



# Watering Wetlands

Discussion paper – key points

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# Study overview

1. Two surveys – 11 and 10 questions
  - Factors that influence attitude
  - Knowledge seeking strategies
  - Barriers to knowledge exchange
  - Context for management decisions
  - Decision making process
2. Anonymous
3. 34 wetland managers, 19 wetland scientists
4. Variety of spatial scales
5. Follow up phone interviews

(1) What influences attitude?

# What influences attitude?

## **Motivations**

1. Managers and scientists share some motivations e. g. desire to maintain, protect or restore a healthy environment
2. The reward structures for managers and scientists differ with the result that, without appropriate incentives, there may be little motivation for them to work together.

# What influences attitude?

## Perceptions

1. How much do we know?

*Only some of the information exists*

2. What influences management decisions?

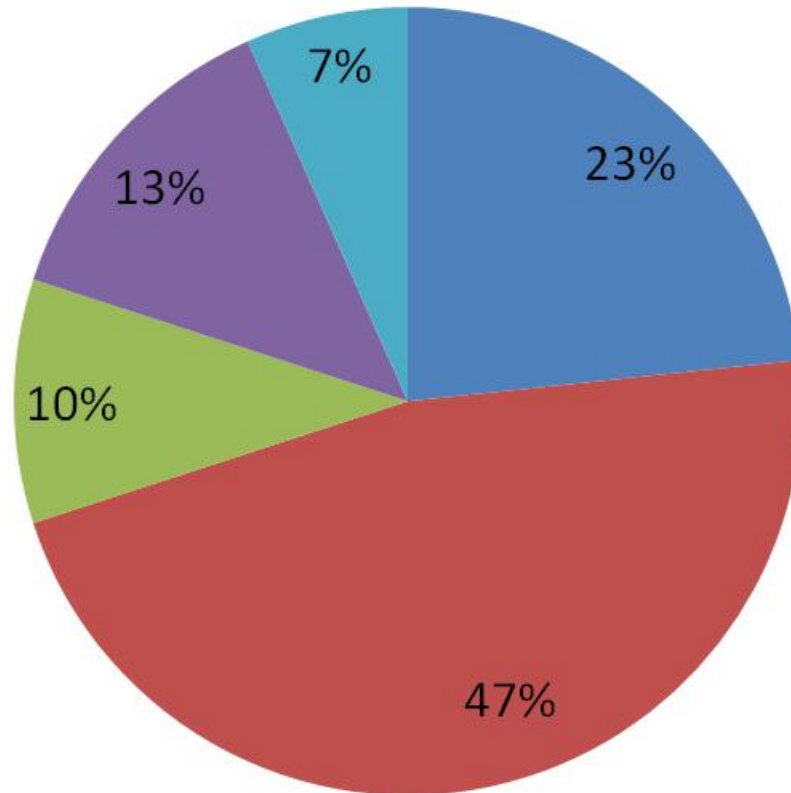
*Good scientific information*

Nearly half of managers said good scientific information had a high impact on wetland watering decisions; yet 89% of scientists believed that good science had only a moderate or low impact on wetland watering decisions.

