



An introduction to socio-economics in the marine environment

Ian Dickie,

**Economics For The Environment Consultancy Ltd,
73-75 Mortimer Street, London W1W 7SQ**

E: ian@eftec.co.uk w: <http://www.eftec.co.uk>

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Outline

- Why socio-economics?
- Definition
- Tools
- Economic valuation
- Different applications
- Challenges



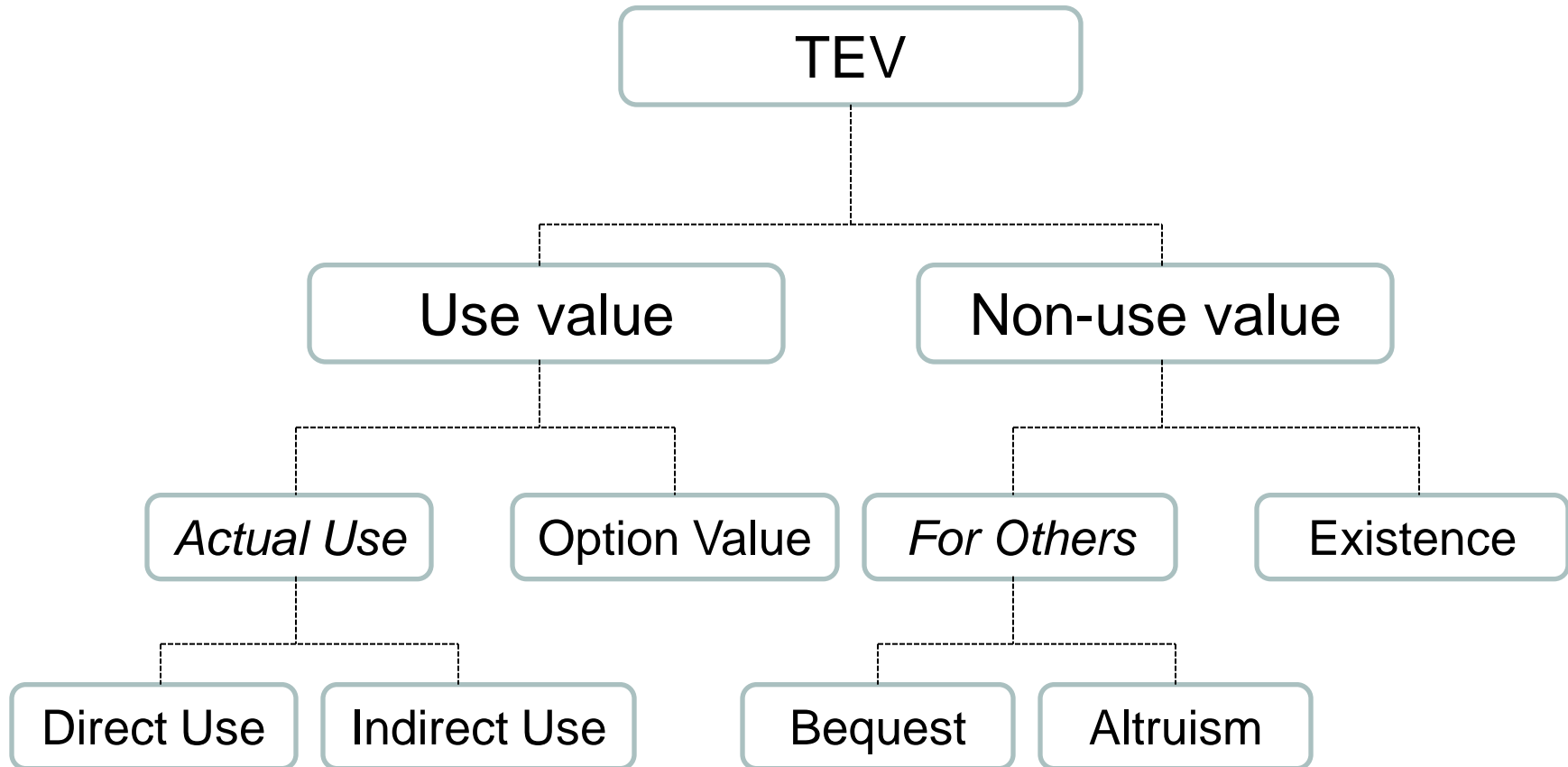
Why socio-economics?

