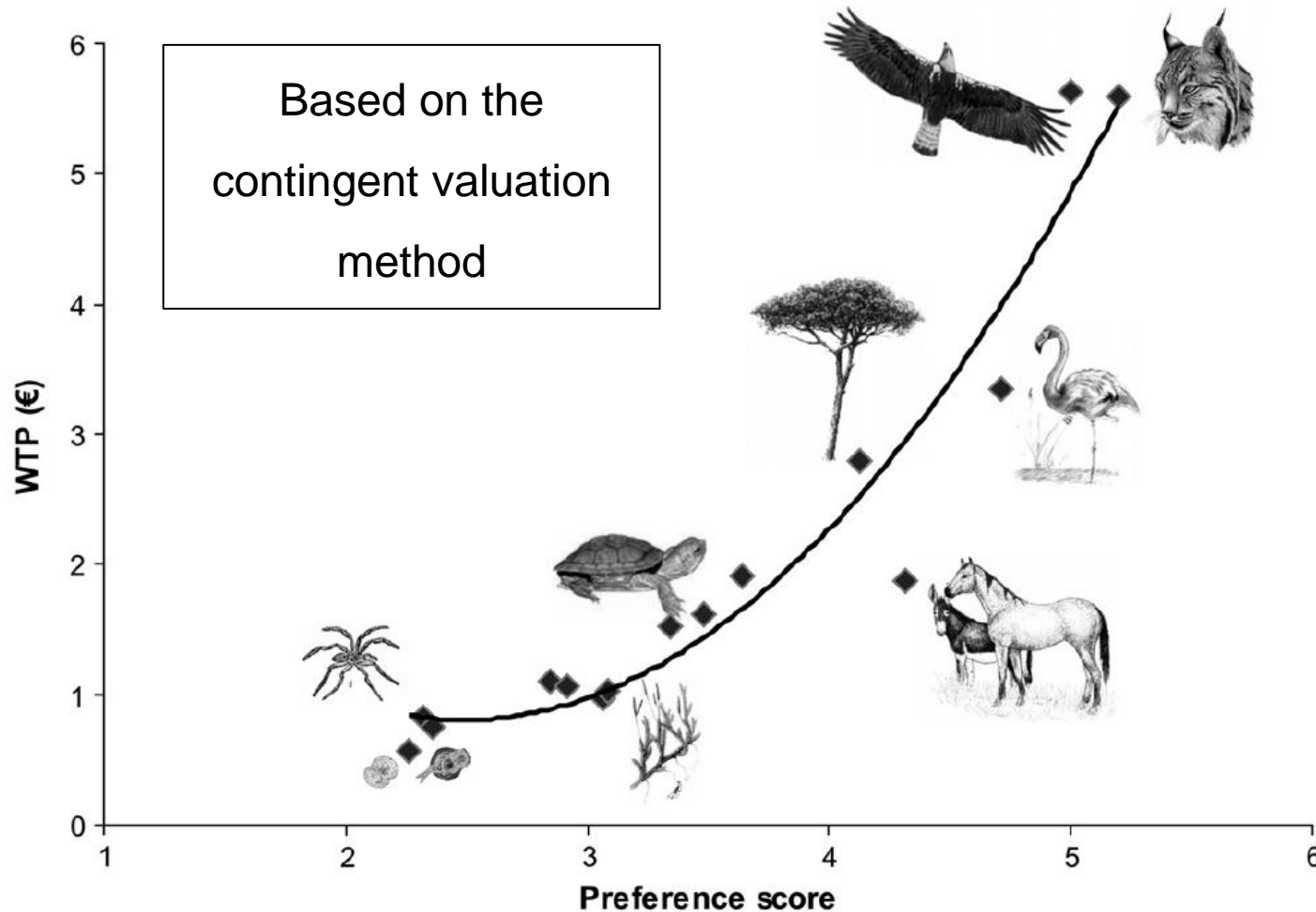
Contingent valuation



One (defined) species: individual valuation

- Recreation and Existence value, contingent valuation method (CVM):
 - Significant willingness to pay (WTP) for popular animals or plants (ex: protection of the grizzly bear: 15–24 \$)
 - Low WTP for 'obscure' species.