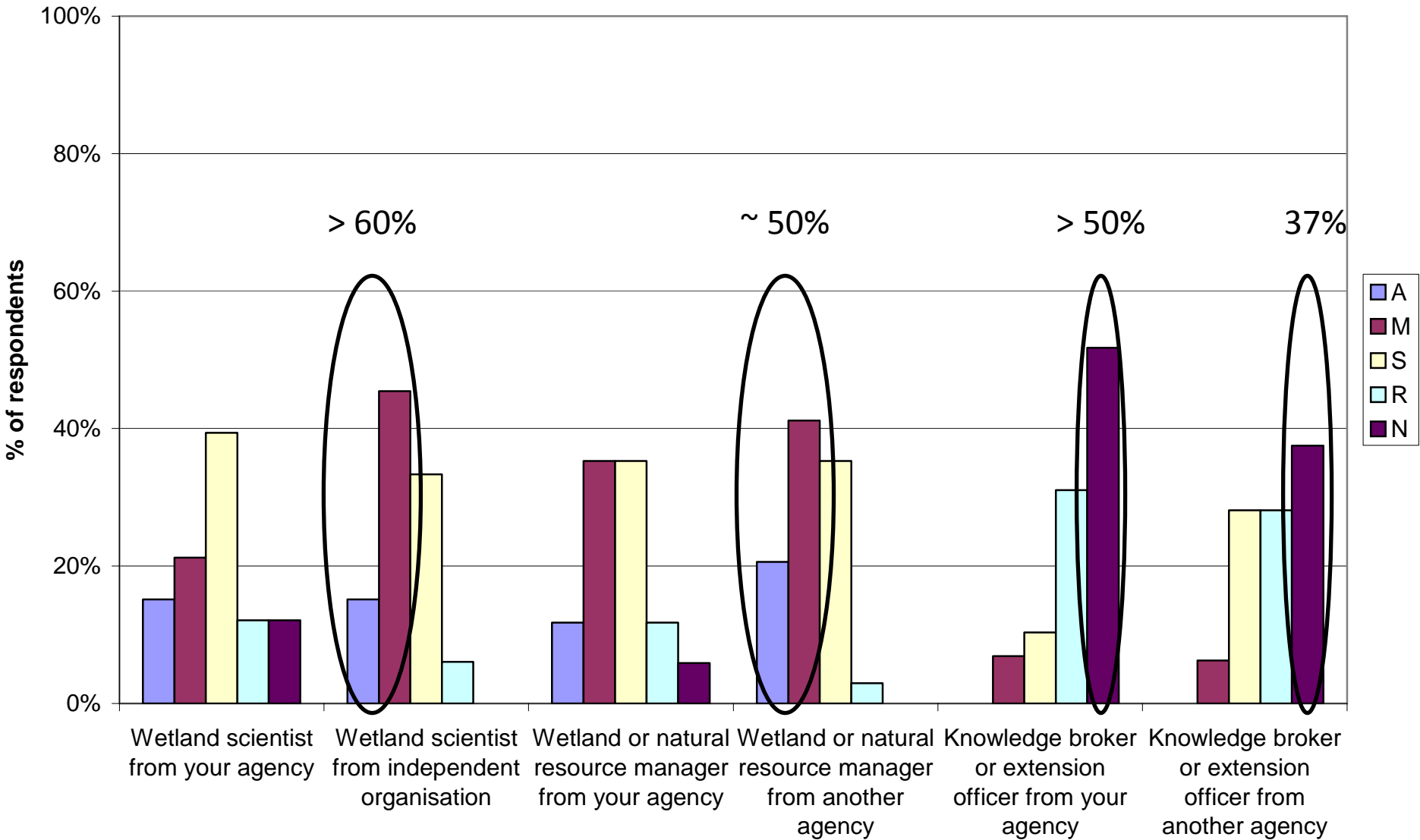
## (2) Knowledge seeking strategies

## Where do managers obtain their information from?

- Personal experience
- Scientific written sources
- Computer based model
- Another person
- Management written sources



# Which people do managers seek their advice from?





## (3) Context of management decisions

# Context of management decisions

1. Every manager surveyed believed that scientists needed to understand the context in which managers make their decisions
2. Operational (~70%) and physical (~60%) constraints and considerations were of high importance
3. Training opportunities?

## (4) Decision making process

# Decision making process

1. The “individual operator”
2. Participatory decision making
  - a) *Decisions that might emerge based on wetland science alone may not always be adopted*
  - b) *Scientists and managers cited successful examples of participatory approaches - keys to success was adequate time to build relationships*

# Summary

1. Snapshot
2. Attitudes – motivations and perceptions
  - a) they differ, but does it matter?
  - b) a barometer of success?
3. Knowledge seeking - relationships
4. Context of management decisions
5. Decision making processes - time to build relationships

