

**South of Scotland Enterprise**

# **South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot Consultation Findings**

**Final report**  
Prepared by LUC  
April 2022



**South of Scotland Enterprise**

**South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership  
Pilot  
Consultation Findings**

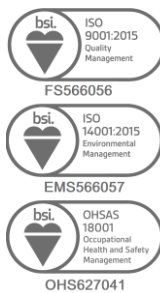
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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

**1.1** LUC has been appointed by South of Scotland Enterprise to provide consultancy support during establishment of the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP). The first stage of work involved the development of a Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan. The second stage of work involved carrying out the initial stakeholder engagement. This report brings together the findings from the three elements of stakeholder engagement which have been undertaken by LUC and the RLUP project manager. The stakeholder engagement included:

- One to one interviews;
- Consultation events (community and wider stakeholders); and
- Questionnaire survey and interactive mapping.

**1.2** This report also covers governance and sets out draft terms of reference and a draft memorandum of understanding for the partnership board.

### Aim and objectives

**1.3** The development of the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership is being undertaken in a number of phases. The phases are described below, and this document relates to Phase 1 only.

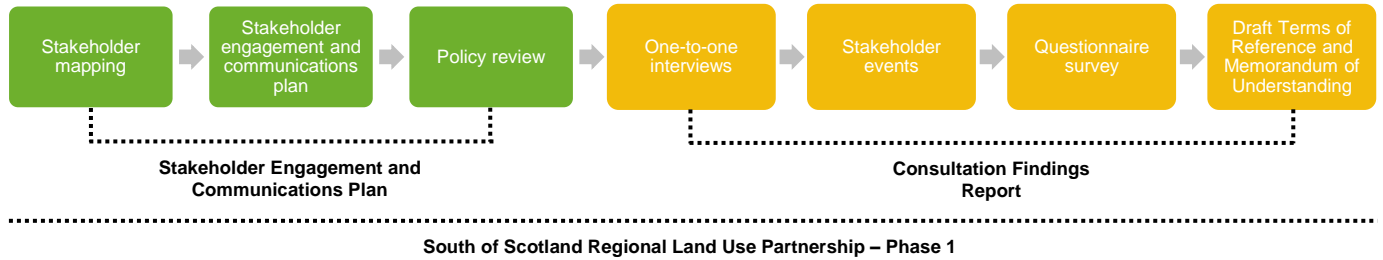
- Phase 1: Aims to develop governance and build stakeholder relationships that will enable the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership to function.
- Phase 2: Aims to establish the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership and to develop the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework.
- Phase 3 Will deliver the objectives in the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework.

**1.4** The Phase 1 tasks, as shown in **Figure 1.1** below, have covered the following:

1. Stakeholder mapping;
2. Stakeholder engagement and communications plan;
3. Policy review;
4. One to one interviews;
5. Stakeholder events;
6. Questionnaire survey; and
7. Draft terms of reference and memorandum of understanding.

1.5 Stages 1-3 are reflected in the Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan document. Stages 4-7 are reflected in this report.

Figure 1.1: South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership – Phase 1



## Technical information on the engagement

- The online survey was run in Survey Monkey. A copy of the original survey is in **Appendix A**.
- The online mapping, used in the questionnaire survey and stakeholder workshops, was facilitated through an ArcGIS webmap. The outputs from the online mapping are provided in **Appendix B**.
- The stakeholder workshops were run using MS Teams and interactive Miro boards. The copy of the outputs from the Miro boards is provided in **Appendix C**.
- The one-to-one interviews were undertaken through MS Teams using a set of questions sent to interviewees prior to the discussion, these are provided in **Appendix D**. The RLUP project manager undertook eight of the discussions and six were undertaken by LUC.

## Report structure

1.6 The report presents the findings from each of the engagement stages, includes a draft version of a terms of reference and a memorandum of understanding and concludes with a summary chapter which brings together the themes from all of the stakeholder engagement stages.

## Chapter 2

### Analysis of Survey Responses

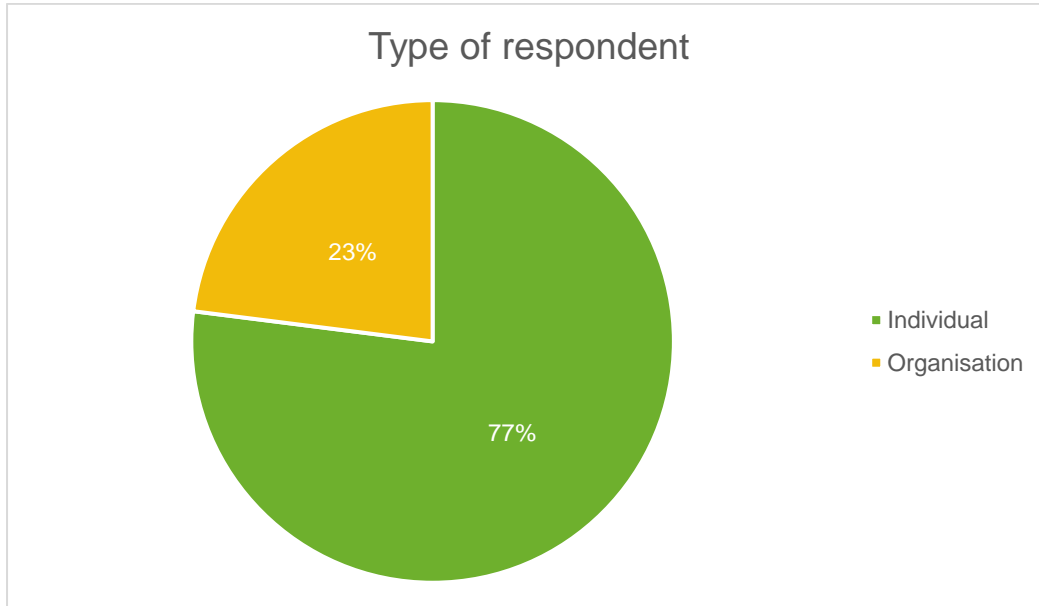
This chapter outlines the findings from the online survey.

**2.1** A total of 143 respondents participated in the survey, although the number completing each question varied. This chapter is structured in line with the survey.

**2.2** For each question it identifies the number of respondents to each question (n=x) and illustrates the percentage of response types. Some questions allowed multiple responses.

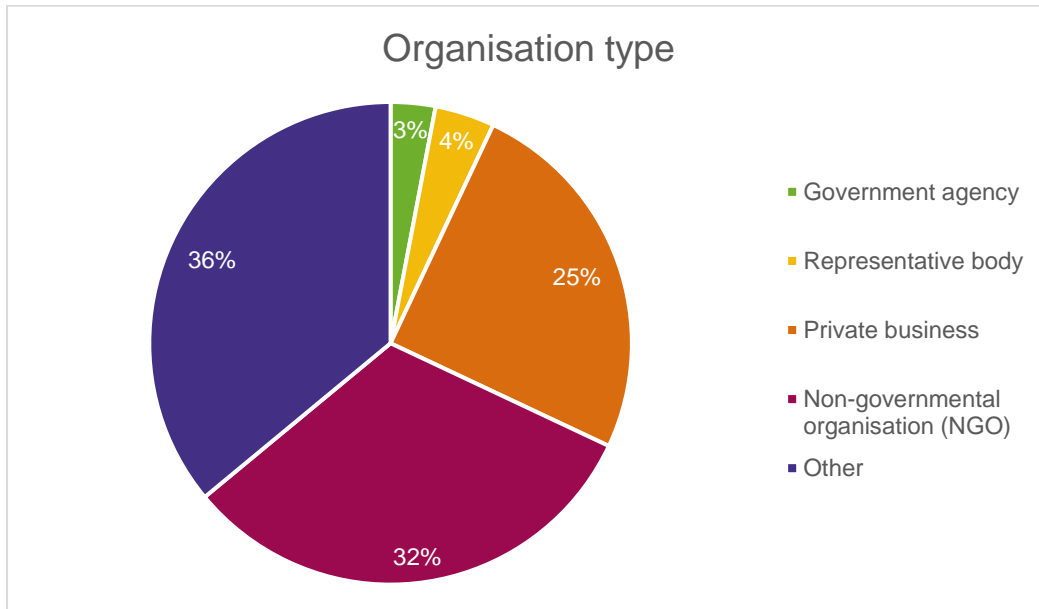
#### Part 1: About you

Figure 2.1: Type of respondent (n=125)



**2.3** Figure 2.1 above shows the breakdown of the type of respondent. It indicates that 77% of the respondents were individuals and 23% responded on behalf of an organisation.

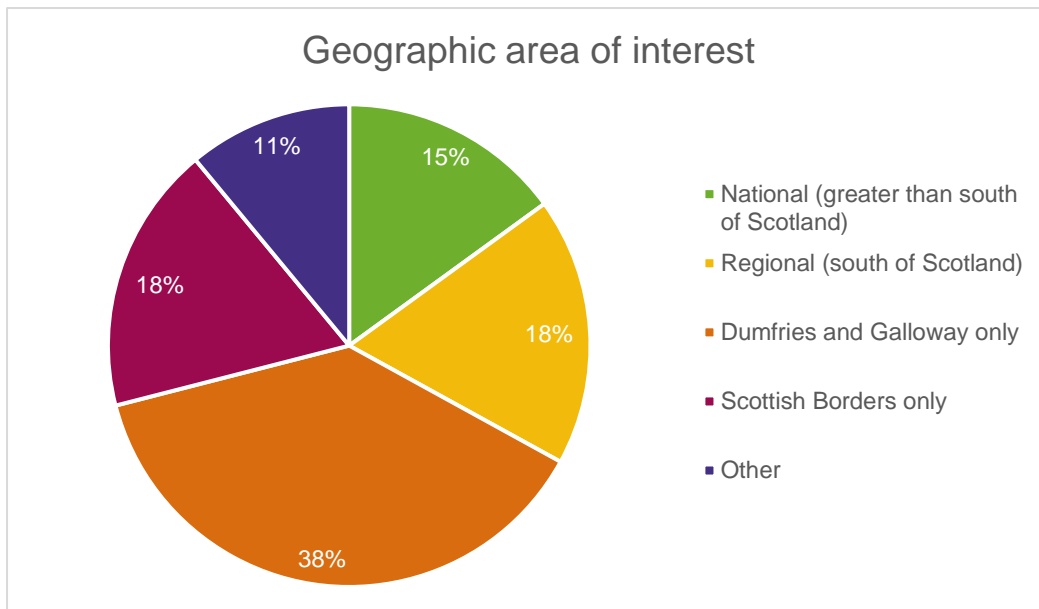
Figure 2.2: Organisation type (n=28)



2.4 Figure 2.2 indicates that 36% of organisations that responded to the survey belonged to the group 'other', 32% were non-governmental organisations, and 25% were private businesses.

2.5 'Other' includes Development Trusts, membership organisations, and community charities.

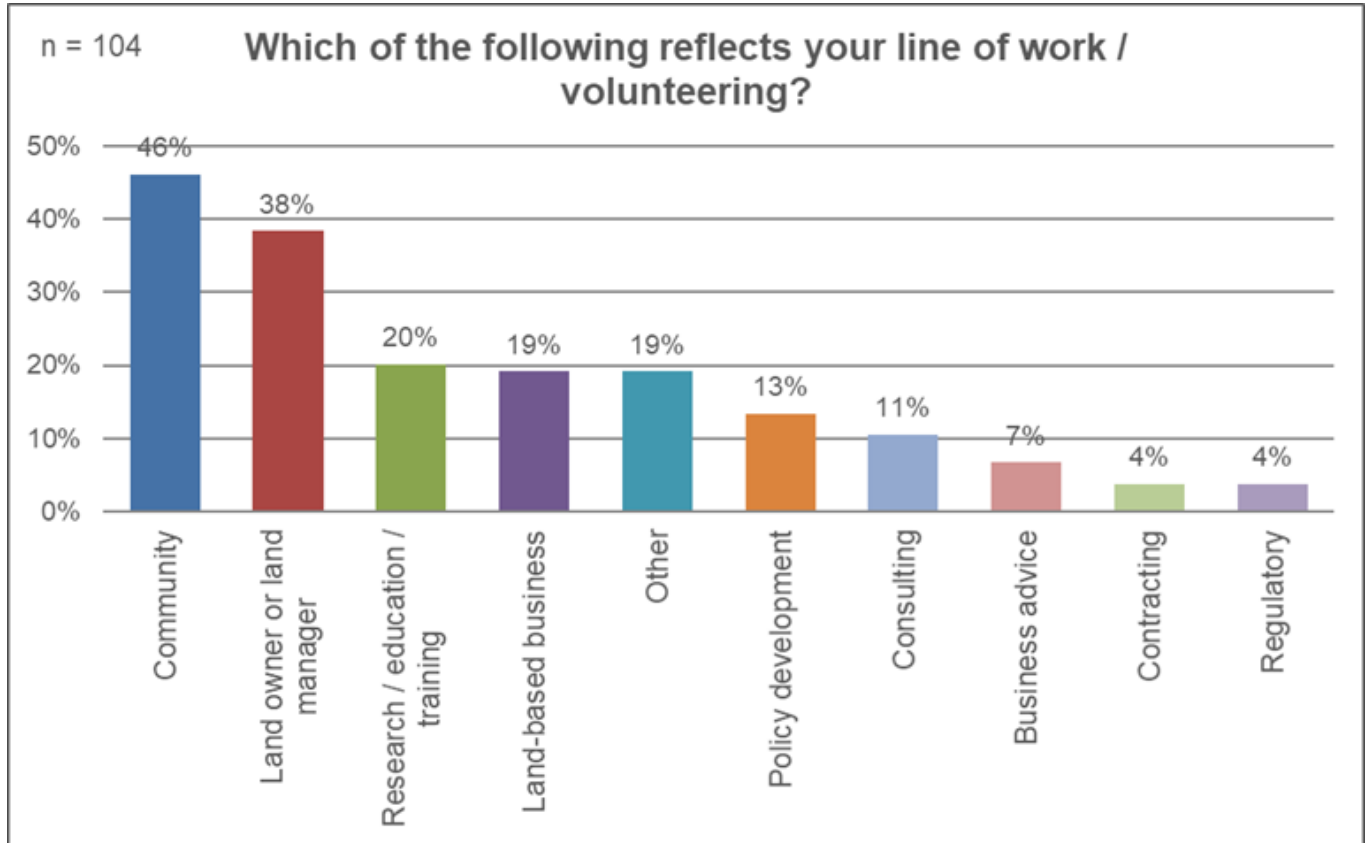
Figure 2.3: Geographic area of interest (n=108)



2.6 Figure 2.3 shows the geographic area of interest. The majority of the respondents (38%) indicated Dumfries and Galloway as their geographic area of interest. Scottish Borders and Regional interests each accounted for 18%.

2.7 Other geographic areas of interest include South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, Midlothian, UK-wide, Solway Coast and Cumbrian Coast to St Bees Head, and Esk Valley.

Figure 2.4: Line of work / volunteering (n=104)



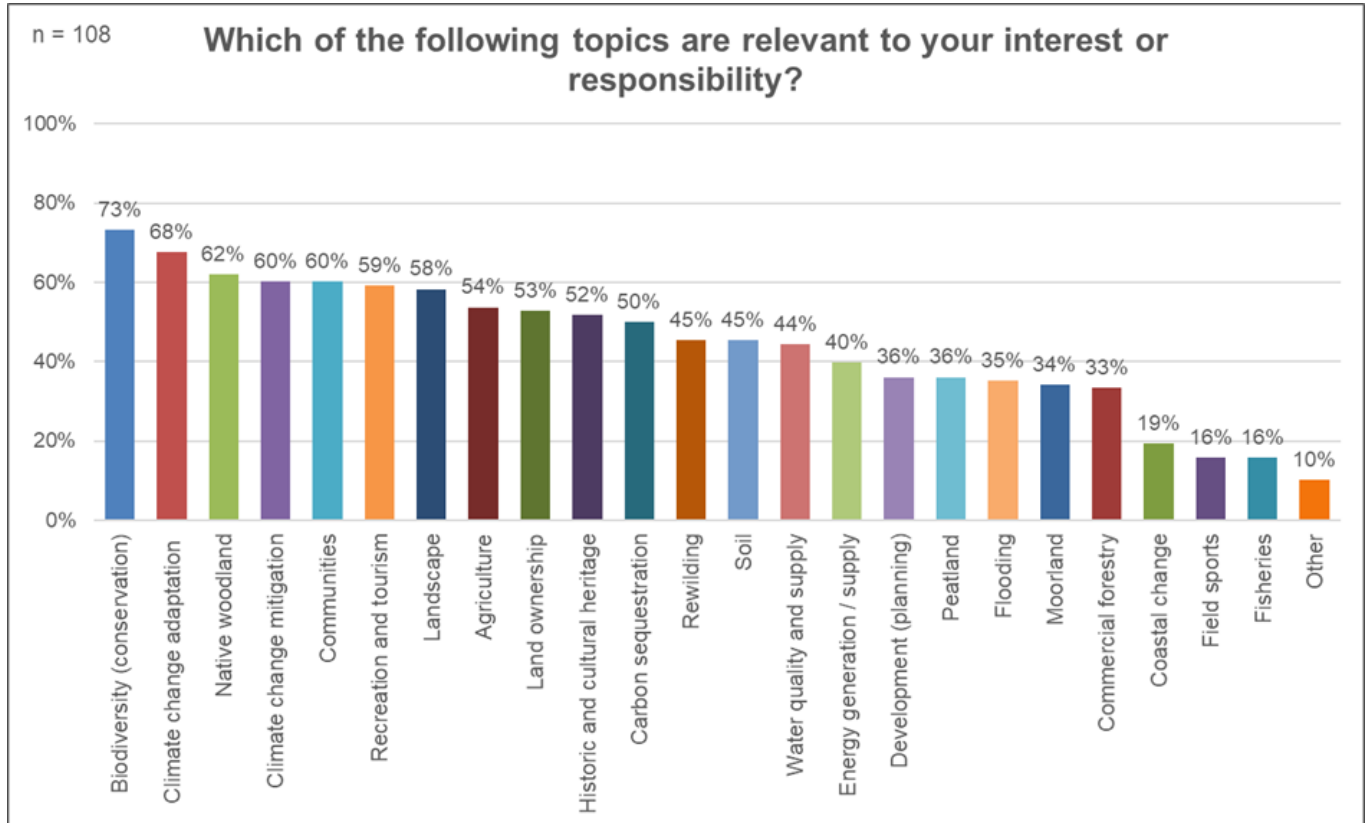
**2.8** Figure 2.4 presents the line of work / volunteering. It indicates that the majority of respondents are involved in community initiatives (46%), the second most frequent line of work was land owner or land manager (38%) followed by research / education / training and other (20%). It is encouraging that communities and land owners / managers were the largest groups participating in the survey, however it

also indicates that there is more work to do to engage other sectors.

**2.9** For this question respondents were able to select multiple options, therefore the percentages do not add up to 100.



Figure 2.5: Relevant topics (n=108)



2.10 Figure 2.5 shows the breakdown of the topic relevant to the respondent's interest or responsibility. The top five topics include:

- Biodiversity (conservation) (73%)
- Climate change adaptation (68%)
- Native woodland (62%)
- Climate change mitigation (60%)
- Communities (60%)

2.11 However over 50% of responses also identified recreation and tourism, landscape, agriculture, land ownership, historic and cultural heritage and carbon sequestration.

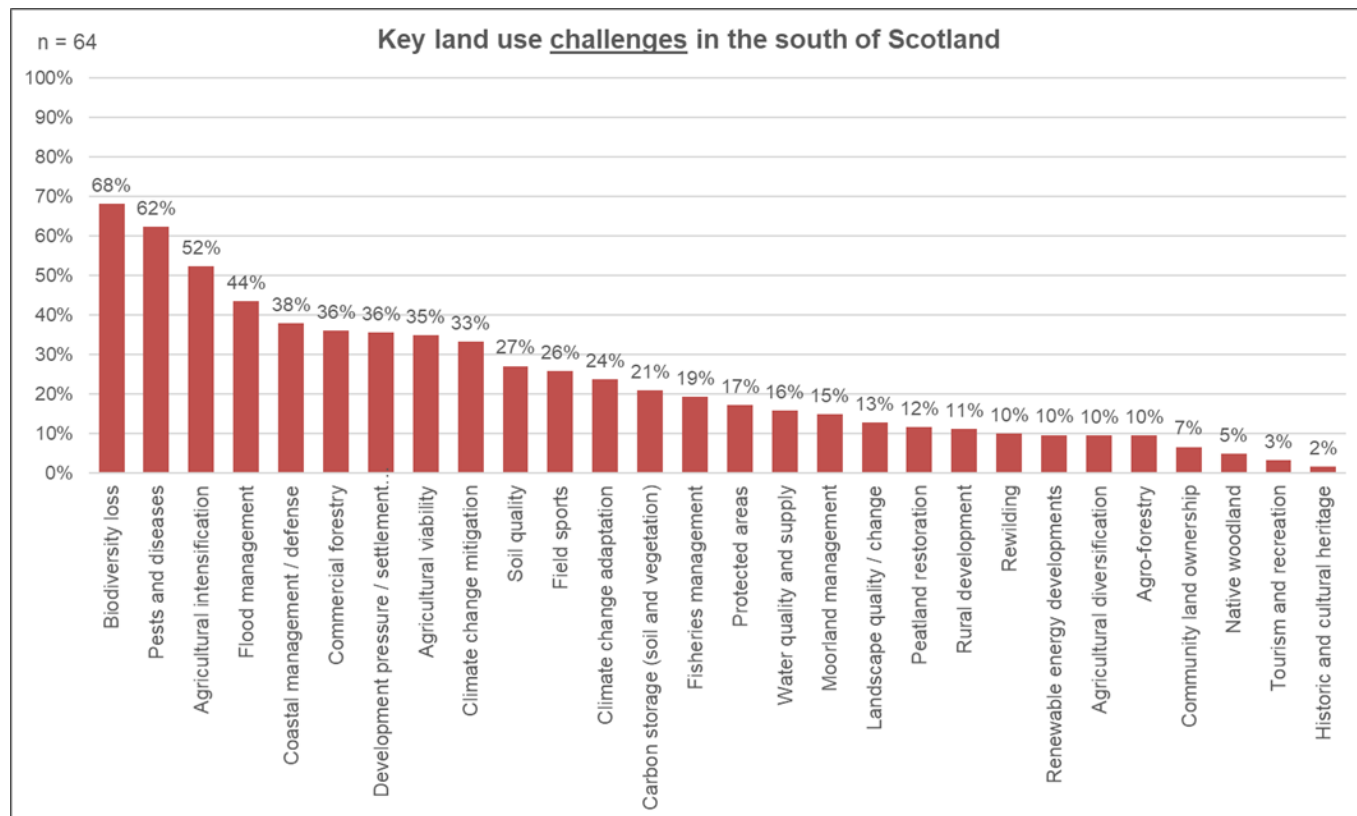
**Summary of the survey responses:**

- 36% of organisations that responded to the survey belonged to the group 'other' including Development Trusts, membership organisations, and community charities, 32% were non-governmental organisations, and 25% were private businesses.
- The majority of the respondents (38%) indicated Dumfries and Galloway as their geographic area of interest. Scottish Borders and Regional interests each accounted for 18%.
- The most frequently cited lines of work include community initiatives, land owner or land manager and research / education / training and other.
- The most common interest topics include biodiversity, climate change adaptation, native woodland, climate change mitigation and communities.