Relation between the attitude w.r.t. species (preference score) and the Willingness to Pay (WTP) for the conservation



Bron: B-M. Lopez, 2007, *The non economic motives behind the willingness to pay for biodiversity conservation*, Biological Conservation.



Species as *structural components* of the ecological system

- Single species are an *input for the production of ecological functions* of ecosystems.
- The economic relevance of these structural components finally only can be deduced from the **economic value** of the ecological **functions**,
- which again is a consequence of the fact that they are inputs for *the de services used by mankind* of the ecosystems.

“Willingness to pay” for biodiversity and habitat services

Topic	WTP / person/year (€, 2006)	Countries
Protection endangered species	121	UK, N, D
Landscape	58	UK, NL, A, S
Marshes	35	UK, A
Preservation biodiversity	29	UK, N, D
Watercourses	27	UK, N
Forests	19	UK, NL, S, N
National parks & natural reserves	9	UK, H

Nijkamp a.o., 2008, Economic evaluation

comparative study

Uncertainty !



'National Park Hoge Kempen'

Costs: investments and management



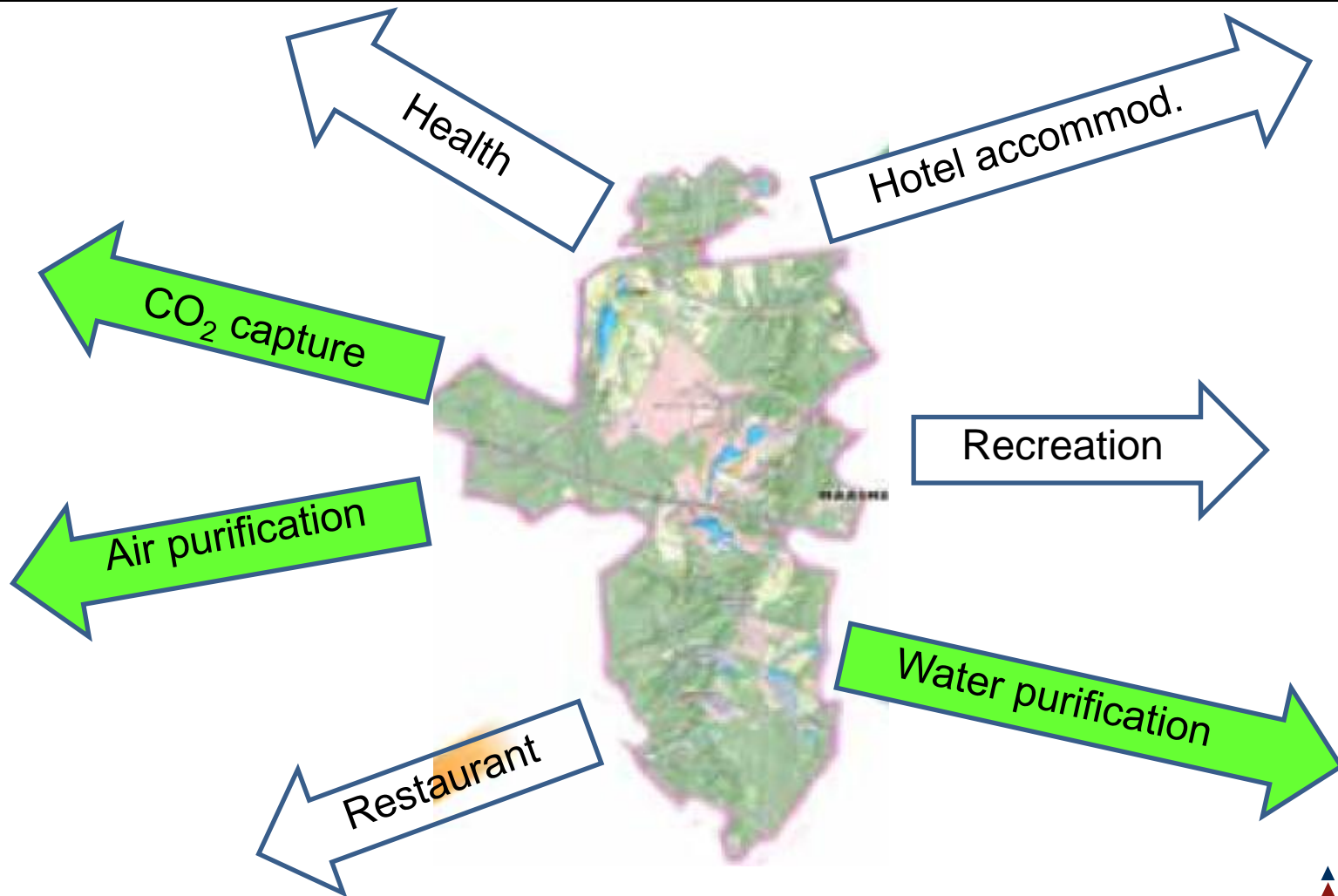
Period 2001-2011	(1.000 EUR)
Acquisition forest- and nature reserve	500
Acquisition enclaves	4.500
De-fragmentation	5.700
Route structures	4.200
Total investments	14.900
Maintenance	1.200
Management and arrangement	3.600
Total management costs	4.800

