

Connectedness with nature in citizen science

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Connectedness with nature

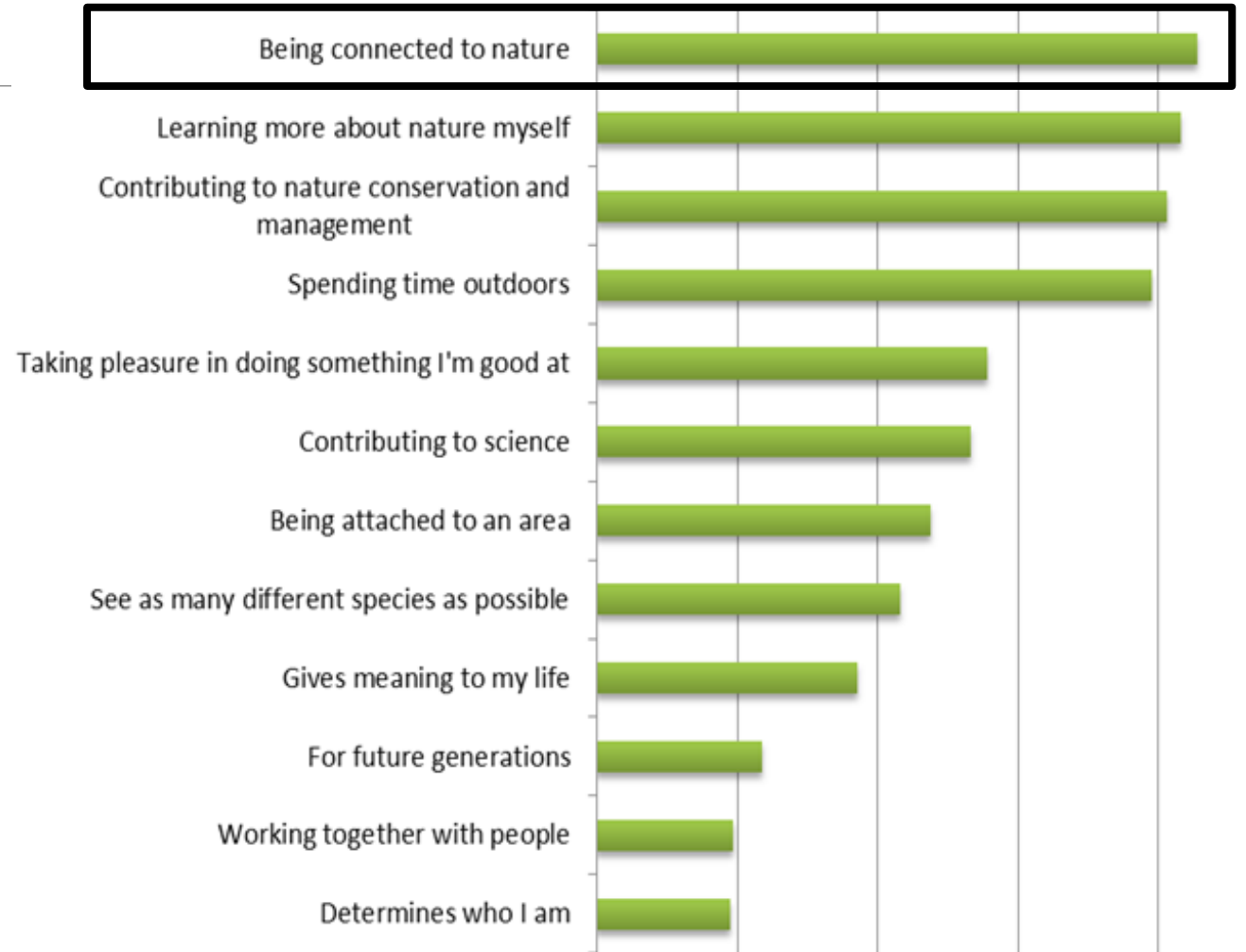
- ❖ Relational values as a meaningful bond, a connection, between humans and nature
- ❖ Understanding connectedness as motivating active citizenship
- ❖ Zooming in on biodiversity citizen scientists (BCS)