## Part 2: Key land use challenges and opportunities

### Key land use challenges in the south of Scotland

Figure 2.6: Key land use challenges



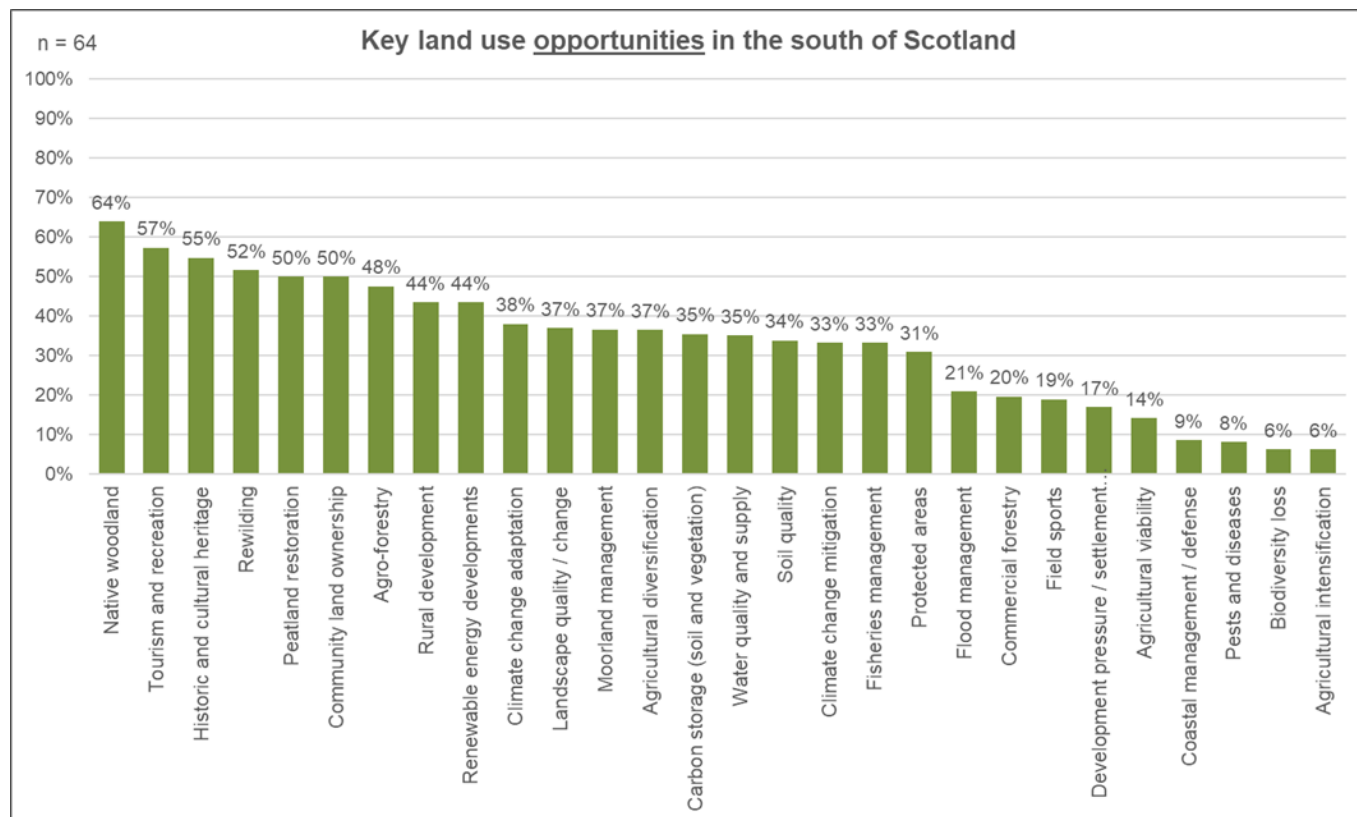
**2.12** Figure 2.6 presents the key land use challenges in the south of Scotland. The top three most significant land use issues for the region include:

- Biodiversity loss (68%)
- Pests and diseases (62%)
- Agricultural intensification (52%)

**2.13** Other challenges noted by over 30% of responses included:

- Flood management (44%)
- Coastal management / defence (38%)
- Commercial forestry (36%)
- Development pressure/settlement (36%)
- Agricultural viability (35%)
- Climate change mitigation (33%)

Figure 2.7: Key land use opportunities



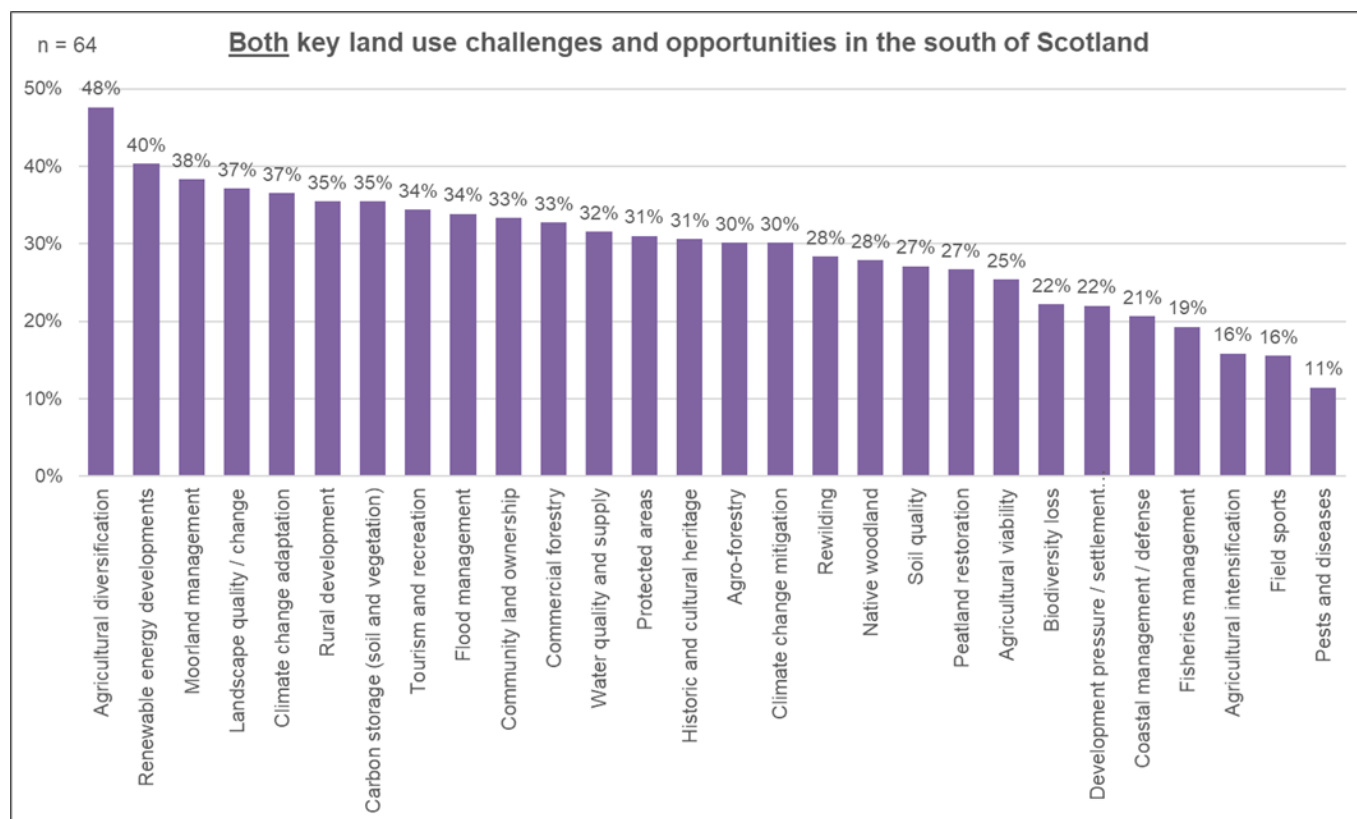
**2.14** Figure 2.7 presents key land use opportunities in the south of Scotland. The top three most significant land use opportunities for the region include:

- Native woodland (64%)
- Tourism and recreation (57%)
- Historic and cultural heritage (55%)

**2.15** The following opportunities were also noted by over 40% of responses:

- Rewilding (52%)
- Peatland restoration (50%)
- Community land ownership (50%)
- Agro-forestry (48%)
- Rural development (44%)
- Renewable energy development (44%)

Figure 2.8: Key land use challenges and opportunities



**2.16** Figure 2.8 presents both key land use challenges and opportunities in the south of Scotland. The top three significant land use challenges which are also opportunities for the region include:

- Agricultural diversification (48%)
- Renewable energy developments (40%)
- Moorland management (38%)

**2.17** However over 30% of responses identified the following:

- Landscape quality / change (37%)
- Climate change adaptation (37%)
- Rural development (35%)
- Carbon storage (soil and vegetation) (35%)
- Tourism and recreation (34%)
- Flood management (34%)
- Community land ownership (33%)

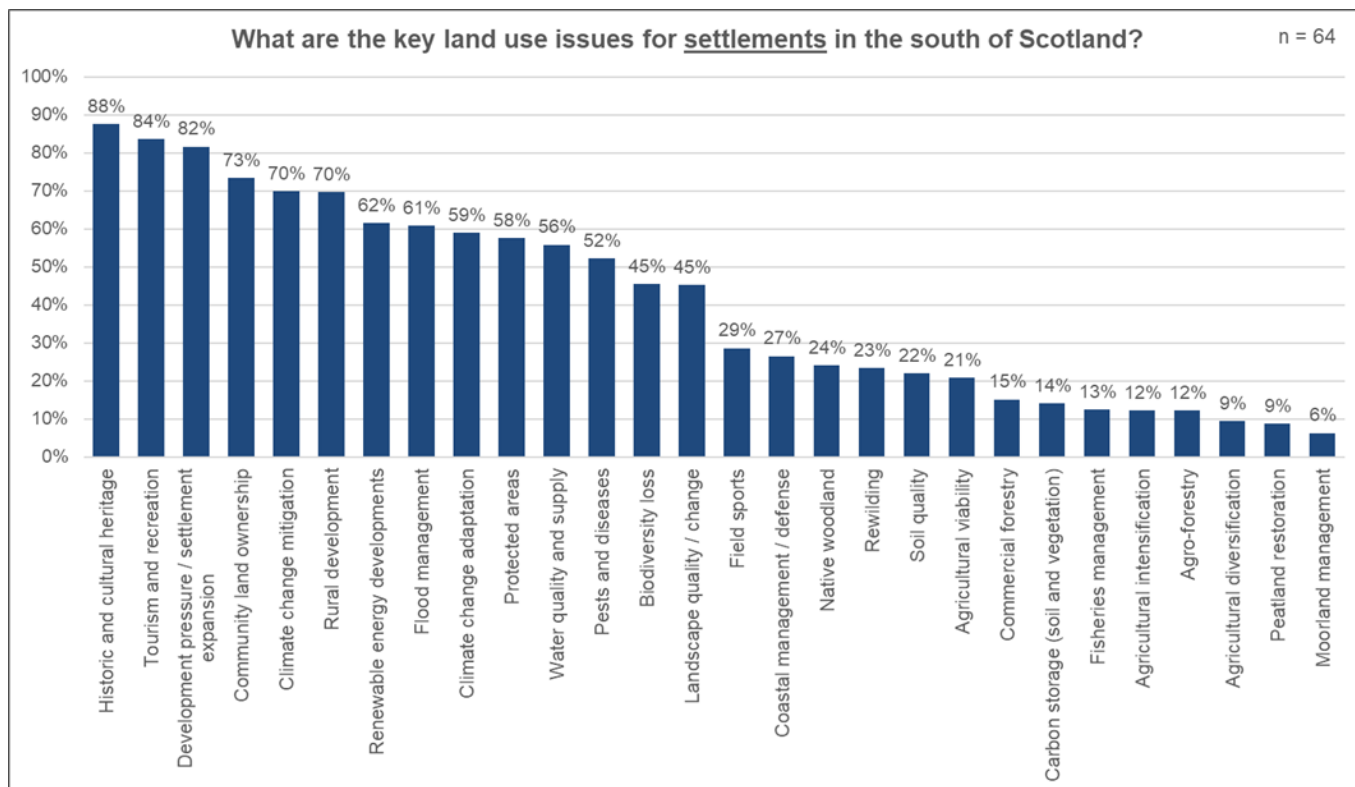
- Commercial forestry (33%)
- Water quality and supply (32%)
- Protected areas (31%)
- Historic and cultural heritage (31%)
- Agro-forestry (30%)
- Climate change mitigation (30%)

**Key land use issues in different landscape settings in the south of Scotland**

**2.18** Respondents were asked to identify key land use issues for different landscape settings as defined in Scotland’s Third Land Use Strategy. The landscape settings relevant to the south of Scotland include settlements, enclosed farmland, semi natural land, rivers and waterbodies and coastal areas.

## Settlements

Figure 2.9: Key land use issues for settlements



**2.19** Figure 2.9 presents key land use issues for settlements in the south of Scotland. The top three significant land use issues for settlements in the region include:

- Historic and cultural heritage (88%)
- Tourism and recreation (84%)
- Development pressure / settlement expansion (82%)

**2.20** Other land use issues identified by 70% - 73% of respondents include:

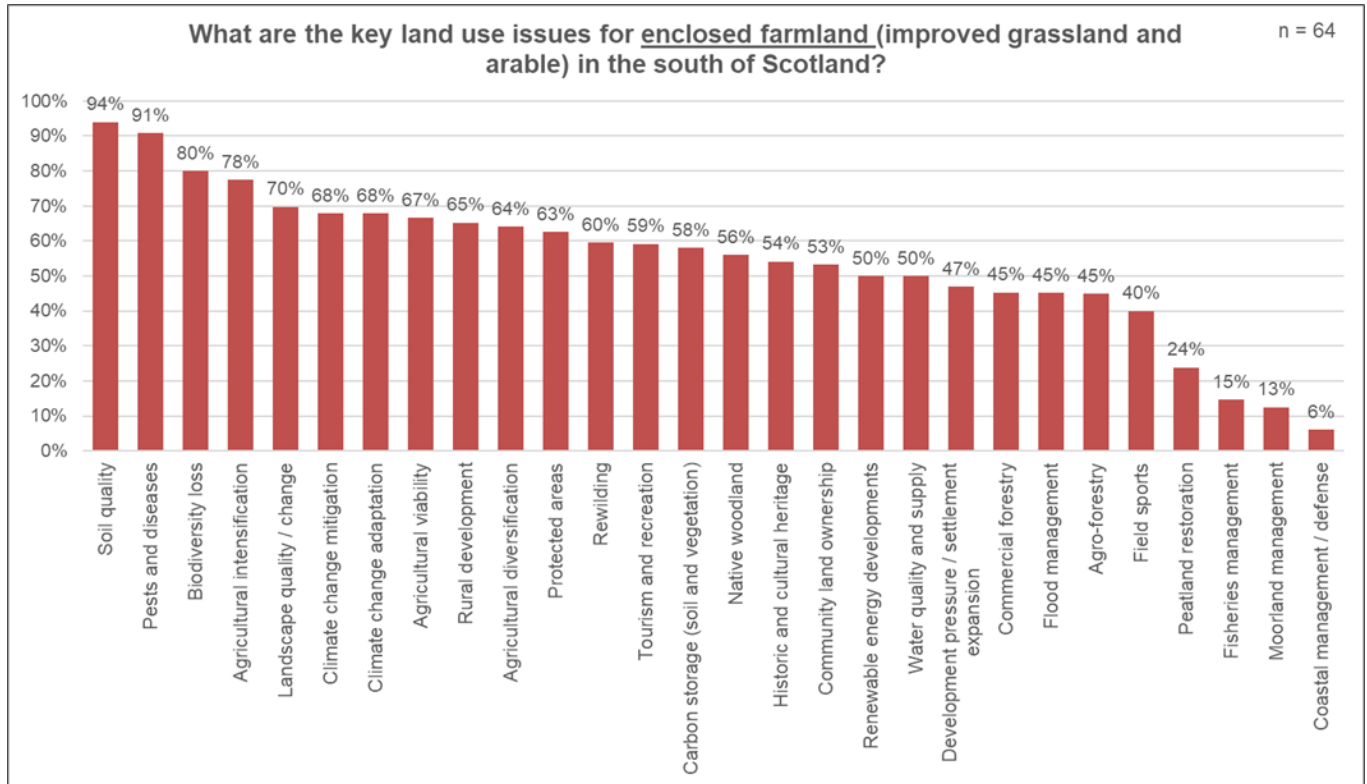
- Community land ownership (73%)
- Climate change mitigation (70%)
- Rural development (70%)

**2.21** The third group of the key land use issues identified by 45% - 62% of respondents includes:

- Renewable energy developments (62%)
- Flood management (61%)
- Climate change adaptation (59%)
- Protected areas (58%)
- Water quality and supply (56%)
- Pests and diseases (52%)
- Biodiversity loss (45%)
- Landscape quality / change (45%)

Enclosed farmland

Figure 2.10: Key land use issues for enclosed farmland



**2.22** Figure 2.10 shows key land use issues for enclosed farmland in the south of Scotland. The most significant land use issues for enclosed farmland in the region identified by 91% - 94% respondents include:

- Soil quality (94%)
- Pests and diseases (91%)

**2.23** Other land use issues identified by 78% - 80% of respondents include:

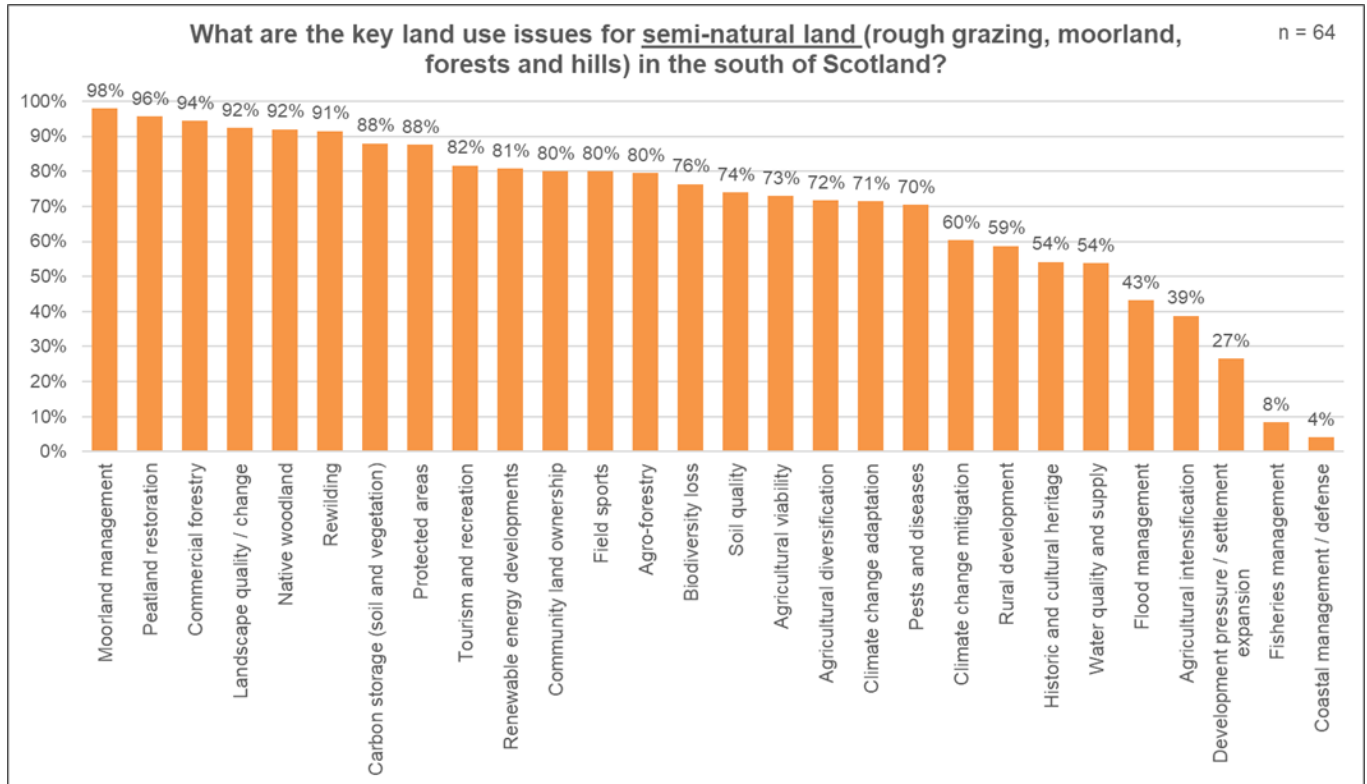
- Biodiversity loss (80%)
- Agricultural intensification (78%)

**2.24** The third group of the key land use issues identified by 60% - 70% of respondents includes:

- Landscape quality / change (70%)
- Climate change mitigation (68%)
- Climate change adaptation (68%)
- Agricultural viability (67%)
- Rural development (65%)
- Agricultural diversification (64%)
- Protected areas (63%)
- Rewilding (60%)

## Semi-natural land

Figure 2.11: Key land use issues for semi-natural land



**2.25** Figure 2.11 shows key land use issues for semi-natural land. The most significant land use issues for semi natural land in the region identified by 88% - 98% of respondents include:

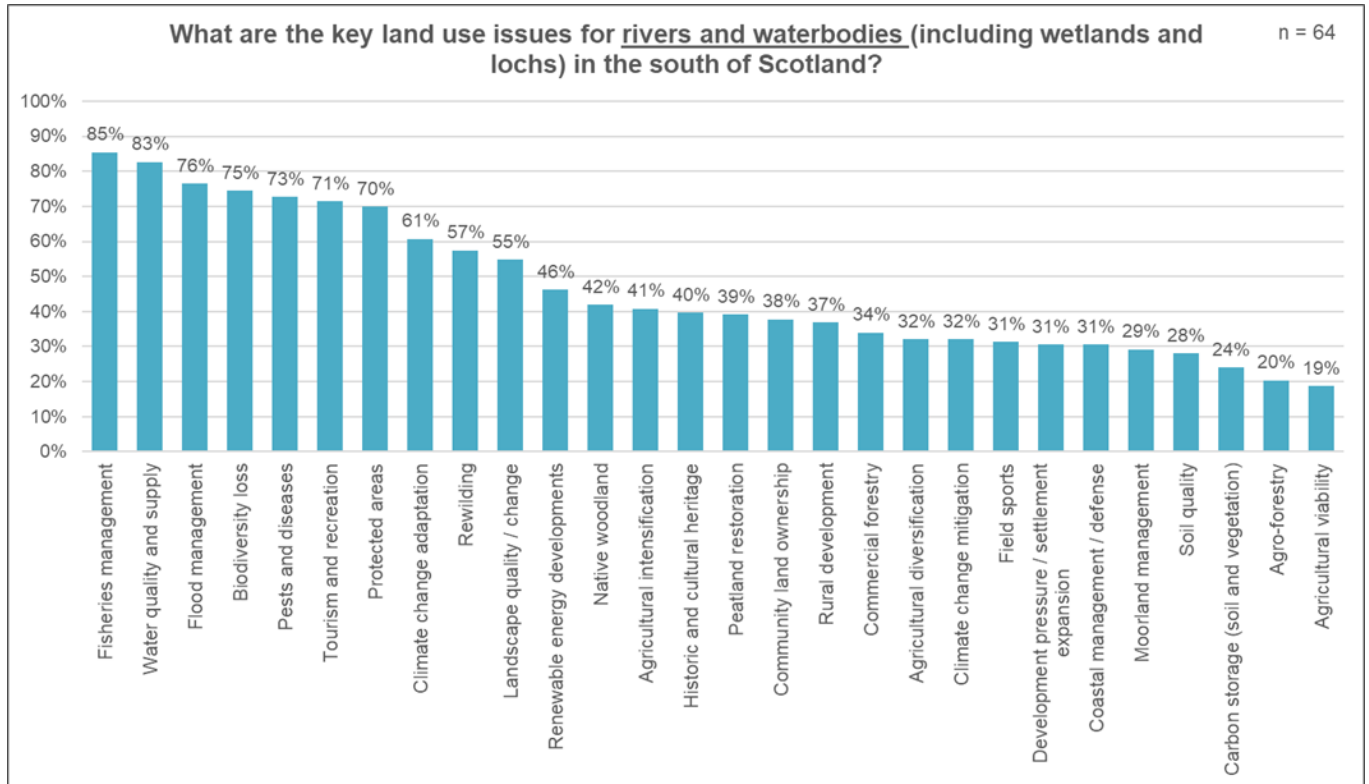
- Moorland management (98%)
- Peatland restoration (96%)
- Commercial forestry (94%)
- Landscape quality / change (92%)
- Native woodland (92%)
- Rewilding (91%)
- Carbon storage (soil and vegetation) (88%)
- Protected areas (88%)