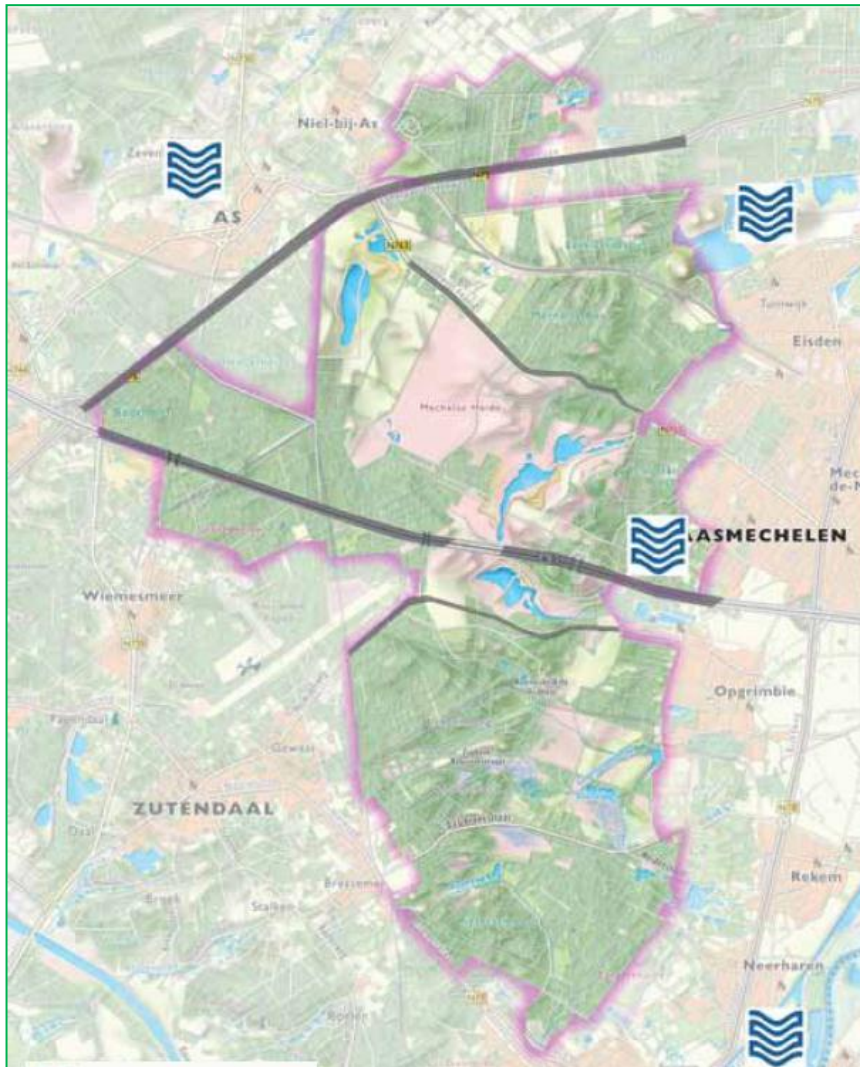
Source: 'Financiering- en beheerkosten van uitvoering Masterplan Nationaal Park Hoge Kempen', (RLKM, 2001)

Ecosystem services contributing to human welfare

- Productive
- Regulating
 - CO₂ capture
 - Water purification
 - Air 'filtering' (capture of particle matter)
- Information
- Supporting
- Recuperation

Benefits of the 'National Park Hoge Kempen'





