The UK’s approach on setting FRVs

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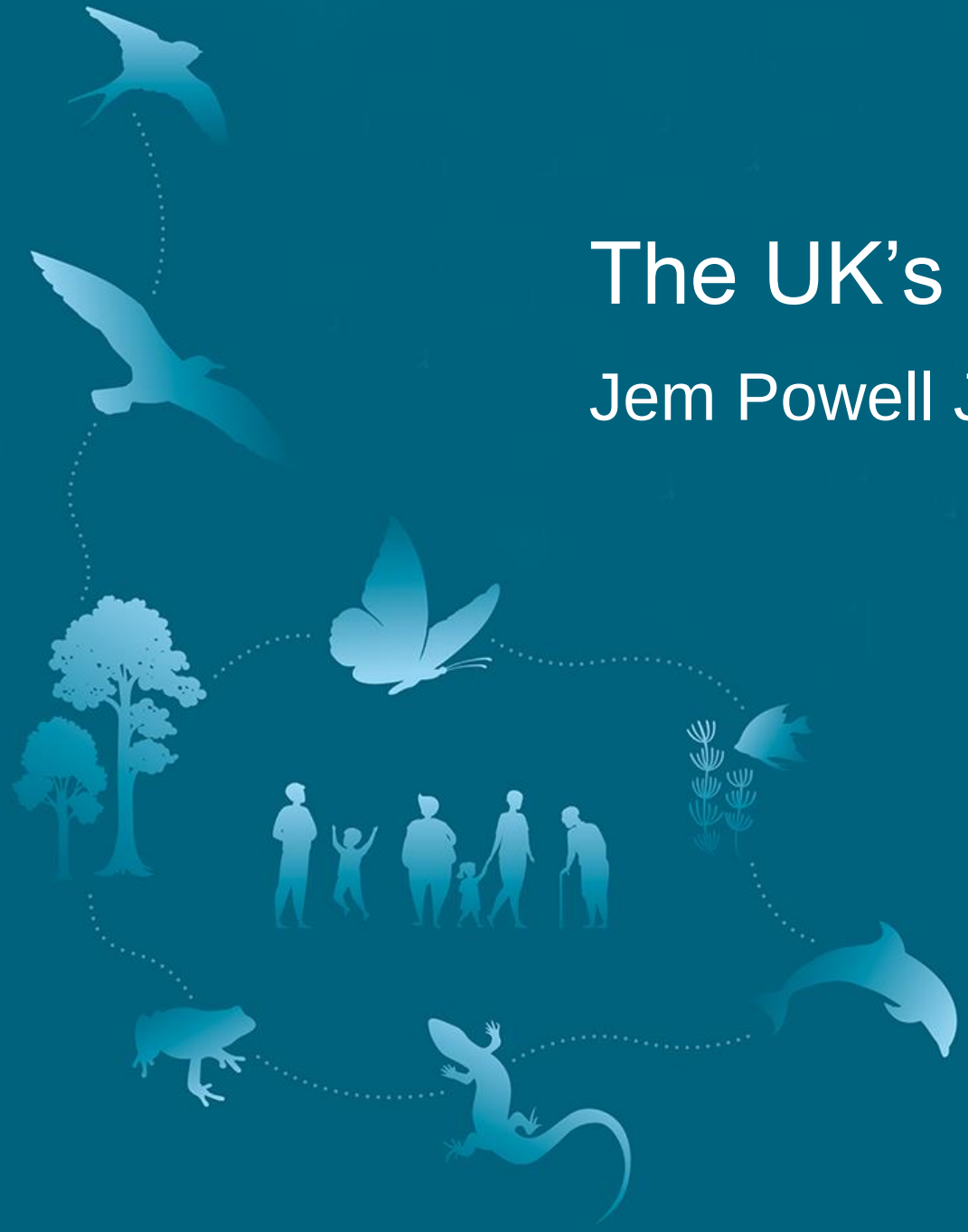