- Tourism and recreation (82%)
- Renewable energy developments (81%)
- Community land ownership (80%)
- Field sports (80%)
- Agro-forestry (80%)
- Biodiversity loss (76%)
- Soil quality (74%)
- Agricultural viability (73%)
- Agricultural diversification (72%)
- Climate change adaptation (71%)
- Pests and diseases (70%)

**2.26** Other land use issues identified by 70% - 82% of respondents include:

Rivers and waterbodies

Figure 2.12: Key land use issues for rivers and waterbodies



**2.27** Figure 2.12 presents key land use issues for river and waterbodies in the south of Scotland. The most significant land use issues for river and waterbodies in the region identified by 83% - 85% of respondents include:

- Fisheries management (85%)
- Water quality and supply (83%)

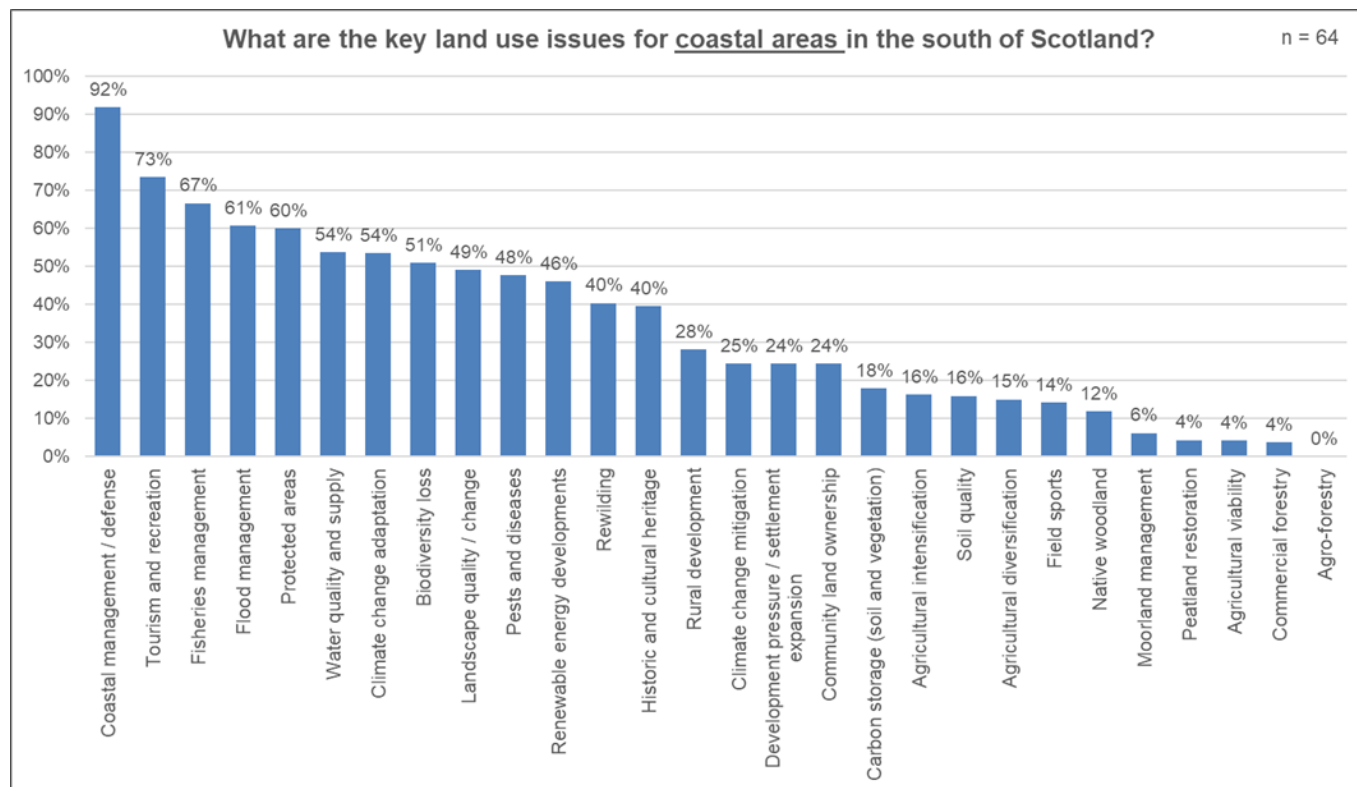
- Flood management (76%)
- Biodiversity loss (75%)
- Pests and diseases (73%)
- Tourism and recreation (71%)
- Protected areas (70%)

**2.28** Other land use issues identified by 70% - 76% of respondents include:



Coastal areas

Figure 2.13: Key land use issues for coastal areas



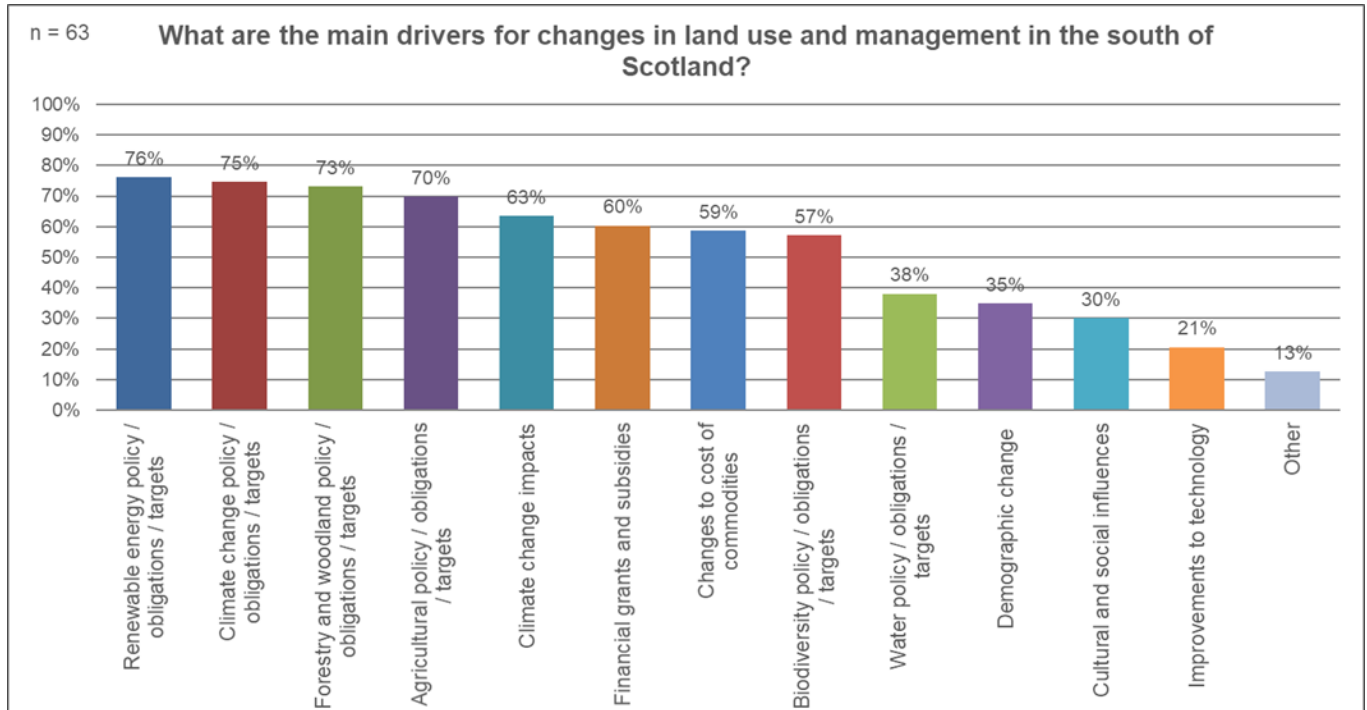
**2.29** Figure 2.13 shows the key land use issues for coastal areas in the south of Scotland. The most significant land use issues for coastal areas in the region include:

- Coastal management / defence (92%)
- Tourism and recreation (73%)
- Fisheries management (67%)
- Flood management (61%)
- Protected areas (60%)

**2.30** Other land use issues identified by 60% - 73% of respondents include:

### Main drivers for change in land use and management in the south of Scotland

Figure 2.14: Main drivers for changes in land use and management



2.31 Figure 2.14 shows the main drivers for land use and management in the south of Scotland. The main drivers include:

- Renewable energy policy / obligations / targets (76%)
- Climate change policy / obligations / targets (75%)
- Forestry and woodland policy / obligations / targets (73%)
- Agricultural policy / obligations / targets (70%)
- Climate change impacts (63%).

### Existing or forthcoming plans, partnerships, initiatives or actions for land use in the south of Scotland

**2.32** The survey respondents identified the following plans, initiatives and actions for land use in the south of Scotland:

#### Scotland-wide

- Forestry Grant Scheme (Scotland-wide)
- RSPB Reserves (Scotland-wide)
- Scottish Organic Stakeholders Network (Scotland-wide)
- Thousand Huts Campaign (Scotland-wide)

#### South of Scotland

- Borders Forest Trust (Southern Uplands)
- Forest Carbon (south of Scotland)
- Scottish Land Commission (South Scotland)
- SW Scotland Biosphere (Dumfries and Galloway, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire)
- The Wild Heart of the Southern Uplands
- Langholm Initiative (Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway)

#### Dumfries and Galloway

- Community Supported Agriculture, Propagate (Glenkens, Stewarty, Dumfries and Galloway)
- Dumfries and Galloway Climate Group (Dumfries and Galloway)
- Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (Ken/Dee catchment)
- JDH Ltd (Newton Stewart)
- National Scenic Areas (Dumfries and Galloway)
- Solway Coastal and Marine Natural (Dumfries and Galloway coast)
- Southern Uplands Partnership (Southern Uplands in Dumfries and Galloway)
- Tarras Valley Initiative (Langholm Initiative)

- Threave Estate, National Trust (Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway)
- Upper Urr Catchment Initiative (Upper Urr)

#### Scottish Borders

- Destination Tweed (Scottish Borders)
- Fallago Environment Fund EDF Energy (Lammermuir Hills, Scottish Borders)
- Riverwoods (Tweed catchment)
- Scottish Borders Biodiversity Strategy (Scottish Borders)

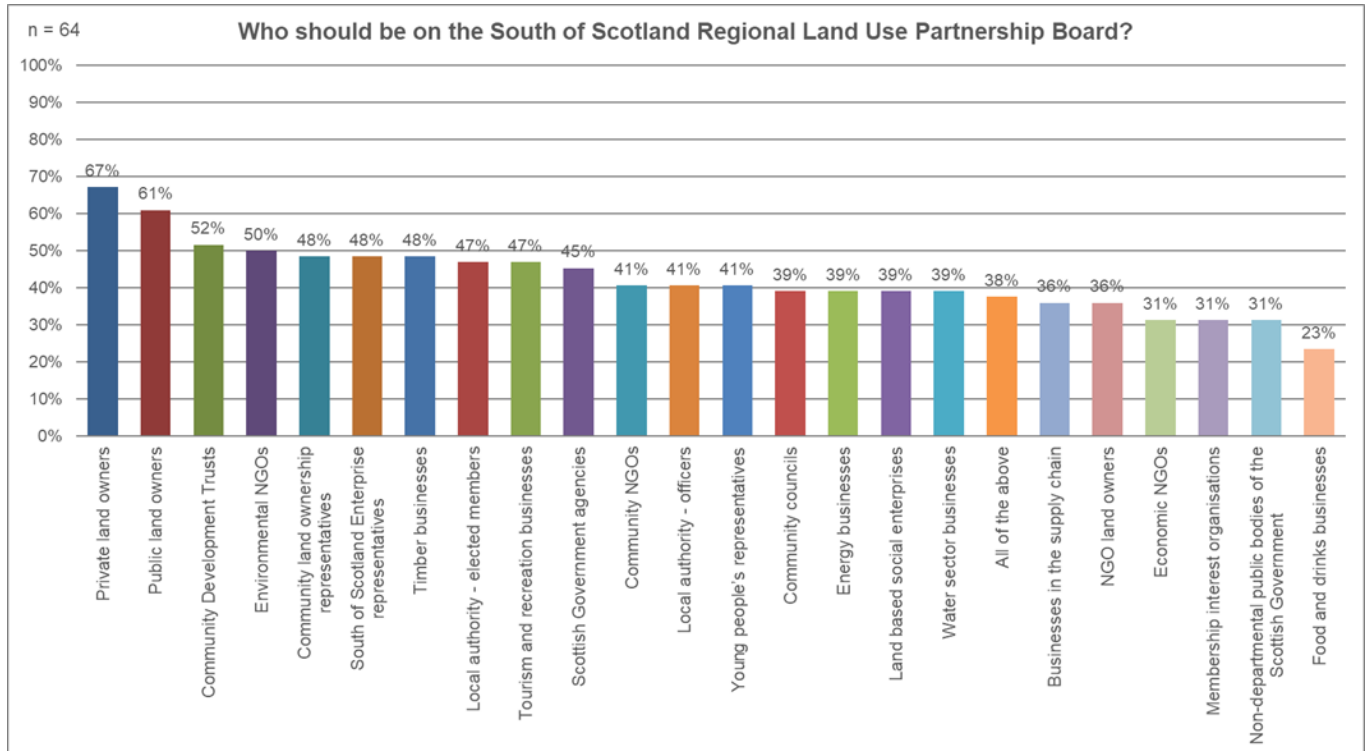
### Vision for land use planning in the south of Scotland

**2.33** The key themes for land use planning that were identified within the visions of the respondents include:

- The need to recognise that land is multi-functional and dynamic and that land uses provide multiple benefits.
- The importance of ensuring that use of land is balanced to provide food, timber, energy, housing, leisure, etc.
- Land use planning should:
  - Be integrated and holistic.
  - Ensure that all stakeholders are considered and engaged in decision-making process. Stakeholders should include communities to ensure that people who work the land and live in the area have an influence on the decisions.
  - Focus on delivering health and wellbeing and addressing climate change.
  - Prioritise regenerative farming and horticulture.
  - Encourage walking, cycling and improved transport links.
  - Focus on restoring peatland, biodiversity, native woodlands, and wetlands.
  - Prioritise benefits for local communities over those of overseas investors (who extract benefits for Scottish land).
  - Ensure a balanced mosaic of wild and productive land uses.

Partnership composition of the Regional Land Use Partnership Board

Figure 2.15: Partnership composition



2.34 Figure 2.15 presents the suggested partnership composition. The respondents indicated that the following representatives should be on the Board:

- Private land owners (67%)
- Public land owners (61%)
- Community Development Trusts (52%)
- Environmental NGOs (50%)
- Community land ownership representatives (48%)
- South of Scotland Enterprise representatives (48%)
- Timber businesses (48%)
- Local authority – elected members (47%)
- Scottish Government agencies (45%)

### Summary of findings:

- The key land use issues for the region include biodiversity loss, pests and diseases, agricultural intensification, flood management, and coastal management / defence.
- The key land use opportunities for the region include native woodland, tourism and recreation, historic and cultural heritage, rewilding, and peatland restoration.
- The key land use issues and opportunities for the region are agricultural diversification, renewable energy developments, moorland management, landscape quality / change, and climate change adaptation.
- The key land use issues for settlements in the region include historic and cultural heritage, tourism and recreation, development pressure / settlement expansion, community land ownership and climate change mitigation.
- The key land use issues for enclosed farmland in the region include soil quality, pests and diseases, biodiversity loss, agricultural intensification and landscape quality / change.
- The key land use issues for semi-natural land in the region include moorland management, peatland restoration, commercial forestry, landscape quality / change and native woodland.
- The key land use issues for rivers and waterbodies in the region include fisheries management, water quality and supply, flood management, biodiversity loss and pests and diseases.
- The key land use issues for coastal areas in the region include coastal management / defence, tourism and recreation, fisheries management, flood management and protected areas.
- The key drivers for changes in land use and management include renewable energy policy / obligations / targets, climate change policy / obligations / targets, forestry and woodland policy / obligations / targets, agricultural policy / obligations / targets and climate change impacts.
- The South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Board should include private and public land owners, Community Development Trusts, environmental NGOs, community land ownership representatives, South of Scotland Enterprise representatives and timber businesses.

## Chapter 3

# Stakeholder Events

### Stakeholder workshops

**3.1** Two stakeholder events were run, one for community groups and the other for wider stakeholders including businesses, research organisations, and NGOs. The workshops took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 and lasted approximately an hour and a half each. They were carried out through MS Teams and Miro, an interactive platform for consultation.

**3.2** In addition to the project team, a total of 8 individuals attended the community workshop and 12 individuals attended the wider stakeholder workshop.

**3.3** The community workshop attendees included interests from A Greener Hawick, Dumfries and Galloway Outdoor Access Trust, Farm Africa, and Propagate.

**3.4** The wider stakeholder workshop attendees included representatives from South of Scotland Economic Partnership Berwickshire, Berwickshire Area Partnership, Carbon Centre, Langholm Initiative, Solway Firth Partnership, Tilhill, Butterfly Conservation and Woodland Trust.

**3.5** The findings from the workshop exercises are presented in the following chapters.

### Land use challenges in the south of Scotland

**3.6** Attendees were asked to list the main land use challenges in the south of Scotland. The following section lists the key land use issues highlighted by the stakeholders which have been grouped by theme to allow comparison between issues raised at each event.

**Table 3.1: Land use challenges identified through the workshops**

Theme	Community	Wider Stakeholders
Agriculture	Lack of diversity in farming (crops and livestock). Agricultural viability and continuity.	Agricultural intensification on key coastal sites. Loss of upland farm enterprises to commercial forestry.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity decline and deterioration of soil quality.	Loss of remaining habitat for species typical to southern uplands.
Climate change		Climate change.
Coastal issues		Saltmarsh restoration within the Marine Natural Capital Pilot Project. Coastal and marine litter in the west of Dumfries and Galloway.
Communication	Limited involvement of communities in the decision-making process.	Failure of landowners to co-ordinate management with neighbours.
Ecosystem services	Need to recognise non-monetary value of land.	
Forestry	Commercial forestry.	Forestry with limited species diversity and increased disease vulnerability.
Landscape diversity	Need for a mosaic of land uses.	Loss of diversity in landscapes.
Land values	Increasing land values.	
Moorland	Grouse moorland management.	
Peatlands	Lack of protection for peatlands and peatland management.	Carbon capture.
Policy	Land use policy has a top-down approach.	
Renewable energy	Renewable energy developments.	Renewable energy developments.
Tourism	Tourism.	Rural access to the coast. Recreation and tourism pressures and active travel, issues with car parking for tourism.
Water environment	Flood management.	

### Common themes

#### 3.7 Both stakeholder groups identified:

- Issues with lack of diversity in agriculture;
- Biodiversity decline and habitat loss;
- Lack of co-ordination or community involvement in land management;
- The impact of commercial forestry;
- The need for a diverse landscape (lack of diversity);
- The role of peatlands and carbon capture;
- Renewable energy developments; and
- Access, tourism and pressures arising from these activities.

**3.8** The community stakeholders identified some issues that were not raised by the wider stakeholder group. These included ecosystem service provision, increasing land values,

the top-down policy approach, moorland management and flood management.

**3.9** Issues identified by the wider stakeholders but not the community stakeholders included climate change and coastal issues.

### Land use opportunities in the south of Scotland

**3.10** The following table lists the key land use opportunities highlighted by the stakeholders, grouped by theme.

**Table 3.2: Land use opportunities identified through workshops**

Theme	Community	Wider Stakeholders
Agriculture	Agroforestry. Regenerative agriculture, mixed use farming and food production.	
Biodiversity	Biodiversity enhancement potential. Habitat restoration. Rewilding (reintroduction of species).	Enhancing biodiversity. Restoration of ecological processes to support biodiversity.
Coastal issues		Coastal restoration for habitats such as saltmarsh, multiple benefits with flood protection, carbon storage, grazing, recreation.
Community	Community commercial scale food growing. Community involvement.	
Education and learning	Outdoor education and learning.	
Employment		Rural employment opportunities.
Funding	More flexible approach to land use grants and agri-environment schemes.	
Land ownership and access		Democratic use of natural space / land.
Mix of land uses	Creating a mosaic of different productive land uses and wild land.	
Natural capital		Natural capital investments.
Partnership working		Partnerships between private landowners and public bodies.
Peatland	Peatland restoration. Carbon storage.	Management of peatlands for carbon storage.
Recreation and tourism		Tourism management, eco-tourism. Recreational facilities for long distance and local walking cycling horse riding. Integrated approach to access.
Renewable energy	Renewable energy developments. Community owned energy.	Renewable energy development.
Soil	Soil regeneration.	



Theme	Community	Wider Stakeholders
Water	Water quality. Restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management.	
Woodland and forestry	Woodland expansion, location of forestry.	Creating woodland. Sustainable woodland management.

### Similarities / differences

**3.11** Both stakeholder groups identified opportunities relating to:

- Biodiversity;
- Peatland restoration and carbon storage;
- Renewable energy; and
- Woodland expansion.

**3.12** The community stakeholders also indicated community specific opportunities such as agro forestry and regenerative agriculture, community commercial scale growing, community owned energy, and community involvement in policy making

and decision making process, soil regeneration, water quality and restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management.

**3.13** The wider stakeholders highlighted coastal restoration, eco-tourism, recreational facilities, natural capital investment, and rural employment and partnerships between private owners and public bodies as key opportunities for the area.

### Key drivers for change in land use and management in the south of Scotland

**3.14** The following table lists the key drivers for change highlighted by the stakeholders.

**Table 3.3: Drivers for change highlighted by stakeholders**

Theme	Community	Wider Stakeholders
Agricultural support	Agricultural subsidies which drive poor land use change outcomes.	Agri-environmental schemes and the future changes to the subsidy regime, CAP incentives.
Climate change	Climate change impacts and climate change mitigation through forestry.	Climate change impacts, coastal change, coastal erosion, green agenda / climate emergency crisis.
Economics	Citizens' willingness to pay the real price for food and the benefits of a local supply of healthy food.	
Finance, grants and subsidy	SNIB investment in commercial forestry. Forest grant scheme driving poor land use change outcomes.	Subsidy regimes for land uses.
Global politics	Geopolitical events and unstable global food systems that create a need for increased food sovereignty and local resilience.	
Land ownership and tenure	Distribution of land, land ownership and land tenure policy.	
Population change		Changes in population throughout the south of Scotland, reverse decline in rural population.
National/local politics	Vested political interest.	

Theme	Community	Wider Stakeholders
National policy	Government targets for afforestation, renewable energy and net zero.	Renewable energy policies and targets and cost of energy (will drive renewables forward), woodland afforestation policy targets.  NPF4 and national policy targets; the failure of national policy to read through into local action.  Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (to be published) is to set nature targets.  Peatland Action – significant funding for peatland restoration from Scottish Government.
Stewardship	Responsibility to repair the ecological damage of the past and willingness to pass the land on in better condition to next generations.	
Sustainable growing		Sustainable growing practices.
Tourism	Tourism (uses resources but does not always produce income).	Sustainable tourism, a pressure as a result of increased tourism.
Transport	Transport and transport costs.	

### Similarities / differences

**3.15** Both stakeholder groups identified key drivers relating to:

- Agricultural support;
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Grant and subsidy regimes;
- National policy; and
- Tourism.

**3.16** The community stakeholders also indicated the economic driver of the real price of food, geopolitical events and the need for local food supply, distribution of land, land ownership and land tenure, the impact of vested political interests, the need for long term environmental responsibility and stewardship, and the availability of transport infrastructure and associated costs.

