

# A comparison of arguments surrounding the Biodiversity Strategy 2020



*BESAFE Workshop 2- Brussels 13/05/2014*



 Instituut voor  
Natuur- en Bosonderzoek

# Content

- *What did we compare?*
- *How did we compare?*
- *What did we learn from it?*
- *Policy relevance and recommendations*
  
- *Discussion in groups (+/- 20mn)*
- *Feedback from groups and plenary discussion*

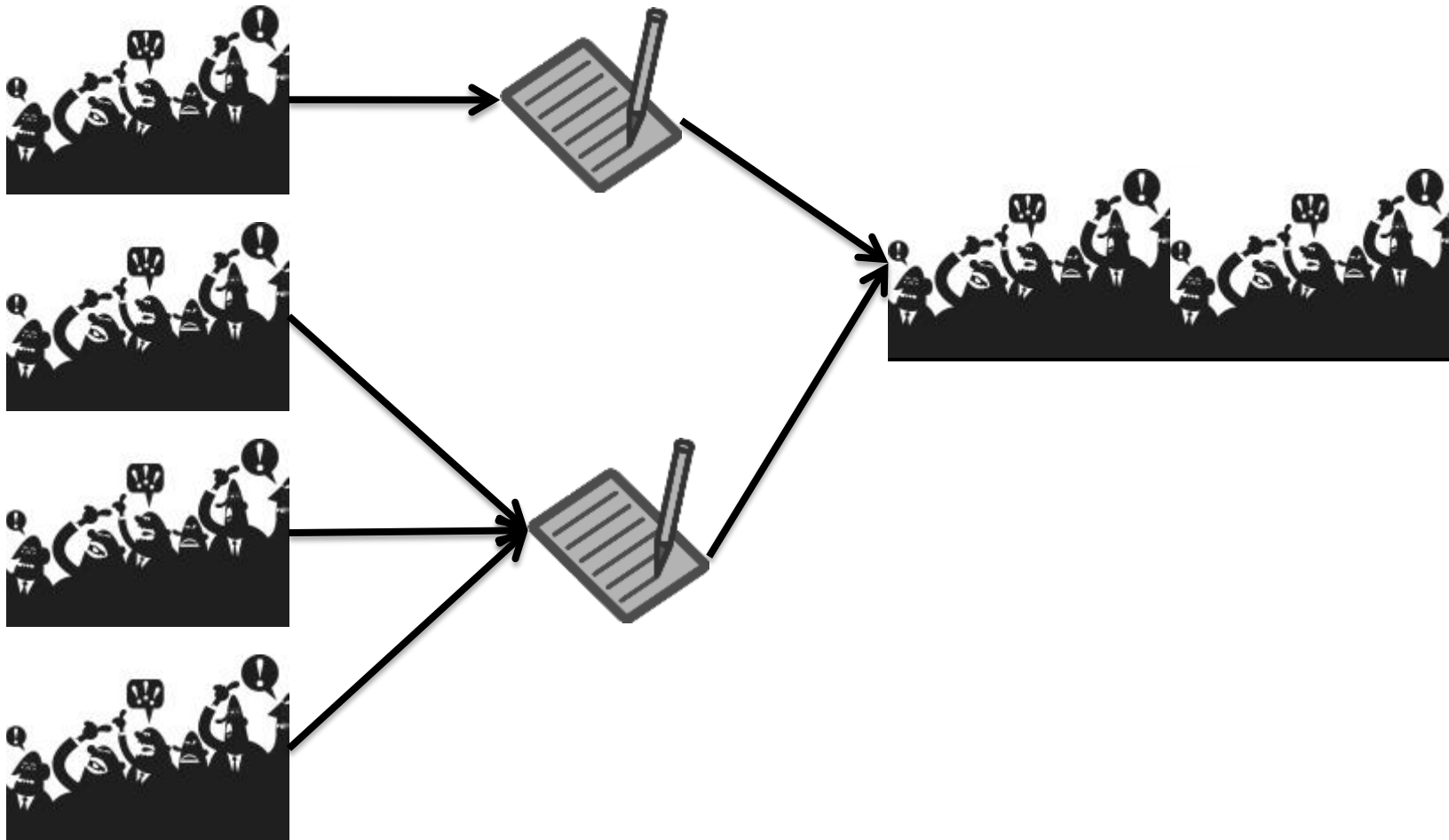
# What do we look at

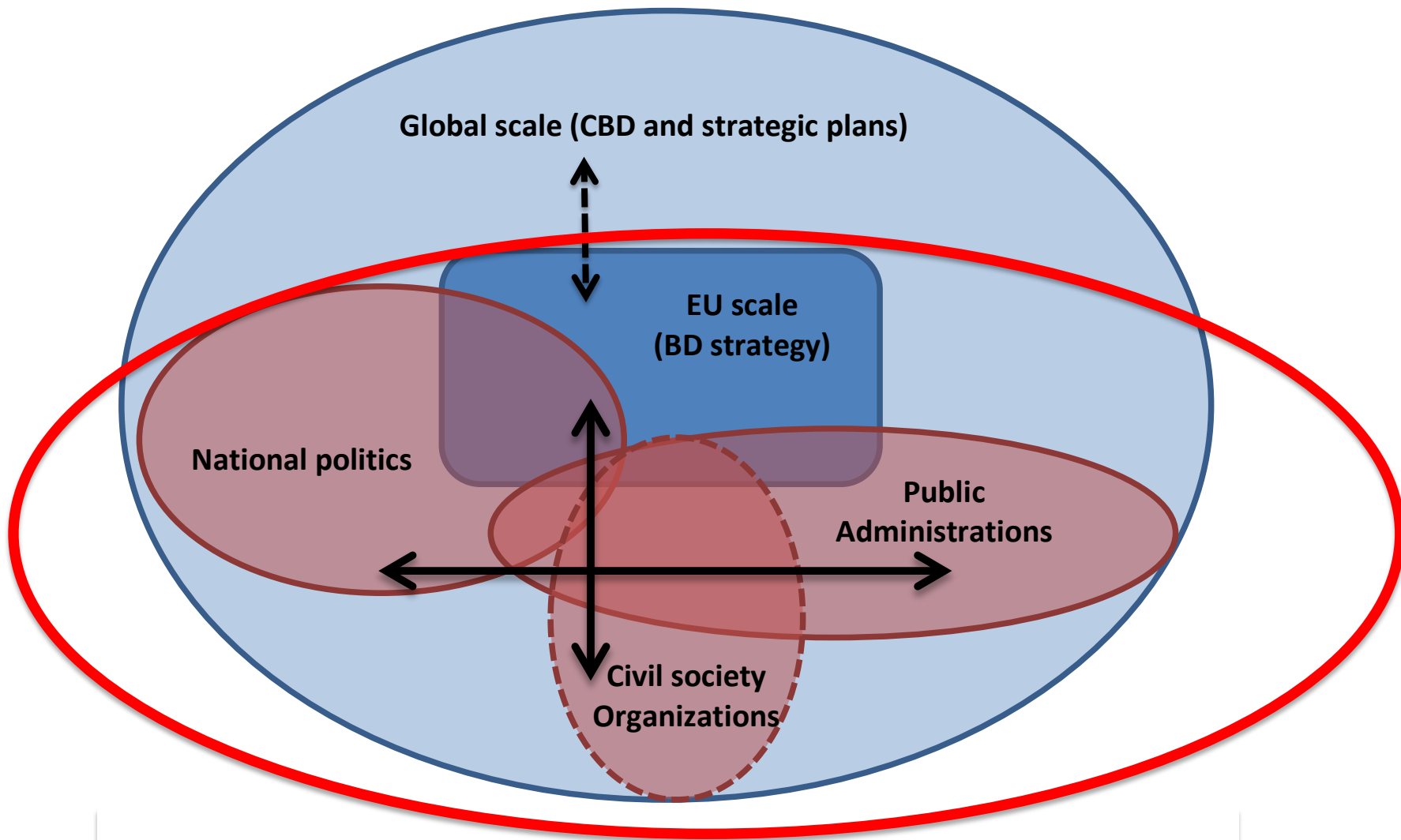
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- **Key aspects: commonalities and differences in argument categories**
  - Compare occurrence of arguments categories in between countries and EU
  - Compare the composition/build-up of categories between countries and EU
- **Relate context information to arguments categories**
- **Make argumentation explicit both in research and policy recommendation**

