



Between controversy and plebiscite: is carrying capacity useful for decision support in MPAs?

Recommendations resulting from a partnership approach

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A collective thinking process about carrying capacity

→ Two main questions about carrying capacity (CC) for decision support in MPAs

- Normativity → controversy (social scientists)
- Feasibility → plebiscite (MPAs managers)

Growth of multi-objectives MPAs with new governance models

Researchers	Managers
1. Normativity	1. Normativity
2. Feasibility	2. Feasibility
3. Knowledge	3. Knowledge

A collective thinking process about carrying capacity

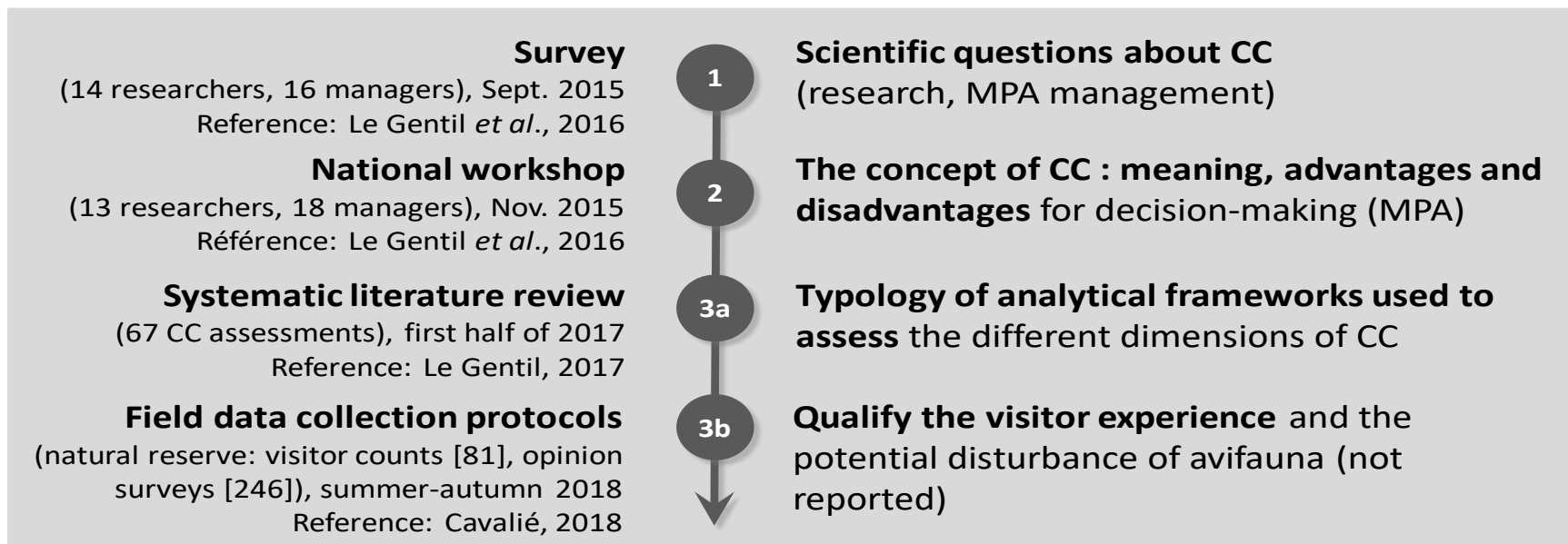
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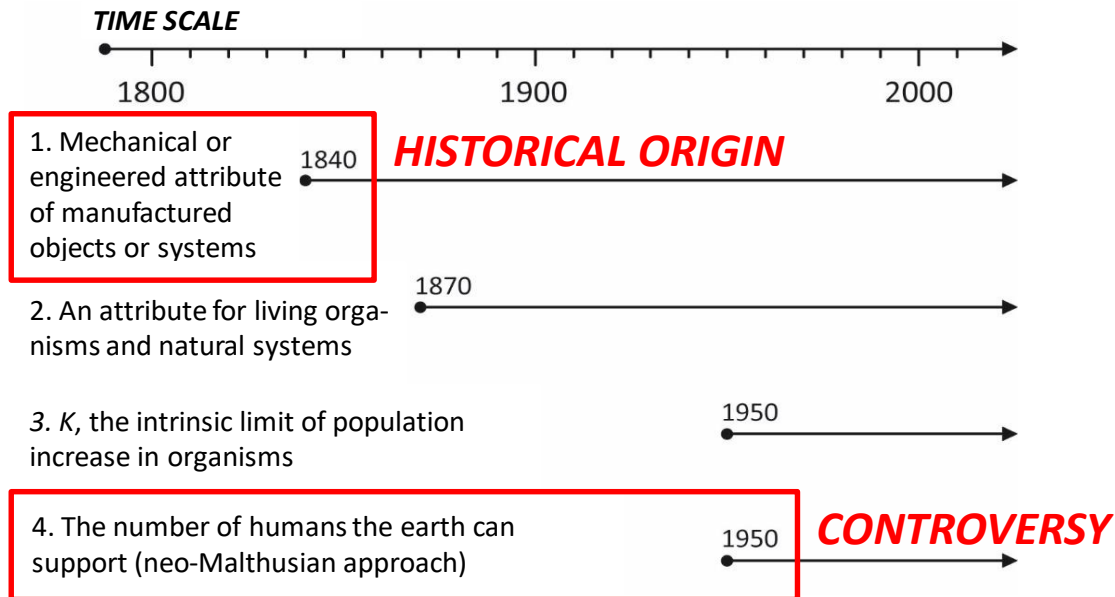
→ Execution of the partnership approach