**3.17** The wider stakeholders highlighted the driver of population change and sustainable growing practices.

### Existing or forthcoming plans, partnerships, initiatives or actions for land use in the south of Scotland

**3.18** The following plans and strategies, initiatives, partnerships and actions were identified by the stakeholders.

### Plans / strategies

- Hawick Energy Plan (early stages)
- Glenkens Community Action Plan
- Dalry Local Place Plan
- Land Use Strategy

### Initiatives

- Langholm Initiative
- Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
- Communities for Diverse Forestry
- Hawick Flood Prevention Scheme (use of land for phase two)
- South West Scotland Regenerative Farmers Network
- Scottish Borders Growing Network
- Peatland Connections
- Wild Heart of Southern Scotland (BFT)
- Community Growing Network (SBC)
- Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Panel towards zero carbon

- Solway Coast and Marine Natural Capital Pilot Project covering the Solway Coast in Dumfries and Galloway (Borderlands funded)
- Borders Forest Trust’s Wild Heart of South of Scotland
- Rhins Coast Path
- Threave Rewilding Project (Castle Douglas)
- Tarras Valley Nature Reserve<sup>1</sup>
- Borderlands (Natural Capital pilot focusing on Species-rich Grassland and the Northern Brown Argus butterfly)
- Borders Forest Trust land at Corehead, Carrifran and Tall

#### Partnerships

- Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership
- Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Food Partnership
- Southern Uplands Partnership

- Rural Land Use Partnership

#### Actions

- Communities in East Dumfriesshire taking shared ownership in a windfarm.
- New agri-environment schemes which are more outcome based.
- Talla Hartfell wildland area coordinated by SUP.
- NatureScot Nature Recovery Fund application for enhancement of Species-rich Grassland at a cluster of 4 sites near Clovenfords.

#### Who should be in the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Board?

**3.19** The following table lists the stakeholders suggestions for the RLUP board.

**Table 3.4: RLUP board representation identified by stakeholders**

Theme	Community	Wider Stakeholders
Community	Community with a focused on marginalised 'hard to reach groups and young people. Resilience groups.	Community.
Environmental NGOs	Reforestation Scotland and Woodland Trust.	Environmental NGOs who have a track record in environmental partnership projects. Conservation organisations. Marine and coastal organisations.
Food	Local food retailers and restaurants and farmers (representatives of diverse farming systems).	
Local community partnership groups	Development Trusts and Zero Carbon Groups.	
Local government		Local authorities including officers from different departments.
Major land users and owners	Representatives of the major land users – owners, farmers, foresters, recreational interests, community interests, visitor businesses and government (representing public funding).	Land use sector. Land managers. Estate representatives. Forestry sector – representing both private and public.

<sup>1</sup> Aims to deliver substantial native woodland planting scheme; rewetting of peatlands; renewable energy options. The aim is to create a beginning of National Nature Reserve. 5,200 acres first phase but if

successful in second stage will increase to 10,500 acres, including Combes Farm.

Theme	Community	Wider Stakeholders
		Farming sector representatives (upland, dairy, beef, organic etc.). Representatives of renewable industry.
Public agencies	Public agencies.	SEPA, NatureScot and Scottish Forestry.
Recreation	Outdoor recreation groups and outdoor access forums.	Recreational user groups.

**3.20** There was strong alignment between the representatives identified by each stakeholder group. Both groups identified community, environmental NGOs, major land users and owners, public agencies and recreational groups. The community stakeholders identified in addition the need for local food representatives, community development trusts, net zero carbon groups and local resilience groups.

#### Additional comments

**3.21** It was also highlighted during the workshop that not all stakeholders will be equally well organised, and this may affect levels of engagement and influence the balance of issues raised through engagement. Therefore, it will be important to conduct wide reaching stakeholder analysis and ensure that marginalised voices are heard. It will also be crucial that board members are impartial and do not have vested interests. It was also highlighted that the RLUP Board should link with other partnerships, e.g. Berwickshire Place Making Group which is a part of the Berwickshire Area Partnership, and it should ensure that communities are involved at a strategic level.

### Results from the mapping exercise

**3.22** The results from the mapping exercise have been analysed from the stakeholder events and survey participants. Results are presented in **Appendix B** and summarised below. It is important to note that at this stage of the project, this exercise was not meant to be a comprehensive assessment, rather a tool to highlight some of the key challenges and opportunities for the area.

#### 3.23 Opportunities in Scottish Borders:

- Agricultural diversification: Need to move away from the dominance of sheep.
- Rewilding: Lammermuirs change from grouse moor to rewilding project.
- Meadow restoration to reverse loss of biodiversity, improve carbon storage and restore cultural heritage: There is the opportunity to use the River Tweed as a

biodiversity corridor, restoring lost meadows along its length benefiting insects.

- Flood management: Sustainable flood management in Upper Teviot catchment.
- Carbon storage: Tarras Valley Nature Reserve – Langholm Initiative.

#### 3.24 Challenges in Scottish Borders:

- Renewable energy development.
- Flood management at Hawick.
- Agricultural diversification in east: This area has intensive farming and would benefit from more nature friendly approaches to farming.
- Soil quality in east: Danger of soil erosion and depletion in the arable areas of the Merse.

#### 3.25 Opportunities in Dumfries and Galloway:

- Native woodland: Join up large native woodland restoration projects.
- Rewilding: North-east of Moffat, Rhins of Kells.
- Coastal defence and management: Saltmarsh enhancement and restoration on the coastal edge of the Solway Firth.
- Fisheries management: Native oyster bed expansion north of Stranraer.
- Protected areas: Galloway National Park.
- Agro forestry in the uplands.

#### 3.26 Challenges in Dumfries and Galloway:

- Soil quality: From poor farming practice [sticky down bit of Galloway near Stranraer).
- Development pressure and settlement expansion: Lots of wind farms and forestry concentrated in small geographical areas.
- Flood management: River Annan.

- Multiple wind farm development in the uplands.
- Commercial forestry: Lack of cumulative assessment from forestry expansion. Inadequate biodiversity outcomes.

# Chapter 4

## Stakeholder Interviews

### Introduction

**4.1** This section of the report draws together the findings from the one-to-one interviews held by the RLUP project manager and LUC with stakeholders from the following organisations:

- Nature Scot;
- Rural Payments Inspectorate Division;
- Scottish Forestry;
- SEPA;
- Tweed Forum;
- Forestry Land Scotland;
- National Farmers Union Scotland;
- Scottish Land and Estates;
- Historic Environment Scotland;
- Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere;
- Wemyss and March Estate;
- Confor;
- RSPB; and
- Scottish Tenant Farmers Association.

**4.2** The following paragraphs draw together the key themes identified from the stakeholder interviews.

### Key issues and tensions for future land use in the South of Scotland

#### Provisioning ecosystem services

##### Forestry

**4.3** Stakeholders identified that there is a trend of expansion of upland afforestation and loss of upland agriculture. Southern Scotland upland hill farms have an ideal climate for forestry therefore they are being purchased by outside investors to obtain higher timber value or carbon credits. This largely occurs in an unmanaged and unregulated way increasing the land value and taking land away from farming.

“Productive land is being lost to large scale forestry, the attitude tends to be farming or forestry.”

**4.4** Stakeholders identified the risk that forestry pressure may move downslope onto more productive farmland, creating further tensions. This is anticipated due to the current policy framework for forestry.

**4.5** Stakeholders recognised that there has been significant work undertaken to identify land suitable for forestry, however forestry is only one part of the land use equation and this level of detail needs to be replicated for other land uses.

**4.6** In economic terms, the stakeholders identified that productive forestry supports a higher level of jobs than traditional farming. However, it was also noted that there are financial benefits to be delivered from forestry planting by farmers, as they can create assets that will grow in value and can be handed on under property management to next generation tax free.

**4.7** It was also noted that the forestry that influences perceptions of the landscape today is largely a result of historic planting practices, and younger newly restocked areas reflecting current design guidance are not yet mature. Stakeholders also highlighted that there is increasing local support for more native woodlands as a direct reaction to commercial forestry in the area.

**4.8** Although historically there has been a tension between forestry and renewables, the increase in turbine height has meant that there is now increased compatibility between renewable energy and forestry.

**4.9** Other tensions include commercial forestry and game management as legal predator control isn't implemented in forestry adjacent to land managed for game.

**4.10** Public access and forestry is also an issue due to new planting not incorporating access and also the impact of deer fences and the need to ensure access solutions that are effective in controlling deer movement. The design of new forestry is also noted as providing better habitat for roe deer. There needs to be an approach that provides deer control but balanced against sporting interests in some locations.

**4.11** The challenges of cumulative effects of forestry expansion on the historic environment is an issue which needs to be addressed. However forestry expansion was also identified as an opportunity to improve the setting of historic monuments.

### Agriculture

**4.12** As mentioned in Forestry section, the key land issue for agriculture is the reduction in land available for farming as a

result of forestry expansion. However agroforestry was also identified as an opportunity. At the same time, there has been increasing intensification of dairy farming on lower coastal grounds. The stakeholders also noted changing land use management practices such as intensive silage production, and loss of cereal production with resulting impacts on biodiversity.

**4.13** One of the results of intensification of agricultural production is greater silage production, and the increasing risks of fertiliser and slurry run-off. In order to prevent environmental impacts, there is a need for greater environmental compliance, larger number of silage cuts and introduction of field buffer areas and boundary strips. This clearly illustrates the tension between productivity and delivery of ecosystem services.

**4.14** On the coastal plains, grassland is being significantly improved changing landscape character and impacting on landscape features which are important for tourism.

“Key tensions in Galloway include the intensification of dairy farming, removal of rocky knowes and hedgerows, run-off from slurry and storage capacity for slurry.”

**4.15** Financial viability is another of the key issues for agriculture as a significant proportion of farming in the south of Scotland is uneconomic and requires heavy annual subsidies. With the current changes to agricultural policies, there is uncertainty over future farming subsidies. However, stakeholders have highlighted that the RLUF should recognise the importance of retaining food production on the land.

### Renewable energy generation (wind farms)

**4.16** Stakeholders have highlighted that wind farm developments had a greater impact on woodland clearances at start of wind farm boom, when the height of turbines meant they were incompatible with woodland. Now, with taller turbines they are key holed into woodland, reducing the need for felling. The change in activity was also partly a result of government policy to control woodland removal. Where it was not possible, it required that the net loss of woodland have to be replaced elsewhere.

**4.17** Stakeholders suggested that policies regarding wind farms could be designed to deliver much fairer investment and management for local communities. Currently, the majority of wind farms in south of Scotland are owned by large foreign companies, without local benefit.

**4.18** Another key issue linked with onshore renewables and wind farms is their impact on habitats and bird species. There is ongoing engagement with onshore renewables developers

to avoid habitats and bird species loss, however more work is required.

**4.19** Grid connection can be a constraint in some areas to the development of renewable energy opportunities by landowners. Furthermore the challenges of cumulative effects of renewable energy development on the historic environment need to be addressed.

### Mining

**4.20** There is currently exploratory work on mineral opportunities in the Galloway hills with potential impacts on communities.

### Regulating ecosystem services

#### Carbon sequestration / carbon credits

**4.21** Recently, there has been a significant increase in the inflow of foreign green capital investment into rural areas. The Scottish land ownership pattern makes it particularly attractive. Organisations such as Aviva, Standard Life and others, are buying up large areas of land for green investment purposes purely looking at carbon credits rather than wider environmental benefits. The land is used to directly offset a company's emissions or to put the carbon credits for sale. The key risk attached to this phenomenon, is the fact that carbon land purchases are very opportunistic and currently there is no strategic overview for the region. The majority of transactions are taking place privately and therefore they are not showing in land sales statistics. As a result, benefits acquired from the land are flowing out of Scotland while Scotland loses its valuable farming land and the associated economic benefits from farmland ecosystem services.

**4.22** Several stakeholders raised the concern that there is a lack of regulation of green finance and that local benefits are not being secured. There are also particular negative effects for biodiversity from land management for green finance.

"For carbon markets, there is uncertainty regarding carbon trading and who will benefit from them. Should carbon credits really be given away to other industries? Some schemes e.g., assurance in milk quotas ensure that farmers will get carbon credits back."

### Supporting ecosystem services

#### Moorland management

**4.23** Some stakeholders highlighted that game bird shooting leads to mixed effects on biodiversity as upland waders may be benefitting whereas lower plants and birds of prey may experience negative consequences in areas with grouse.

Moreover, larger and more frequent releases of pheasant and partridge have an impact on the local ecosystems.

**4.24** The RSPB have been working with Scottish Government to deliver the Werrity Report on gamebird management which focused on grouse moor management and burning of moorland. Its aim was to bring in licensing of moorland management.

**4.25** Moorlands are also suitable for peatland restoration. In areas where grouse moors have become less profitable as shoots, land is either being sold off for tree planting or utilised for wind farms. However, there are options for peatland restoration but some landowners consider options for forestry and wind as more economically attractive in short term timescales.

#### Water environment

**4.26** Forestry plays an important role in cleaning the air, however if poorly designed it can have negative impact on water quality leading to its acidification especially during periods of intense rainfall. There has been an improvement in understanding of how to design and manage water in the forestry environment. Forestry also impacts on flood protection through both tree planting and felling, as loss of evapotranspiration from canopy may affect catchments.

**4.27** Other key issues highlighted by the stakeholders are the rural diffuse pollution from farming affecting water quality, acid rain impacts and public water supply.

**4.28** Stakeholders also highlighted that low river flows are increasingly problematic, exacerbating the impacts of pollutants. This needs to be mitigated through more natural rivers which also help mitigate against increasing water temperatures.

**4.29** Tree planting and felling and phasing of felling can also influence flood risk. There are a number of natural flood management opportunities in areas such as Newton Stewart, Dumfries, Twynholm, Moniaive and New Galloway.

**4.30** Coastal change and pressure from coastal erosion are identified as key issues in the Solway Firth.

### Cultural ecosystem services

#### Historic environment and cultural heritage

**4.31** Forestry expansion and woodland creation, alongside renewable energy development are key potential impacts on historic environment assets. These are typically addressed through the EIA process on a project-by-project basis, however there is limited strategic overview of these impacts which the RLUF could help to address. Forestry restructuring



and expansion can also provide opportunities to improve the setting of historic environment assets.

**4.32** A key issue with the proposed natural capital approach for the RLUF is the limitations of this in relation to recognising the benefits of the historic environment. There is a need to take an approach which recognises the integration of the historic environment into land use decision making. Examples include the use of environmental accounting models that reflect the values of historic buildings and structures<sup>2</sup>.

#### Tourism and recreation

**4.33** There are opportunities for expansion of tourism and access in the region and a desire for a regional tourism policy. However, renewables expansion can also create conflict with access and recreation objectives.

**4.34** There are key opportunities for alignment of sustainable tourism with the management of the historic environment, and further developing linkages with the identity of the area for outdoor recreation.

**4.35** Opportunities for tourism and recreation include developing sustainable tourism across the entire region from east to west. There are key opportunities for the historic environment in relation to the Destination Tweed project, and the significant historic environment assets within this location. Key projects include the proposed redevelopment of Caerlee mill in Innerleithen as a mountain bike innovation centre.

#### Policy, tenure, governance and engagement

##### Land ownership and tenure

**4.36** Stakeholders highlighted that the majority of land in South of Scotland is privately owned, and that land owners are key stakeholders. Approximately, 27% of Scotland's farmland is tenanted and only half of tenant farmers in Scotland have secure leases. The rest of them are on more modern leases that are fixed term (for 5, 10 or 15 years) and often these are not being renewed due to pressure from green investment.

**4.37** Landowners were identified as one of the biggest influencers of land use and large estates are noted as having a very strong local influence. Some landowners also tend to focus on a single land use, rather than incorporating other productive land uses in terms of public goods.

**4.38** Stakeholders also highlighted that high land values create obstacles to land use in Scotland. Land needs to be

affordable to enable farming activities. Currently, farming families are incentivised by high land values to sell their land.

"Land values are increasing, driven by international investment. There is a loss of available land for farming and increased costs and reduced availability of the land what results in less opportunities for young people and farming."

**4.39** Absentee landlords are currently not a significant issue in the south of Scotland, however, they are likely to be in the future with the increasing green finance trend.

**4.40** It has been also highlighted that one of the key challenges for south of Scotland is the population age structure, and there are limited employment opportunities for young people who often choose to move away as a result.

##### Land use policy

**4.41** There was recognition that there is a need for a strategic overview for the region, to provide a framework for land use changes that provides policy integration. It should be an integrated land use policy for the area and a landscape scale approach. A clear grant and subsidy policy is an opportunity to provide clarity on land use.

**4.42** A key challenge was noted as a silo or polarised approach to policy, however it was also identified that there is a need to incentivise and regulate an integrated model. One stakeholder noted that there is a lack of policy direction for rural areas in NPF4. In contrast, Scottish Forestry policy was identified as an exemplar policy approach providing clarity in land use.

**4.43** Other challenges included the need for a greater emphasis on achieving public benefits and for local delivery of these. Centralised decision making was noted as a challenge with benefits from local knowledge informing management.

**4.44** A challenge for the historic environment is the proposed natural capital approach which is less good at recognising the benefits of the historic environment. The South of Scotland pilot can provide an important example of how the historic environment is integrated into land use decision making.

**4.45** Stakeholders have indicated that the national land use policy generally appears to be good, however it proves challenging at the implementation stage as it provides a narrow scope in terms of commercial interests, limited support and flexibility for the net zero aspirations. However, they have also highlighted that current policy framework is not joined up.

<sup>2</sup> Powell, J., Lake, J., Berry, R., Gaskell, P., Courtney, P. and Smith, K. (2019) Heritage, natural capital and ecosystem services – Historic buildings and their associated boundaries. Historic England Research

Report Series no. 9/2019. Available at: [https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/7852/Heritage\\_naturalcapitalandecosystemservices\\_Historicbuildingsandboundaries](https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/7852/Heritage_naturalcapitalandecosystemservices_Historicbuildingsandboundaries)

The Land Use Strategy provides an overarching top layer approach, and other land use policies need to sit below that. One of the key policy issues, is the fact that all land use changes are being considered in silos, where they should be considered more holistically and complement each other.

“Land use needs to consider the best use of the land with a more integrated approach related to land capabilities. This could deliver mosaics of best land for farming, woodland, and biodiversity with a unit, rather than the single current focus which reflects the key interest of the individual landowners / manager.”

**4.46** Stakeholders identified a lack of integration between policy delivery bodies, such as Scottish Forestry and NatureScot. Stakeholders have also pointed out, that there appears to be a limited understanding of rural issues at the national policy level, with policies inappropriate to rural areas. Policies such as NPF4 provide limited coverage of rural issues.

#### Governance

**4.47** In terms of governance, the stakeholders have generally agreed that there is a need for wide representation, from government, through NGOs to private businesses and the local community. It has been suggested that the Board should be large enough to provide wider representation, but also focused enough to ensure efficient decision-making. Stakeholders suggested that the Board should include approximately 12 Board members. There was a strong emphasis on the need for an impartial chairperson.

**4.48** The role of the board needs to be defined and identification of the skills required for the board should influence board membership. The board powers and budget will influence composition. A clear vision of the desired outcome of the partnership needs to be established.

“Local democratic representation to be included and it needs to be considered who controls the key levers, especially in long term.”

**4.49** There was concern that there are a lot of existing management structures operating in the same space.

**4.50** Stakeholders have also highlighted that boards of existing initiatives tend to be managed by a relatively similar demographic therefore not representing the multi-cultural society of Scotland. Measures should be taken to ensure involvement of women in agriculture, young farmer groups and agricultural students, schools and colleges.

**4.51** According to the stakeholders, the governance model should reflect climate change, biodiversity and other objectives. There is a need to challenge the approach to integration, support measures, the discrepancy between current land use and wider objectives of the Scottish Government.

**4.52** The diversity of the south of Scotland area was also recognised as a challenge, with different issues more relevant to different locations. It was also suggested that the RLUP could be linked to the local or regional resilience groups.

**4.53** There is an opportunity to involving organisations who are experienced in engaging and communicating with the wider public on the board, for example RPID and SRUC have a good communication with farmers.

“Partnership composition needs to be transparent and there should be an agreed definition of community interests.”

#### Engagement

**4.54** The stakeholders had a range of experience of community engagement and key principles included the importance of communicating to stakeholders about why they should be involved in the process.

**4.55** Stakeholders have generally identified engagement with local community as a challenge, reflecting the resources involved and difficulties in securing participation. However, there was agreement that this issue must be addressed if the RLUF is to be successful.

**4.56** A number of hard to reach groups were identified. These included tenant farmers, as they tend to be isolated on their farms, have limited access to communications technology and high time inputs from their jobs. Whereas larger scale farmers who employ staff are able to get away from the farm to participate.

**4.57** There was particular emphasis on the importance of engaging with young people and children. The age profile of many organisations is older, however securing youth engagement can be challenging.

“Communities should have a place, but if support mechanisms operate as before, they don't have an effective voice. Change would need genuine community empowerment with ability to comment and influence how the land is managed around them.”

**4.58** One of the stakeholders (SEPA), provided positive examples of stakeholder engagement in the cases of Dee Catchment Management Plan and Nith CMP, where

community engagement processes have taken a substantial amount of time, however new community groups kept emerging, who SEPA were not aware of. This highlighted the importance of publicising ongoing work that requires community engagement as often times relevant groups are being omitted.

**4.59** The Landscape Partnerships were also highlighted as an example of successful partnership model with community engagement.

“Key challenges for South Scotland is how to balance the population age structure, the need to retain young people and provide employment opportunities.”

**4.60** In order to improve engagement with groups who could contribute positively to the RLUP, the use of social media can play an important part in reaching out to informal groups who may be involved in other local projects at a very local scale.

**4.61** A recurring theme was the importance of engaging with young people and children, including through schools.

#### Key projects and initiatives

**4.62** The following projects and initiatives were identified by the stakeholders:

- Beef Efficiency scheme;
- Black Grouse and curlew habitat enhancement (RSPB, SUP, FLS and others);
- Borderlands Natural Capital initiative projects;
- Destination Tweed, and the development of the Caerlee Mountain bike innovation centre and a variety of biodiversity deliver projects;
- Dumfries and Galloway Council Climate Change Emergency Strategy;
- EU Life Wader project;
- Forestry and Land Scotland has mentioned initiatives such as Regional Strategic Woodland Creation pilot, and peatland restoration projects run by FLS;
- Gala water in Scottish Borders is going to be scoped for NFM opportunities;
- GSAB Biosphere – Land Management Plan;
- Landscape Enterprise Networks connecting businesses with ecosystem services;
- Loch Ken Action Plan – involves Adaptation Scotland;
- National Park proposals;
- Natural Capital Innovation Zone;

- Nature friendly farming network;
- Peatland Action Programme (Cricton Carbon Centre and Tweed Forum);
- Piloting an Outcome Based Approach in Scotland (POBAS) scheme;
- Place Programme;
- Restoration work is underway in Upper Nith (Tweed Forum);
- Saving Scotland’s Red Squirrels;
- Central Scotland Green Network and projects funded by the NatureScot Peatland Action fund;
- SF and SBC regional strategic woodland creation pilot;
- South of Scotland Golden Eagle project;
- SUP with RSPB and other partners – a black grouse recovery project for south Scotland;
- Sustainable Agricultural Capital Grant Scheme;
- The Access Forums;
- Tweed Forum delivery projects;
- Visitor management plans e.g. East Lothian Coastal Path, Pentlands, the National Park;
- Wildlife Estates Scotland; and
- Woodland integration and natural flood management in Upper Teviot.

#### Opportunities for the RLUF

**4.63** Stakeholders identified that the RLUF needs to bring together a coordinated approach with a tight policy direction and clarity in relation to the hierarchy of policies and how they act together. However, it should be ensured that it is an enabling framework supported by policies, and it does not become another layer of administrative demands. Finally, it needs a regulatory or funding side to ensure it achieves the aims while ensuring sufficient adaptability and flexibility for the future needs and requirements.

**4.64** Opportunities in south of Scotland include people and connections. There are strong networks and stakeholder groups, cross-border arrangements, and good communication between groups. Catchment Management Plans provide examples of successful collaboration especially for the river Tweed, but also catchment working in Dumfries & Galloway (Nith, Annan, Cree, Ken-Dee).

**4.65** Other opportunities include better integration between farming and forestry, peatland restoration and lowland raised

bogs and coastal bogs, and implementation of more efficient ways of handling and managing slurry.

**4.66** The use of the natural capital approach needs to be adjusted to ensure sufficient recognition of the historic environment, this is a key issue for the development of the pilot, and the SOS RLUF should be an exemplar of this approach.