Drinking water collection



Source of particle matter



Drinking water purification

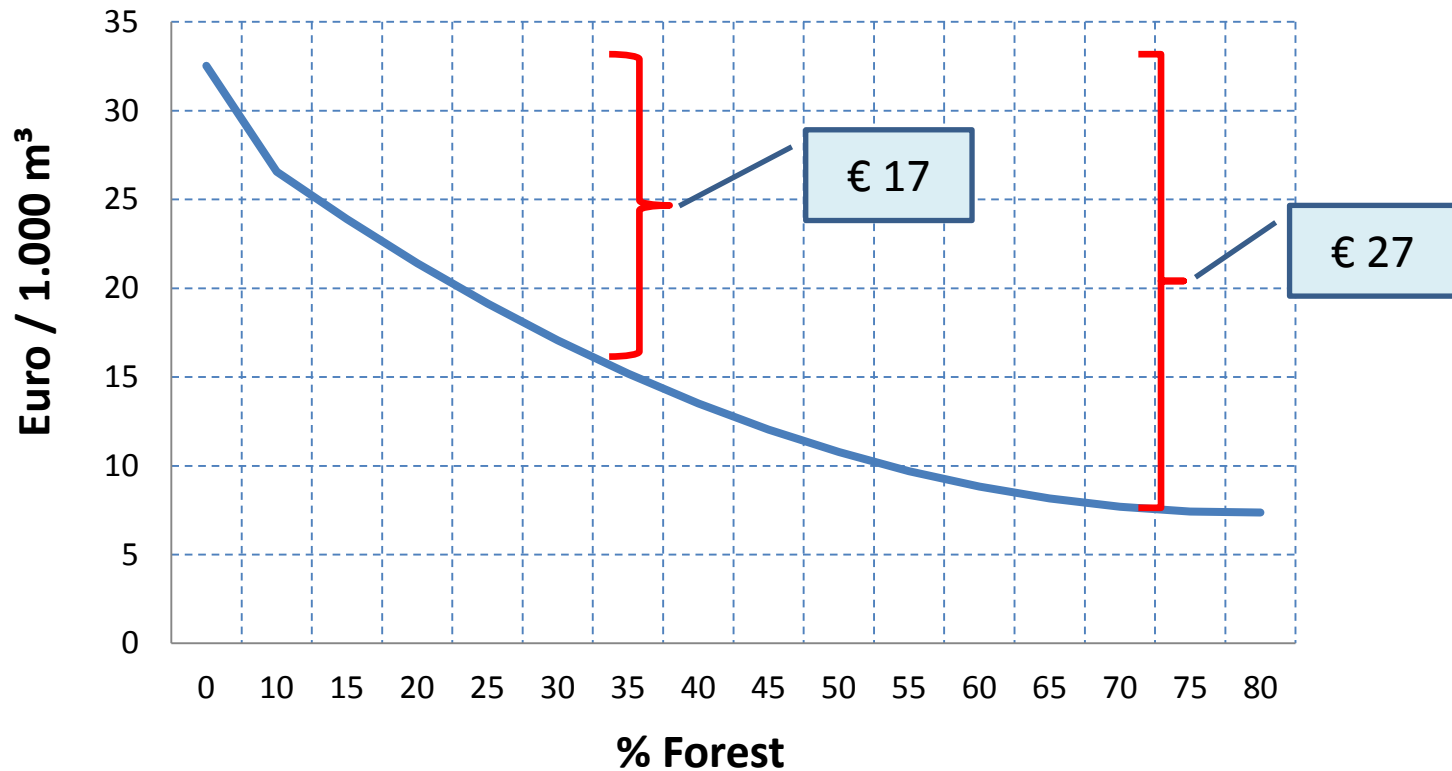
Particle matter capture

CO₂ capture



Benefits example: water purification: avoided costs

Water treatment costs: lower with higher % afforestation



Source: own calculated actualization for the year 2010 based on : Ernst C., Protecting the source, Land Conservation and the Future of America's Drinking Water, 2004





