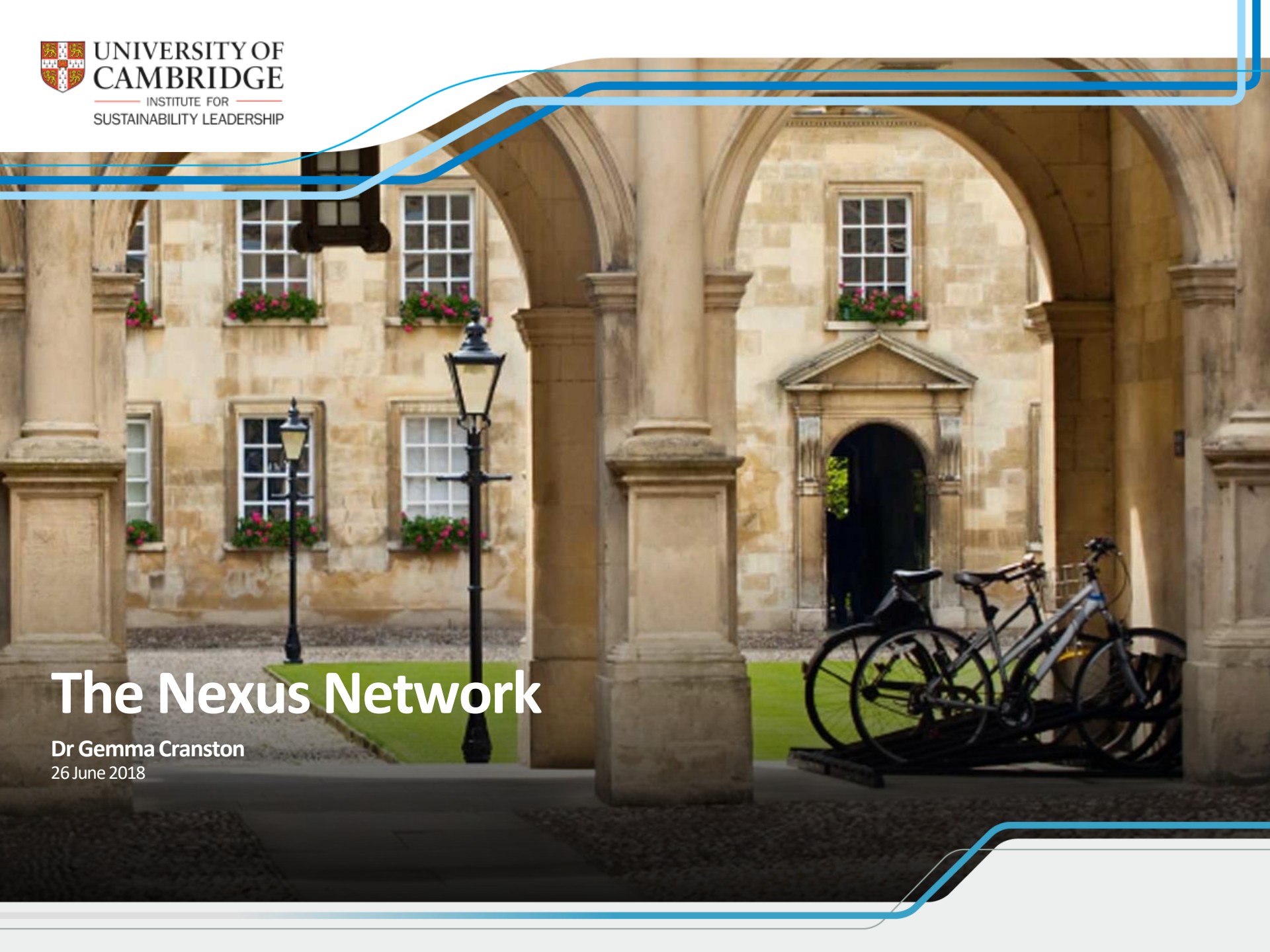




UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE
INSTITUTE FOR
SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