### Vision

**4.67** A recurring theme to emerge from the suggested visions reflects the reference to current policy being polarised or siloed. This identified the need for the vision for the RLUP to be a holistic and balanced approach to land use. Examples of suggested visions are provided below:

*'A **balance** of land uses with a healthy mix of habitats, peatlands in a state of recovery, recovering of threatened bird species and sustainable populations of a range of species.'*

*'A constantly **evolving** area adapting to **policy** and **markets**.'*

*'A **holistic** approach to land use that recognises the need to embrace the natural and historic environment as being one and the same and the best outcomes are when they are looked at together.'*

*'A **holistic** approach, not driven by forestry or agricultural policy or investment and looking more broadly at how that impacts on **community** and achieving **public benefits** from the landscape.'*

*'A **zonal** approach to reflect the diversity of land use in the region.'*

*'Deliver the goals of Net Zero, address biodiversity loss and engage with the local **community** to deliver it.'*

*'Focus on using land in the most **productive** way to achieve the highest value in terms of financial and **natural capital** value.'*

*'Public money for **public goods**.'*

*'The **best use** of the land with a more integrated approach related to land capabilities. This could deliver **mosaics**, best land for farming, woodland, biodiversity within a unit.'*

*'The **right activity** in the **right place** at the right intensity.'*

# Chapter 5

## Governance

### Introduction

**5.1** This section of the report sets out an initial framework for developing terms of reference for the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership.

**5.2** It includes a review of issues from the Scottish Land Commission research 'International Experience of Land Use Planning', a review of guidance on developing TOR, and a review of related partnership approaches. The potential TOR and Memorandum of Understanding are included in **Appendix E**.

### Governance – key points from the international Experience of Land Use Planning<sup>3</sup> report

- Regional planning sets out guidance for lower governmental tiers and serves as an umbrella organisation.
- Participation includes involvement of different governmental levels, private sector, local communities, experts and NOGs.
- The participation process is designed to engage with the wider public, which is typically executed through consultation processes.
- There is a potential requirement for establishing new regions which can be landscape or issue based.
- Issue-based regional borders allow for flexibility and enable focusing on key issues in a certain area.
- Regional plans tend to be legally binding, or are advisory in nature (however founded on a selection of Acts and laws that are legally binding).
- Ensuring clear regulations across rural and urban areas is crucially important in avoiding enlarging existing discrepancies between regions.
- A regional authority can take advantage of existing strategies and underlying plans to reassess their suitability to the new context.

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<sup>3</sup> LUC and Collingwood Environmental Planning Ltd (2020) International Experience of Land Use Plans. Scottish Land Commission [online]. Available at:

[https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5fa124a248177\\_Appendix%20202.%20Review%20of%20International%20Experience.%20LUC.pdf](https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5fa124a248177_Appendix%20202.%20Review%20of%20International%20Experience.%20LUC.pdf)

- Any change in the planning system must be in place for a longer period of time to produce measurable results.

### Good examples

- In Alberta, a Land Use Secretariat, established the Aboriginal Consultation Coordination Group with representatives from each of the First Nations and delivered the Metis Communities Engagement Plan.
- In Lombardy, where regional planning is exercised, plans do not reflect existing provincial borders but create new landscape-based regional borders for the purposes of land-use planning and management.
- The Auckland Plan 2050 is a result of a collaboration between central and regional government, Maori communities, private sector, institutions and non-governmental organisations and Auckland's public. Public participation takes form of three-phased consultation. During the first stage, the public can contribute to identifying key challenges for the plan. Then, the second phase involves targeted engagement that involves partners and stakeholders into more detailed and technical level of discussion. Finally, the public has an opportunity to provide feedback to the Proposed Plan.

### Guidance documents on developing TOR

5.3 Two guidance documents on developing TOR were identified and key points are outlined below:

- **GPE (2021) Guidance Note on Terms of Reference (TOR) for Local Education Groups<sup>4</sup>** suggests a structure of TOR to include:
  - **Introduction:** Brief introduction to the context of the document, specific purposes/objectives of a group/partnership, agreed principles and values guiding the partnership.
  - **Composition and membership:** Should incorporate the principles of inclusiveness, diversity and gender balance. This section should set out responsibilities of each stakeholder.
  - **Governance arrangements:** Should clarify that the main governance roles are and who is responsible, including any cross-over between the group core and working groups and between different levels of governance.

- **Working arrangements:** Should explain how the partnership functions in practical terms and who is responsible for what. Some details can be included in annexes.
- **Review and learning:** Should detail who reviews will be undertaken and how often.

- **UNIFEM (2009) Guidance note on Developing Terms of Reference (TOR) for Evaluations<sup>5</sup>** suggests a structure of TOR to include:

1. **Title:** State the title of what is being evaluated.
2. **Background, purpose and use of the evaluation:** Should describe briefly the background of the programme to be evaluated, why the evaluation is to be done, what triggered it, what are its key objectives and how the evaluation results will be used and by whom.
3. **Context of the intervention (programme/project):** Should provide information on the programme/project, and an overview of the programme/project and their intended outcome(s) and output(s).
4. **Description of the intervention (programme/project):** Should include the logic and underlying assumption upon which the strategy was originally developed, and the implementation strategy that has actually been adopted.
5. **Scope of the Evaluation:** Should specify the focus of the evaluation, i.e. the timeframe, the geographical and the thematic coverage and the key issues to consider.
6. **Evaluation questions:** Should relate to the purpose and be precisely stated to guide the evaluator in designing the evaluation and in collecting information and data.
7. **Existing information sources:** Should identify information sources that exist and are available, such as monitoring reports and systems.
8. **Evaluation approach, process and methods.**
9. **Stakeholder participation:** Should specify involvement of key stakeholders, and their roles.
10. **Expected product:** Should describe the type of products that are expected from the evaluation, who will use them and how they will be used.
11. **Evaluation team composition:** Should outline the skills, experience, qualifications and other relevant competencies.

4

<https://www.globalpartnership.org/sites/default/files/document/file/2021-08-gpe-guidance-note-terms-reference-leg.pdf>

5

[https://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/UNIFEM\\_guidance%20note\\_evaluation\\_ToR.pdf](https://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/UNIFEM_guidance%20note_evaluation_ToR.pdf)



12. **Management of evaluation:** Should describe the key responsibilities in the process of evaluation and identify logistical support.
13. **Ethical code of conduct.**
14. **Quality checklist for TOR.**

### Relevant partnerships

5.4 The recommendations in this document have been informed by a review of other relevant partnership structures and terms of reference. Terms of Reference reviewed included:

- Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership TOR<sup>6</sup>;
- Glasgow City Council committee TOR<sup>7</sup>;
- Independent Living Fund Scotland TOR<sup>8</sup>;
- NHS England, Standard Setting for Accessible Information Advisory Group TOR<sup>9</sup>; and
- NatureScot, Protected Areas Committee TOR<sup>10</sup>.

The Scottish Government Brief requires the partnership to:

- Develop a set of options for the governance;
- Agree preferred option; and
- Draft TOR for the preferred option.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nuclnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Terms-of-Reference.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=4535&p=0>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ilf.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/ILF-Scotland-Terms-of-Reference-All-Committees-TOR-October-2019-FINAL-PDF.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/ai-advisory-group-tor-mar17.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nature.scot/protected-areas-committee-terms-reference>

## Chapter 6

### Summary of Findings and Next Steps

This chapter summarises the findings from all stages of the stakeholder consultation and outlines the next steps for stakeholder engagement.

#### Key land use issues in the region

**6.1** Drawing together the issues identified from the different phases of consultation the key land use issues in the south of Scotland include:

- Biodiversity loss;
- Forestry expansion / commercial forestry;
- Pests and diseases;
- Agricultural intensification and lack of diversity in agriculture;
- Flood management;
- Limited community involvement;
- Declining peatlands;
- Renewable energy developments;
- Impact from tourism and recreation; and
- Coastal management/defence.

**6.2** **Table 6.1** illustrates the land use issues identified by landscape setting from the survey, and the grey shading demonstrates how the setting specific issues identified relate to the overarching issues listed above. It provides an indication of which issues may require a more spatially specific focus and where issues are more widely relevant.



**Table 6.1: Land use issues for specific landscape settings**

Settlements	Enclosed farmland	Semi-natural land	Rivers and waterbodies	Coastal areas
Historic and cultural heritage	Soil quality	Moorland management	Fisheries management	Coastal management / defence
Tourism and recreation	Pests and diseases	Peatland restoration	Water quality and supply	Tourism and recreation
Development pressure / settlement expansion	Biodiversity loss	Commercial forestry	Flood management	Fisheries management
Community land ownership	Agricultural intensification	Landscape quality / change	Biodiversity loss	Flood management
Climate change mitigation	Landscape quality / change	Native woodland	Pests and diseases	Protected areas

## Drivers for change

**6.3** The following list summarises the key drivers for change identified from the survey and stakeholder engagement. This reinforces the influence of national policy, grant and subsidy and wider economic influences:

- Agricultural policy / obligations / targets and support;
- Climate change impacts;
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Climate change policy / obligations / targets;
- Distribution of land;
- Forestry and woodland policy / obligations / targets;
- Geopolitical events and the need for local food supply;
- Grant and subsidy regimes (forestry and agri-environmental);
- Land ownership and land tenure;

- National policy;
- Population change and sustainable growing practices;
- Real price of food;
- Renewable energy policy / obligations / targets;
- The availability of transport infrastructure and associated costs;
- The impact of vested political interests;
- The need for long term environmental responsibility and stewardship; and
- Tourism.

## Land use challenges

**6.4** **Table 6.2** below draws together the identified challenges and opportunities identified by stakeholders for land use in the south of Scotland. This highlights the opportunities that could be associated with addressing the identified challenges.

**Table 6.2: Challenges and opportunities identified by stakeholders**

Challenges	Opportunities
Access, tourism and pressures arising from these activities	Development of recreational facilities Sustainable tourism and recreation Eco-tourism Historic and cultural heritage
Agricultural diversification	Rural employment Agro forestry

Challenges	Opportunities
Agricultural viability – loss to forestry, reliance on subsidies	Local food production Farm diversification Sustainable tourism and recreation
Biodiversity decline and habitat loss	Rewilding Regenerative agriculture
Climate change mitigation and adaptation	Woodland expansion Peatland restoration Natural flood management Renewable energy
Coastal issues	Coastal restoration
Community engagement	A range of examples of positive community engagement and experience from stakeholders provide models for future engagement
Ecosystem service provision	Natural capital investment Soil regeneration Water quality Agro forestry Regenerative agriculture Native woodland expansion
Flood management	Restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management
Forestry expansion	Native woodland expansion Forestry employment Flood protection
Green finance and increasing land values	Regulation of green finance / green lairds
Historic environment and cultural heritage	Strategic framework for addressing regional land use impacts
Lack of community involvement in land management	Community involvement in policy making and decision making process Community commercial scale food growing
Lack of co-ordination in land management Land ownership and single land use	Partnerships between private owners and public bodies
Lack of diversity in agriculture	Agro forestry Regenerative agriculture
Lack of local benefit from investment in renewables, green finance etc	Policy design for fairer investment
Moorland management	Peatland restoration Rewilding

Challenges	Opportunities
Population age structure and lack of employment opportunities	Farm diversification Tourism and recreation
Renewable energy developments	Renewable energy and woodland Community owned energy
Landscape quality and change including lack of diversity from agriculture and forestry practices	Tourism and recreation Rewilding Agro forestry Native woodland
The role of peatlands and carbon capture	Peatland restoration and carbon storage
Top down policy approach	Stakeholder engagement

## Board representation

**6.5** The stakeholder consultation identified that the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Board should have wide representation, whilst also ensuring efficient decision making. The Board should also seek to be representative of the wider communities in terms of gender, age and background and have an impartial chair. It should include representatives of:

- Community groups and charities;
- Environmental NGOs;
- Food producers and retailers;
- Local partnership groups;
- Local government representatives;
- Major land users and owners;
- Public agencies; and
- Recreation and tourism businesses and organisations.

## Next Steps

**6.6** The next steps include an evaluation of the scope of work that can be taken forward within the budget and resources allocated by Scottish Government to progress the development of the partnership and framework.

**6.7** The results of Phase 1 will inform the subsequent stages by setting the key themes as a focus for the future consultation.

**6.8** Taking the engagement forward through Phase 2 could involve building on the challenges and opportunities set out in **Table 6.2**. Firstly, this will require establishment of the scope and remit of the RLUF, although it is recognised this may be a partly iterative process. This should then be followed by analysis of the challenges (and potential opportunities) in

terms of how this can be reflected in the RLUF, taking into account what is within its scope, and providing guidance on spatial variations. This process will require a clear understanding of the barriers to addressing these challenges and implementing these opportunities.

**6.9** As indicated within the report, there was a positive level of engagement from communities and land owners / managers therefore it will be important that next stages of engagement ensure continued involvement alongside participation from all stakeholder groups.

## Appendix A

# Survey Questions

### **What is the South of Scotland RLUP pilot?**

In 2021 the Scottish Government launched five new pilot partnerships, including the South of Scotland RLUP Pilot, to help develop Scotland's approach to land use in support of our green recovery, the transition to net-zero, and to address the climate change and biodiversity emergencies.

The South of Scotland RLUP pilot project is being managed by the South of Scotland Enterprise, Dumfries and Galloway Council and Scottish Borders Council.

### **Why is this important?**

The South of Scotland RLUP Pilot will help national and local government, communities, land owners and stakeholders work together to find ways to optimise land use in a fair and inclusive way – meeting local and national objectives and supporting the journey to net zero.

### **What information we are looking for?**

As part of an initial phase of stakeholder consultation for the South of Scotland RLUP pilot, we are seeking views on the key land use issues and opportunities in the south of Scotland. We are also seeking views on partnership composition of the South of Scotland RLUP itself.

### **How you can help**

By completing this survey and adding points to our interactive map to identify where the key land use issues and opportunities are in the south of Scotland, you will make a real difference – helping to deliver the step-change necessary to tackle climate, nature, economic and social issues.

If possible, please complete the survey/interactive map on a PC, laptop or tablet device. **The survey and interactive map work best in Google Chrome** rather than Internet Explorer as this platform does not support the function in the survey to save your answers and return to the survey at a later date. It should take you no longer than 10 minutes to complete the survey.

**Consultation on the survey and interactive map will be open until Friday 18th March 2022.**

Thank you for your time.

## **\* 1. Consultation Privacy Statement**

**LUC will only use your Personal Data for the purpose of the survey and for no other purpose. The Personal Data might include contact details such as:**

- **Name**
  - **Contact details**
  - **Any opinions that you include in response to the survey**
- 
- **LUC will only share the Personal Data with South of Scotland Enterprise.**
  - **LUC will only retain your Personal Data for as long as it is necessary to analyse and report the survey results.**

**I acknowledge and agree to the above terms**

**If you would like to view LUC's Consultation Privacy Statement in full please tick this box**

## Part 1: About you

2. If you would like to be contacted in the future in relation to the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership and Framework, please provide your contact details

Name

E-mail

Phone number

\* 3. Are you responding as an individual or as a representative of an organisation?

Individual

Organisation

**4. Organisation name**

**5. Organisation type**

- Government agency
- Local authority
- Representative body
- Public partnership
- Community council
- Private business
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Educational organisation
- Other (please specify)

**\* 6. Please indicate your geographic area of interest**

- National (greater than south of Scotland)
- Regional (south of Scotland including both Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders)
- Dumfries and Galloway only
- Scottish Borders only
- Other (please specify)



**7. Please indicate which of the following reflects your line of work / volunteering**

- Business advice**
- Consulting**
- Contracting**
- Community**
- Land-based business**
- Land owner or land manager**
- Policy development**
- Research / education / training**
- Regulatory**
- Other (please specify)**

**\* 8. Please indicate which of the following topics are relevant to your interest or responsibility (multiple selection allowed)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (conservation)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic and cultural heritage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon sequestration   | <input type="checkbox"/> Land ownership                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change adaptation (e.g.,<br>woodland expansion, planting drought<br>resistant crops, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change mitigation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Moorland                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal change   | <input type="checkbox"/> Native woodland                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial forestry  | <input type="checkbox"/> Peatland                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communities  | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation and tourism         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development (planning)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rewilding                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy generation / supply   | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field sports   | <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality and supply       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)   |   |

## Part 2: Key land use issues and opportunities

\* 9. Please indicate whether you view the following land use issues as significant challenges or opportunities in the south of Scotland

	Challenge	Opportunity	Neither challenge nor opportunity	Both a challenge and opportunity	Don't know
Agricultural diversification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agricultural intensification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agricultural viability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agro-forestry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biodiversity loss	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carbon storage (soil and vegetation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change adaptation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change mitigation (greenhouse gas emissions)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coastal management / defense	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commercial forestry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community land ownership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Development pressure / settlement expansion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Field sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fisheries management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Challenge	Opportunity	Neither challenge nor opportunity	Both a challenge and opportunity	Don't know
<b>Flood management</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Historic and cultural heritage</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Landscape quality / change</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Moorland management</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Native woodland</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Peatland restoration</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Protected areas</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Renewable energy developments</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Rewilding</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Rural development</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Soil quality</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Tourism and recreation</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Water quality and supply</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

**\* 10. Please indicate, where relevant, what you think are the key land use issues for the following landscape settings in the south of Scotland?**

	Settlements	Enclosed farmland (improved grassland and arable)	Semi-natural land (rough grazing, moorland, forests and hills)	Rivers and water bodies (including wetlands and lochs)	Coastal
<b>Agricultural diversification</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Agricultural intensification</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Agricultural viability</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Agro-forestry</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Biodiversity loss</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Carbon storage (soil and vegetation)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Climate change adaptation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Climate change mitigation (greenhouse gas emissions)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Coastal management / defense</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Commercial forestry</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Community land ownership</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Development pressure / settlement expansion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Field sports</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Fisheries management</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Flood management</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Historic and cultural heritage</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Settlements	Enclosed farmland (improved grassland and arable)	Semi-natural land (rough grazing, moorland, forests and hills)	Rivers and water bodies (including wetlands and lochs)	Coastal
Landscape quality / change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moorland management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Native woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peatland restoration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pests and diseases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protected areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renewable energy developments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rewilding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism and recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quality and supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)

**11. What are the main drivers for changes in land use and management in the south of Scotland?**

- Agricultural policy / obligations / targets
- Biodiversity policy / obligations / targets
- Climate change policy / obligations / targets
- Climate change impacts (e.g., increase in flooding, drought, etc.)
- Changes to cost of commodities such as land, crops, timber, transport costs, food, housing, energy, etc.
- Cultural and social influences
- Demographic change (changes to the size, character and movement of the population).
- Financial grants and subsidies
- Forestry and woodland policy / obligations / targets
- Improvements to technology
- Renewable energy policy / obligations / targets
- Water policy / obligations / targets
- Other (please specify)

**12. Are you aware of any existing plans, partnerships, initiatives or actions for land use in the South of Scotland? Which geographical areas do they cover?**

**Name**

**Topic covered**

**Geographic location**

**Name**

**Topic covered**

**Geographic location**

**Name**

**Topic covered**

**Geographic location**

**Any additional plans, partnerships, initiatives or actions**

**13. What is your vision for land use planning in the south of Scotland? (100 words limit)**



**\* 14. Reflecting the need for a governance model that includes local and national government, key sectoral interests and community interests, please identify who you think are key players in terms of governance?**

	Key players
Businesses in the supply chain	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community councils	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Development Trusts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community land ownership representatives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food and drinks businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land based social enterprises	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local authority - elected members	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local authority - officers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Membership interest organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>
NGO land owners	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-departmental public bodies of the Scottish Government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private land owners	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public land owners	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scottish Government agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>
South of Scotland Enterprise representatives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism and recreation businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timber businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water sector businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young people's representatives	<input type="checkbox"/>
All of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)

**15. Any other comments**

**Thank you for your time**

## **\* 16. LUC Consultation Privacy Statement**

This privacy statement sets out the basis on which Land Use Consultants Limited (“LUC”) may use your personal data in respect of this survey.

You acknowledge that:

- your personal data submitted or collected under or in connection with this consultation (“Personal Data”) will be processed pursuant to this statement;
  - the Personal Data might include your name, address, IP address, contact details (including email address) and any opinions that you include in response to the survey;
  - once you have provided your Personal Data to LUC, LUC have a legitimate interest in utilising that Personal Data to review, analyse and produce reports in respect of the survey;
  - LUC will use your Personal Data solely for the purpose of the survey and for no other purpose;
- LUC may share the Personal Data with select third parties involved with the survey (such as LUC’s clients and other consultants and professional advisors involved in the consultation);
- LUC will store, process and retain your Personal Data only for as long as is necessary, and otherwise in accordance with data protection law;
- LUC may transfer your personal data outside the European Economic Area (EEA), but only to known data processors where those data processors make use of server storage outside the EEA and with whom LUC has a binding data protection agreement; and
- LUC will only retain your personal data for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes we collected it for. To determine the appropriate retention period for personal data, we consider the amount, nature, and sensitivity of the personal data, the potential risk of harm from unauthorised use or disclosure of your personal data, the purposes for which we process your personal data and whether we can achieve those purposes through other means, and the applicable legal requirements. LUC may anonymise your personal data (so that it can no longer be associated with you) for research or statistical purposes in which case we may use this information indefinitely without further notice to

you.