- Complex marine management decisions
 - Range of marine activities
 - Different environmental processes
 - Variations over time and space
 - Different stakeholder interests
- Organise this information for decision-makers

Economic analysis

- Unit - money
- 'The economy' = commercial activity, profits, employment
- Economic value *of a change* = Human welfare
 - not just the result of market activity
 - Total Economic Value

Total economic value





Social analysis

- Distribution of welfare between people/groups in society
- Social & cultural values that are held by communities
- Greater emphasis on employment

Tools: Cost Benefit Analysis

- A framework for transparently identifying, measuring and comparing the positive (benefits) and negative (costs) impacts of different options
- Answers two questions:
 1. Is an objective worth achieving ?
 2. If so which option is the best ?

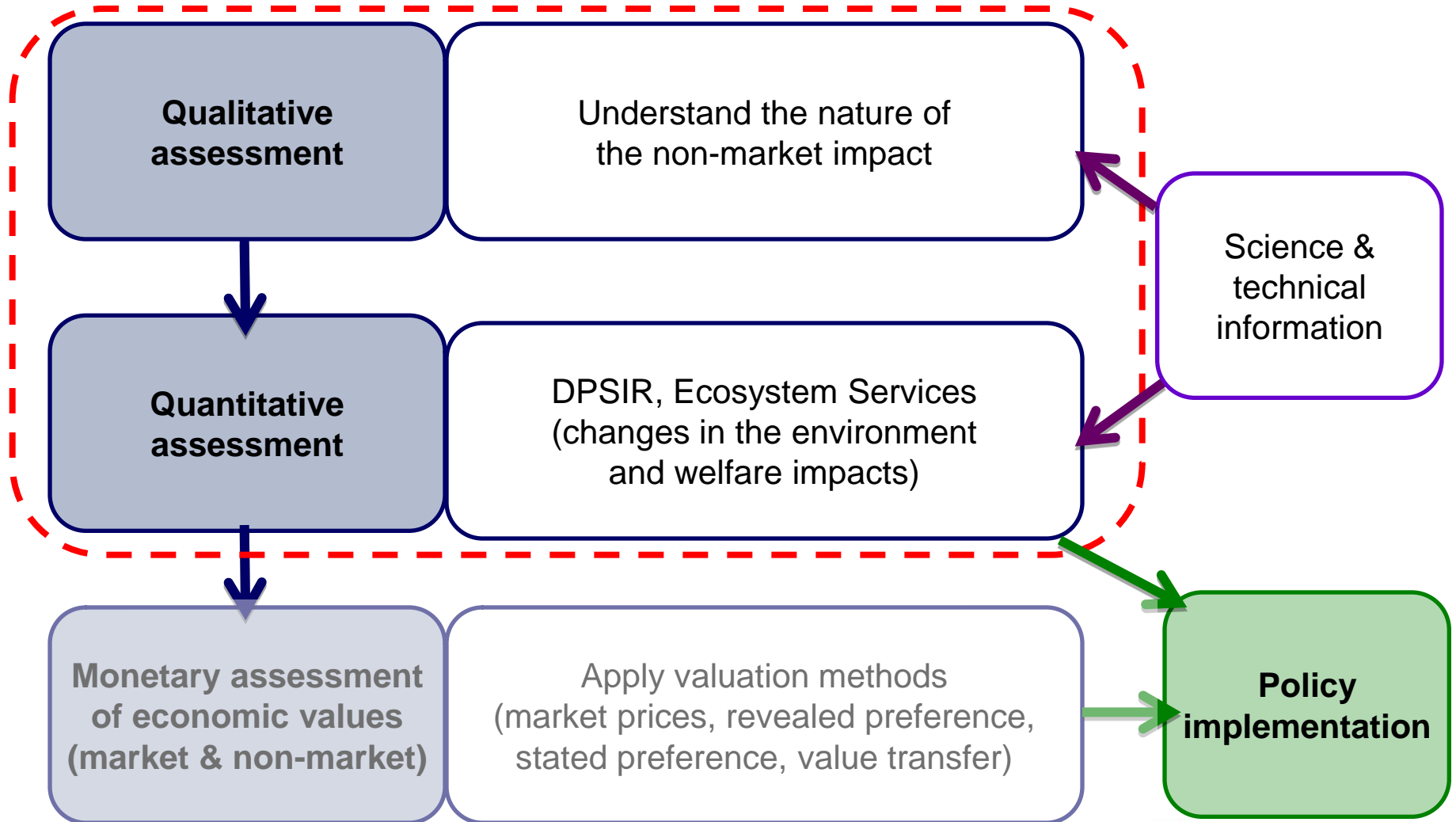
CBA

- CBA applied throughout UK public sector, and to marine environment:
 - Impact Assessments for policies
 - MSFD analysis
 - eftec toolkit for analysis of socio-economic impacts of aggregate abstraction

Pros and cons of CBA

- Use of money as unit of measurement:
 - + can compare different objectives and guide which is best for society
 - how to include un-priced (non-market) impacts?
- ‘Extended CBA’ Turner et. al.
- Value environmental assets