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Meaning, advantages and disadvantages of CC

→ Genesis and history of CC

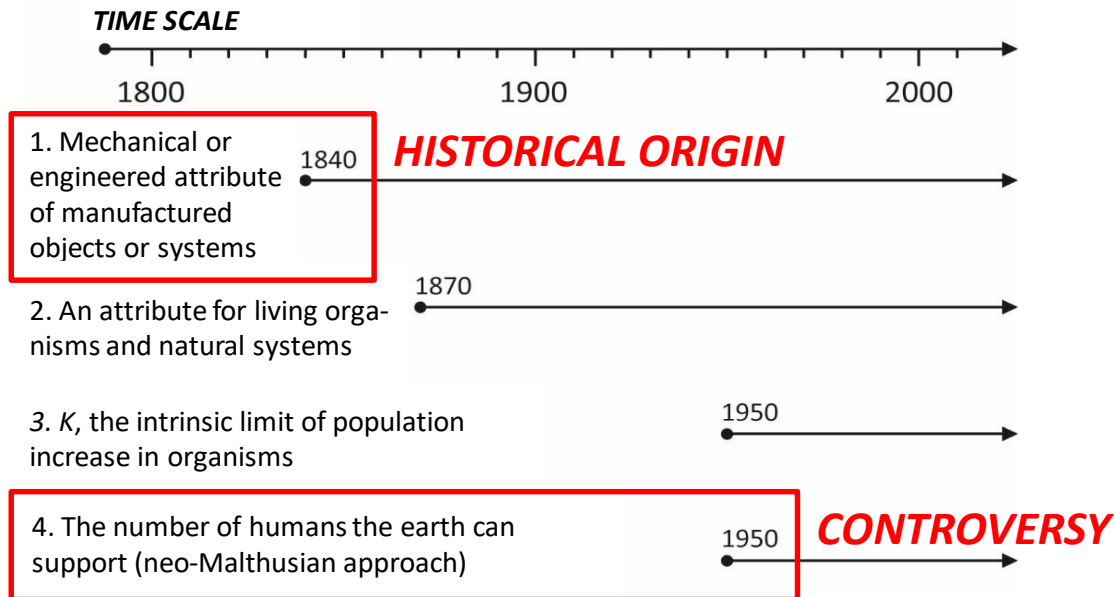


→ Actually, CC ...

- seeks to formalize the threshold effect
- refers to $\neq$ dimensions
- is always a controversial concept

