



Solutions for who?
Pointing to the importance of
participatory planning.

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AGENDA

- ▶ **CASE CONTEXT**
The river Gudenåen
- ▶ **STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT PROCESS**
A chronological overview
Scale? Who?
Questions and purpose
- ▶ **FINDINGS**
Diverse pasts
Diverse presents
Diverse futures
- ▶ **CLOSING REFLECTIONS**
Conclusion and key-take aways

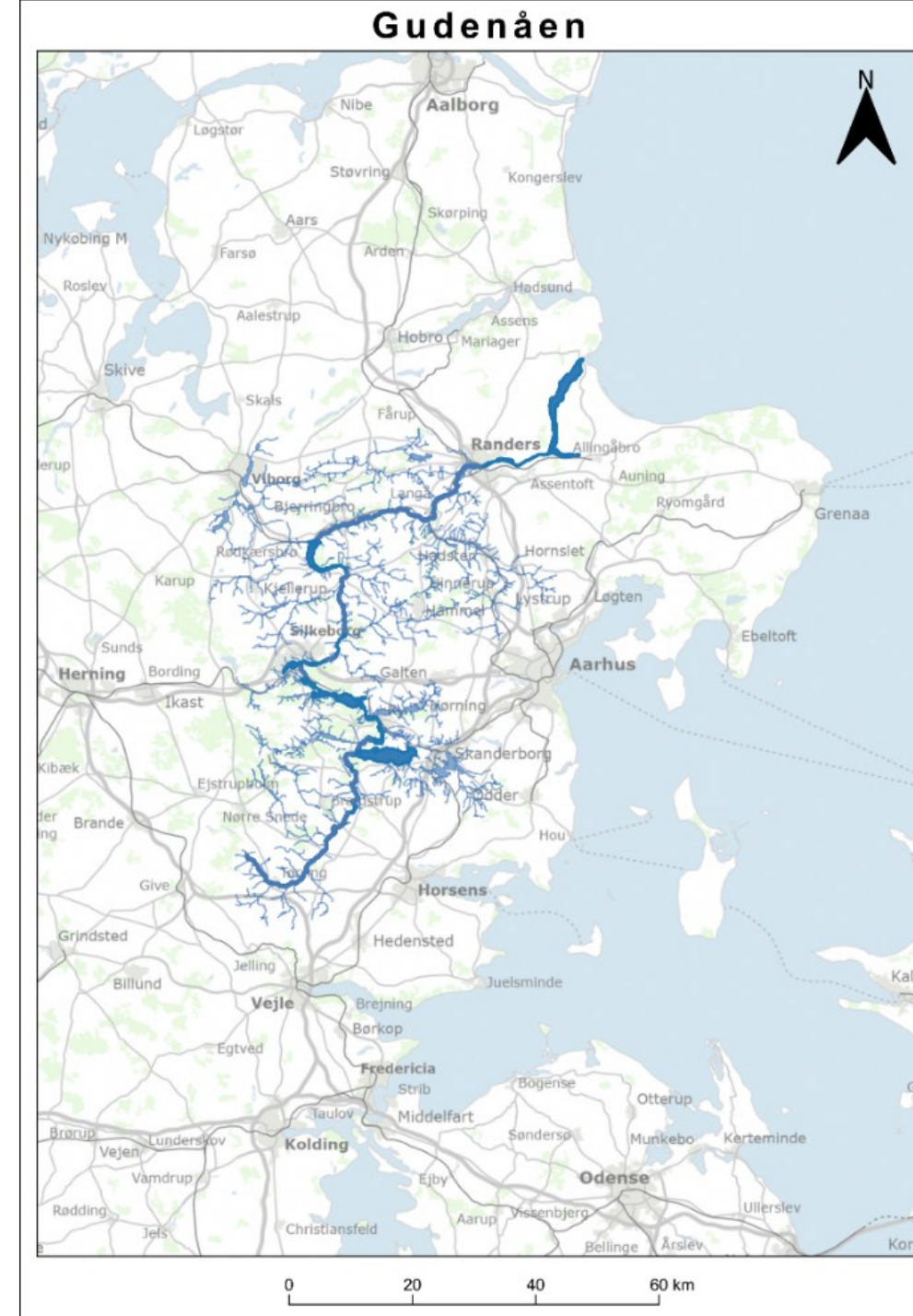


<https://dyckarboretum.org/tag/phenology-wheel/>

CASE CONTEXT

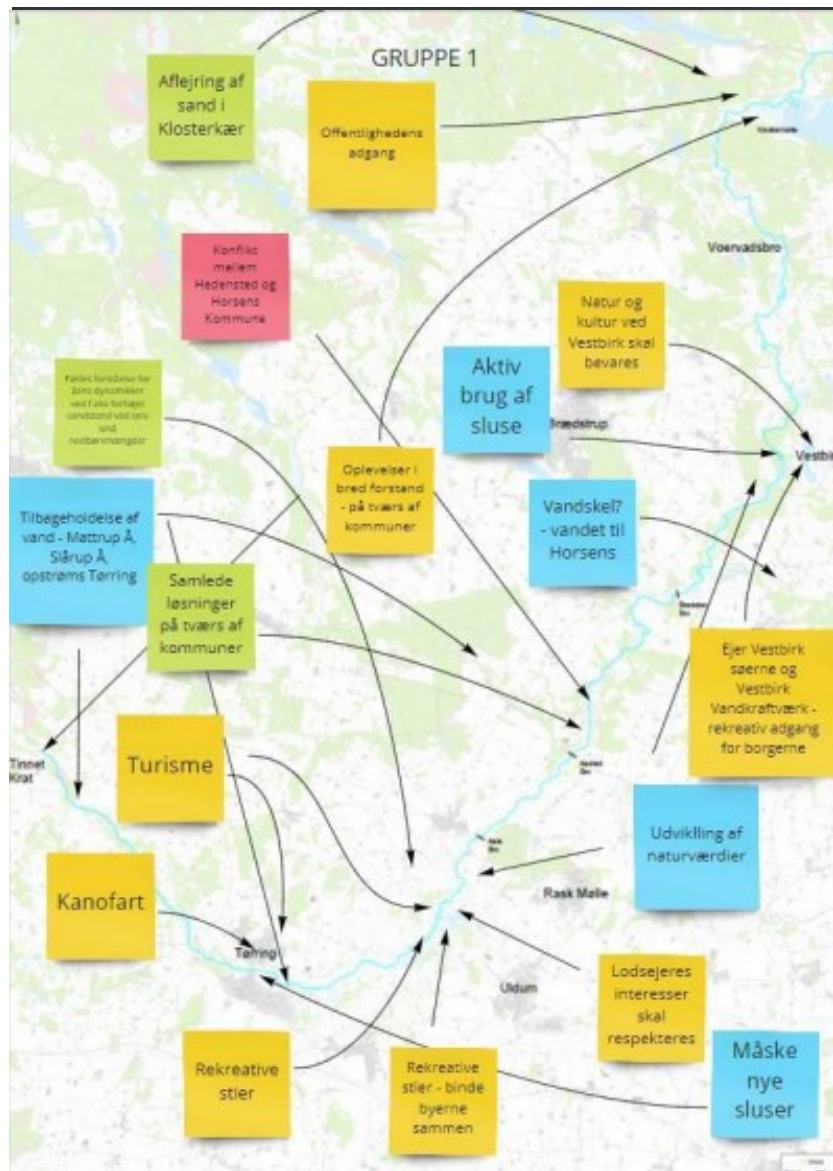
Gudenåen

- ▶ Appx. 160 km. long
- ▶ Catchment size: 3.200 km² (with Randers Fjord)
- ▶ Appx. 320.000 living alongside the river
- ▶ Flowing through eight municipalities
- ▶ Landscape adjacent to the river consists of mainly agricultural and nature areas – but is utilised for a variety of recreational purposes.
- ▶ Climatic and environmental changes are currently altering the river infrastructure.
- ▶ The first intermunicipal water management plan constructed between 2020-2021.
- ▶ Research imbedded within two projects:
The C2C CC, C12 Gudenåen (EU LIFE Project) and the Water Management Plan for Gudenåen (2020-2021)
- ▶ Research focus on the conflicts between different actors participating in the planning process.



STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

6 A chronological overview of the process(2020)



Scale?

- ▶ 51 interviews per phone with local actors
- ▶ Appx. 70 mail correspondences with local actors
- ▶ 4 online workshops with the participation of 107 actors
- ▶ (within just PhD project further interviews and 3 in-person workshops)

Who?

- ▶ Landowner and farmer associations
- ▶ Archaeologists from local museums
- ▶ Nature organisations
- ▶ Recreational associations (fishing, sailing, hiking etc.)
- ▶ Business owners (e.g. local inns, camping sites, tourism companies)
- ▶ Municipalities
- ▶ Central Denmark Region
- ▶ National organisations (e.g. Danish Society for Nature Conversation, Danish Agriculture and Food Council)



Questions and purpose

1. How did the river Gudenåen change in their opinion?
(and how did this matter for where we are now)
2. How were they affected by these changes in the present?
(and which values/losses were at stake for actors)
3. What future river landscape did they imagine?
(and what solutions did they favour)

Photo: Oscar Scott Carl, Berlingske



FINDINGS

CONFLICTING INTERESTS DUE TO DIFFERENT PAST HORIZONS

“Before we as a family never experienced flooding before in 2008, there had probably always been a bit in the winter. Before in 2008, we never experienced flooding in the summer (...) we have 12-14 trees on our area, which have died due to flooding, and these are from my grandparents time! The trees and garden are ruined. It is a loss of my grandparents inheritance”



