

The business of sustainability

blending profitable farming with valued species and habitats



Game & Wildlife CONSERVATION TRUST

Mind the gap(s)

77% of Scots want farming to deliver for our environment and climate, poll suggests

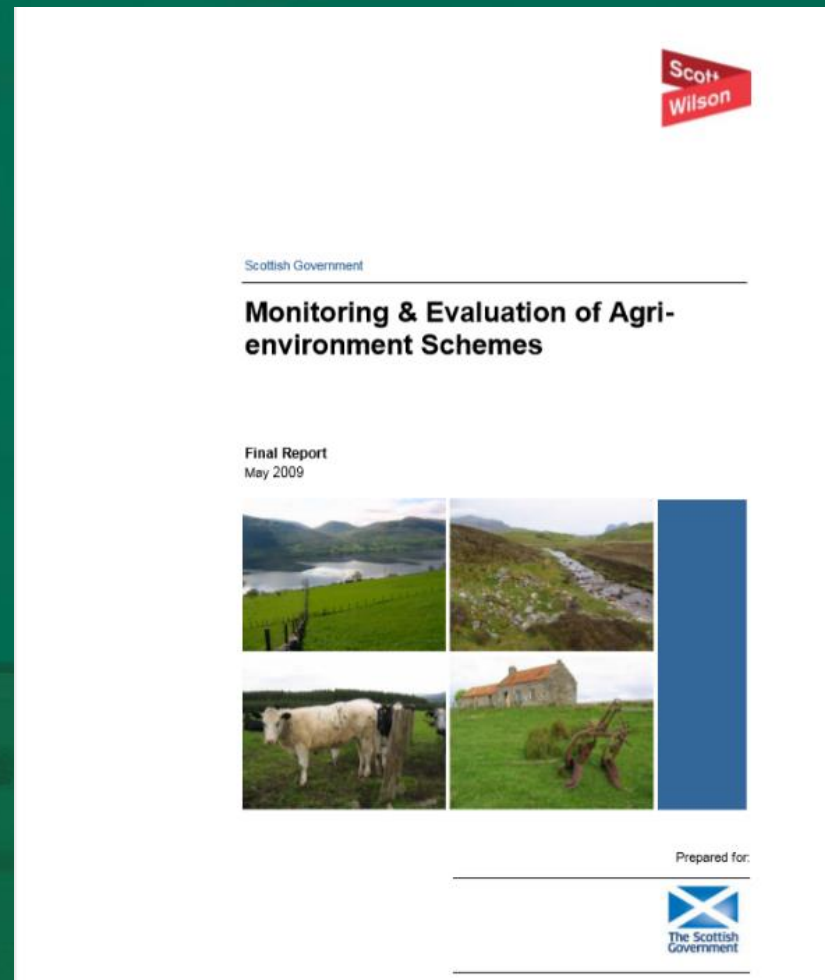
3 May 2018

Survation



Agri-Environment payments (2016) (DEFRA 2017 & Scottish Government statistics)		% of all direct payments
England:	£324 million	16.0
Scotland:	£ 50 million	8.0

Could do better?



Could do better? Emerging issues

- Non-participants - financial, time, bureaucracy and interference
- Non-participants - wished to manage environmentally without enforcement
- Small size of farm - lower chance of application success
- Competitive applications selected farms rich in biodiversity
- No increasing biodiversity trend on RSS farms