“Benefits” : quantities & prices used

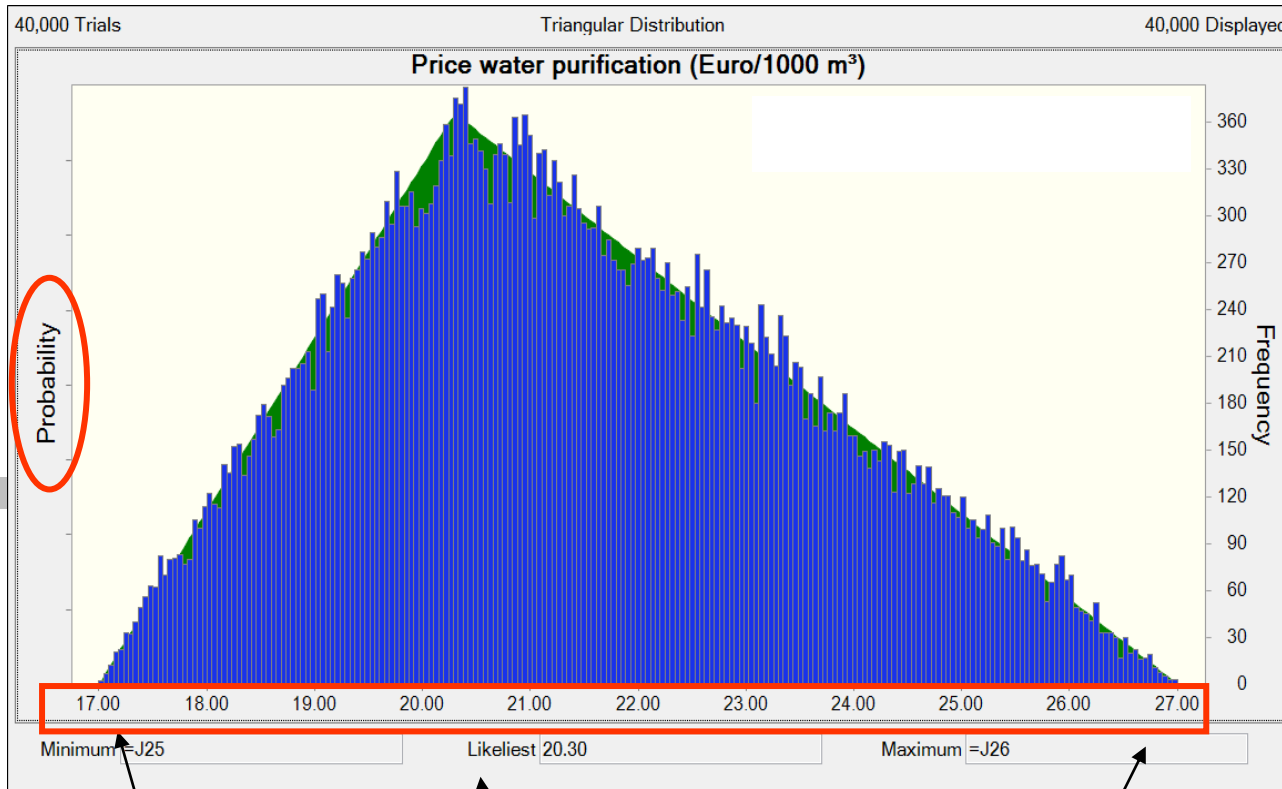
= “avoided costs”

	Eco service	Min	Most likely	Max
(1a)	Quantity CO2 capture (ton/year)	39.600	44.000	48.400
(1b)	Price CO2 capture (Euro/ton)	16	17	20
(2a)	Quantity drinking water (1000 m ³ / year)	18.540	20.600	22.660
(2b)	Price water purification (Euro/1000 m ³)	17	23,2	27
(3a)	Quantity PM capture (kg /year)	72.000	80.000	88.000
(3b)	Price PM capture (Euro/kg)	2	2	4
(4)	Discount rate (%)	3,5%	4,0%	4,5%



Uncertainty

example: cost water purification (€/1000 m³)