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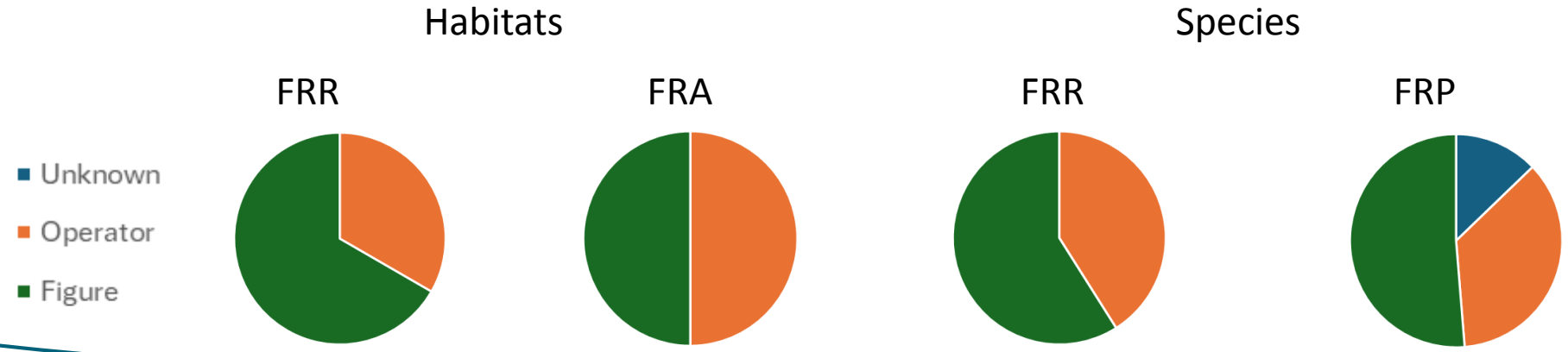
Setting UK FRVs: background

- Set in 2001-2006
  - Based on Habitats Directive (Article 17) reporting
- Updated where possible in following reporting rounds
- Reference based approach
  - ‘Viability judgement’ assessment
- Summary:

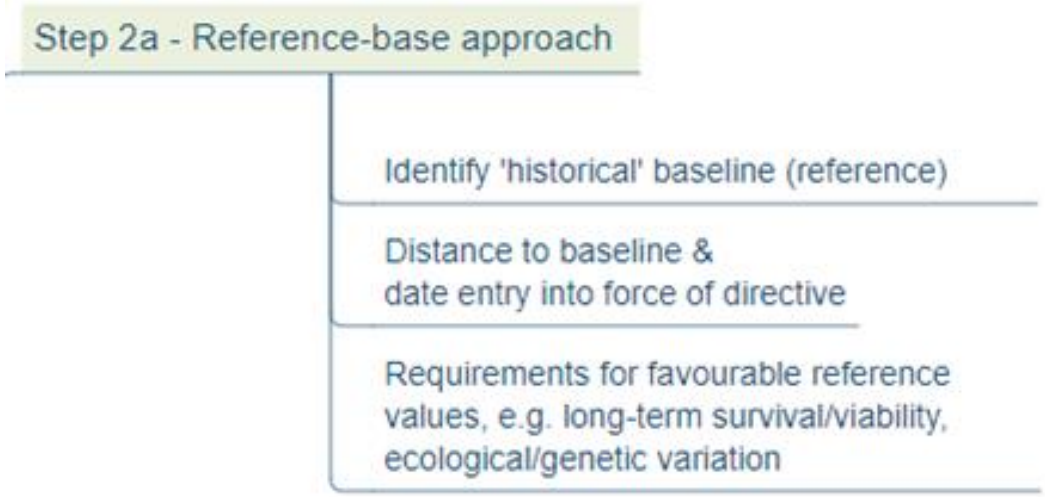


UK Habitat FRV Process Example:

Setting FRA through a ‘Viability judgement’ assessment

Viability Judgement Assessment: Overview

FRV	Definition
FRA	Total surface area of habitat in a given biogeographical region considered the **minimum necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the habitat type**; this should **include necessary areas for restoration or development for those habitat types for which the present coverage is not sufficient to ensure long-term viability**; favourable reference value must be at least the surface area when the Directive came into force.