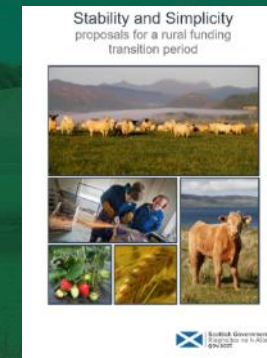
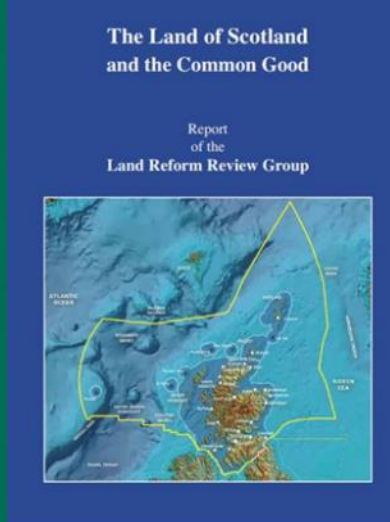
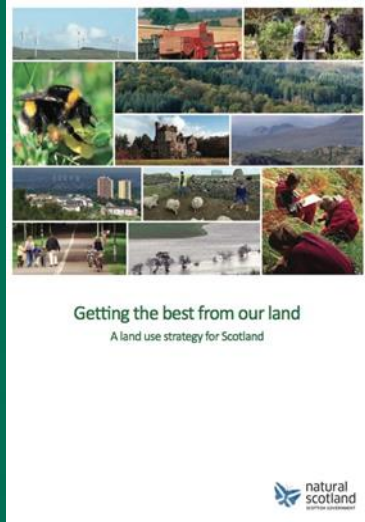
Could do better? (pt 2) Emerging issues

Ex-Post Evaluation of the SRDP 2007-2013 – Final Report: The Scottish Government (Dec 2016)

EKOS Limited

- Complexity of approach appeared to hinder applications
- Needed to be better targeted and more actively facilitated
- Quality of monitoring data sets, target setting challenging
- Difficult to assess Programme's effectiveness in achieving outputs and results

Strategies and consultations...



[illegible]

Thor Heyerdahl

Political backdrop in Scotland

- Strong support for productivity, efficiency, rural economy
- Land rights & responsibilities, protection
- Competing budgets
- Devolved responsibilities / Brexit
- Emphasis on public benefits within CAP objectives



The story so far...

- Land Managers - complexity, fear of infraction, income foregone, husbandry
- Critical review - Better facilitation, improved monitoring of results, outcomes
- Complex overlay of strategies and regulation
- Complex overlay of politics

Prospects?



Emerging themes

- The wish to manage environmentally
- Collaboration – efficiency, productivity, extend to environment
- Facilitation
- Simplification
- Outcomes

Learning from demonstration farms

Allerton, Leicestershire and Auchnerran, Aberdeenshire



318 ha

Combination of commercial farming, research, demonstration and community engagement.



417 ha

Hill edge. Mixed arable, grass and wooded farmland. 1200 sheep

Farmer clusters



- Collaboration to deliver greater benefits for soil, water and wildlife
- Bottom-up, farmer level, under a lead farmer
- Own conservation plans, helped by chosen advisors
- May be supplemented by existing agri-environment schemes
- Some clusters privately funded. Majority have applied for NE Facilitation Fund

Farmer clusters



Farmer clusters



Scotland

- No formal clusters like those in England
- GWDSF Demonstration Farm – Howe of Cromar
- No facilitation fund as yet
- Facilitation and advice needs to be built up to fit with clusters

Farmer clusters



Scotland

- Novel routes to farmers – monitor farms, co-ops, groups
- Facilitation, advice, links to future agri-environment schemes
- Project management – habitats, woodland grants, monitoring

The right stuff?

- The wish to manage environmentally ✓
- Collaboration – productivity, clusters ✓
- Facilitation ✓
- Rewarding outcomes ?

The right stuff?