- Assumed triangular distribution
- Values: most likely, min., max.
- 'Monte Carlo' simulations to calculate NPV

minimum

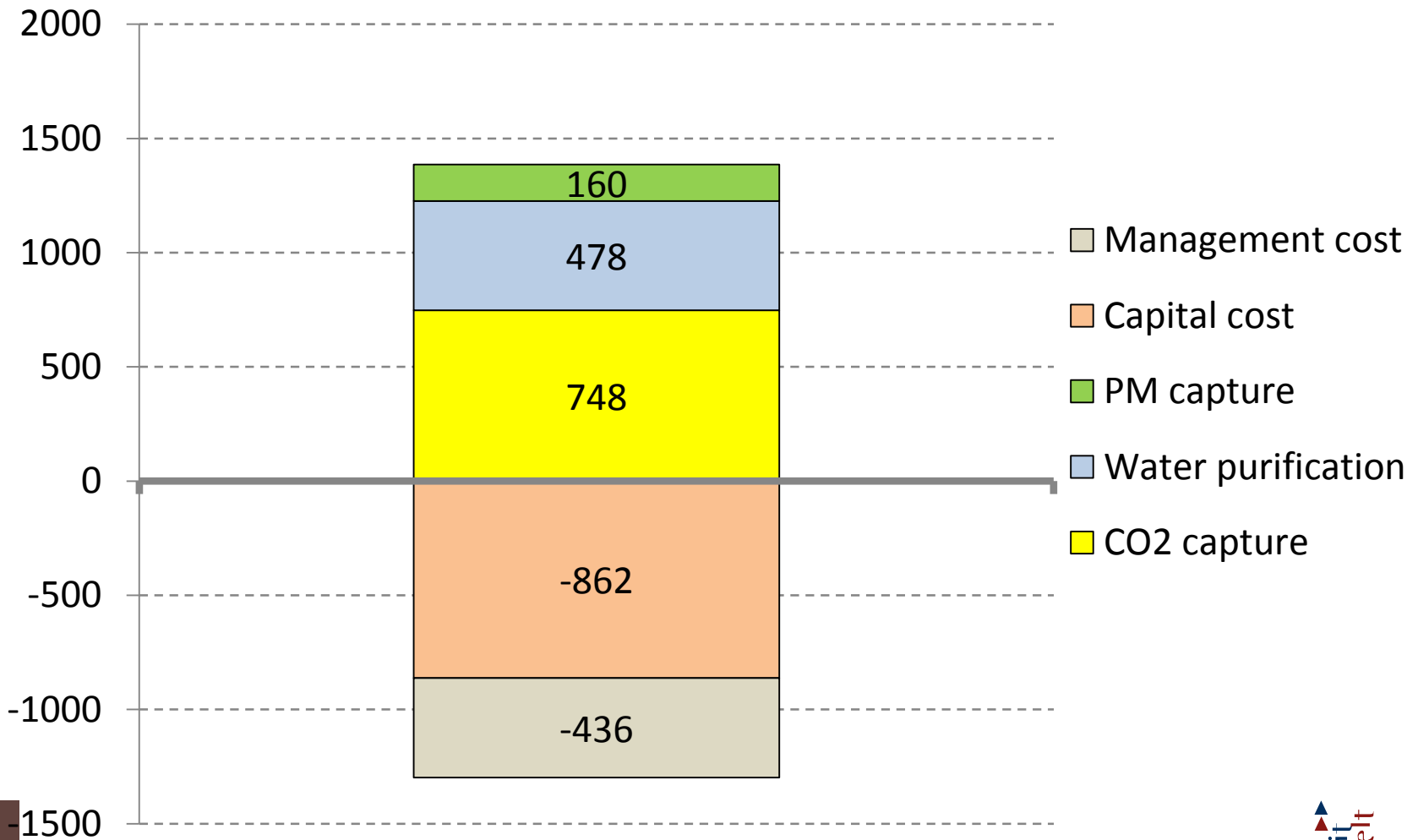
Most likely

maximum

(€ 20,3 / 1.000 m³)