# Live debate arguments vs text arguments

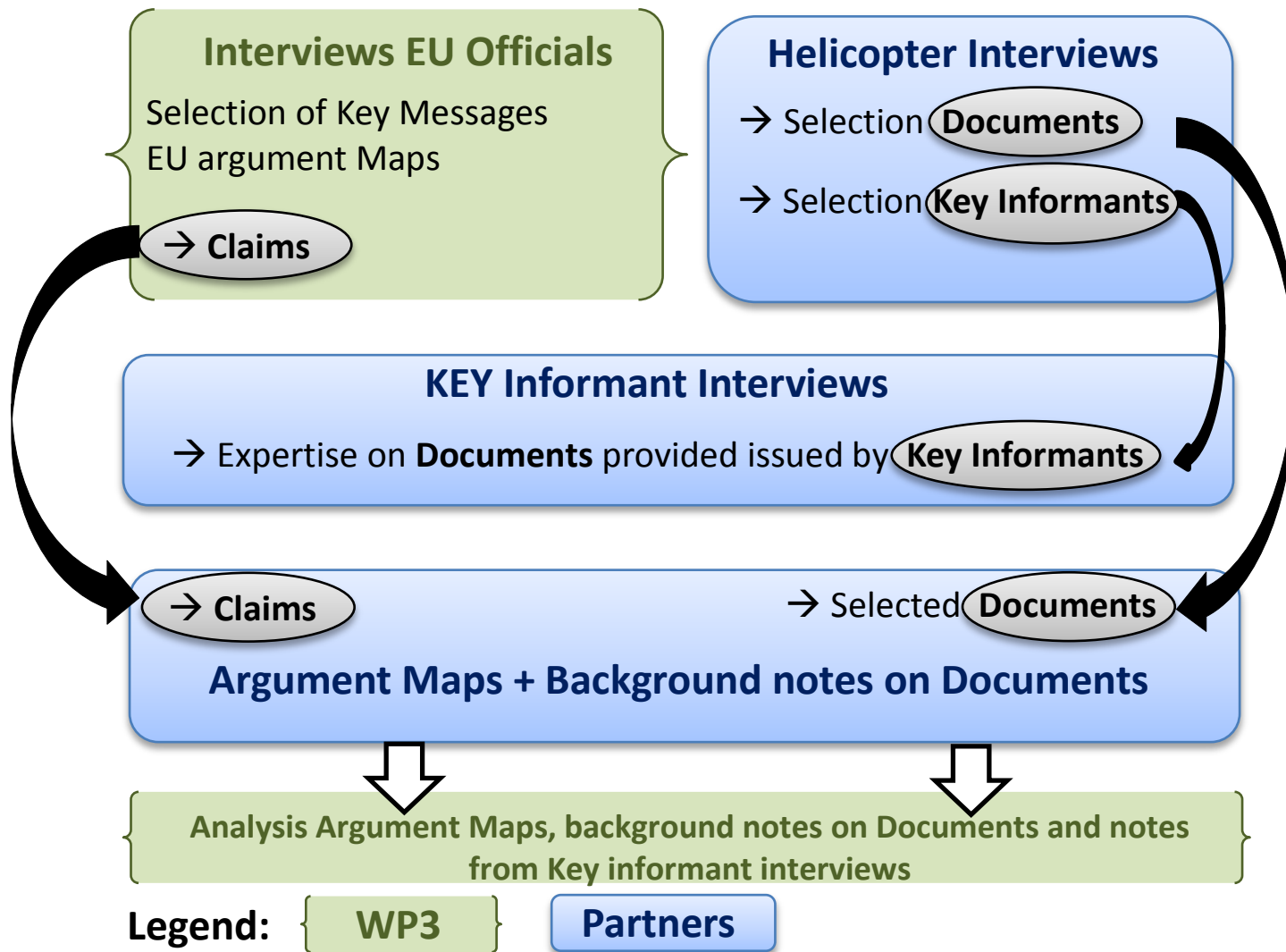
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# Methodology