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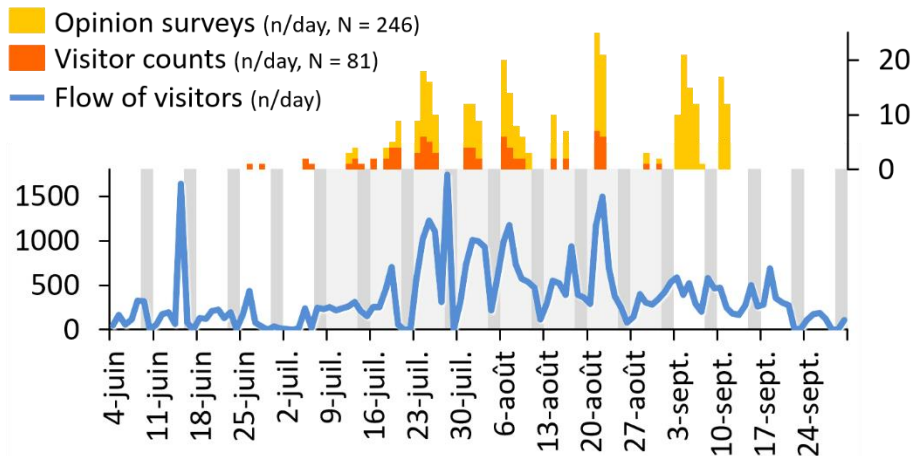
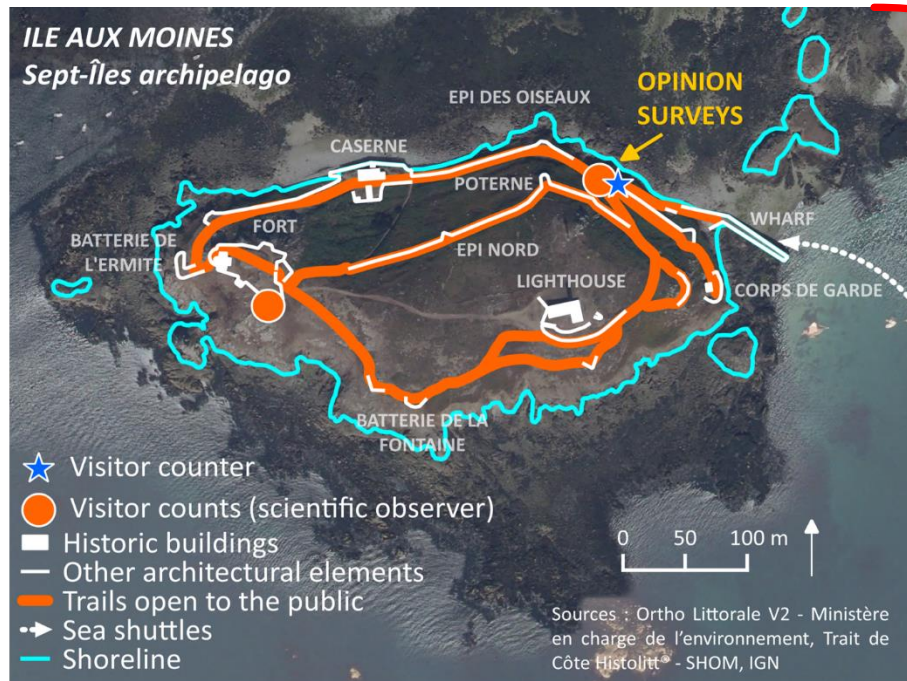
→ But also ...

- An intuitive concept
- It questions the notion of growth

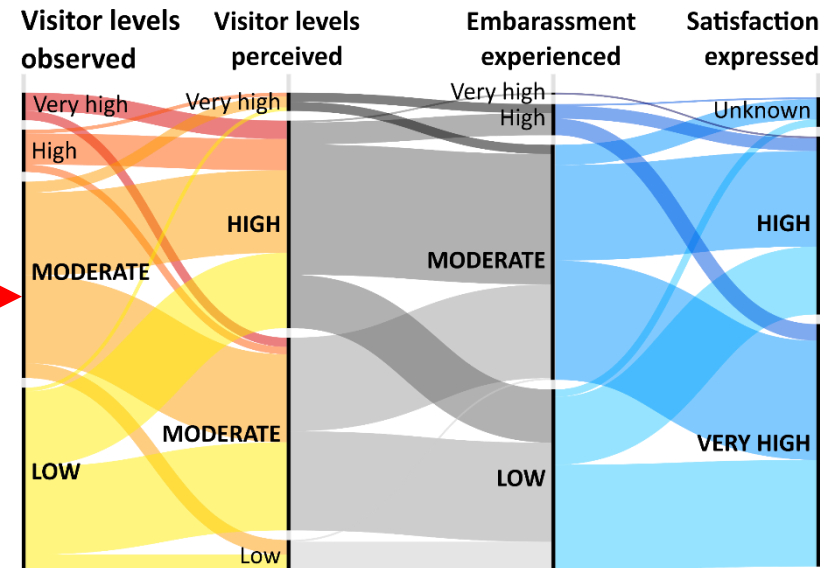
Useful for decision support?

Advantages	Disadvantages
• An integrative concept (research-management, SS-LSci)	• Several definitions, often unclear
• An intuitive concept	• Normative (<i>numerus clausus</i>)
• It questions the notion of growth and its consequences	• Often conceived as ideal, static, and numerical
• It questions nature conservation policies	• Hard to measure (thresholds or optimums)