The Nexus Network

Dr Gemma Cranston
26 June 2018



Natural Capital Impact Group



Natural Capital Impact Group

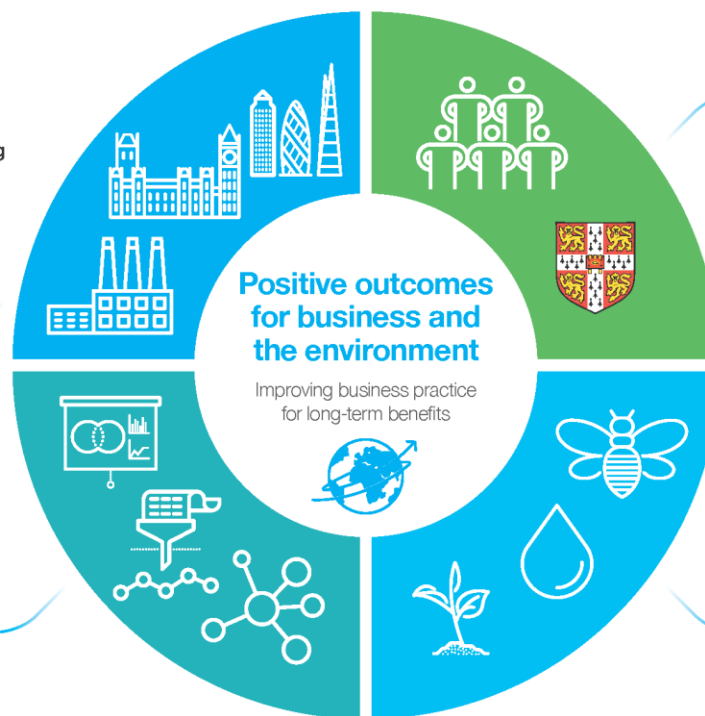
A global network of companies, working collaboratively to determine how business can evolve its strategies and operating practices to sustain the natural world and its resources, while creating new market opportunities and commercial benefits.

Creating positive impact at scale

Application of new thinking through our work with industry, financial institutions and policymakers

Harnessing research and thought leadership

Taking an innovative, enterprising and research-driven approach, while sharing knowledge, tools and processes



Learning with forward-thinking market leaders

Senior engagement between leading companies supported by the University of Cambridge

Delivering through member-led workstreams

SOIL – evaluating strategies to enhance soil fertility and measure business impacts
WATER – collaborating with stakeholders to implement solutions to flooding
BIODIVERSITY – developing simple, practical biodiversity metrics that are meaningful across business value chains

Focus areas this year

- Metric and KPI development to reduce impact on natural capital in global supply chains
- In depth projects with companies on Soil, Water, Biodiversity
- Supply chain risk from pollination decline
- Impact of the Built Environment on natural capital
- Industry led Summits and leadership groups on implementing natural capital approaches



Since its launch in June 2014, the Nexus Network has worked to:

- support transdisciplinary research at the food-water-energy-environment nexus; and
- to create meaningful links between communities of researchers, policymakers, business leaders and practitioners.

What is the Nexus Network?

The Nexus Network has been

the first in a series of linked investments from *the Economic and Social Research Council* (ESRC) in the UK

supporting a *community of researchers and stakeholders*

to tackle *nexus interdependencies*, trade-offs and decision-making processes

What did it do?

- hosted and facilitated numerous events, providing spaces for engagement and discussion about nexus challenges
- developed insights into tools and methodologies for nexus thinking and practice
- supported nexus-related research through a flexible small grants programme and fellowship scheme
- worked with businesses and policymakers to support them to address nexus interdependencies, opportunities and impacts
- built capacity in the UK research system for future investments in nexus-related economic environmental and sustainability research
- provided strategic advice to ESRC, RCUK and other funding bodies.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY, INTERDISCIPLINARY, TRANSDISCIPLINARY

- A **multidisciplinary** approach draws upon the strengths or expertise of different disciplines, and more effectively joins up their findings, but leaves disciplinary boundaries (and sometimes hierarchies) intact.
- An **interdisciplinary** approach involves the fuller integration of disciplines, to develop potentially novel ways of approaching research questions, recognising that there is a diversity of ways to understand and address particular problems.
- **Transdisciplinary** research not only integrates expertise from across academic disciplines, but also involves societal stakeholders in the design stage, and throughout the research process. In transdisciplinary research, knowledge can come from beyond formal academic disciplines, and insights are often provided through other kinds of tacit knowledge – as held by local communities, businesses, social movements or practitioners.