Tier 1 – Foundation Scheme

Available to all land managers
Current cross-compliance applies



Tier 2 - Voluntary enhanced

Support public goods
Short & longer term commitments



Tier 3 – Farmer Cluster

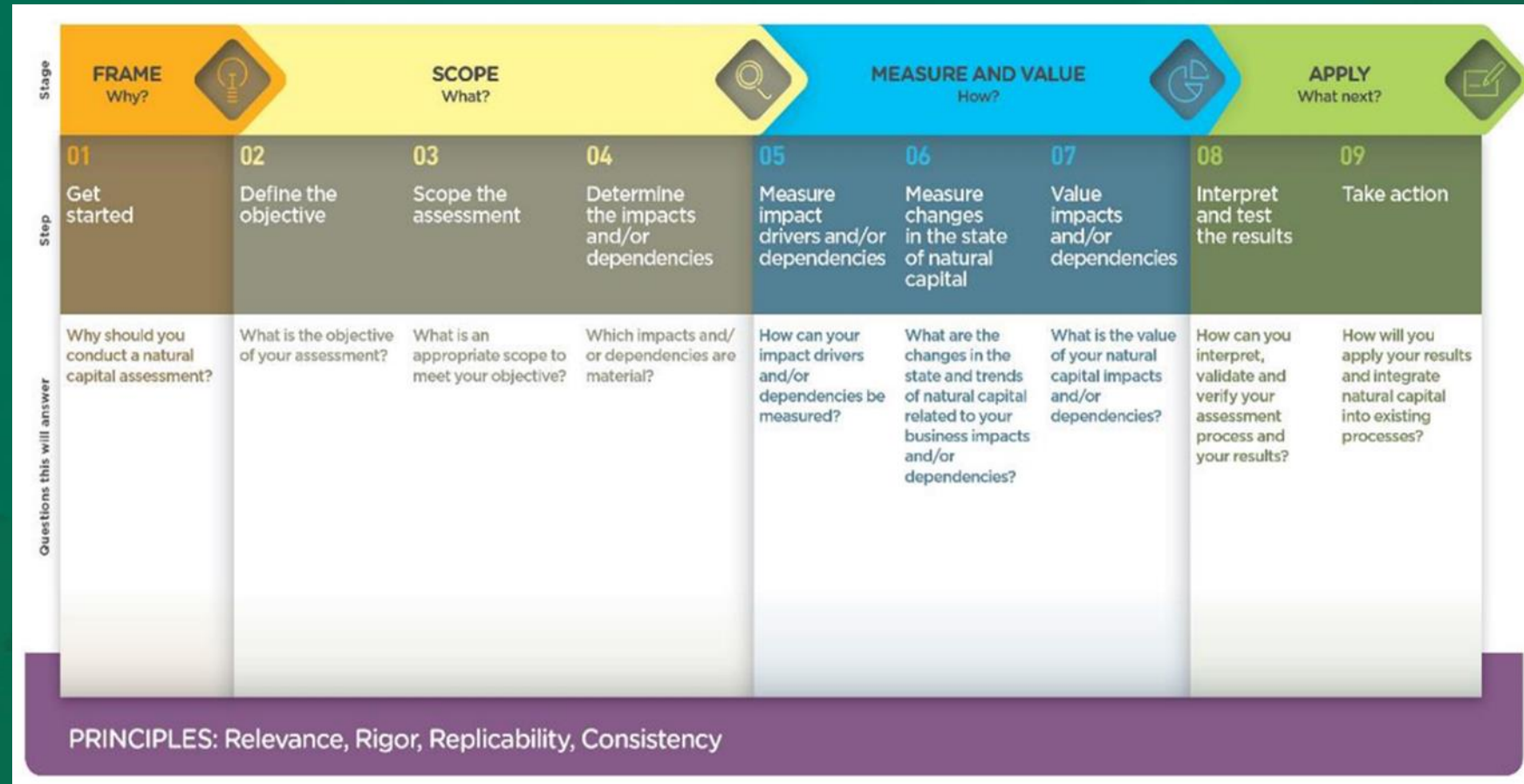
Landscape-scale benefits
Long term commitments - 20yrs



- Increasing level of financial support with increased commitment
- Yearly reviews/ inspection by single assessor – UKAS accredited

The right stuff?

Benchmarking – Natural Capital Protocol



Benchmarking – Natural Capital Protocol

Challenges

- How to apply NC at holding, catchment, landscape-scale
- The quantity of NC possible to identify but quality more elusive
- Time Series data to track change over time
- Market v Non-market valuation (e.g. Carbon v Species)

NC Baseline for payments – maintenance of assets, risk reduction

Components of a public goods reward system

- Focus on collaborative approach
- Facilitated (key information recorded)
- Simplified admin and oversight
- Evidence derived from Natural Capital assessment
- Valued by maintenance or improvement relative to NC baseline

The business of sustainability

Thank you



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