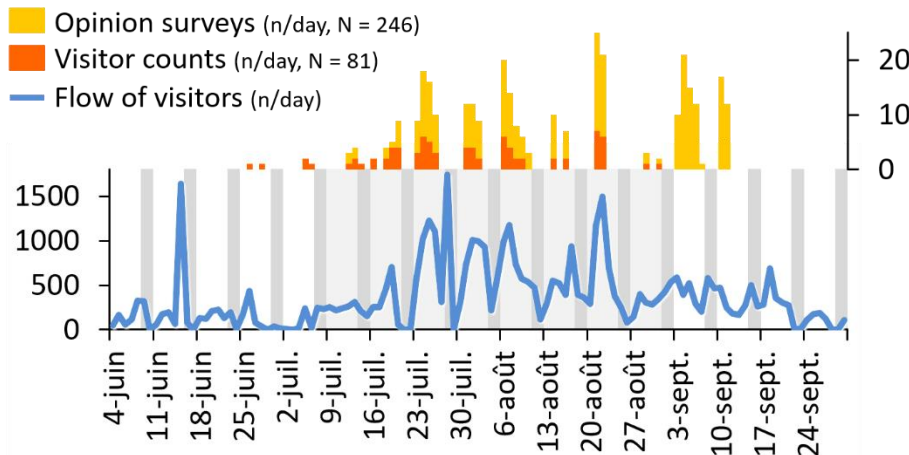
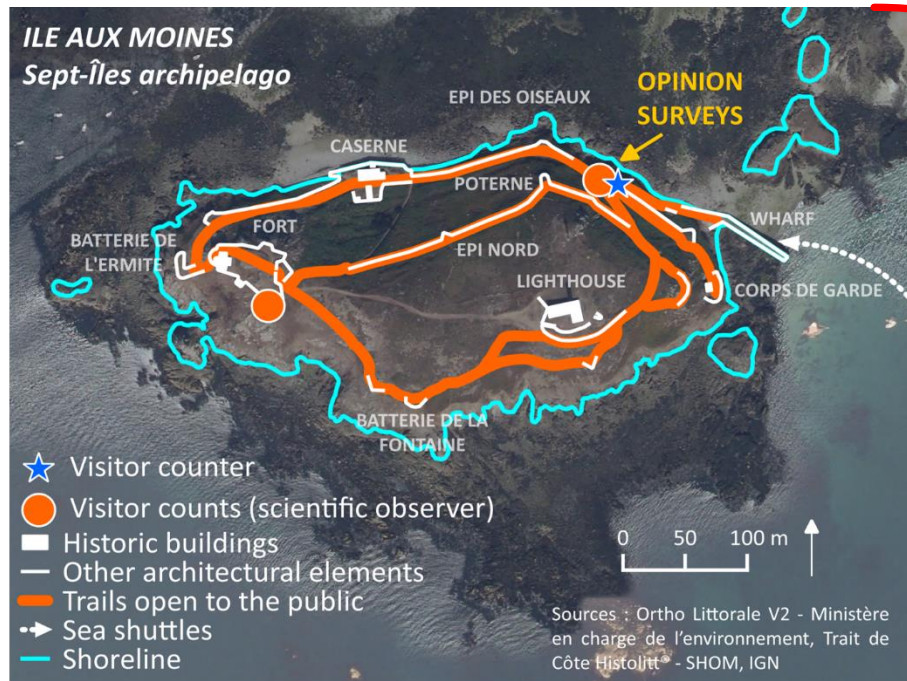
Qualify the visitor experience



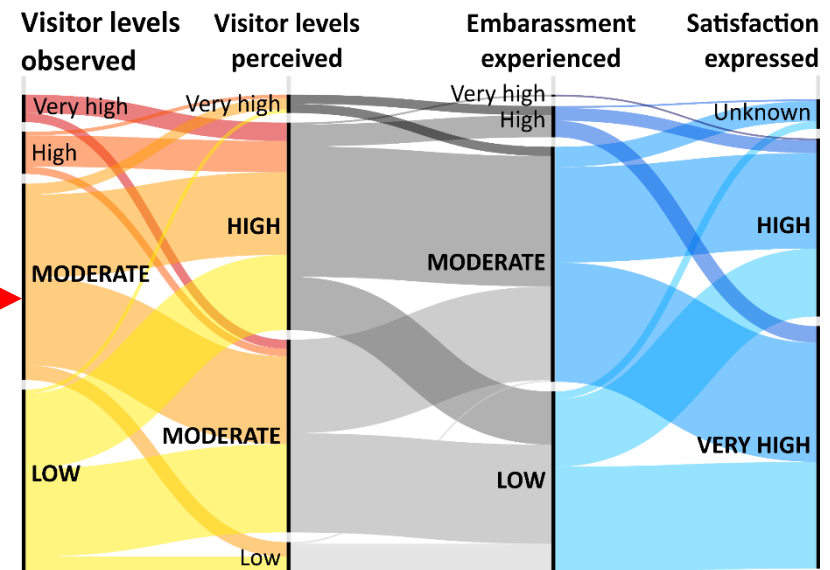
→ Systematic rev. + local assessment



Qualify the visitor experience



→ Systematic rev. + local assessment



CC → USEFUL?

- CC: a potential reference standard for small territories and some issues
- To be discuss in the broader context of a territorial project, defined by the stakeholders

MERCI !

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