Study 1

❖ Survey study among Dutch BCS

❖ Autumn 2015

❖ N = 2193

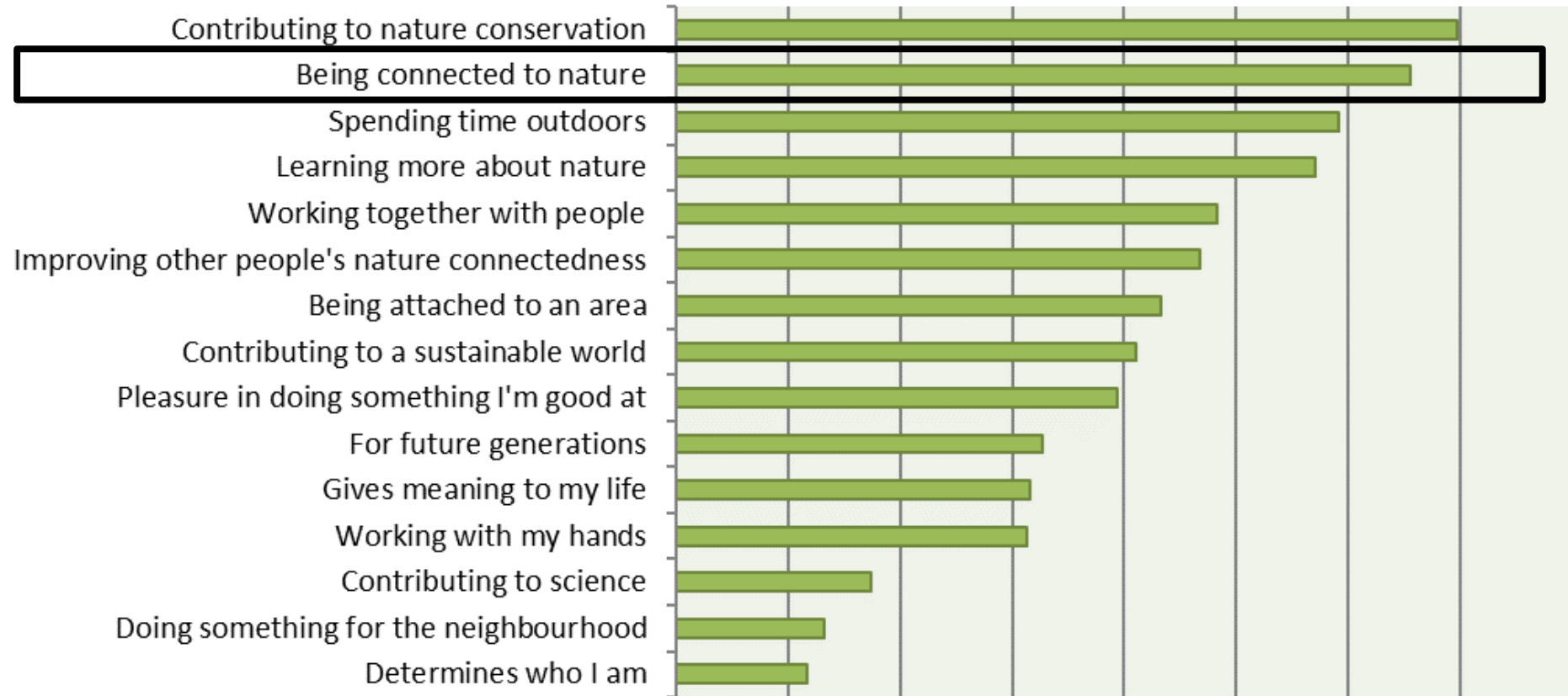


Study 2

❖ Dutch green
volunteers

❖ Autumn 2017

❖ N = 3775



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❖ Dutch green volunteers

❖ Autumn 2017

❖ N = 3775

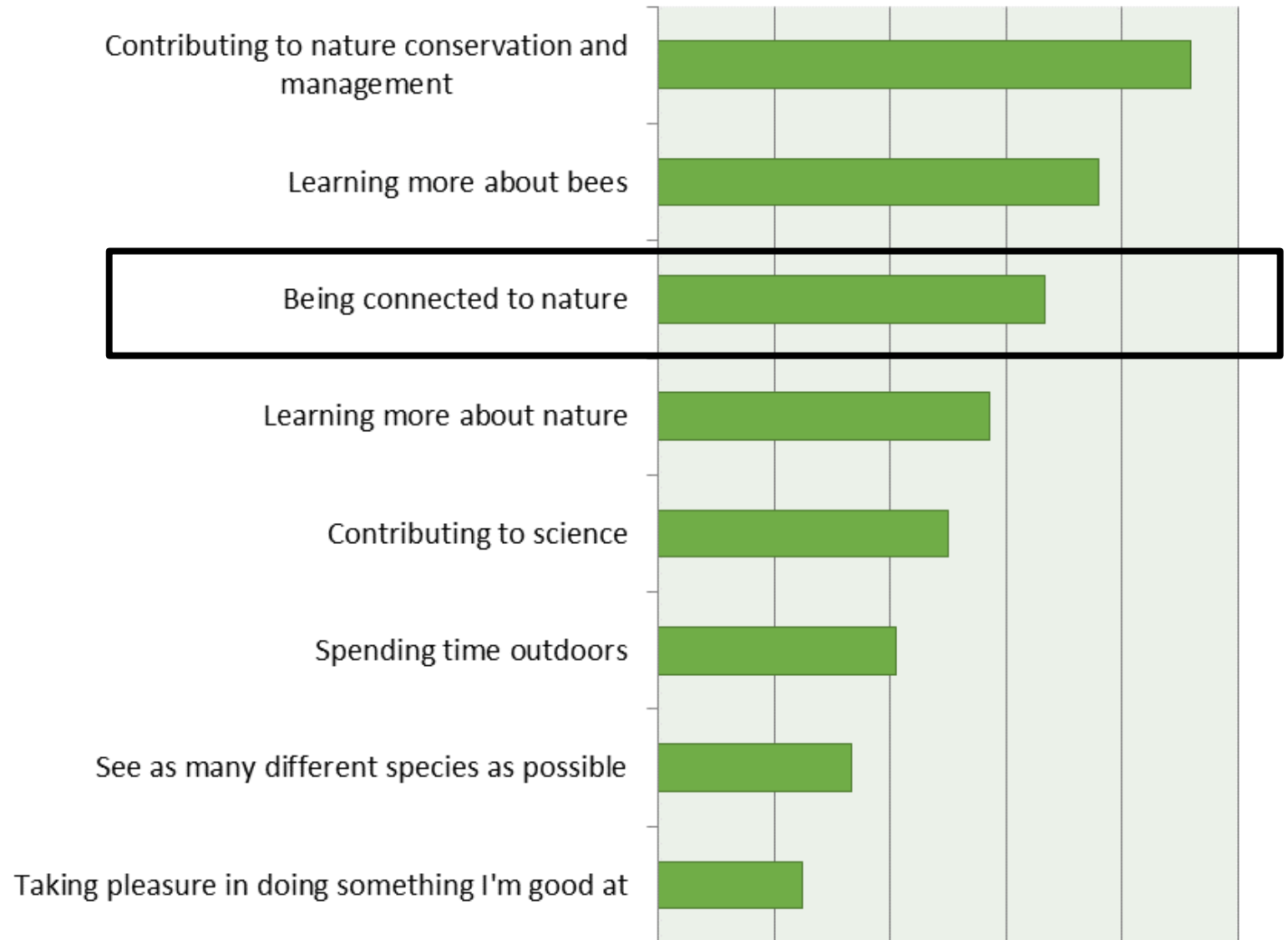
All respondents	Monitoring	Restoration	Education	Management
Contributing to nature conservation (43,0%)	Contributing to nature conservation (44,9%)	Contributing to nature conservation (46,5%)	Being connected to nature (40,0%)	Contributing to nature conservation (44,0%)
Being connected to nature (40,1%)	Being connected to nature (43,2%)	Being connected to nature (40,2%)	Contributing to nature conservation (38,9%)	Being connected to nature (38,1%)
Spending time outdoors (29,0%)	Learning more about nature (29,2%)	Spending time outdoors (30,5%)	Improving other people's nature connectedness (34,5%)	Improving other people's nature connectedness (28,3%)

Study 3

❖ Participants DNBS

❖ Spring 2018

❖ N = 373



So what is connectedness?

- ❖ Thematic analysis of significant experiences
- ❖ 1450 reported experiences
- ❖ Diverse and personal!

So what is connectedness?

- ❖ Discovery & surprise (Curtin 2009)
- ❖ Unique vs. everyday (Richardson et al. 2015)
- ❖ Special place vs. home
- ❖ Undisturbed vs. encounter
- ❖ Beauty vs. hardship
- ❖ Deep immersion vs. joy of the outdoors (Bell et al. 2018)

So what is connectedness?

- ❖ **Learning** as relational or utilitarian value?
 - ❖ Developing relationship (Cosquer et al. 2012)
- ❖ **Stewardship** through contributing to research and conservation
- ❖ **Social** aspects? Bell et al. (2008)

Ganzevoort, W., van den Born, R.J.G., Halfman, W. & Turnhout, S. (2017). Sharing biodiversity data: Citizen scientists' concerns and motivations. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 26(12), 2821-2837.

Ganzevoort, W. & van den Born, R. (2019). The thrill of discovery: Significant nature experiences among biodiversity citizen scientists. *Ecopsychology* 11(1), 22-32.

Conclusions

- ❖ Connectedness to nature 'does work' as motivation for BSC
- ❖ This is not purely instrumental, but also *relational*
- ❖ The human-nature connection is personal → empirical work to understand its richness
- ❖ Organisations can take these relational aspects into account in project management