Set either FRA as either:

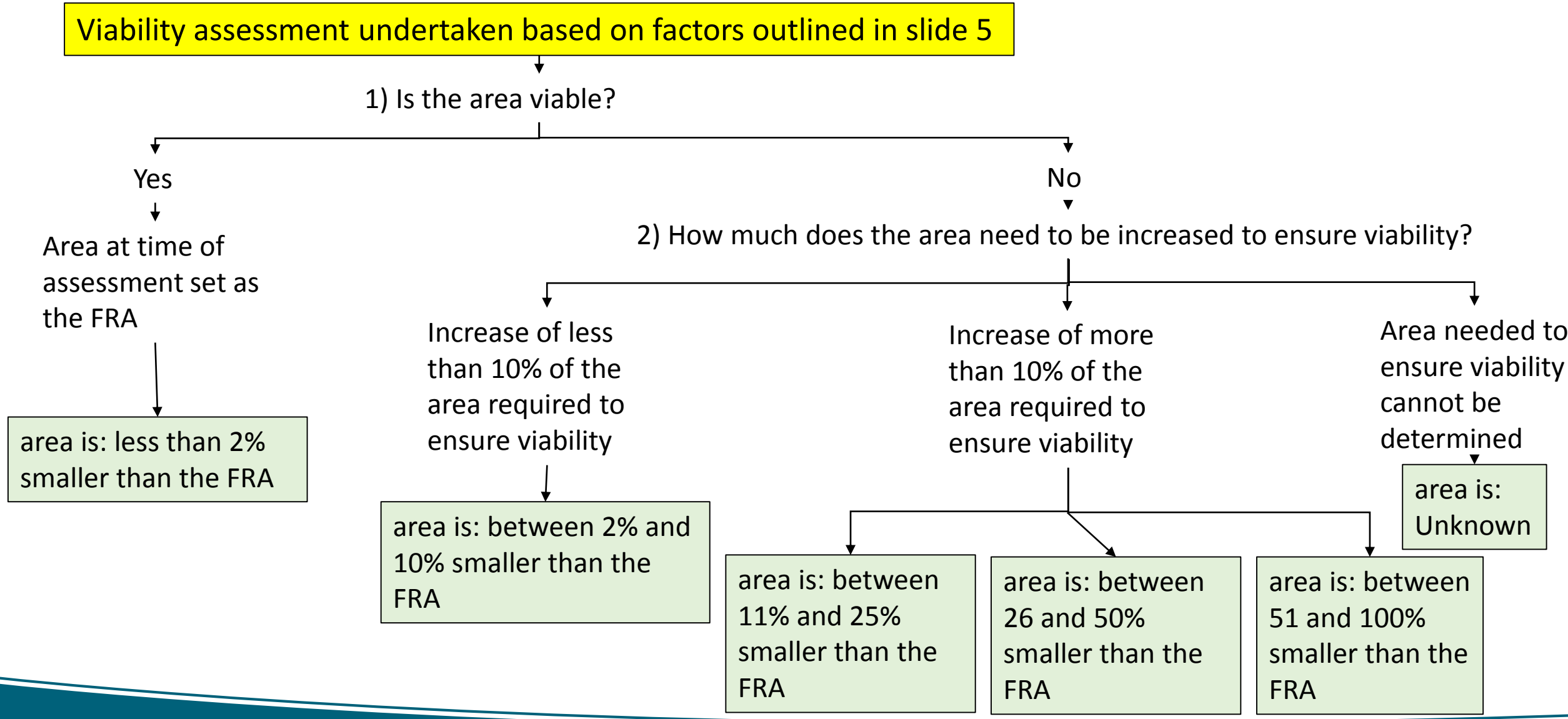
- Figure
- Pre-defined range

Viability Judgement Assessment: Overview

- Difficulty applying the concept of viability to habitats
- To determine viability
  - Key factors identified to give indication of viability
  - Additional factors
- Expert opinion, trends, and general knowledge
- Did not precisely define FRA

FRA: Key factors to determine viability
Total habitat area • Extensive habitats more likely to be viable than scarce habitats • Considerations: ecological variants and habitat components
Area of individual patches: • Larger patches more likely to be viable than smaller • Considerations: requirements of component species
Additional factors: • Habitat Fragmentation and isolation   • Better connected more likely to be viable • Vulnerability and restorability of habitats • Naturally scarce? • Trends (especially if rapid decline)

Viability Judgement Assessment: Overview



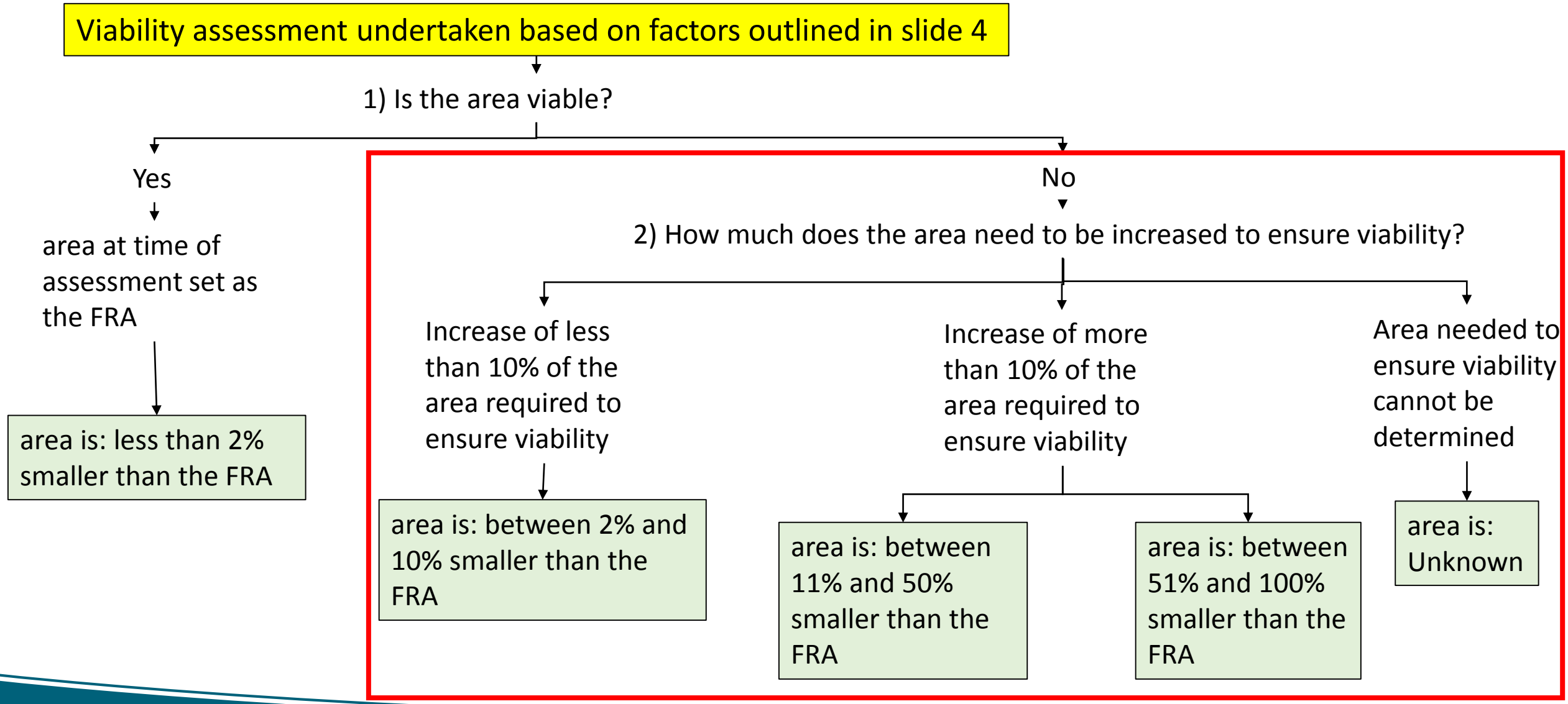
Example: H7130/ D1.2 Blanket bogs

1) Is the area considered viable?

- <1% rate of decline in area since 1994.
- Lots of evidence of historic decline:
  - the 1940s and 1980s 21% reduction in Scotland and 8% in NI.
  - Factors include drainage, cutting, and afforestation

The habitat is not considered viable

Viability Judgement Assessment: Overview



Example: H7130/ D1.2 Blanket bogs

2) How much does the area need to be increased to ensure viability?

- Condition of area is the main problem, not range
  - Present across large areas of range
  - No need to extend range (FRR= same as current area)
- Considering losses and restoration potential, expert opinion was not more than 10% increase in area would be favourable (the FRA is not more than 10% above the current area.)