**You have legal rights regarding the Personal Data (including the right to request access to, or the correction of, your personal data).**

**If you have any questions, or if you wish to exercise your rights over your Personal Data, you may contact LUC at 250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD or [database@landuse.co.uk](mailto:database@landuse.co.uk). If you wish to make a complaint regarding the treatment of your Personal Data, you may contact the Information Commissioner's Office ("ICO"). The ICO is the UK's supervisory authority for data protection issues and further details (including further details of your legal rights over your Personal Data) can be found at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).**

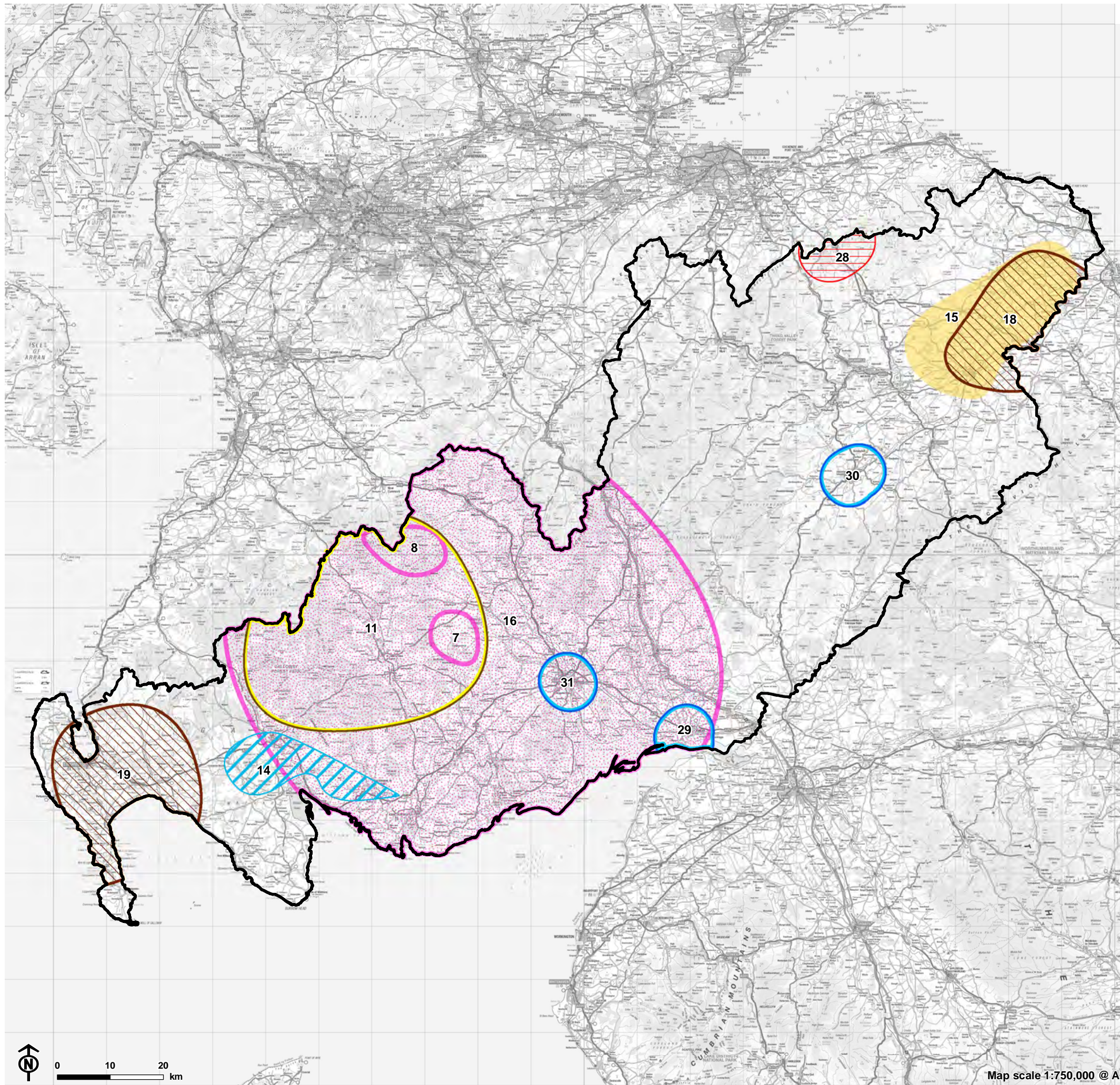
I acknowledge and agree to the above terms

## Appendix B

# Mapping Outputs



Figure 1: Identified Challenges



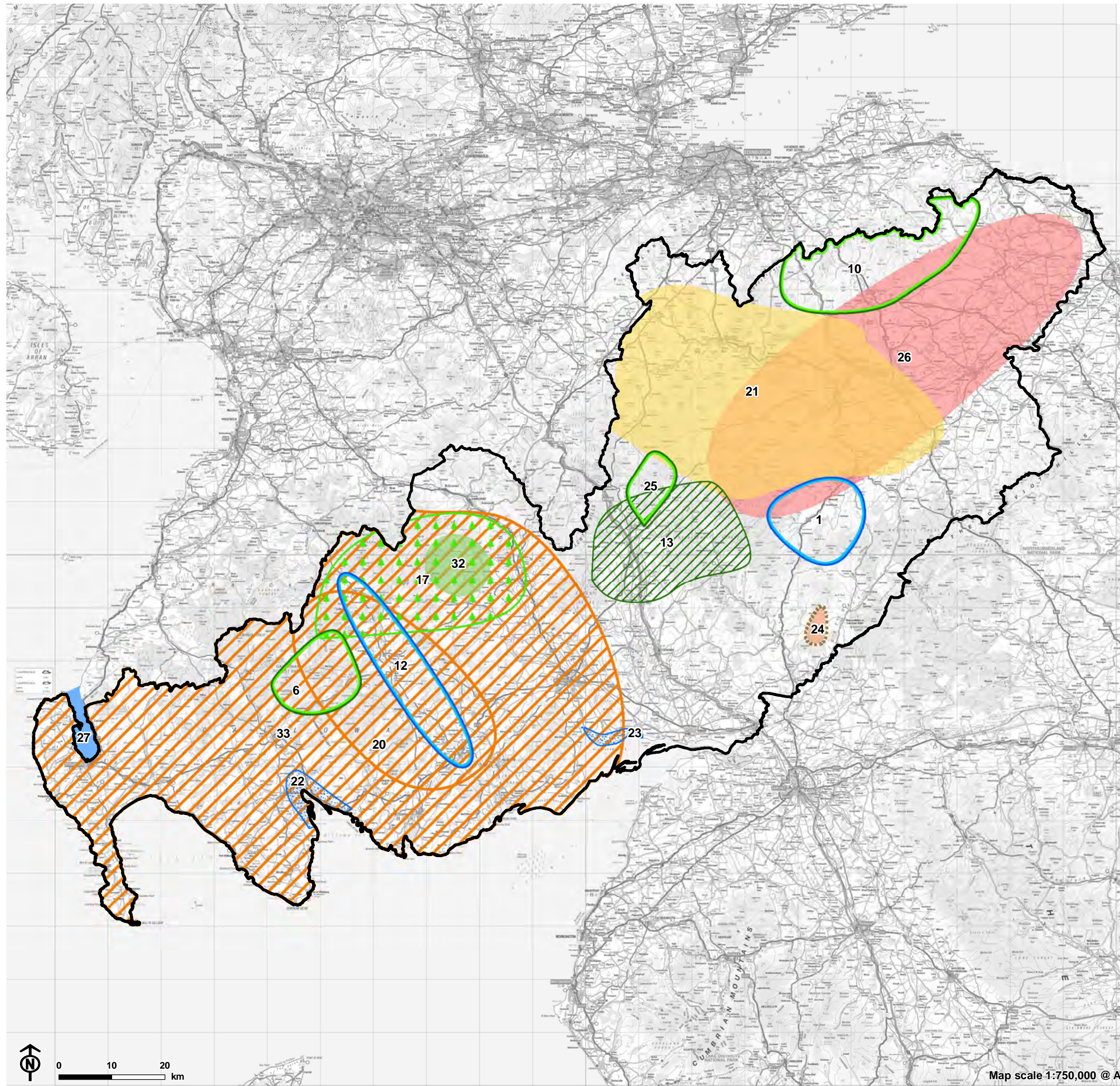
- Study area
- Agricultural intensification
- Development pressure / settlement expansion
- Flood management
- Renewable energy developments
- Soil quality
- Commercial forestry
- Agricultural diversification

**Additional comments:**

- 7: Multiple wind farm developments
- 8: Multiple wind farm developments
- 11: Lack of cumulative assessment given to expansion of commercial forestry that doesn't offer adequate biodiversity outcomes and is a resilience risk for a number of reasons.
- 14: Across much of this area and beyond - increased intensive dairy production
- 15: This area concentrates large scale high input crop production systems and would benefit from more nature friendly approaches to farming
- 16: Lots of wind farms and forestry concentrated in small geographical areas
- 18: Danger of soil erosion and depletion in the arable areas of the Merse.
- 19: Soil degradation through poor farming practice



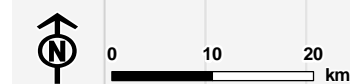
Figure 2: Identified Opportunities



- Study area
- Rewilding
- Protected areas
- Native woodland
- Flood management
- Coastal management / defense
- Agro-forestry
- Fisheries management
- Carbon storage (soil and vegetation)
- Commercial forestry
- Agricultural diversification
- Other

**Additional comments:**

- 1: Sustainable flood management Upper Teviot
- 10: The Lammermuirs could move from grouse shooting to rewilding.
- 12: Riparian planting for flood mitigation - perhaps also seasonal flooding of land
- 13: Join up large native woodland restoration projects.
- 17: Agro-forestry in the uplands
- 20: We should probably look at stronger protections for the wild land which is the core of the biosphere area
- 21: Need to move away from the dominance of sheep.
- 22: Saltmarsh restoration / enhancement
- 23: Saltmarsh enhancement / restoration
- 24: Part of Tarras Valley Nature Reserve - Langholm
- 25: One of only two wildland areas in S Scotland, high recreation value
- 26: There is the opportunity to use the River Tweed as a biodiversity corridor, restoring lost meadows along its length benefiting insects.
- 27: Native oyster bed expansion
- 32: Opportunity to influence planning to achieve better biodiversity and avoid long term risks of monoculture plantation
- 33: Galloway National Park. Also has well being, recreation & tourism, and potential for many environmental benefits within area



Map scale 1:750,000 @ A3



## Appendix C

### **Workshop Outputs**





# South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot

## Community Stakeholders Workshop

14th March 2022 18:30 - 20:00



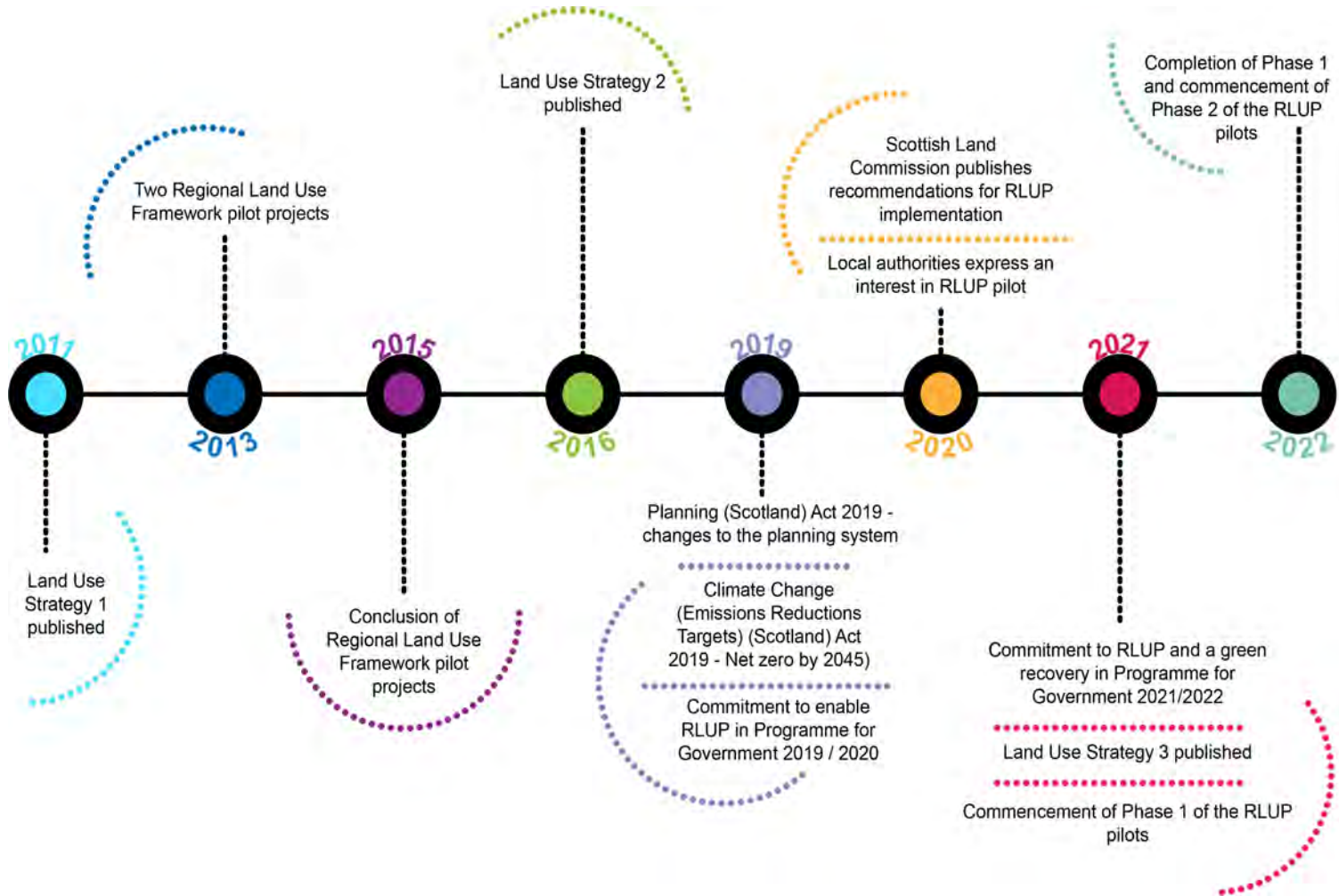
Dumfries & Galloway



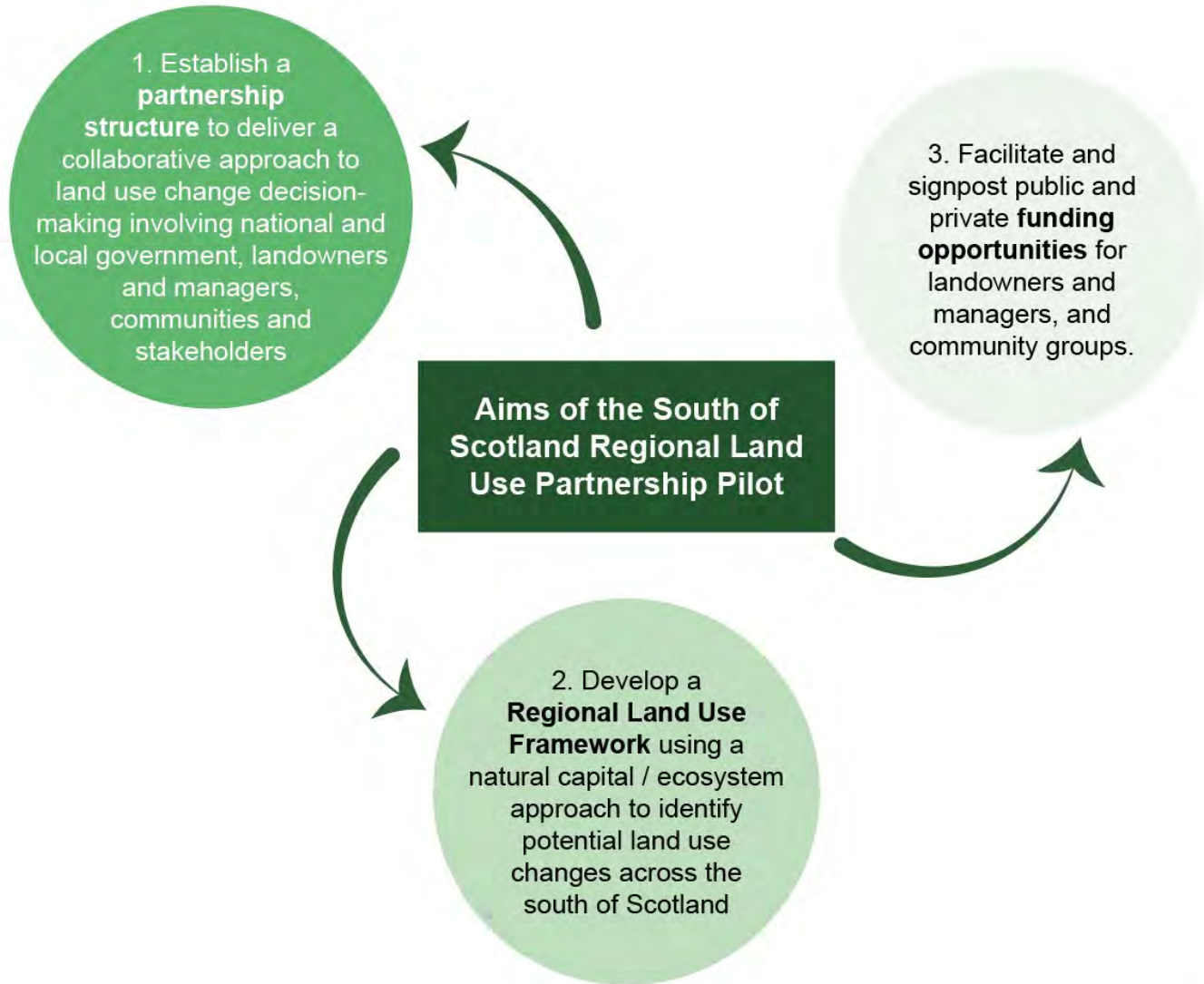
Scottish Borders  
COUNCIL



# Background to the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership pilot



# What is the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) pilot?

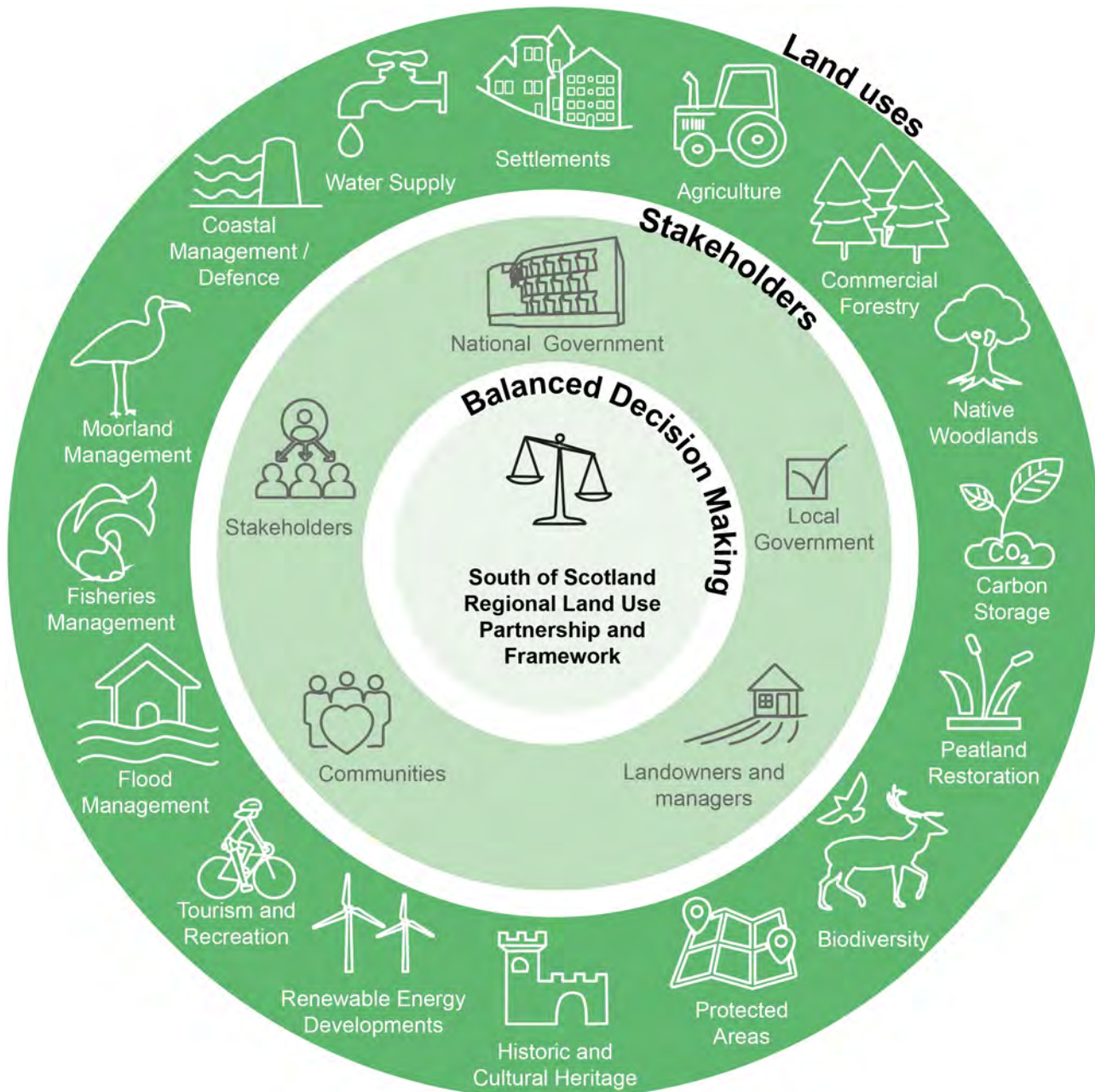


The South of Scotland RLUP Pilot is being managed by:



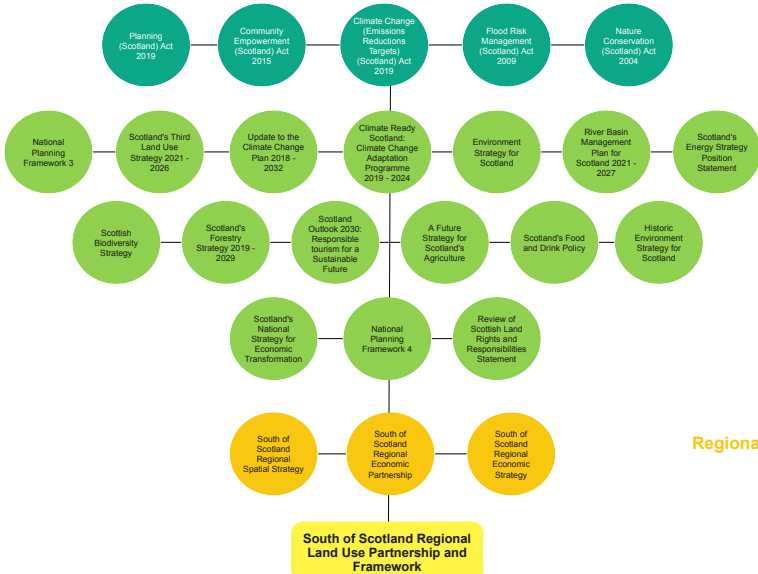


# Why is the South of Scotland RLUP pilot important?



# Policy context

## National Legislation and Policy



## Regional Policy

## Local Policy

# Where we are in the process?

**WE ARE HERE**



## **PHASE 1: 2021 - SPRING 2022**

**Objective:** Development of governance and build stakeholder relationships that will enable the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership to function

## **PHASE 2: SPRING 2022 - WINTER 2023**

**Objective:** South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership to develop the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework

## **PHASE 3: WINTER 2023 ONWARDS**

**Objective:** Delivering the objectives in the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework by making collaborative land use change decisions in the south of Scotland

# Exercise: What are the key land use challenges in the south of Scotland?

In the South West particularly - lack of diversity in farming. Emphasis on cattle, sheep and dairy.

flood management

renewable energy developments

Tourism rather than local communities as major driver for land use

Locking up carbon in the soil through reforestation & rewilding

Delivery of services should no longer be a hurdle to rural population growth

Creating new sustainable jobs

Land use policy seems very top down.

Silo mentality of traditional land uses

Focus food production on land that is naturally fertile and productive land. Wet acidic uplands do not meet this basic criteria.

A deforested, burned, extractive landscape.

wrong value system for land - eg 'marginal' land isn't valued in its own right

Commercial forestry with few constraints adversely affecting the natural environment, ecology, communities water etc...

A need to bring driven grouse moorland management to an end

Huge emphasis on Forestry when there are many other crops which could play a part in economic development

We need new smaller settlements not settlement expansion

Looking after tenants. May need land reform

Greater provision of local service, wood processing, abattoirs to name but two could dramatically reduce carbon miles

lack of integrated forestry approaches, little attempt to build forest culture from commercial sector

Small, family farms being bought up by larger holdings, affecting local economy & employment - at the expense of the local community. Eg, mega-dairy farm, cows kept indoors 365 days, land used for monocrops

unsustainable forest expansion that doesn't address the biodiversity crisis

The size and diverse nature of the 'South of Scotland' is going to make a comprehensive plan quite difficult to formulate.

silo approach as someone else mentioned is a huge problem

key land use challenge - move from monoculture to be they farm livestock, game birds, commercial forestry, rare species etc, to much more diverse use of the land often expressed as multiple uses for multiple public and personal benefits.