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The 'Nexus'

Food



**Growing food uses
70% of the world's
freshwater**

Demand for food to
increase by 50% by
2030

Water



**Water is a key input
to food and energy
production, making
them vulnerable to
drought and flood**

Demand for water to
increase by 30% by
2030

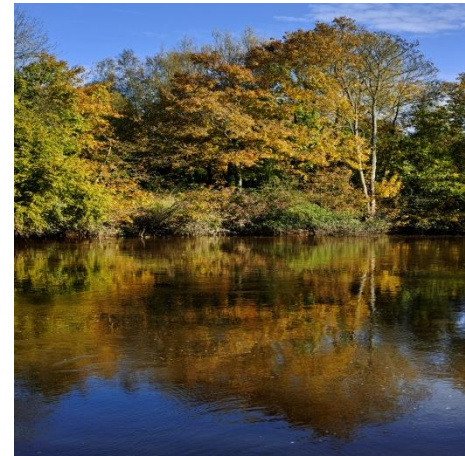
Energy



**3% of energy is
used to treat water
and 2% is used for
the production of
crop fertilizer and
agricultural uses**

Demand for energy
to increase by 50%
by 2030

Environment



**The natural
environment's
degradation is
threatening
business operations
and supply chains**

Business and the Nexus

Businesses need to be prepared to address nexus issues without undermining other users or their own corporate goals



- Business operate in the nexus of food, energy, water and the environment
- They are frequently at the sharp end of the trade-off needed to meet the demands of customers
- Competition is increasing for water, food, energy and the environment

Nexus2020:

the most important questions for business

What are the most important questions around business practice that, if answered, could help companies manage their dependencies and impacts upon food, energy, water and the environment?

Nexus2020



How did we collect questions?

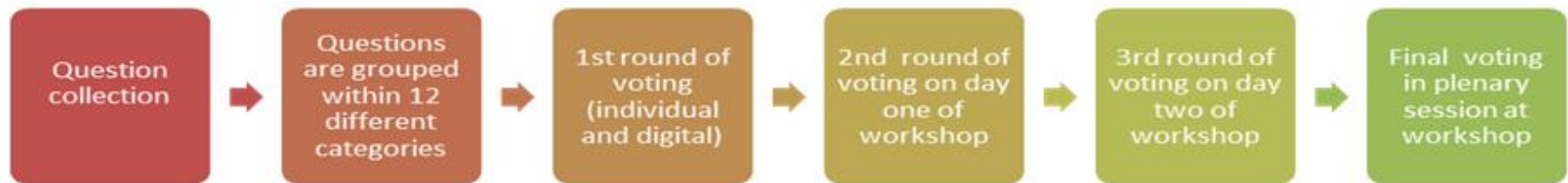


Over 700 questions from around 250 participants

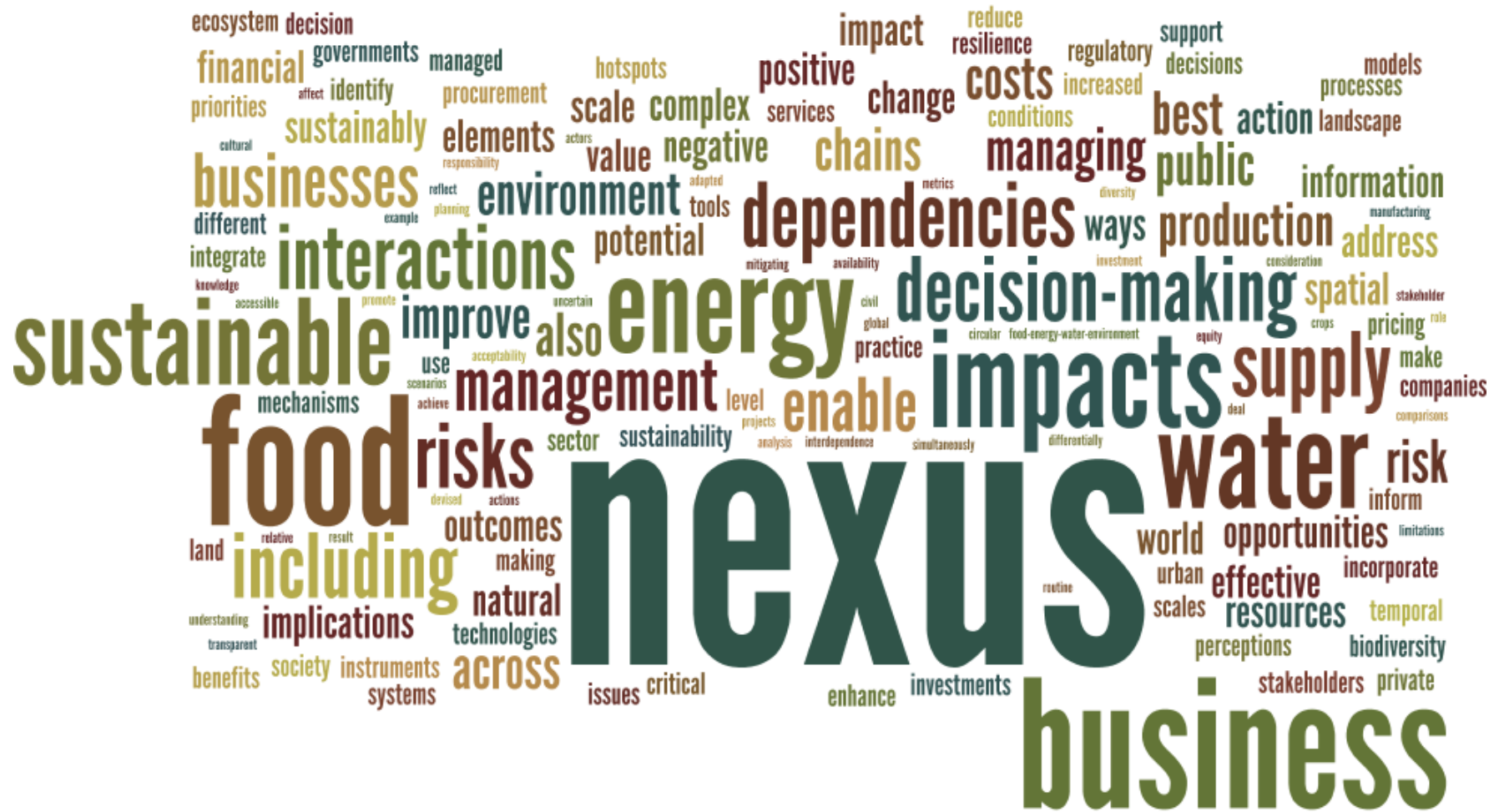
How did we select the top questions?