FRA operator: between 2% and 10% smaller than the FRA

Key considerations and issues

- FRV figures based on operators
  - Viability judgment approach does not precisely define the FRV
  - Operator judgements can be used to set FRV value based on available data
- FRV definition differences
  - UK level vs Country level FRVs

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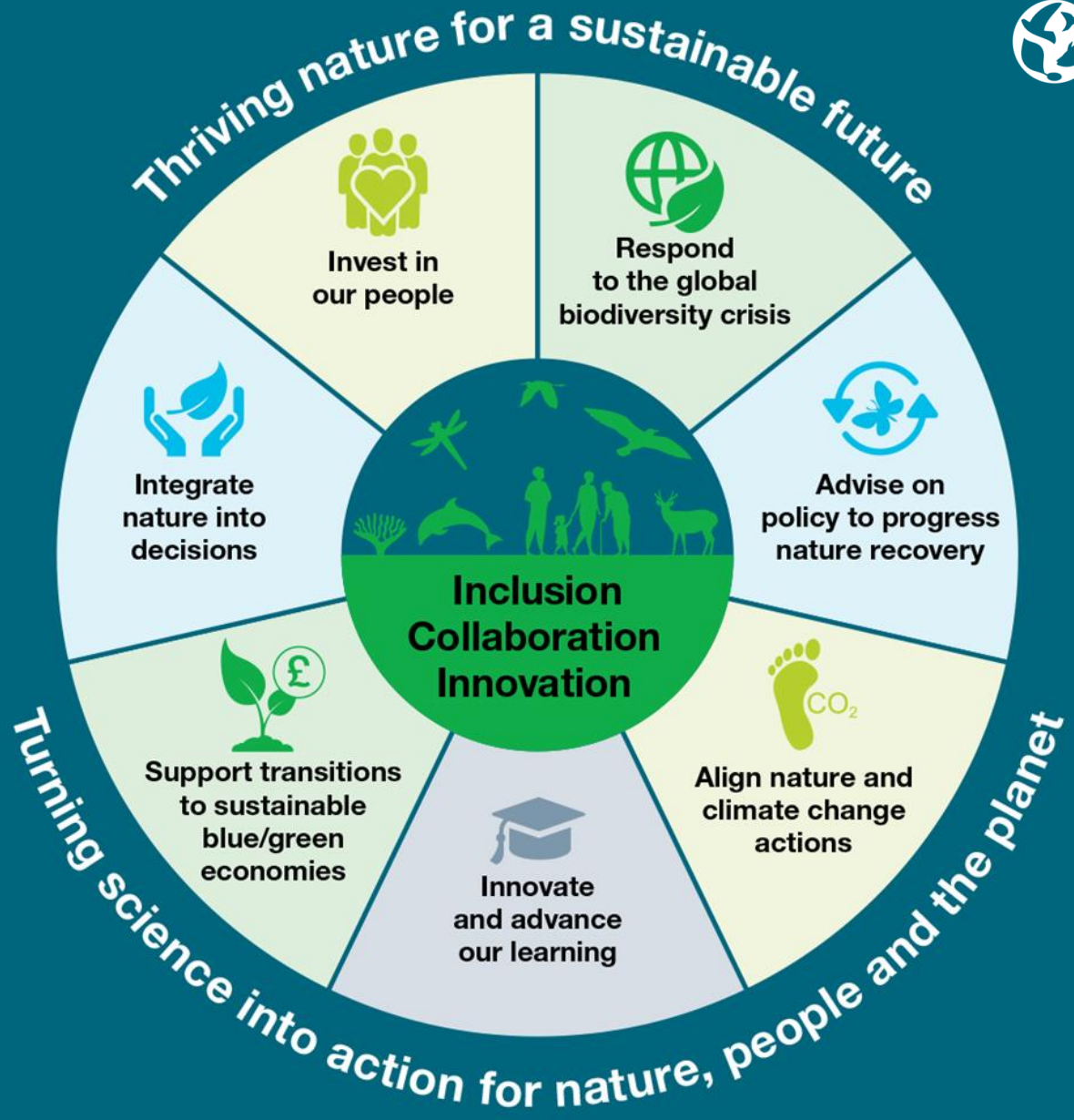
Mission

Turning science into action for nature, people and the planet.



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