Economic Valuation



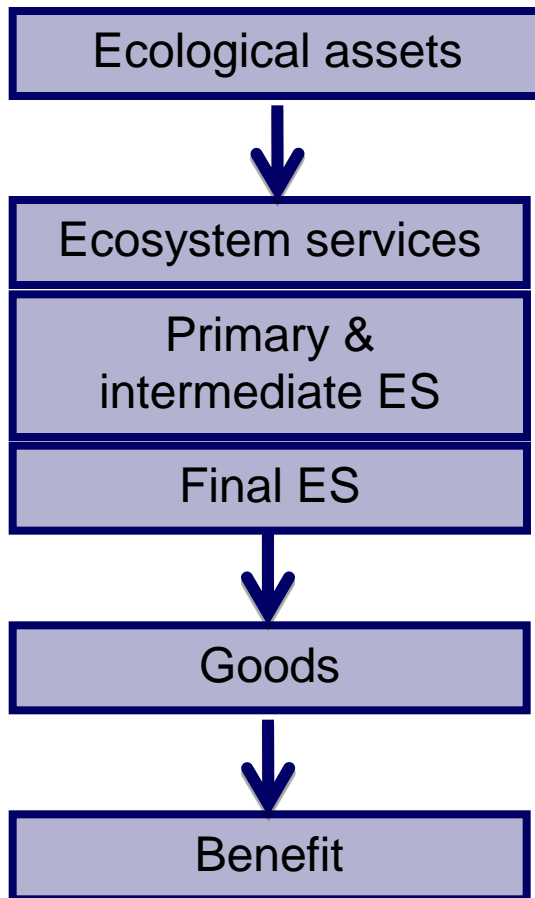
Economic value of the marine environment

- Values are context specific
 - Resource
 - Change
 - People affected
- We can use evidence from previous studies
 - Value Transfer
- But more primary research needed to build the marine evidence base

Features of the ES approach



1. **Make better use of multi-disciplinary expertise**
2. **Provide better and more appropriate scientific information**



Ecosystem services: Practical example?

Designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

- MPAs bring costs and benefits
- Habitat can support multiple ecosystem services:
 - ⇒ Fisheries employment
 - ⇒ Recreation
 - ⇒ Non-use values



Why is each analysis seemingly different?

- We are still learning about:
 - How marine environments function
 - How to apply available socio-economic analysis tools to them
- We don't want to be comprehensive in every analysis:
 - Different goals, scope (time/space)
- So different standards and tools emerge

Challenges

- Build on current and recent work to improve decisions
- Support strategic management of marine environment
 - This is what MSFD asks for
 - Similar inputs needed to long-term marine strategies.
 - Other strategic information
- Caution: CBA is just one tool for decision-makers



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