Appendix 1. Manuscript search criteria.

We searched each journal directly on the journal website using the terms *"qualitative"* and *"social"*. We chose the term qualitative because we were interested in qualitative research, as opposed to quantitative research. We opted to include the word social after an initial scoping review of individual journals revealed a high proportion of non-social research manuscript returns using only the term qualitative. We ordered returned manuscripts by "relevance" or the equivalent option on each journal website (e.g., 'best match'), again, to ensure we accessed the greatest number of potentially relevant research manuscripts.

Manuscripts that were returned in the initial search were filtered to remove those that did not qualify as empirical qualitative social science research. In turn, we used a set of criteria (see Table 2, Supporting Information) to determine if a study was qualitative social science. Decisions about the exclusion of studies were made systematically as we moved through the list of manuscripts returned from each journal webpage.

We also established rules to avoid representation bias among journals, which can be caused by differences in the number of manuscripts returned in searches and the number of irrelevant manuscripts in the search returns (sensu Collaboration for Environmental Evidence 2013). First, we reviewed a minimum of 10 manuscripts from each journal, irrespective of the number of manuscripts containing empirical qualitative social science research. Second, we reviewed additional manuscripts (subsequent to the first ten returned) until a ratio of one reviewed to three excluded manuscripts was reached. We stopped reviewing manuscripts from a journal when either the 25 relevant manuscripts were reviewed from any single journal; 1:3 ratio of

reviewed versus excluded manuscripts was reached; or when all manuscripts had been reviewed.

Tables

Table A1.1: Journals selected for review, impact factor, scope and number of manuscripts included in the review.

Source Titles	Socially relevant journal scope	No. of manuscripts included in review
Biodiversity And Conservation	…which deal with the practicalities of conservation management, economic, social and political issues…	14
Biological Conservation	…that contribute to the biological, sociological, and economic dimensions of conservation and natural resource management.	15
Conservation Biology	…the science and practice of conserving Earth's biological diversity.	4
Conservation Letters	…across the biological and social sciences − especially interdisciplinary submissions −	6

	that advance pragmatic conservation goals as well as scientific understanding.	
Conservation & Society*	…dedicated to the advancement of the theory and practice of conservation.	14
Ecological Applications	…papers that develop the basic scientific principles on which environmental decision-making should rest, and those that discuss the application of ecological concepts…	0
Ecology & Society	…relating to the ecological, political, and social foundations for sustainable social-ecological systems.	22
Environmental Conservation	…addressing environmental policy, practice, and natural and social science of environmental concern...	2
Journal For Nature Conservation	…encourages cooperation between scientists and practitioners, including the integration of biodiversity issues with social and	10

	economic concepts.	
Journal Of Environmental Management	…for all aspects of management and the managed use of the environment, both natural and man-made.	32
Land Use Policy	…concerned with the social, economic, political, legal, physical and planning aspects of urban and rural land use.	27

* New journal. Impact Factor not yet available. Note that Conservation & Society was included because of the high number of returns from our search and its overall relevance to our review.

Table A1.2: Criteria and examples of why studies were excluded from the review.

Not social research (*n=79)*	**Quantitative methods (*n=63)***	**Other (*n=77)***
Review (e.g. manuscript, book review, editorial)	Modelling (e.g. Bayesian network models, discrete choice models)	Scoping study (i.e. qualitative scoping with quantitative main study – typically insufficient data provided on scoping phase)
Ecological research	Quantitative survey	Predominantly quantitative (e.g. workshop with a small number of participants and then survey sent to a large number of individuals – results focus on quantitative data)
Impact assessment	Mapping exercise (e.g. influence diagram, fuzzy cognitive mapping)	Insufficient information (e.g. not enough information was provided to determine the nature of the research)
	Social network analysis	Unique (e.g. board game, scenario development)
	Q methodology	Not empirical (e.g. conceptual framework)
	Contingent valuation	Publication date past the selection criterion
		Opinion piece

Table A1.3: Additional methodologies, case study boundaries, data types and methods not included in the two-phase scoping study.

Assessment criteria	Additional options (total number of studies)
Research position	Action research (2: one paper with two phases), empiricism/humanistic (1), ideological criticism (1), naturalistic (2)
Research methodology	Adaptive theory (1), physical-ecological- social system approach (1), qualitative (1)
Case study boundaries	Theoretical (1)
Data type	Non-probabilistic (1)
Method	Interview (1), visual interview techniques (2: one paper with two phases), web forum (1)

Table A1.4: Descriptive statistics for numbers of participants: for the total number of studies, for mixed methods research studies only and for qualitative research studies only. Note that a number of studies that stated participant numbers did not state data type.

Research (data type)	*n*	Mean	St. Dev.	Max	Min
Total	128	55.38	72.61	486	3
Mixed	29	103.1	108.57	486	13
Qualitative	85	38.22	42.89	284	3

Figures

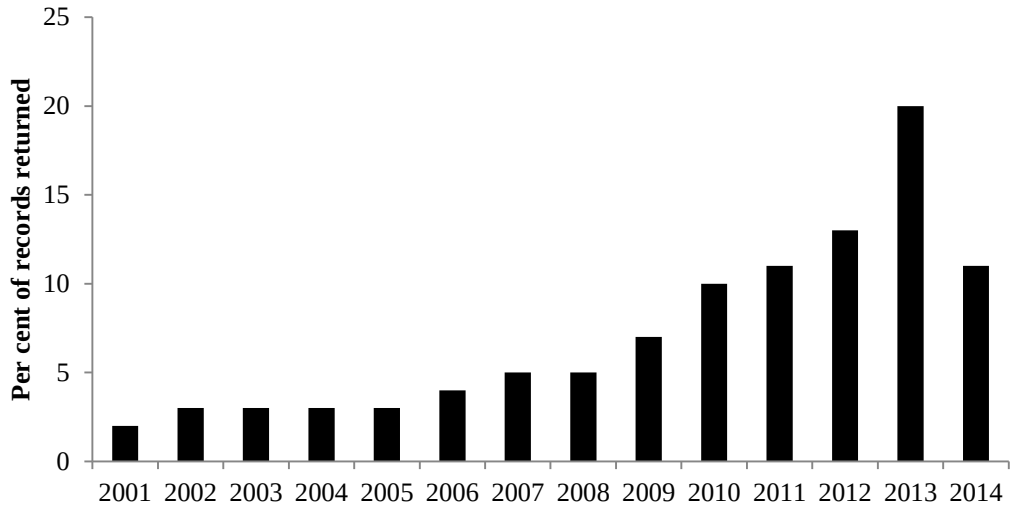

Figure A1.1: Percentage of total publications returned for the journals of interest by year (based on the search terms "social" and "qualitative"). Note the rise of publication rates for qualitative social research in conservation and ecology journals between 2009 and 2014.