- **‘Helicopter’ interviews at EU and member state level**
  - Document selection + key informants
  - Context information
  - At EU level: selection of 3 claims
- **Document analysis**
  - Argument maps
  - Interviews with key informants



**Figure 1:** Research framework with key inputs and outputs for the comparative study from WP3.

# Selected claims

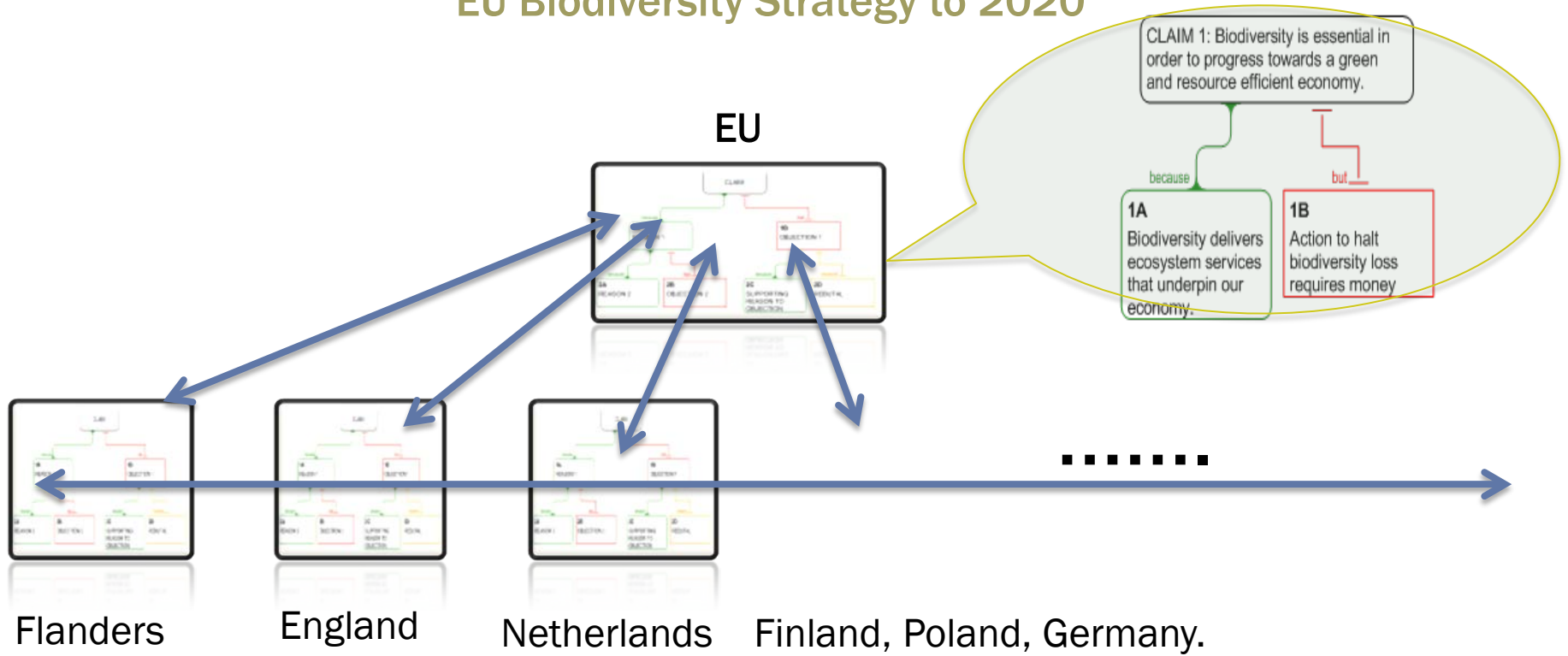
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- **CLAIM 1:** Biodiversity is essential in order to progress towards a green and resource efficient economy.
- **CLAIM 2:** Building a green infrastructure is important to maintain biodiversity, but also beneficial to land users and society at large.
- **CLAIM 3:** The EU needs to mainstream Biodiversity into major forestry, agriculture and aquatic/fisheries policies