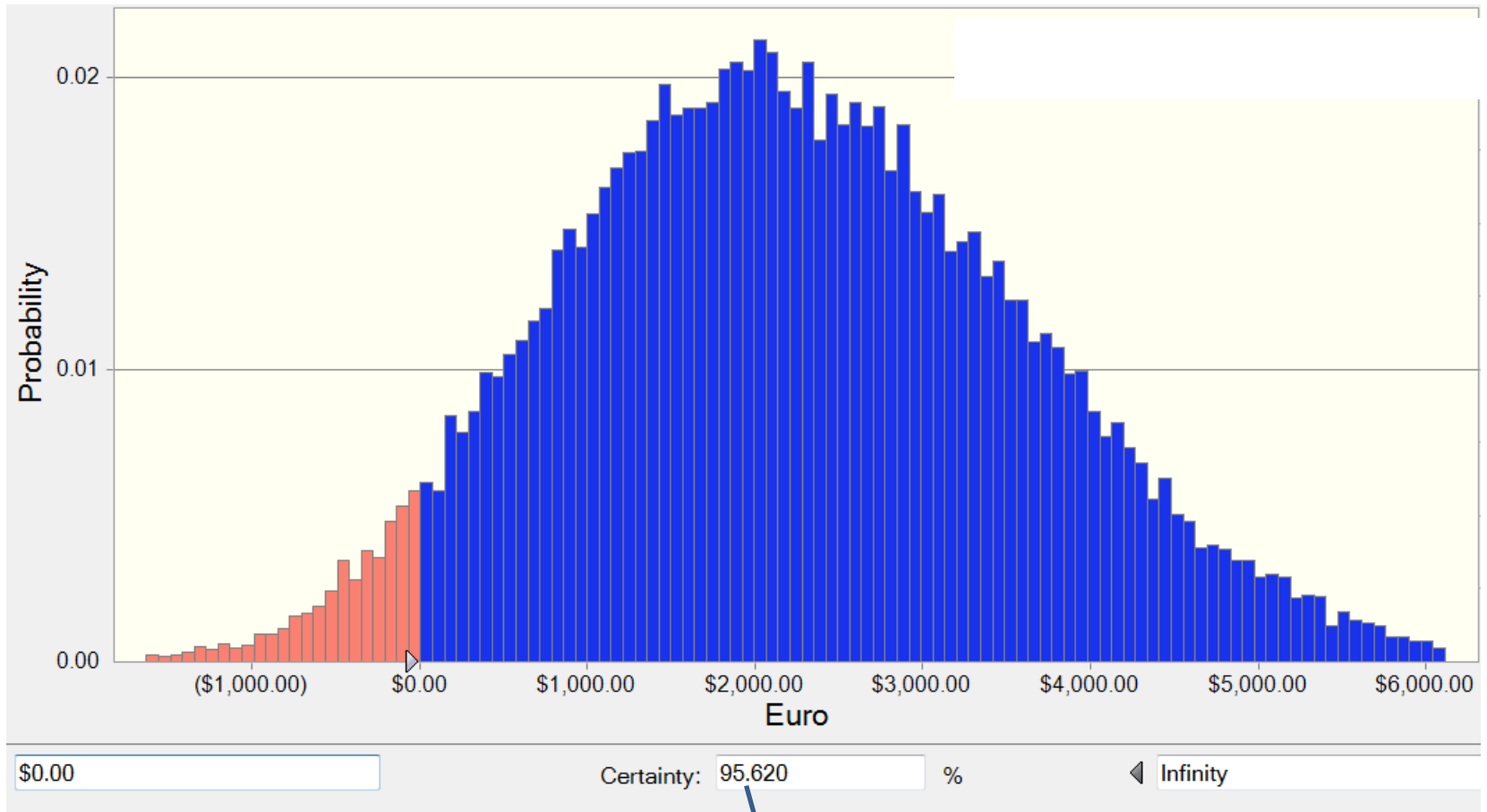


Yearly Benefits & Costs (1.000 Euro)



Ecoservices: Benefits les Costs

Net Present Value (30 years, discount 3,5 % - 4,5 %)