The selection process



What themes emerged?



Nexus2020 summary

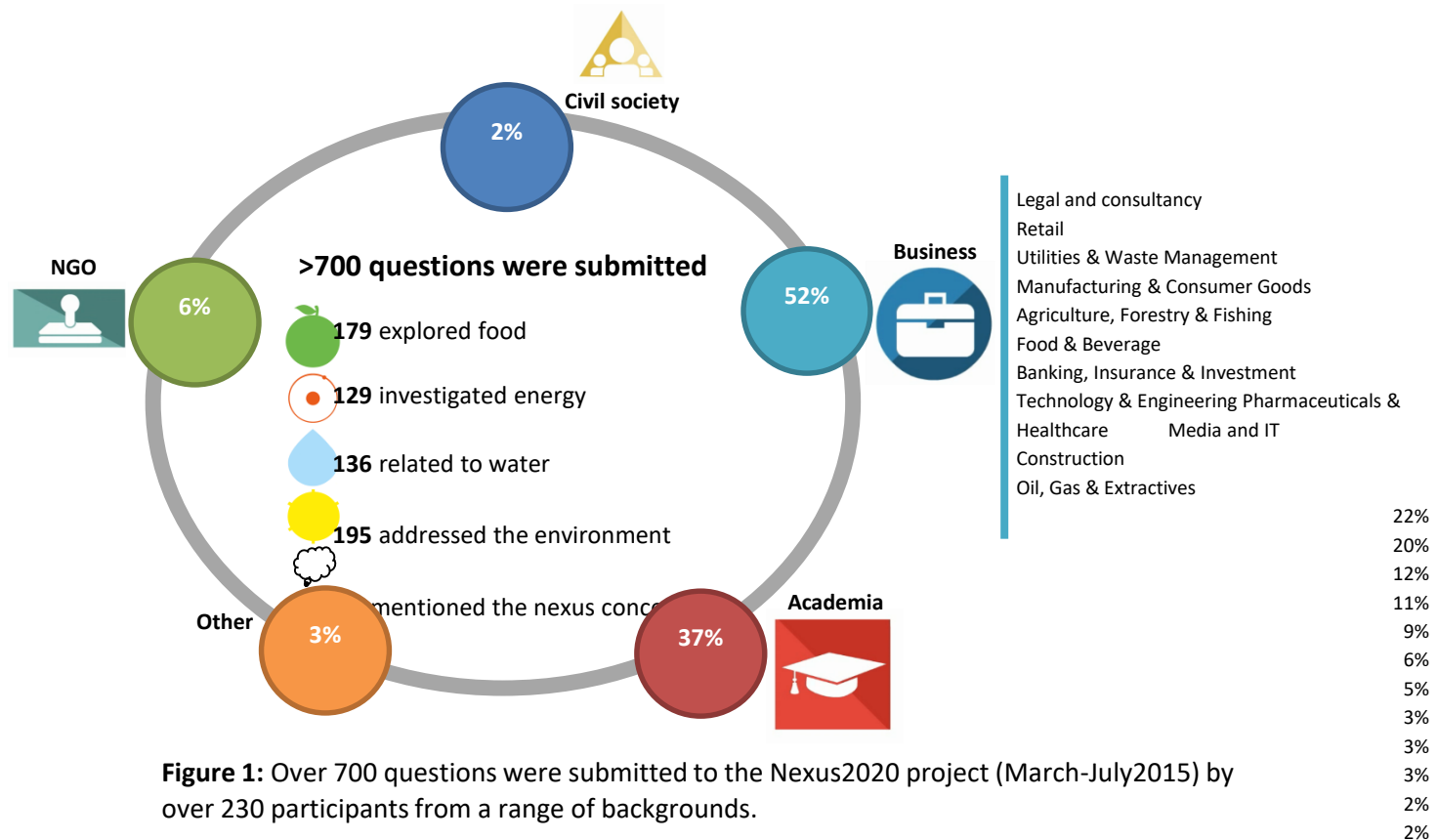
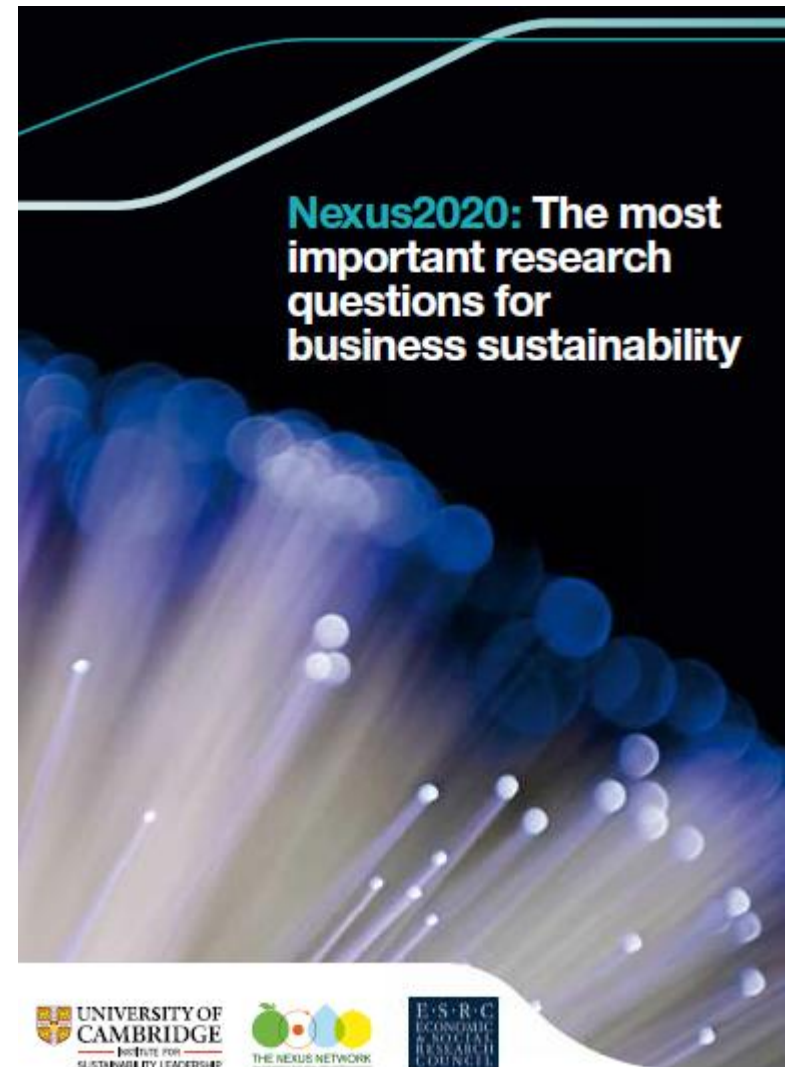


Figure 1: Over 700 questions were submitted to the Nexus2020 project (March-July2015) by over 230 participants from a range of backgrounds.

Check out the 40 top questions

Five categories:

- a) Incentives for change
- b) Collaboration and stakeholder engagement
- c) Investing in sustainability
- d) Supply chains taking a landscape approach
- e) Making better policy



www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/publications/natural-resource-security-publications/nexus2020-the-most-important-research-questions-for-business-sustainability

Thank you for your attention!

Dr Gemma Cranston

E: Gemma.Cranston@cisl.cam.ac.uk
@GemmaCranston

www.cisl.cam.ac.uk