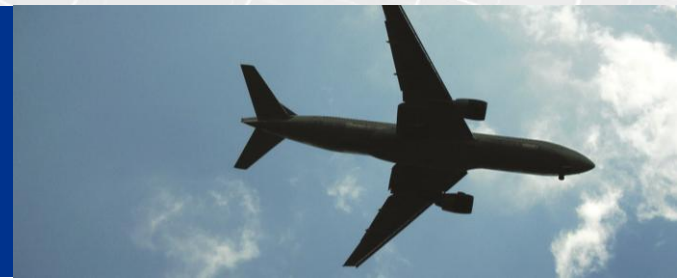


Case Study

Nationally Important Infrastructure and Ecosystems Assessment



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Context

The Airports Commission was tasked with recommending a preferred option for airport expansion in London

A second runway at Gatwick

A new runway to the north of Heathrow

An extension of Heathrow's northern runway

The Commission designed and consulted on an Appraisal Framework with 16 modules

Recommendation - New Runway at Heathrow

1

- Ban on all scheduled night flights

2

- Noise mitigation

3

- Predictable respite

4

- Compensate those who would lose their homes.

5

- Training for local people

6

- Air quality monitoring

7

- Spend more than £1 billion on community compensation.

8

- A fourth runway should be firmly ruled out

Conclusions

Impacts on community facilities and heritage assets –
not unmanageable

*“The Commission’s conclusion is that the environmental impacts of expansion at Heathrow, once **effective mitigations** and **generous provision for compensation** are in place, **do not outweigh** its very significant national and local benefits”.*

Method

Define the environmental stock

- Four broad habitat categories
- Also agricultural land

Identify ecosystem services

- Professional judgement
- Evidence from literature

Assess the effect on ecosystem services

- Qualitative based on prominence of service, sensitivity and magnitude

Estimate costs and benefits

- Scale and direction of effects

Monetisation

- Transfer values (TEEB)
- Market price

Assumptions and Limitations

Limited detailed information available

- Change in environmental stock and change in ecosystem service provision

Non-linear relationship

- Environmental stock vs functioning of ecosystem

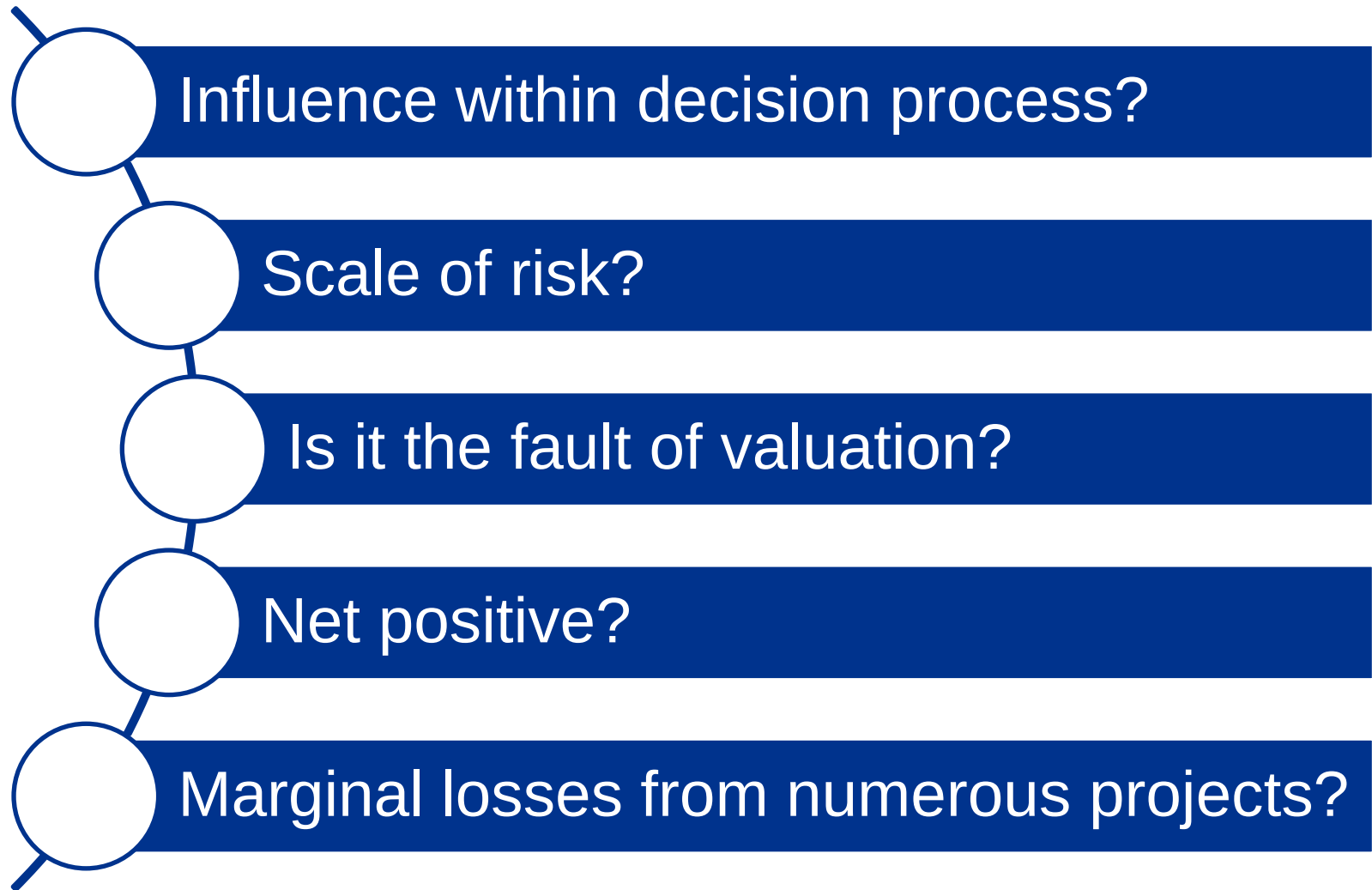
Monetisation limitations

- Robustness of value transfer

Limited awareness of natural capital/ecosystem services among scheme promoters

- Implications of this on producing guidance

Thoughts



Thank you

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