Certainty of positive result : 95%



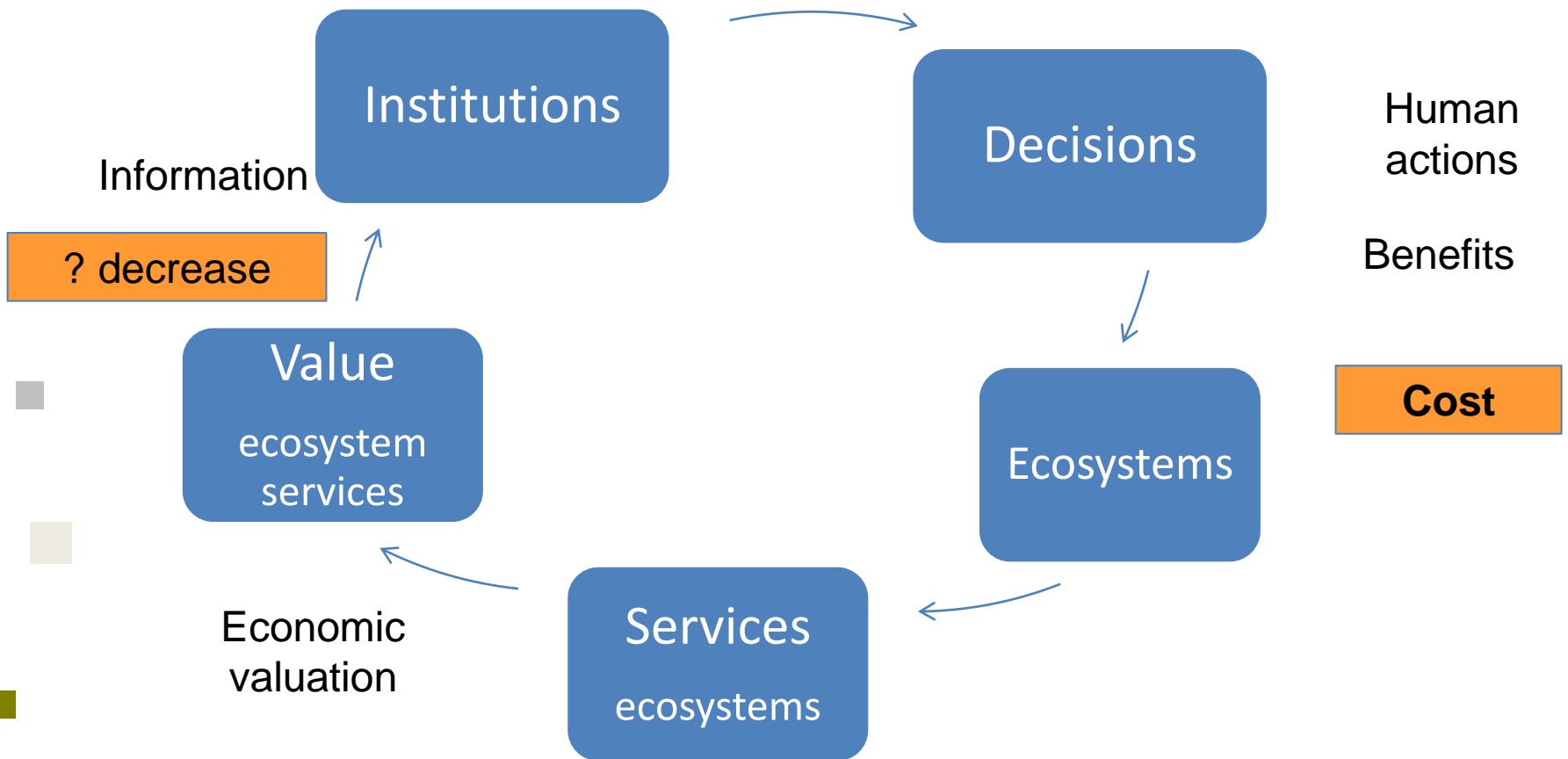
Benefits les Costs:

Sensitivity of Net Present Value

Eco service	Contribution To Variance	Value
Price water purification (Euro/1000 m ³)	27,1%	23,2
Price PM capture (Euro/kg)	20,4%	2
Price CO2 capture (Euro/ton)	20,3%	17
Quantity CO2 capture (ton/year)	14,7%	44.000
Discount rate (%)	11,7%	4,0%
Quantity drinking water (1000 m ³ / year)	4,7%	20.600
Quantity PM capture (kg /year)	1,0%	80.000

Decision support system

“What if not taking into account the value of ecosystems”



° Daily, 2009



Conclusion: net value of ecoservices

'National Park Hoge Kempen'

- Considered: **only three** - '*regulating*' - ecoservices
 - CO₂ capture
 - Water purification
 - Air 'filtering' (capture of particle matter)
- 90% probability for positive net pres. value (30 yrs)
- Influential: most important factors
 - Avoided cost water purification
 - Avoided cost particle matter emissions
 - Avoided costs CO₂ emissions
 - Quantity CO₂ capture

Conservative values were used



Thank You !

theo.thewys@uhasselt.be