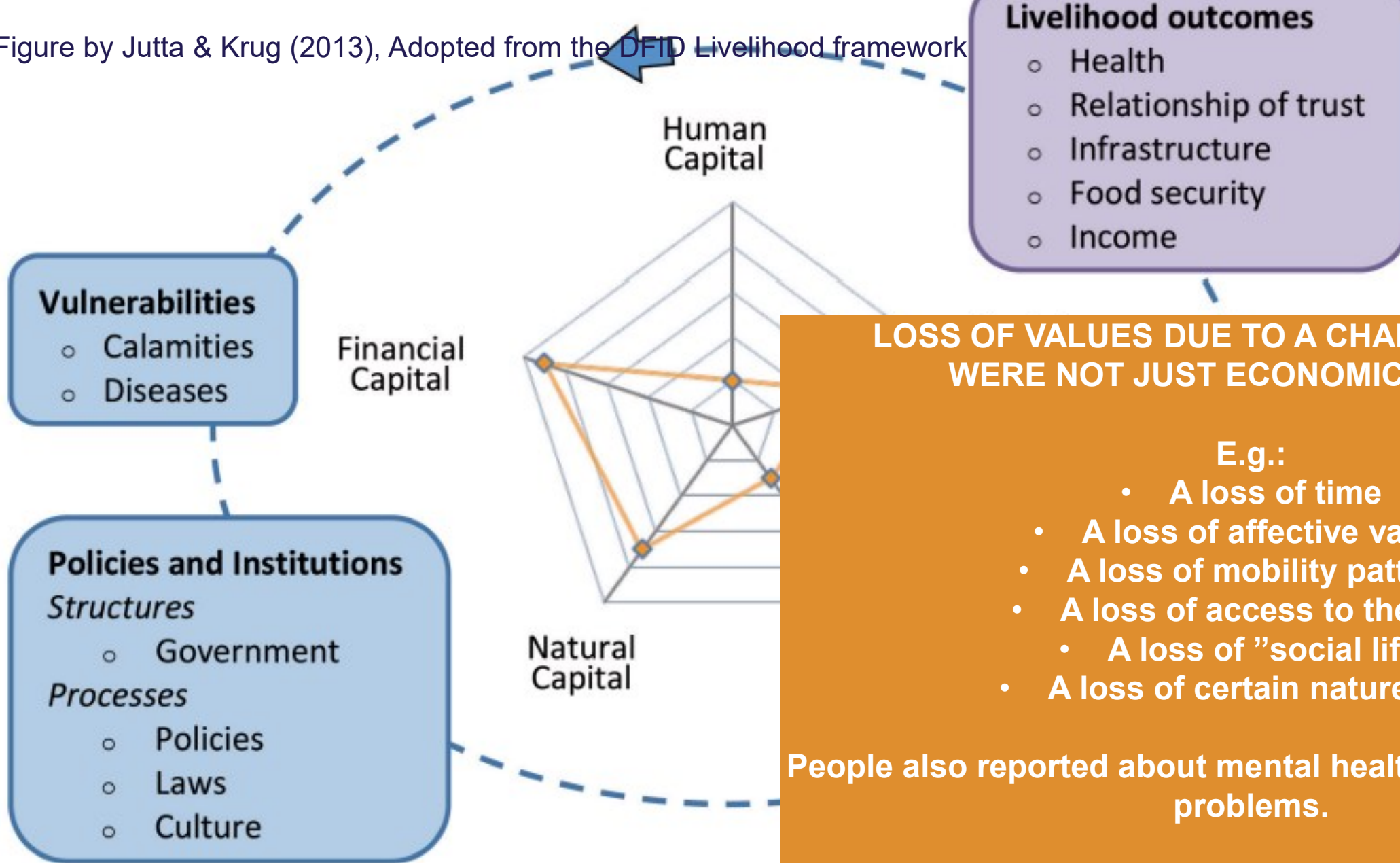
“in its original, virgin state, it has been without barriers and too many lake formations, and if there have been lake formations, then they have existed for thousands of years, and these have fish and other animals that live in such a water system, they have adapted to that, for millennia.”



“Gudenåen has changed, both at that time with the great climatic changes about 8000 years ago and all of a sudden Gudenåen finds another way, and then it becomes low-lying areas that are allowed to become flooded – it is subject to a great variability (...) the question is if that variability, and how flexible the river is, if it should not be allowed to continue with that?”



Figure by Jutta & Krug (2013), Adopted from the DFID Livelihood framework



LOSS OF VALUES DUE TO A CHANGING RIVER, WERE NOT JUST ECONOMIC VALUES!

E.g.:

- A loss of time
- A loss of affective values
- A loss of mobility patterns
- A loss of access to the river
 - A loss of "social life"
- A loss of certain nature types

People also reported about mental health issues and family problems.

Important to have these dynamics in mind as these are interlinked.