The traditional split between commerce in urban areas and growing in rural areas is now outmoded

Increasing biodiversity and looking after the soil needs to be at the heart of everything we do

Yes! To this post it note on the left

Empowering communities

top down approach to consultation, communities often asked as an afterthought

lack of protection for peatlands

A land that provides a living for its residents

rapid increase in land purchases at prices that are out of reach of communities

more cumulative consideration given to forest and wind expansion - competitive nature of industries doesn't offer best outcome for communities

The region must also produce food for those parts of the country / world that are not endowed with the resources we have here - ie: SB is part of a national and global community

more native/mixed woodlands

Provide space for multiple uses and ways of producing / conserving

The 'land' is not something to just 'use'

communities need to be involved at the very start of process and decision making - in a fully participatory capacity

**Poll:** Please vote on what you think the top five land use challenges are in the south of Scotland

**To vote, please click on the grey cross on the bottom right-hand corner of five different post-it notes**

commercial  
forestry

top down  
approach to  
consultation  
and policy-  
making

increasing  
land value  
(making in  
unaffordable)

grouse  
moorland  
management

Peatland  
management

Need for a  
mosaic of  
land uses

Increasing  
biodiversity

Diversity in  
woodland  
and  
forestry

Protecting  
soil

agricultural  
viability  
and  
continuity

flood  
management

Need to  
recognise non  
monetary  
value of land

monocultural  
farming

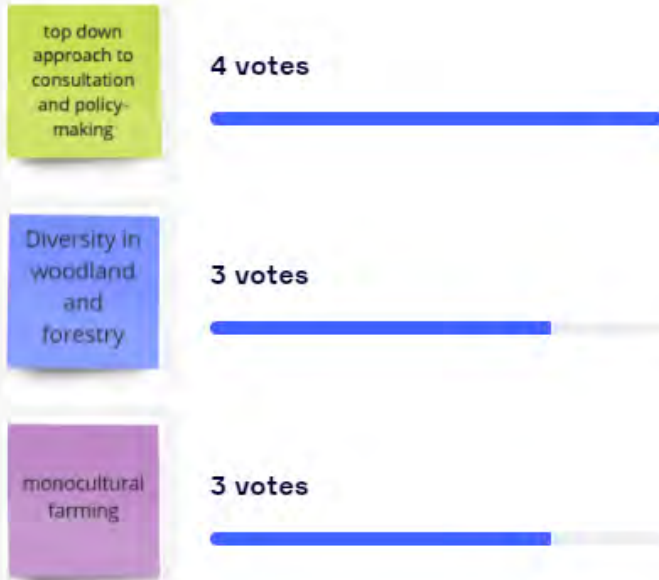
renewable  
energy  
developments



# Poll Results: Top land use challenges in the south of Scotland

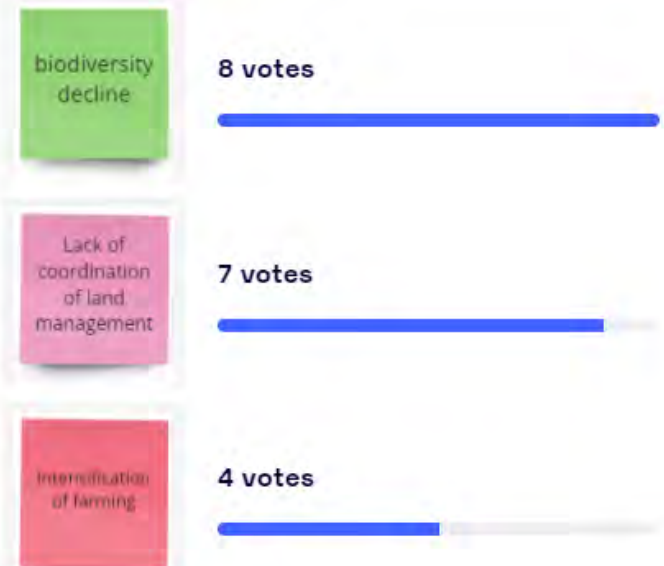
## Community Workshop Results

### Top 3 results



## Stakeholder Workshop Results

### Top 3 results



# Exercise: What are the main drivers for change in land use and management in the south of Scotland?



# Exercise: What are the key land use opportunities in the south of Scotland?



**Poll:** Please vote on what you think the top five land use opportunities are in the south of Scotland

**To vote, please click on the grey cross on the bottom right-hand corner of five different post-it notes**

diverse  
woodland  
cover

mosaic of  
different  
land uses

Rewilding

Integrated  
land uses

Local  
food

Community  
involvement

Carbon  
storage

woodland  
expansion

peatland  
restoration

biodiversity

Species  
reintroduction

soil  
regeneration

Outdoor  
education  
and  
learning

Green  
energy

# Poll Results: Top land use opportunities in the south of Scotland

## Community Workshop Results

## Stakeholder Workshop Results

### Top 3 results

mosaic of  
different  
land uses

5 votes

diverse  
woodland  
cover

4 votes

Local  
food

4 votes

### Top 3 results

Biodiversity  
enhancement

6 votes

Peatland  
restoration

5 votes

Integrated  
land  
management

5 votes

# Exercise: Are you aware of any existing or forthcoming plans, partnerships, initiatives or actions for land use in the South of Scotland? Which areas do they cover?

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

Communities for Diverse Forestry

Hawick Flood Prevention Scheme use of land for phase two,

Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership

Crown Estates are keen to buy a Borders Estate, we would like to lease it for flood prevention growing

Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Food Partnership

per

South West Scotland Regenerative Farmers Network

Loads of local campaigning on key issues!

A Hawick Energy Plan is in its very early stages aiming to make Hawick energy independent. This includes biogas which will require feedstock production

Glenkens Community Action Plan

Wild Heart of Southern Scotland (BFT)

Scottish Borders Growing Network

Approximately 40 Forest Carbon projects throughout the south of Scotland

Fork to Farm Dialogue (Nourish / Greener Melrose / Propagate)

The opportunity for a land management partnership across the Talla Hartfell Wild Land Area if the landowners and other land users, eg tenants, were prepared to participate.

Langholm Initiative

Peatland connections

Community Growing Network (SBC)

Dalry Local Place Plan

Southern Uplands Partnership

DG Citizens Panels towards zero carbon

# Exercise: Who should be on the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Board?

Public agencies

Land use sector

Not Local Authorities

Farmers - representative of diverse farming systems

Reforestation Scotland

Absolutely, communities at the heart of this

Community

Actively seek to engage marginalised and 'hard to reach' groups

Development Trusts

Sector representatives - farming, local enterprises

communities

Green groups

Hard to find active folk with any time left

Thinkers and practical people

People who cross the land use sectors

Outdoor Access Forums

Young people

Do we really need another board?

Reps. of the major land users, that is the owners, the farmers and foresters of course, but also recreational interests, community interests, visitor businesses and govt. representing public funding.

Zero Carbon Groupings

woodland trust

local food retailers and restaurants

Outdoor recreation groups

Not all stakeholders are as well organised as others and this might skew the outcome of the exercise. Will need to conduct a stakeholder analysis and 'create' spaces for voices that are not usually heard

People who grow food - farmers and any others

Majority without pre-determined vested interests

**Exercise:** Where are the key land use challenges and opportunities for land use change in the south of Scotland?




Please click on the link below to go to our interactive map:

<https://luc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=41ec651f029b49f893da5a85807aa101>

Please keep Teams and the Miro boards open as well as we will be returning to them after the exercise!



## Next steps

-  Analysing the findings of the workshops and the online survey
-  Consider next steps to establish the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Board
-  Commencement of Phase 2 in late spring / early summer 2022 (depending on resources)

If you haven't already completed the online survey, please visit our Consultation Hub:

<https://south-scotland-regional-land-use-partnership-pilot-luc.hub.arcgis.com/>

The survey and interactive map will close on **Friday 18th March 2022**

We will publish the whiteboards from today's workshop (excluding the sign-in sheet) on the Consultation Hub

# Thank you for your time!

If you have any questions about the workshop/Consultation Hub, please email [southofscotland@landuse.co.uk](mailto:southofscotland@landuse.co.uk)

If you have any questions about the South of Scotland RLUP, please email [rlup@sose.scot](mailto:rlup@sose.scot)

Please visit the Consultation Hub at: <https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVOIIC-tl=/?moveToWidget=3458764520683959003&cot=10>

**South of Scotland Regional Land Use  
Partnership pilot project**





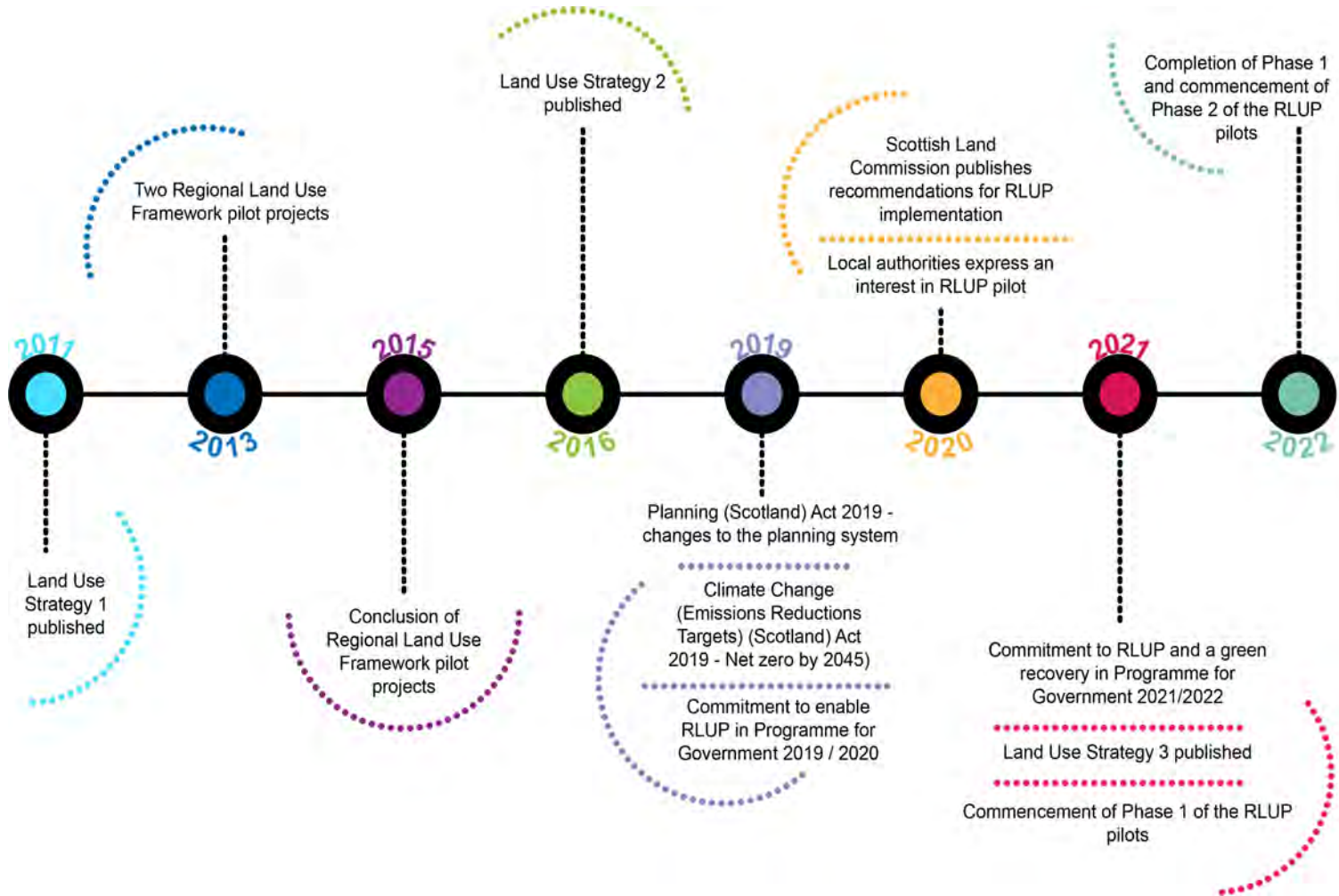
# South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot

## Stakeholders Workshop

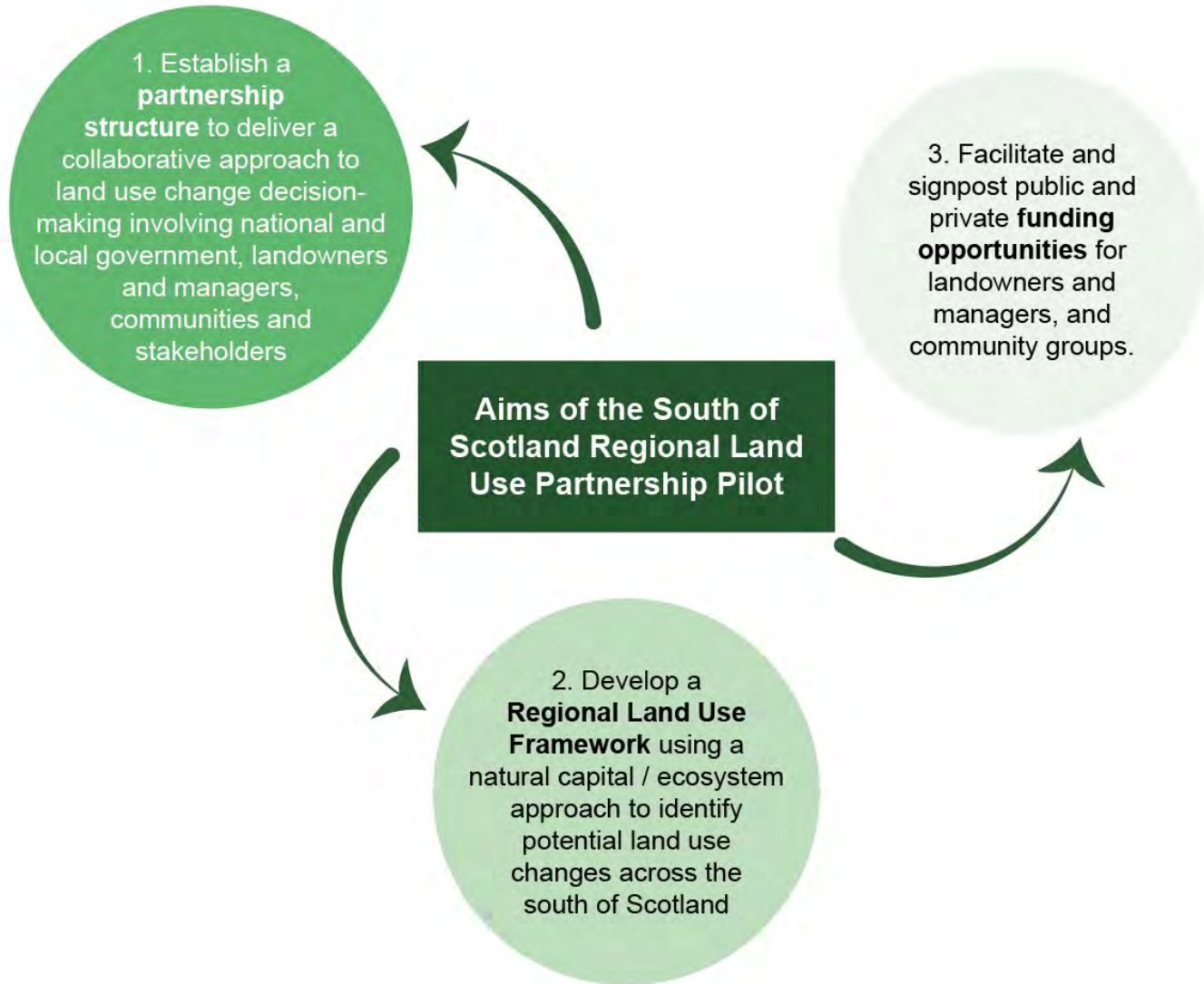
15th March 2022 14:00 - 15:30



# Background to the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership pilot



# What is the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) pilot?

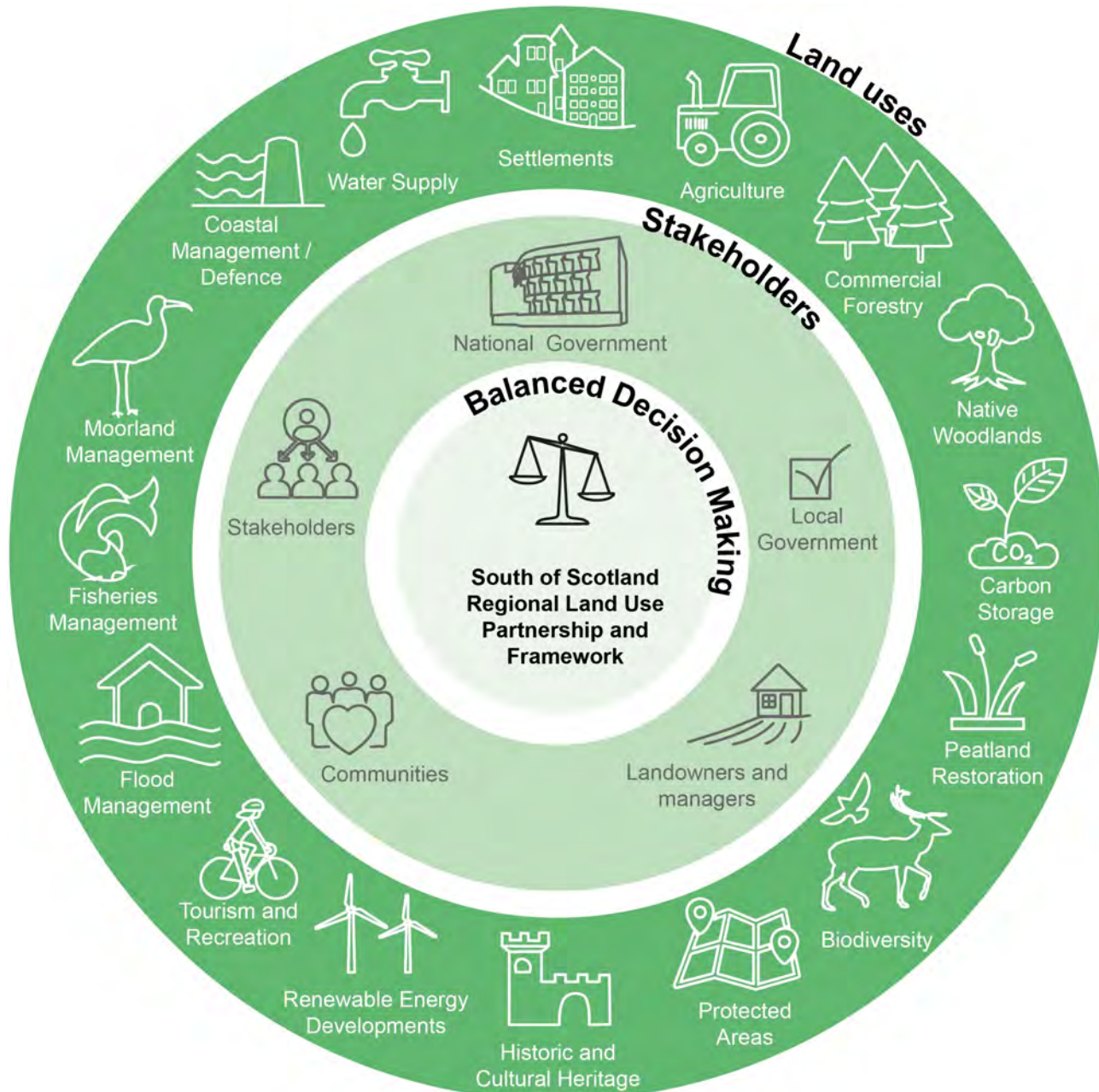


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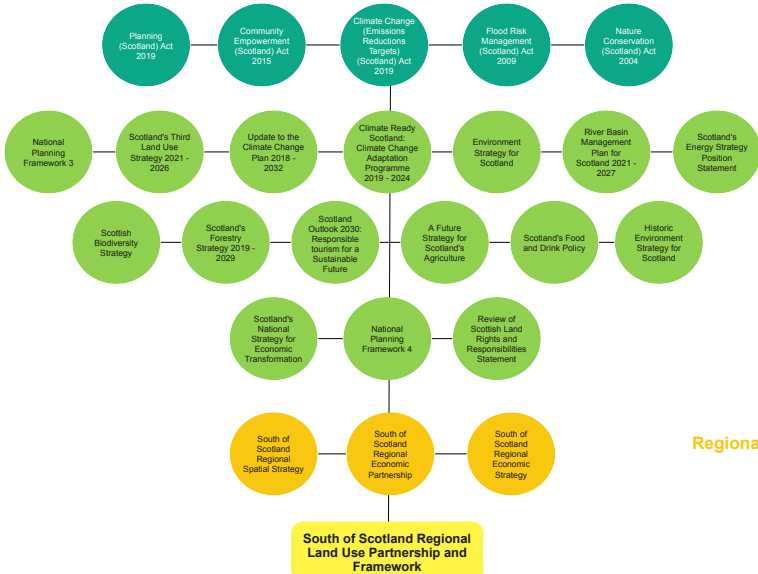


# Why is the South of Scotland RLUP pilot important?



# Policy context

## National Legislation and Policy



## Regional Policy

## Local Policy

# Where we are in the process?

**WE ARE HERE**



## **PHASE 1: 2021 - SPRING 2022**

**Objective:** Development of governance and build stakeholder relationships that will enable the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership to function

## **PHASE 2: SPRING 2022 - WINTER 2023**

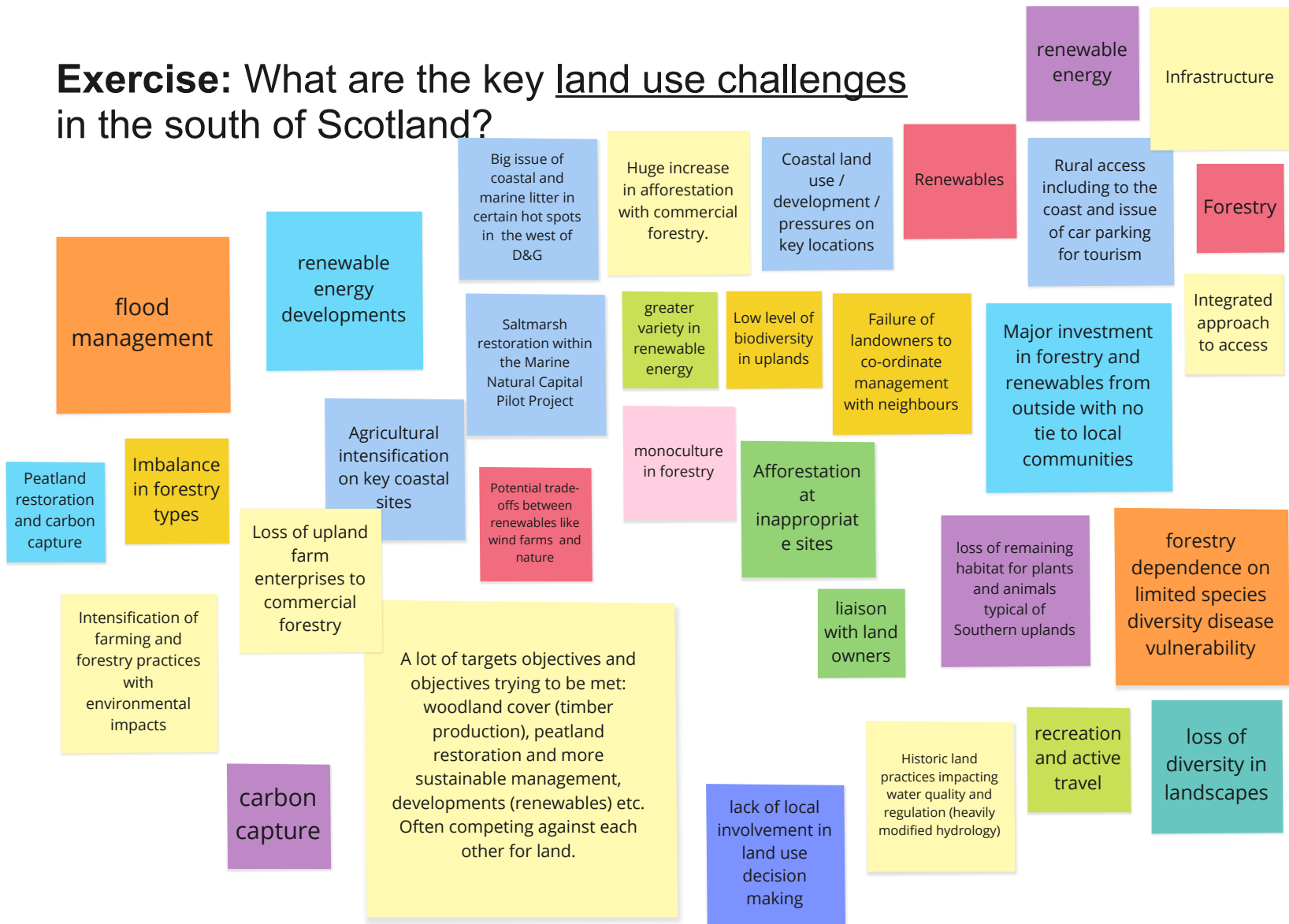
**Objective:** South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership to develop the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework

## **PHASE 3: WINTER 2023 ONWARDS**

**Objective:** Delivering the objectives in the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework by making collaborative land use change decisions in the south of Scotland



