

The relevance of meaningful nature experience & connectedness with nature for invasive species action

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Connectedness with nature (CWN): extent to which an individual includes nature within their cognitive representation of self (1). Comprises affective (i.e. emotional) & behavioral attributes that respect the relatedness between oneself & the rest of nature.

Meaningful nature experience (MNE): non-ordinary experiences with/in nature that are particularly profound, important, affective & difficult to describe (2). May include awakening, peak, flow, mystical, 'satori', spiritual & synchronistic experiences with nature.

WHY RELEVANT? (RESULTS)

MNE influences* environmental behaviour (99% agree, $n = 65$) & outlook on life (94% agree, $n = 65$); MNE frequency correlates with greater CWN ($r_s = 0.39$; $p\text{-value} = <0.01$; $n = 172$) (3). CWN motivates biospheric concern & conservation behaviour (4); Invasive alien species (IAS) influence* MNE (Fig. 1); MNE may shift perceptions of IAS toward empathy, responsibility & social-ecological connection (Fig. 2).

HOW? (METHODOLOGY)

Knowledge interest: Interpretative
Paradigm: Pragmatism
Approach: Mixed methods (Qualitative / Quantitative)
Methods: Likert-scale surveys; In-depth interviews (purposive & random sampling); In-situ participation
Analysis: Statistical (e.g. ANOVA) & Descriptive; Phenomenological & Content analysis
Outreach: Field courses; Workshops; Online media.

Fig. 1: Extent to which IAS are perceived to affect MNE (with common themes accompanying responses) $n = 187$

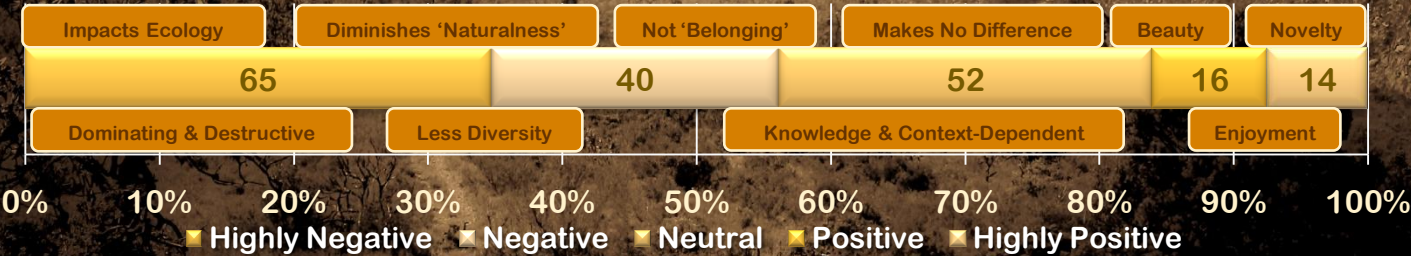
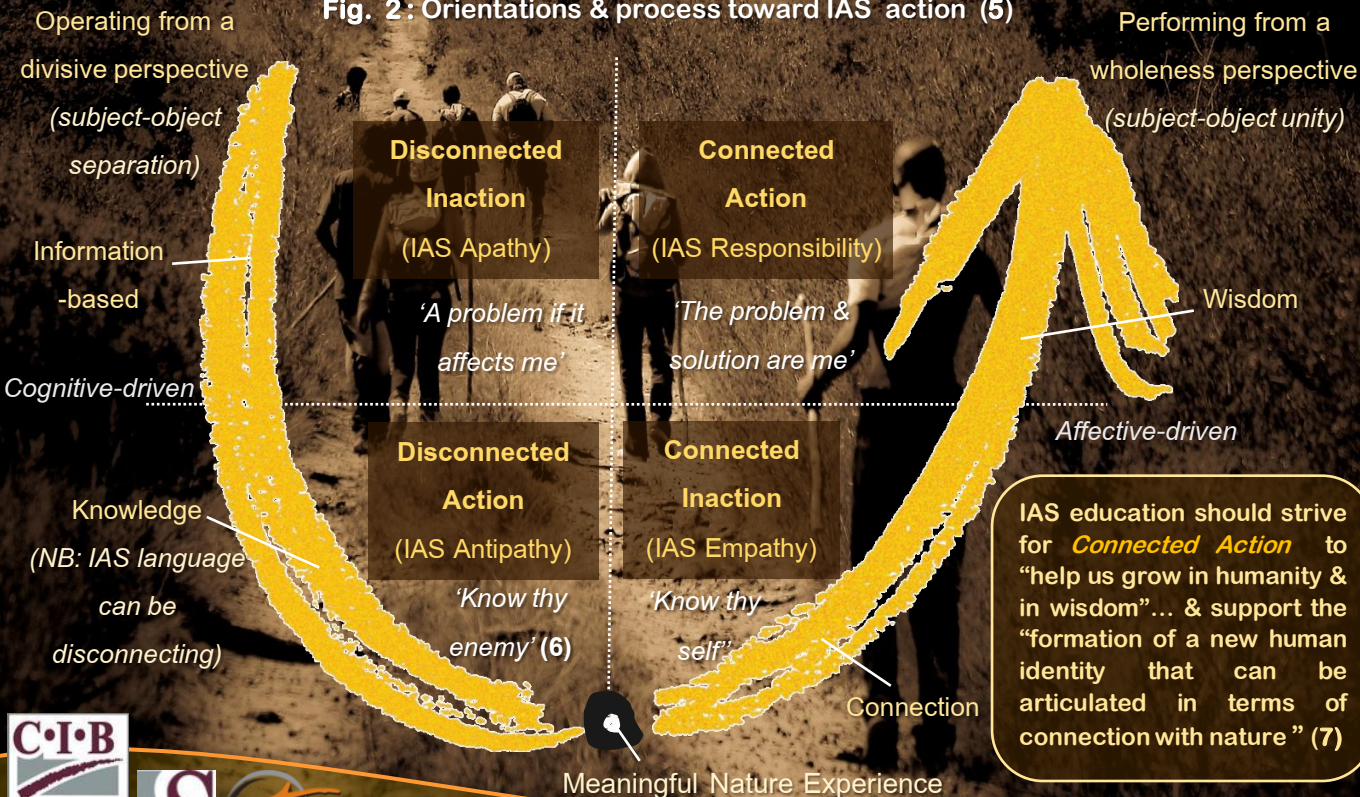


Fig. 2: Orientations & process toward IAS action (5)



Poster Citations

- (1): Schultz (2002); Mayer & Frantz (2004)
- (2): Adapted from Swan (2010); Morse (2011)
- (3): As measured with Mayer & Frantz's (2004) Connectedness to Nature Scale
- (4): Kals et al. (1999); Mayer & Frantz (2004); Nisbet et al. (2009); Gosling & Williams (2010); Schultz (2011)
- (5): The U-Curve is licensed under Creative Commons by the Presencing Institute – Otto Scharmer: www.presencing.com/permissions
- (6): Based on the title of a RadioLIVE interview with Bruce Warburton, Landcare NZ
- (7): Carruthers et al. (2011, p. 817)

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More Information & Outreach: