A REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GOALS:

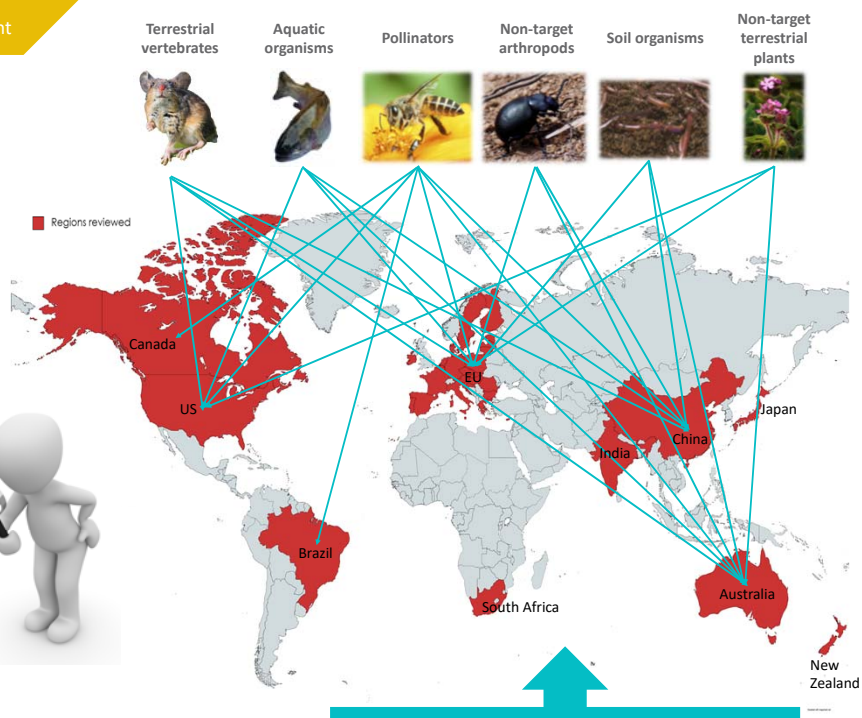
What are the options for Great Britain?

Amy C. Brooks
Cambridge Environmental Assessments, Boxworth, UK; amy.brooks@cea-res.co.uk

Well defined protection goals are key to the environmental assessment of pesticides, making it clear what is intended to be protected and thus whether to authorise particular uses of a pesticide. We reviewed what approaches are currently used for setting protection goals in 10 regulatory regions (EU, US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil, Japan, China, India) and the options for defining specific protection goals for Great Britain (GB).

General protection goals exist in all 10 regions, mainly relating to 'no adverse effects'; all lack clarity regarding what level of effect is considered adverse, where in the environment the protection goal applies, over what time period, and why that protection is important

Specific protection goals for the 6 main wildlife groups exist in some regions

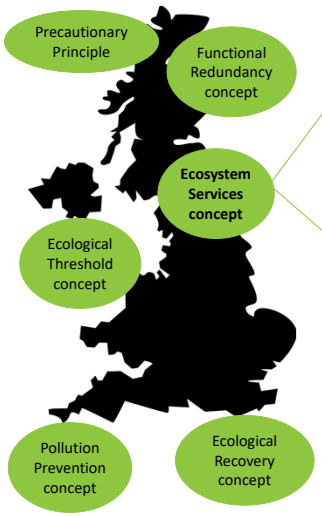


Even where specific protection goals do exist, they tend to be quite broad and thus not 100% clear on what to protect, where and why…

Does the risk assessment framework address the protection goal?

This is a critical step in ensuring that what we want to protect can actually be protected by the risk assessments. Only the EU appears to have attempted such a **calibration exercise**, but not for all wildlife groups, and not for all aspects of the risk assessment within a wildlife group. **Without a comprehensive calibration step, we do not know whether the intended protection goals are being achieved**.

Options for protection goal setting in GB?



Using an **ecosystems services** concept could:

- Answer the what, where, when and why questions
- Assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts, acknowledging we cannot protect everything, everywhere, all the time, without some compromises
- Provide more transparent decision-making for pesticide approvals
- Include the goals of the Defra 25-year plan to protect and grow natural capital
- Allow more effective communication between government agencies that have interlinked objectives (e.g. Health and Safety Executive, Environment Agency, Natural England, Defra) by providing a common currency of ecosystem services

Significant work already undertaken to investigate the use of an ecosystem services approach for pesticides, but **further work** would be required to implement such an approach in the GB:

e.g. defining what we want to protect in the GB - who gets to make that decision?

e.g. developing further models to allow connection between results observed in regulatory studies and ecosystem services

e.g. clear delegation of role responsibilities between risk assessors and risk managers within regulatory authority

Why do we need clear protection goals?

- **Industry** need to know the aim of the assessment when generating effects and exposure data and preparing dossiers so it is clear what is required to demonstrate acceptable risks and why
- **Regulators** need to know what is acceptable and why so appropriate recommendations can be made
- **Risk managers** need a clear idea of what the protection goals are to make informed decisions regarding approvals
- **The public** need to understand why particular decisions have been made and the implications of those decisions

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