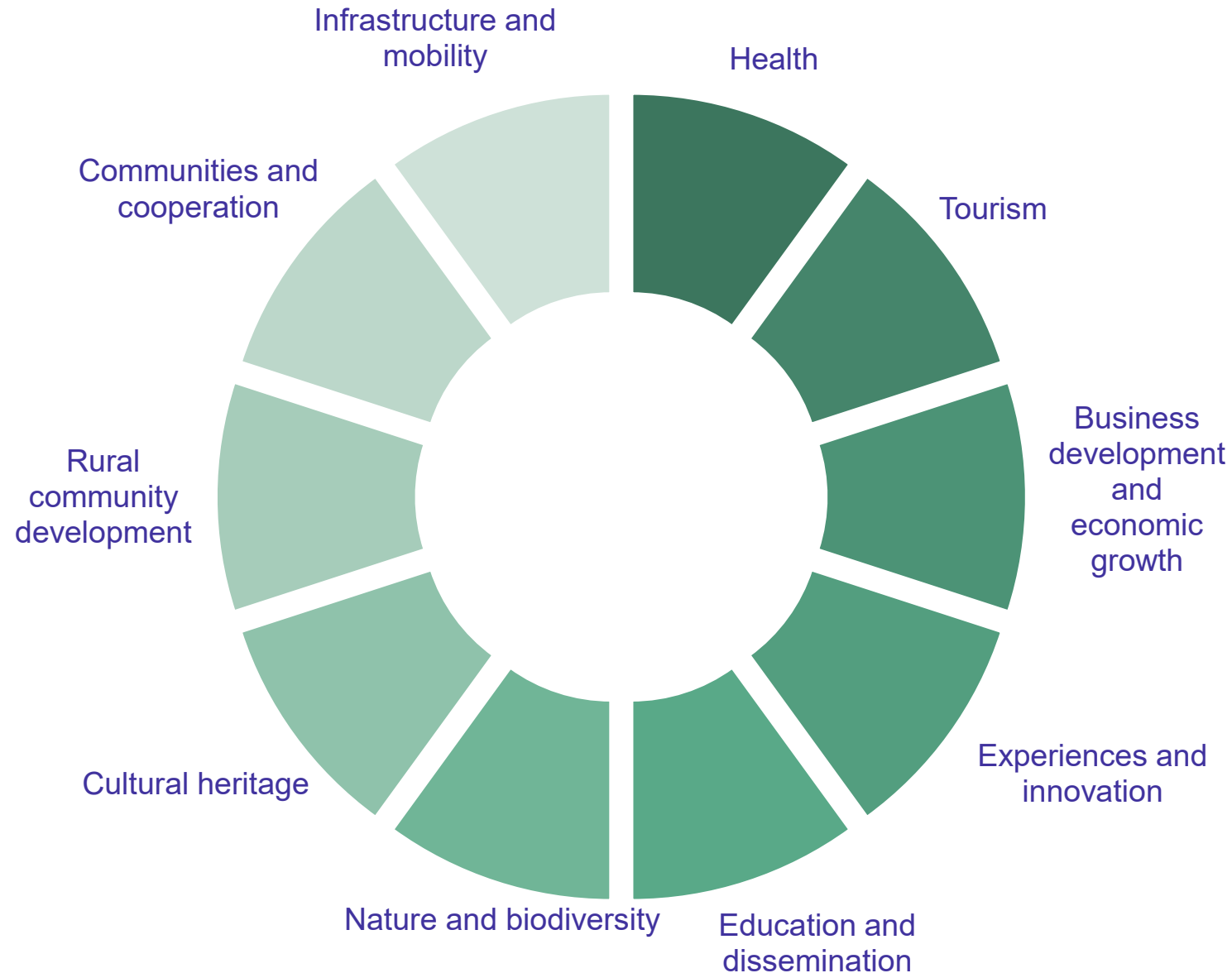
DIVERSE FUTURES

- ▶ When asked to look 20 years ahead – actors pointed to a lot of new innovative ideas.
- ▶ Easier to “think out of the box” and beyond one’s own position, when applying a future exercise.
- ▶ BUT! It matters, which future we ask to and actors often differ in their future perspectives:

Action now or in 1-2 years? Action in 10 years?

Action in the next generation?

Action before the next extreme rainfall event?



CLOSING REFLECTIONS

Conclusion and key-take aways

1. Essential to pay attention to the various pasts and stories found in negotiations on the future with local actors.
2. Essential to pay attention to other values(/losses) than just economic values.
3. Essential to include a future perspective to our present negotiations, but to coordinate this strategically.
4. Essential to include local stakeholders' stories, interests and visions to “expand the pie”, get a clear picture of interests and hereby foster increased resilience and better manage conflicts.



Thank you for your time!

Please keep in touch at:

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Or talk to me in the marketplace afterwards!