# EU – national/regional levels

## EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020



**1A**  
MARKET VALUE  
NECESSARY  
BUT  
INSUFFICIENT:  
we need to value  
the economic and  
social benefits of  
a healthy  
environment. p3

category ←

**2D**  
we can show  
"leadership in the  
European Union  
and internationally,  
to protect and  
enhance natural  
assets globally" p3

**2E**  
We must also  
continue to  
recognise nature's  
intrinsic value" p3

**2F**  
When nature is  
undervalued,  
bad choices can  
be made" p4.

**2G**  
taking account of all  
the economic and  
non economic  
benefits we get  
from these services  
enables decision  
makers to exercise  
judgement about  
how we use the  
environment" p7

**2H**  
Financial benefits  
we get from nature  
- sometimes  
described as  
'natural capital' are  
often  
underestimated or  
overlooked. p11

**2I**  
Some ecosystem  
services we derive  
from our natural  
environment have  
a financial value in  
the market place.  
p11

**3F**  
We want the EU to  
become the world's  
largest green  
economy" p5

**3G**  
The green  
economy links  
with sustainable  
development  
and poverty  
eradication" p5

**3H**  
The UK is a leader  
in developing and  
implementing  
international  
environmental  
policy [...] and we  
should lead by  
example. p59 &  
60.