# Exercise: What are the key land use challenges in the south of Scotland?



**Poll:** Please vote on what you think the top five land use challenges are in the south of Scotland

**To vote, please click on the grey cross on the bottom right-hand corner of five different post-it notes**

biodiversity decline

Lack of diversity in forestry and species mix

Location of forestry

Intensification of farming

Afforestation location

Renewables development

Carbon capture

renewable energy developments

major investments with no tie to local communities

lack of diversity in renewables

Land uses without local economic benefit

Intensification of forestry

Lack of coordination of land management

Land owner engagement

Development pressure

Water quality

Scale of afforestation

Competing land uses

Coastal restoration

Recreation and tourism pressures

Climate change

2 votes for CC

# Poll Results: Top land use challenges in the south of Scotland

## Community Workshop Results

### Top 3 results

top down approach to consultation and policy-making

4 votes



Diversity in woodland and forestry

3 votes



monocultural farming

3 votes



## Stakeholder Workshop Results

### Top 3 results

biodiversity decline

8 votes



Lack of coordination of land management

7 votes

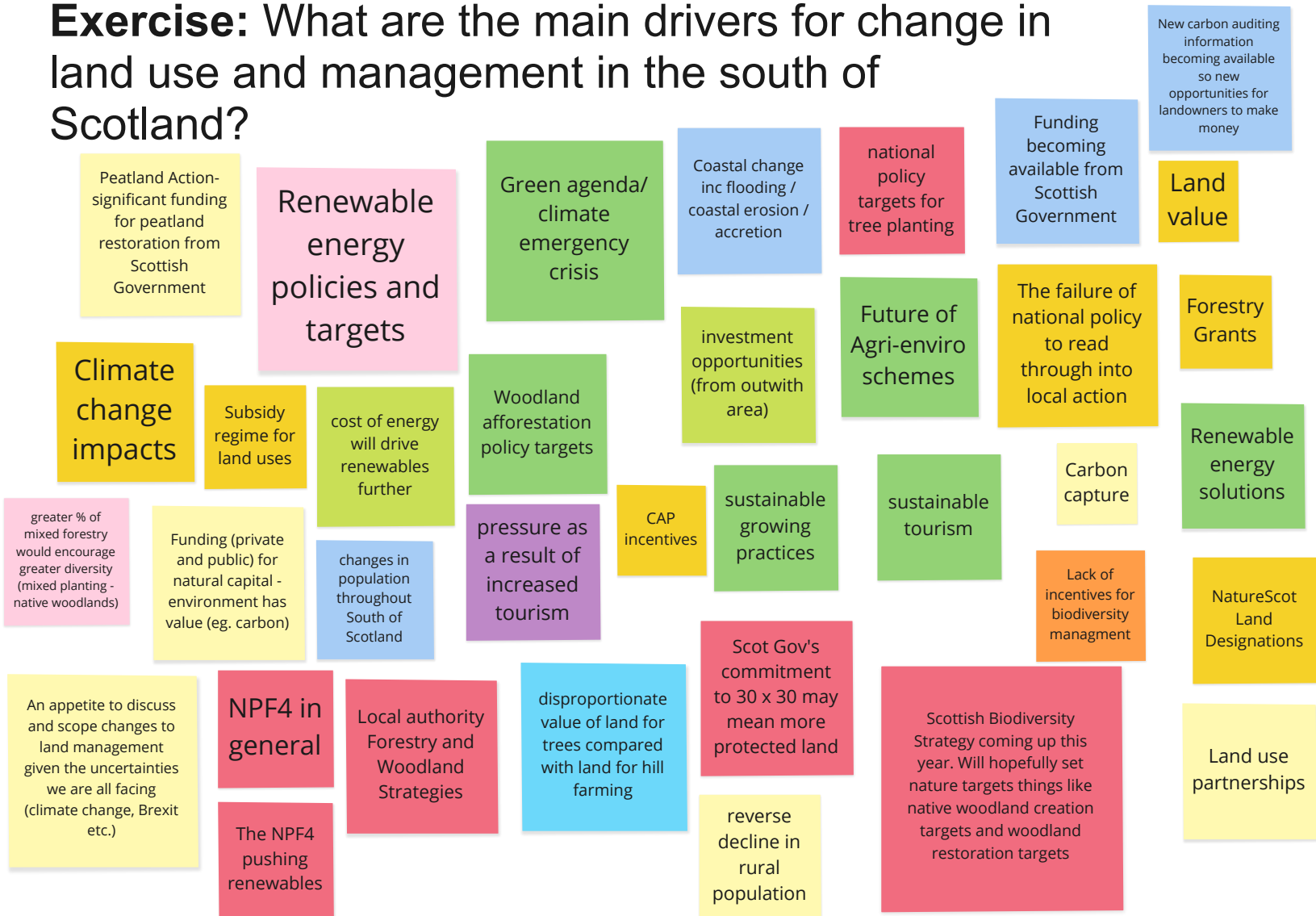


Intensification of farming

4 votes



# Exercise: What are the main drivers for change in land use and management in the south of Scotland?



# Exercise: What are the key land use opportunities in the south of Scotland?

managed tourism in hills provision and maintenance of paths to avoid erosion

renewable energy developments

restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management and biodiversity

Diverse Woodlands and restored woodlands and Peatlands

sustainable management of woodlands

Coastal restoration for habitats such as saltmarsh, multiple benefits with flood protection, carbon storage, grazing, recreation etc.

Enhancing biodiversity

democratic use of natural space/ land

Creation of woodlands

carbon storage

Natural capital investment

More people (including young people) can now consider working in more rural locations (thanks to more online working and better technology adopted through covid)

more connection between communities and their landscape

Partnerships between private landowners - public bodies and charities (a la Cairngorms connect)

Biodiversity opportunities and Nature Networks

dialogue between local communities and commercial forestry

Eco-tourism reviving local communities and economies

More joined up approaches (we are seeing more catchment based projects and steering groups being set up in the south west)

economic contribution

Connecting up existing fragmented areas of native woodland

Integrated approach to access

Creation of rural employment

Riparian Woodlands

carbon capture as a means of supporting ecological restoration and giving biodiversity a value

recreational facilities for long distance and local walking cycling, horse riding

management of peatland for carbon capture

Peatland restoration for carbon capture and storage

Co-ordinating the various interests to ensure multi-use land management

Dialogue between commercial forestry companies and communities

in management of tourism in hills I was thinking about the provision and maintenance of paths to avoid erosion

Eco-tourism with opportunities for electric charging points for bikes/cars etc.

Local communities with a stake in major landuses (such as owning equity in windfarms or forests) so they have funds to invest in their needs like 1

**Poll:** Please vote on what you think the top five land use opportunities are in the south of Scotland

**To vote, please click on the grey cross on the bottom right-hand corner of five different post-it notes**



# Poll Results: Top land use opportunities in the south of Scotland

## Community Workshop Results

## Stakeholder Workshop Results

### Top 3 results

mosaic of different land uses

5 votes

diverse woodland cover

4 votes

Local food

4 votes

### Top 3 results

Biodiversity enhancement

6 votes

Peatland restoration

5 votes

Integrated land management

5 votes

**Exercise:** Are you aware of any existing or forthcoming plans, partnerships, initiatives or actions for land use in the South of Scotland?  
Which areas do they cover?

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

Borders Forest Trust's Wild Heart of South of Scotland

Communities in East Dumfriesshire taking shared ownership in a windfarm

Solway Coast and Marine Natural Capital Pilot Project covering the Solway Coast in D&G- a Borderlands funded project

Rhins Coast Path - long distance walk around the Rhins of Galloway

Approximately 40 Forest Carbon projects throughout the south of Scotland

Tarras Valley Nature Reserve - aims to deliver substantial native woodland planting scheme; rewetting of peatlands; renewable energy options. Aim to create a beginning of National Nature Reserve. 5,200 acres first phase but if successful in second stage will increase to 10,500 acres (includes Combes Farm).

Borderlands

Rural Land Use Partnership

Communities in East Dumfriesshire taking shared ownership in a windfarm

Thrive Rewilding Project (Castle Douglas)

New agri-environment schemes which are more outcome based

Borderlands Natural Capital pilot focusing on Species-rich Grassland and the Northern Brown Argus butterfly

Land Use Strategy

Borders Forest Trust land at Corehead, Carrifran and Tall

Talla Hartfell wildland area coordinated by SUP

NatureScot Nature Recovery Fund application for enhancement of Species-rich Grassland at a cluster of 4 sites near Clovenfords



# Exercise: Who should be on the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Board?






**Exercise:** Where are the key land use challenges and opportunities for land use change in the south of Scotland?

Please click on the link below to go to our interactive map:

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If you have any questions about the South of Scotland RLUP, please email [rlup@sose.scot](mailto:rlup@sose.scot)

Please visit the Consultation Hub at: <https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVOIIC-tl=/?moveToWidget=3458764520683959003&cot=10>

**South of Scotland Regional Land Use  
Partnership pilot project**



## Appendix D

# Interview Questions

# South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot

## Initial Stakeholder engagement: One to one interviews

### Background information

#### What is the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot?

The South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot is one of five regional land use partnership pilots being taken forward in Scotland. The pilots will help develop Scotland's approach to land use in support of the green recovery, the Just Transition to Net-Zero and addressing biodiversity loss. The South of Scotland pilot is being delivered through a partnership of Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC), Scottish Borders Council (SBC) and South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE). The pilot groups will test approaches to partnership governance that best suit the local situation and priorities. This will help inform future decisions on wider establishment of Partnerships by the Scottish Government. The Partnership will take forward the development of the Regional Land Use Framework for the region.

#### How will the Partnership be structured?

The Partnership may be governed by a board. The board will be comprised of representatives from local and national government, stakeholders with sectoral expertise and community representatives. The current work is seeking to identify and establish an interim board by summer 2022. Draft Terms of Reference will be drawn up to inform the board operation, and will be finalised by the Board.

#### What is the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework?

The South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework will be an indicative spatial plan which identifies opportunities, choices and priorities for all land uses. The Framework will serve as a guidance document to help inform decision making and as a reference point for all partners. The plan will take a medium to long term view and deliver against national priorities. The South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework will:

- Align with Scottish Government objectives on climate change and the environment.
- Link objectives to wider initiatives such as the Just Transition and Green Recovery
- Align with regional initiatives such as Regional Spatial Strategies, Regional Economic Partnerships, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and City Deals.
- Use a natural capital approach, which considers the value of land in providing goods and services to people, to set out the specific aims and objectives for land use change in the region, across urban and rural areas, and reflect delivery of national targets within the regional context.

#### What is the timescale for the South of Scotland RLUP and RLUF pilot?

The Partnership governance is due to be established by summer 2022. The Regional Land Use Frameworks will be developed through 2023, subject to the availability of resources. The RLUP and RLUFs are being evaluated by Scottish Government as they develop. Following this it is hoped that if further resources are committed, work will then be underway to deliver the objectives of the RLUF.

#### What is the programme for stakeholder engagement?

Initial consultation is being undertaken up to the end of March 2022. This will identify key issues on the future of land use in the South of Scotland to inform the next phase of stakeholder engagement which will take place during 2022/2023, subject to availability of resources, and will raise awareness amongst stakeholders.

## One to one interview questions

1. As actions are taken forward to progress to Net Zero and address the biodiversity emergency, who do you identify as the key players in managing land use change in the South of Scotland?
  - a. Why have you identified these as key players?
2. Reflecting on policy actions being taken forward to progress to Net Zero and address the biodiversity emergency:
  - a. What is your vision for land use and/or land management change in the South of Scotland?
  - b. What are your views on the most significant tensions and opportunities for the future land use in the South of Scotland?
  - c. Can you identify if these issues are more significant in different geographic areas or landscape settings (reflecting the landscape settings in Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy - settlements, enclosed farmland, semi-natural land, coast, rivers and water bodies)?
3. What are the key existing initiatives/projects that are working to change land use in the South of Scotland, including any that your organisation is delivering or contributing to?
  - a. What topics do they cover?
  - b. What scale are these initiatives operating at?
  - c. Which geographical areas do they cover?
4. Reflecting the need for a tripartite governance model for the partnership (comprising local and national government, key sectoral interests and community interest):
  - a. Who do you think should be represented in terms of governance, and why?
  - b. What are your views on partnership composition and appointment?
  - c. Are you aware of examples of similar governance models from other initiatives?
  - d. Are you aware of examples of successful engagement with 'hard to reach' groups?
5. Are there any other issues would you like to raise?

Many thanks for your time.

**South of Scotland Enterprise and LUC**

[Andy.tharme@sose.scot](mailto:Andy.tharme@sose.scot)

[Susanne.underwood@landuse.co.uk](mailto:Susanne.underwood@landuse.co.uk)

## Appendix E

# Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding



## Appendix E

# Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding

This section sets out the potential structure of the Terms of References.

### Potential structure of Terms of Reference

#### Purpose

**E.1** This section should set out the overall purpose of the partnership.

The Scottish Government Brief requires:

- Draft purpose;
- Set of values; and
- Objectives for the RLUF.

#### Objectives

**E.2** This section should set out objectives of the Partnership. These could include *[to be agreed]*:

- *To support the development of the RLUF.*
- *To support the decision making process for sustainable land use in the South of Scotland that addresses the biodiversity emergency and climate change actions.*
- *To support land use that supports regional economic resilience, recovery and renewal.*

#### General responsibilities of the partnership

**E.3** This section should set out responsibilities of the partnership. This could include:

- Establishing the vision and setting a direction of the Partnership.
- Engaging with local, regional and national organisations to promote and support the delivery of Partnership's objectives.
- Facilitating joint funding bids that will deliver programmes across a wider area and ensure continuity of the Partnership.

- Determining the scope of work required to be able regional land use partnerships.
- Representing views of affected organisations and communities.
- Advising on the prioritisation of key objectives and timetable to achieve them.
- Sharing specialist knowledge, expertise and insight to enable the Regional Land Use Plan and Frameworks to be effectively developed and implemented.
- Acting as an initial reference point and source of expertise for other future regional land use partnerships.
- Ensuring that the partnership works effectively.

### Membership / the Board

Ensure accountability and transparency;  
Diverse and inclusive governance structure;  
Reflect existing initiatives and partnerships; and  
Ensure a tripartite governance model which will provide participation from government (local and national), sectoral expertise bodies, and community.

**E.4 Membership of the group:** Should list members of the partnership/board. The number of Board members should range between 3 and 12. A higher number of board members allows for more democratic decision making and to distribute work equally.

Board could include the following selection:

- 1 representative from each local authority (Scottish Borders Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council).
- 3 representatives from the statutory environmental bodies (SEPA, Scottish Forestry, etc.).
- 2 representatives from agriculture/land management sector (preferably a representative of the small holding farmers and crofters).
- 2 representatives from the conservation sector (RTPI, local conservation group, Langholm Initiative, etc.).
- 2 representatives from the wider business sector (tourism, fishing, etc.).

- 1 representative of educational and research organisations (SRUC).

It is advised that each member would have multiple interests and would not represent a single organisation or interest.

**E.5 Convener:** Should delegate a convener.

**E.6 Quorum:** This section should specify the minimum required number of stakeholders that must be present at a meeting to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. This number could range between 40 and 70% of all members, depending on the final number of members.

**E.7 Skills and attributes of members:** Should describe specific skills of members.

**E.8 Substitute members:** Should provide information on substitute members in a case of unavailability of a member.

**E.9 Wider membership:** Should list all the bodies who have expressed an interest in being involved. The wider membership should have the opportunity to influence the programme of work, contribute to relevant task-and-finish groups, and benefit from the communication and intelligence-sharing network.

### Conflict of Interest

**E.10** This section could require members to declare a conflict of interest if they, or the organisation they represent, stand to gain financially from any decision taken by the Partnership.

### Governance

**E.11 Roles and responsibilities of members:** Should detail who is responsible for what in the delivery of the partnership.

**E.12** The below outline reflects the recommendations in the Scottish Land Commission Regional Land Use Partnerships Interim Report (2019)<sup>11</sup>.

Chair will provide leadership for the Board, and act as an influential advocate for the Partnership's vision and objectives. The Chair should seek to fulfil their duties in a manner that is free from political bias and influence. The Chair should be selected by the majority of votes of all Board members at the first meeting.

The principal duties should include:

- Champion the Partnership and build support for its aims and priorities;

<sup>11</sup> Scottish Land Commission (2019) Regional Land Use Partnerships Interim Report. Available at:

[https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5f1029bf396f9\\_Scotlish%20Land%20Commission%20RLUP%20Interim%20Report.pdf](https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5f1029bf396f9_Scotlish%20Land%20Commission%20RLUP%20Interim%20Report.pdf)

- Foster a supportive and productive partnership approach to deliver the Partnership's vision;
- Chair the meetings of the Board, having regard to the procedures agreed by the Board;
- Represent the Partnership at appropriate events, meetings or functions; and
- Act as a spokesperson for the LNP where appropriate.

Each Board member should be expected to:

- Operate in an open, accessible, responsive and accountable manner at Board meetings;
- Report the outcome of the Partnership meetings back to the organisation or partners that they represent;
- Conduct themselves in a way that promotes a culture of mutual respect;
- Promote equality of opportunity in the work of the Partnership; and
- Declare any personal interest they have in any item of business at Board meetings, and not take part in any decision that may advantage or disadvantage themselves personally or their family and friends.

**E.13 Accountability:** This section should set out to whom this Board is accountable.

To ensure that the Board is accountable to the wider membership, the following operational agreements could be agreed by the Board:

- The board will meet [to be agreed] four times per year to set strategic direction and monitor progress.
- The Board will seek to reach decisions by consensus. Where that is not possible, the decisions will be determined by a majority of Board Members present and voting. In the event that there is no majority, the Chair will have a casting vote.
- Terms of Reference will be reviewed at least every [to be agreed] five years by the Board, but should also set out milestones related to national climate and environmental targets and outcomes for 2030 and 2045.
- The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected at a meeting of the Board. Appointments will be for a [to be agreed] three year period, and then subject to re-election.
- Any Board Member can be removed from the Board by a decision of [to be agreed] 75% of the Board Members present at a meeting at which such removal is an item on the agenda.

- Any member of the Board or wider membership can request an item for consideration to be included on the agenda by notifying the Secretariat in writing (e-mail) at least 2 weeks before the meeting.
- The agenda and supporting reports will be circulated to the Board and the wider membership at least one week in advance of the meeting.
- Past agendas, minutes and reports will be available through the Partnership's website.
- Quorum will be respected.

**E.14 Decision-making:** Should clarify how consensus will be met. This should reflect the quorum.

### Technical Advisory Groups

**E.15** The requirement to ensure wider community representation on the board has been identified. As such it is recommended that smaller advisory groups are established to enable this wider representation. It may also be relevant to establish a sectoral interest TAG to reflect the wide interests across the region.

- Community TAG; and
- Sectoral interest TAG.

**E.16** This section will set out how smaller advisory groups would be created to deliver more expertise on a particular and relevant topic.

**E.17** It will set out how group members will be selected and how long a group will operate. It will also clarify how a group can be dissolved.

### Meeting arrangements

**E.18 Frequency of meetings:** Should specify how often meeting will be held.

**E.19 Standing agenda:** Could be included and provide a template agenda for the meetings.

**E.20 Secretariat:** Should clarify who will provide secretariat services for the partnership and detail who documents and meetings' minutes will be distributed.

**E.21 Location of meetings:** Should specify where meetings will be held, if online what platform will be used.

### Removal of Board members from office

**E.22** This section should clarify the process of removal of Board member. The removal could happen for example when:

- The member is part of an organisation which ceases to be a member of the Partnership.

- The member is absent without a good cause from three consecutive meetings of the Board.
- The member notifies to the Board a wish to resign.

### Committees

**E.23** The Board may establish sub-committees / working groups to deal with specific areas of business.

### Financial arrangements

**E.24** This section should specify if the expenses of the members will be covered by the partnership. It should also detail who will monitor any funding the partnership may receive.

**E.25** *[information on parameters for funding RLUP not yet available]*

### Communication

**E.26** This section should specify who will manage the communications across the members.

### Reporting

**E.27** This section will specify how reporting will be carried out, who will be responsible for it and how often.

### Greening and carbon management

**E.28** This section could include suggestions for lower carbon ways of working, making better choices of way to travel, reducing paper use and ensuring recycling of produced waste. Where possible and feasible meetings should be carried out via video-conferencing to reduce travel distance and carbon emissions.

### Approval, review and alterations to Terms of Reference

**E.29** This section will specify how often the Board will review the progress, and who will facilitate and participate in the review.

**E.30** It will also set out rules for altering TOR.

### Exit Clause / Termination

**E.31** Should clarify how the partnership will be wound up if there is a need for doing so. If this section is included in the TOR it should specify at what point the Partnership's work will be considered complete and that termination requires the majority agreement of its membership.

## This section sets out a draft Memorandum of Understanding

### Introduction

**E.32** Setting up of a formal partnership and selecting the Board is a timely process. Terms of References will guide the activity of the Board once it is established. However, while the process is still underway this Memorandum of Understanding provides a simple and temporary set of rules for the Partnership to operate.

**E.33** As the board representation has not yet been finalised, the board members are currently referred to as [representatives of government], [representatives of sectoral expertise], and [representatives of community].

### Memorandum of Understanding between [representatives of government], [representatives of sectoral expertise], and [representatives of community]

### Basis

**E.34** This memorandum of understanding (MoU) between [representatives of government], [representatives of sectoral expertise], and [representatives of community] has been drawn up to:

- Provide an interim agreement for the South of Scotland Land Use Partnership until a formal Board is established;
- Recognise the interests of organisations involved;
- Create a basis for collaboration; and
- Outline specific commitments and responsibilities.

### Definitions

**E.35** SoSLUP means South of Scotland Land Use Partnership.

**E.36** MoU means this Memorandum of Understanding.

### Background

**E.37** The commitment to create Regional Land Use Partnerships (RLUPs) emerged from the Land Use Strategy and was first formally set out in the 2019/20 Programme for Government. In November 2020, the Scottish Land Commission provided advice to the Scottish Government on the establishment of RLUPs. RLUPs will be responsible for preparing Regional Land Use Frameworks (RLUFs). These will use a natural capital approach to explore and agree

changes in land use that will support delivery of the Scottish Government's priority policies, including carbon reduction, climate adaptation and nature recovery. Key land use issues are likely to include the management of peatland and high carbon soils, expansion of native and productive woodland, nature based solutions to the management of flood, habitat restoration and creation and the opportunities presented by changes in agricultural support following departure from the Common Agricultural Policy.

**E.38** The Scottish Government has stated that the RLUPs 'will help national and local government, communities, land owners and stakeholders work together to find ways to optimise land use in a fair and inclusive way – meeting local and national objectives and supporting the journey to net zero'.

**E.39** [representatives of government], [representatives of sectoral expertise], and [representatives of community] have formed this partnership to enable initial collaborations between organisations on issues linked with regional land use and delivery of the Regional Land Use Framework.

### Declaration of a common objective

**E.40** [representatives of government], [representatives of sectoral expertise], and [representatives of community] declare their common objective to work collaboratively on delivering a Regional Land Use Framework.

### Working together

**E.41** [representatives of government], [representatives of sectoral expertise], and [representatives of community]:

- Wish to work in a spirit of partnership and co-operation for the benefits of the regional land use basing it on open communications and mutual respect.

### Collaboration projects

**E.42** [representatives of government], [representatives of sectoral expertise], and [representatives of community] commit themselves to working together on the following joint initiatives:

- Facilitating, planning and organising work to deliver the Regional Land Use Framework, including finalising the ToR and board working arrangements; and
- Convene a meeting of key representatives at least once every two months to review progress in the objective areas.

### General Provisions

1. This MoU does not constitute or infer any contract of binding agreement on or between the representative of mentioned organisations or any of their successors.

2. The effective date for the Memorandum of Understanding between the representatives shall be the date of the later signature below.
3. This MoU shall remain in effect until terminated in writing by either party and may only be modified upon the written agreement by all parties.
4. If any party of this MoU deems the results unsatisfactory, the parties agree to endeavour to develop new provisions that will achieve the common objective set out in paragraph 2.7.

Signatures: