



Evaluation Summary Report

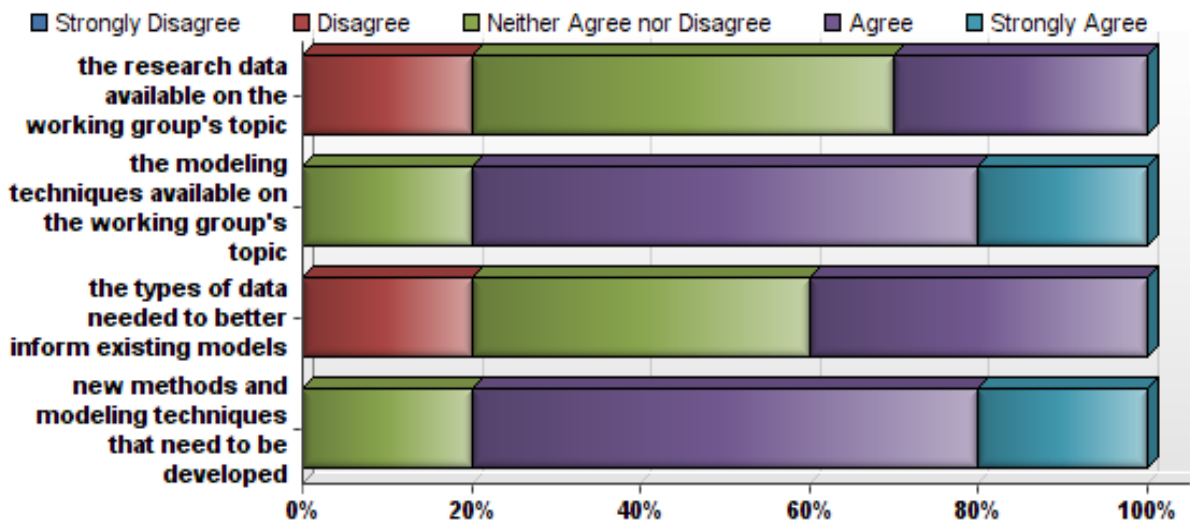
Working Group: *Evolutionary Approaches
to Sustainability*

March 26-28, 2014

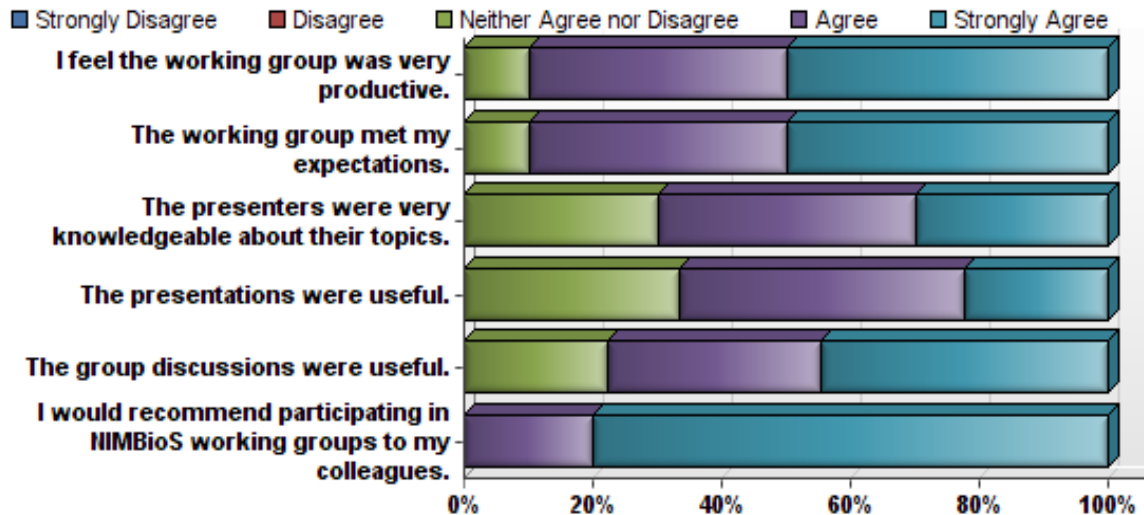
Pamela Bishop
Program Evaluation Manager
National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis
June, 2014

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

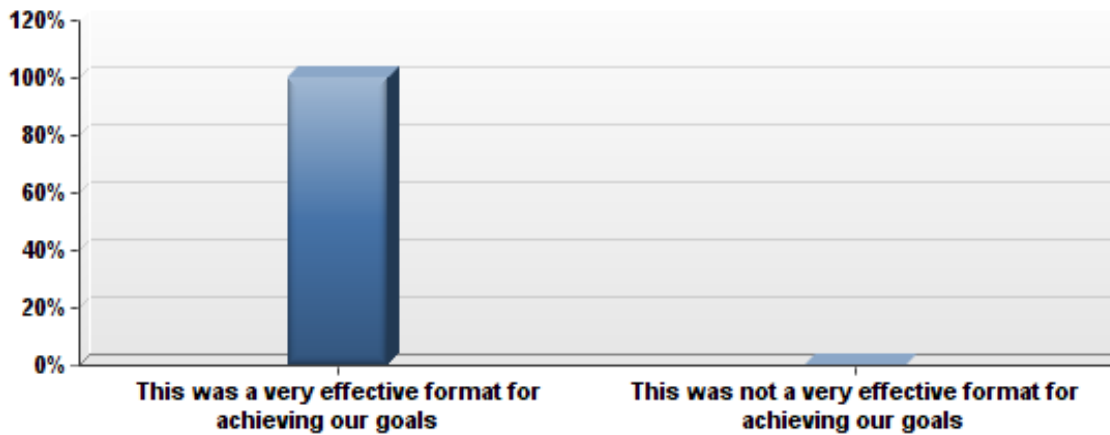
As a result of participating in this working group, I have a better understanding of:



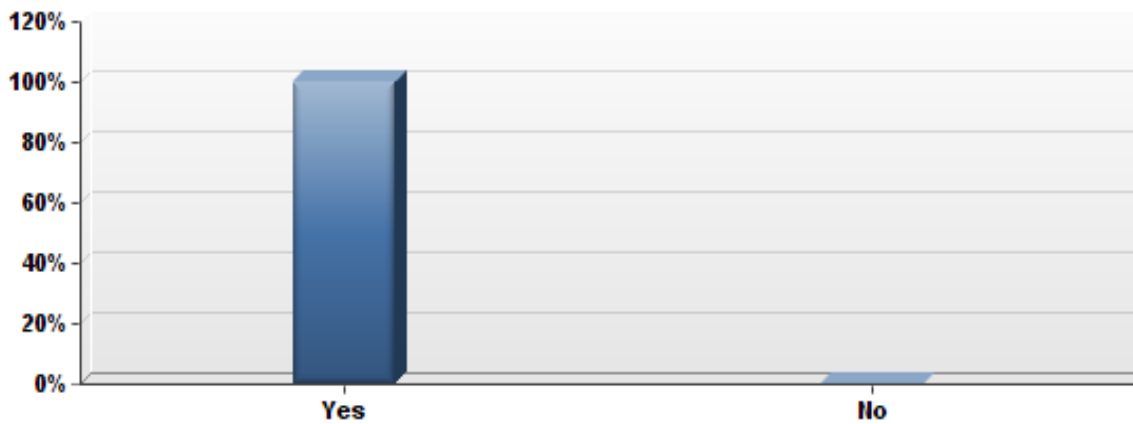
2. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this working group:



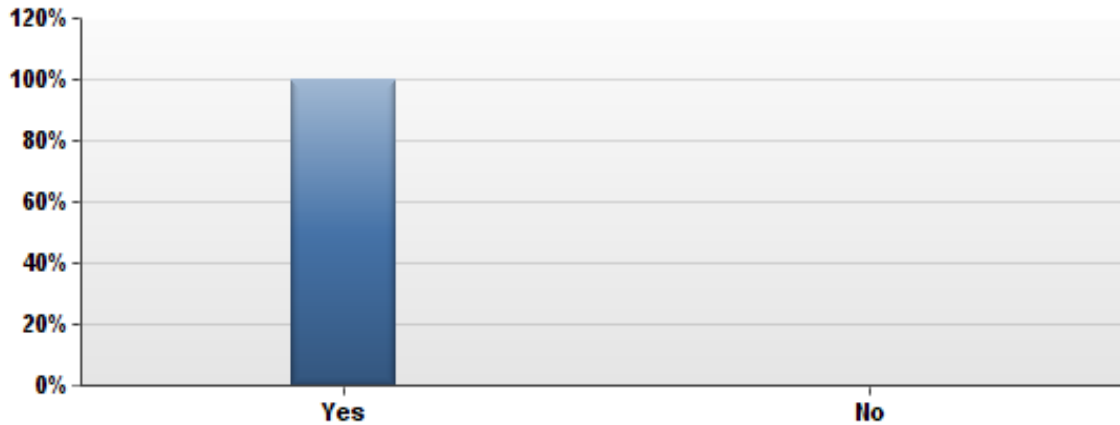
3. How do you feel about the format of the working group?



4. Do you feel the working group made adequate progress, for its first meeting, toward finding a common language across disciplines in the research area?



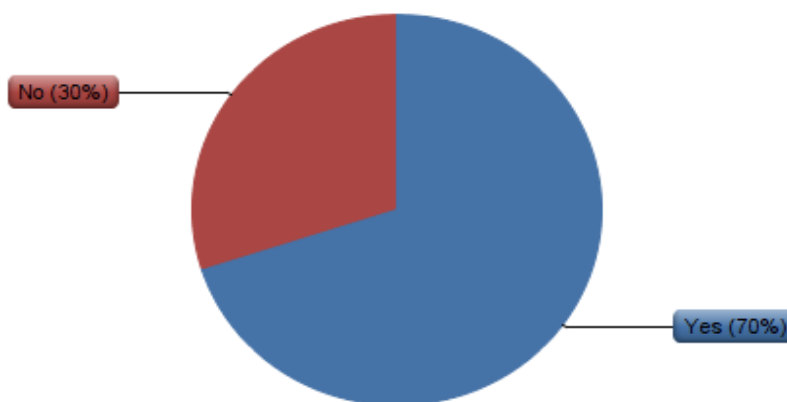
5. Do you feel the participating in the working group helped you understand the research happening in other disciplines in the group's topic area?



Please explain:

No comments

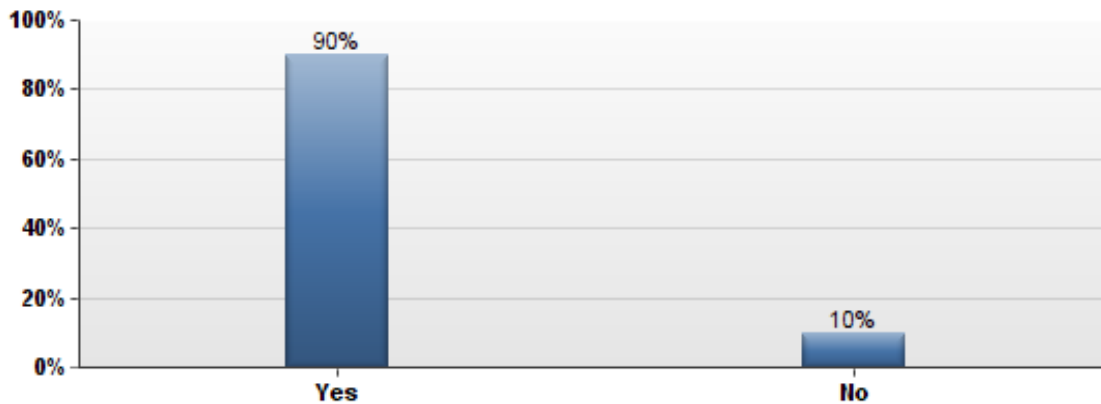
6. Did you develop unanticipated plans for collaborative research with other working group participants?



Please explain:

No comments

7. Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the working group will influence your future research?

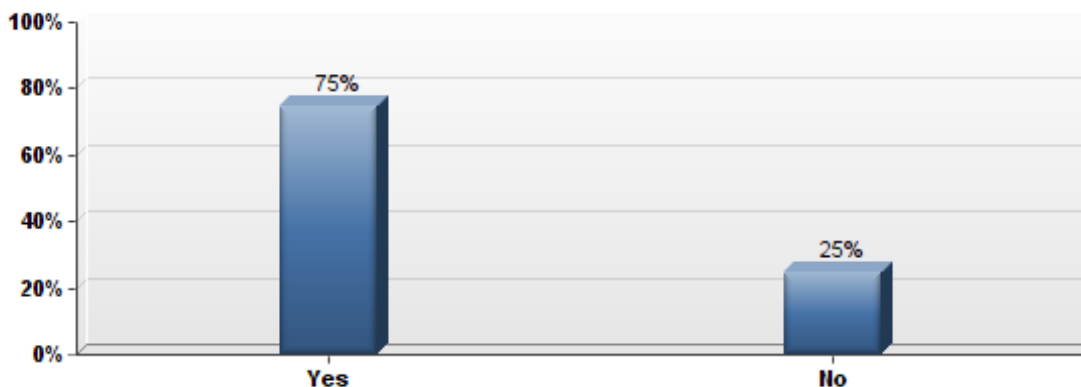


Comments:

A lot of the first meeting was getting to know each other. I would have preferred there to be a more focused and clear agenda. But, because we're meeting a few more times, with some real work on our parts in between meetings, I think we can do some good work.

Looking at the protocol it seems to be the case.

8. Do you feel the expectations for the next working group are clear (in the sense that you are leaving this meeting with a good idea of what your contribution will be at the next meeting)?



Comments:

We've already started writing a paper and planning a second. I've never had such a productive working group session.

This is highly expected as a kickoff sets the conceptual frame for all following meetings. I can't say more as I was not attending the meeting.

9. What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the working group?

Learning about approaches to modelling sustainability problems, with which I was unfamiliar.

Have a sustained time to think about something with people I wouldn't normally interact with.

Connecting with new (to me) individuals from other disciplines with differing skills. Building new collaborations.

The small-group breakout sessions. My group came up with what I think is a really good research idea, for which everyone's roles are well defined.

Break out groups, developing ideas and tentative models and then getting back together to critically examine the ideas developed.

Break out in small group, work on an idea, trying to sketch an outline for a model/paper, get back to the whole group and receive feedback.

10. What, if anything, would you change about the working group?

Not much.

I would have preferred a more focused agenda.

12. Please provide any additional comments about your overall experience with the working group:

It was well organized and left room for open dialogue and creativity.

I believe we had a very productive first meeting. There were two goals (1) to meet each other and to come to a common understanding of our project intellectually and programmatically, (2) to start work on building new models of social-ecological systems building on multi-level cultural dynamics. We've managed to do both quite well (report coming)!

The working group was very creative and we came with a number of concrete models to work out in the coming months.

It was overall a very satisfying experience, however i think that to be really productive, working groups should be a little bit longer (as once back, it is hard sometimes, to keep the projects and ideas going given the amount of other things everyone is involved in).