**3I**  
Short term  
valuation, and in  
some cases the  
absence of pricing  
are symptoms of  
market failure" p11

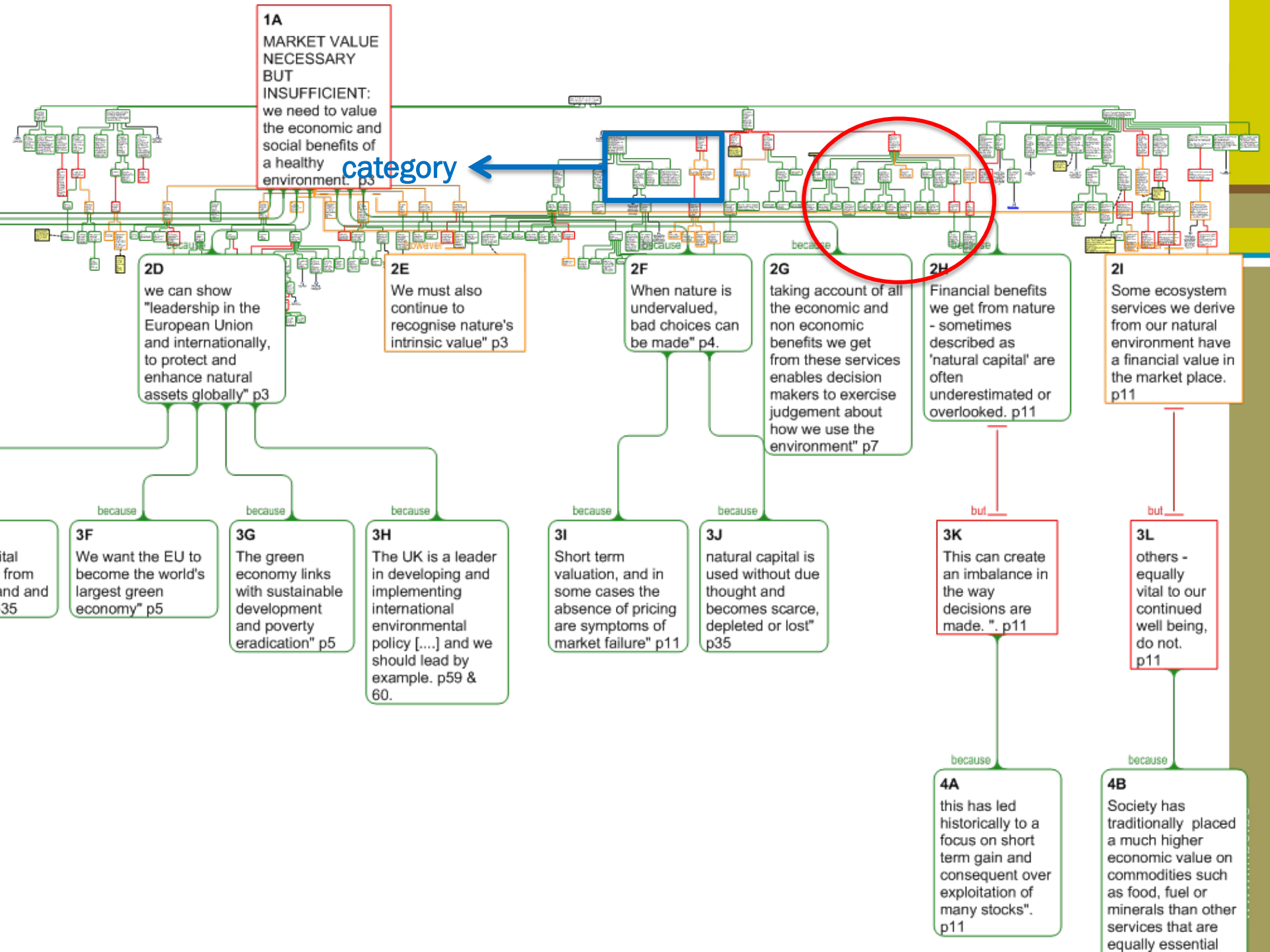
**3J**  
natural capital is  
used without due  
thought and  
becomes scarce,  
depleted or lost" p35

**3K**  
This can create  
an imbalance in  
the way  
decisions are  
made. ". p11

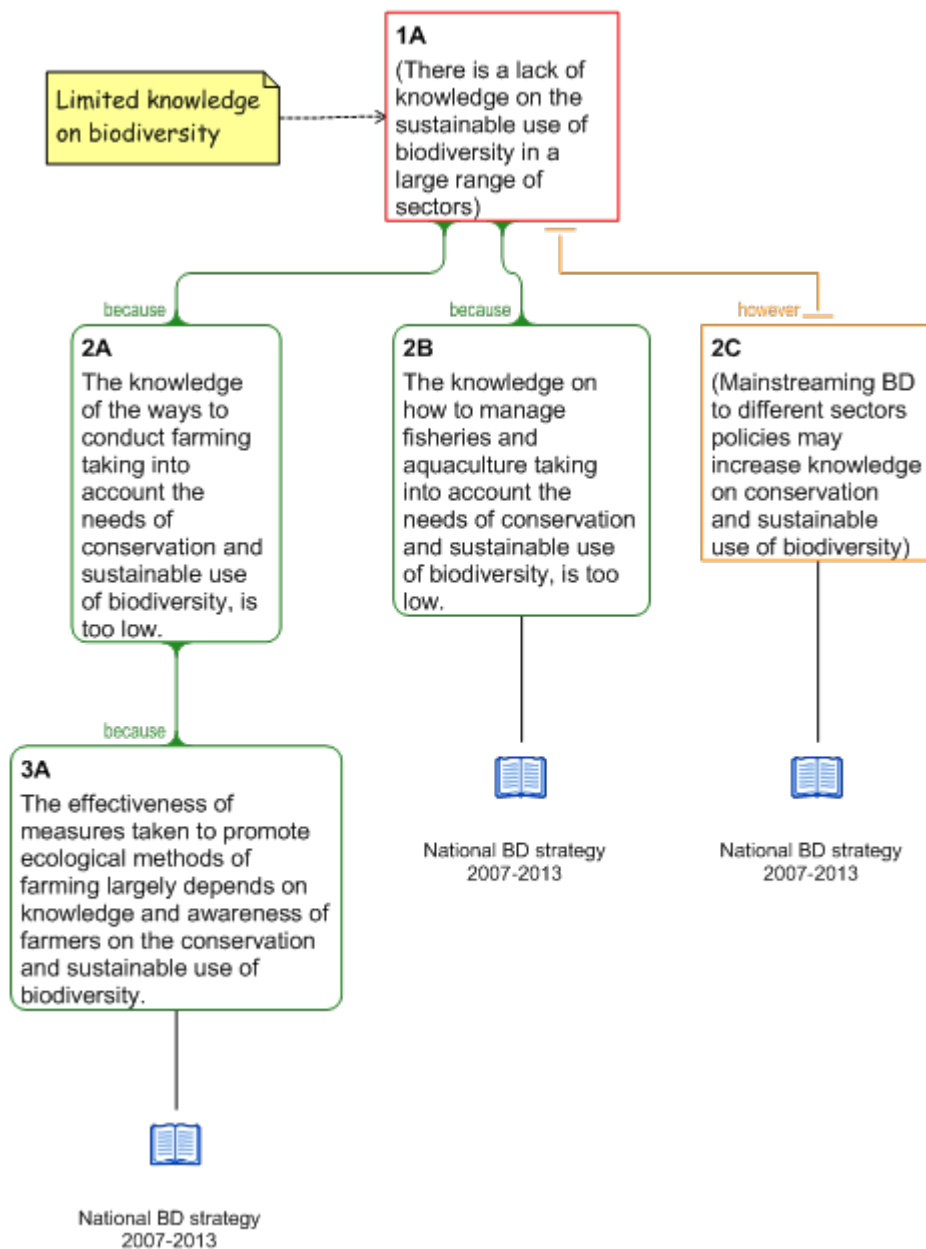
**3L**  
others -  
equally  
vital to our  
continued  
well being,  
do not.  
p11

**4A**  
this has led  
historically to a  
focus on short  
term gain and  
consequent over  
exploitation of  
many stocks".  
p11

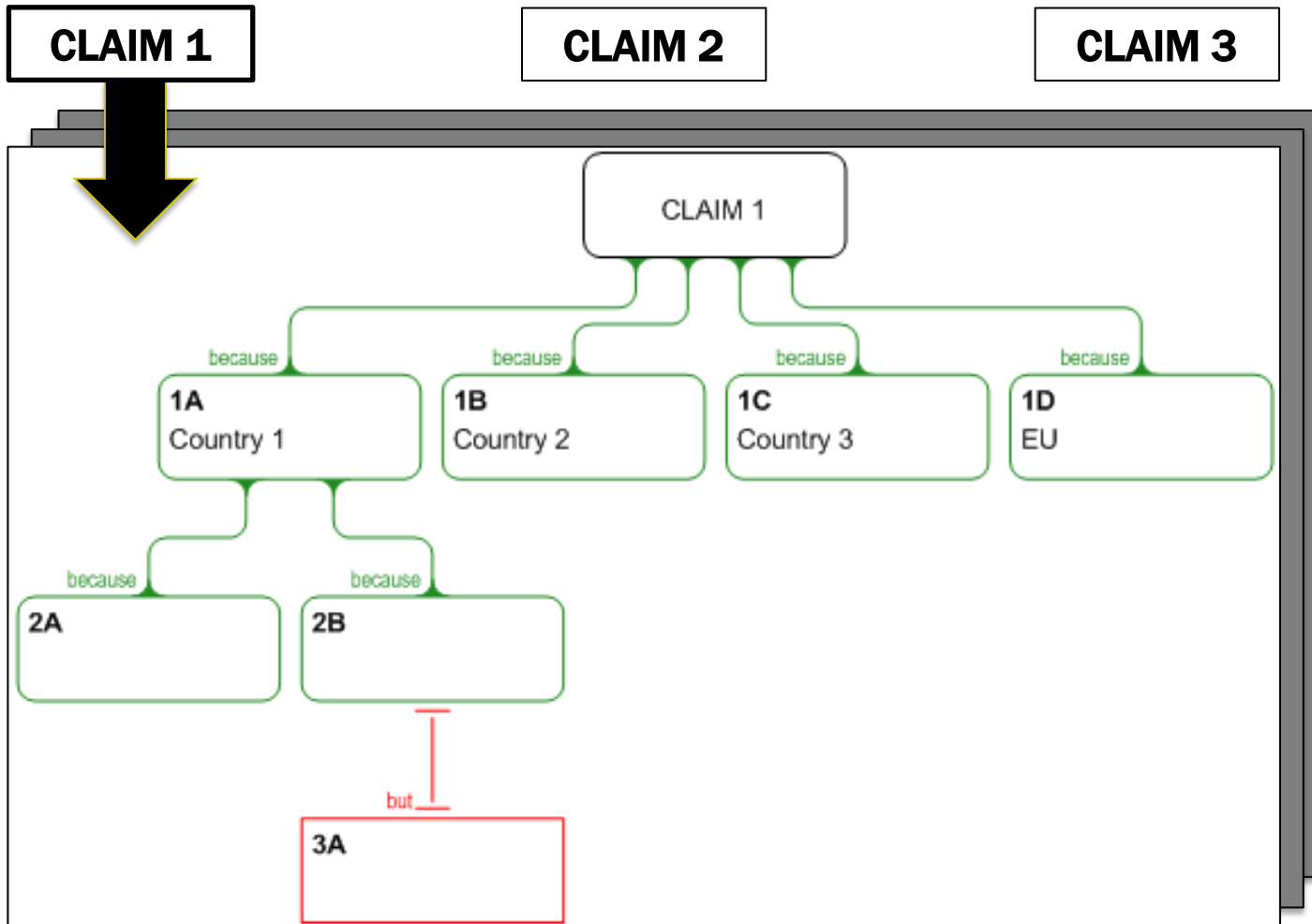
**4B**  
Society has  
traditionally placed  
a much higher  
economic value on  
commodities such  
as food, fuel or  
minerals than other  
services that are  
equally essential



# Implicit...



# CATEGORY A



# Results

- **21 arguments maps**
  - **Belgium, Germany, Finland, Netherlands, Poland & UK + EU**
- **Classification of broad argument categories**
- **Comparison between member states and EU level**

# Some results

- Strong emphasis on economy-nature relationship
- Facts dominate
- Little argumentation in political documents, most in 'scientific' documents
- Political or moral/ethical arguments are few and often implicit
  - 'Responsible economic growth'
  - 'Fair access' (to nature areas)
- Terminology differences depending on document type
  - Rather specific: Biodiversity, Ecosystem services
  - Rather broad: Nature, environment
- Rather uniform spread of argument categories but different interpretations of concepts, and different emphasis
  - e.g. Green infrastructure =(natural 'patches' vs connectivity)
  - e.g. BE: Green infrastructure to address high fragmentation, GER focus on species and genetic resources

# Policy relevance and recommendations

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- **Overview of large and complex debates**
  - Quickly identify conflicting views
  - Make arguments explicit
- **Discrepancies between EU – Member states**
  - *Match debates on different governance levels*
- **Particularities of Member states**
  - Identify specific issues at member state level
- **Other recommendations?**
  - How could this type of research (reasoning/argument mapping) contribute to your area of expertise?

# Any questions?

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