

## Public Sector Natural Capital Roundtable Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

### Summary Note

For Participants see Annex. Apologies on the day were received from Irene Beautyman, Improvement Services, Hamish Trench Scottish Land Commission, and Gavin Barrie Scottish Government.

### I. Progress since last roundtable

#### Actions Update

1. Most actions had been discharged (see papers). Three Actions were carried forward:
  - Zero Waste Scotland and Scottish Water to share experience of how natural capital applies to their organisations and what they can learn from each other:  
**Action Iain Gulland & Mark Williams**
  - To look at how natural capital can be included in land values and evaluations.  
**Action: Hamish Trench and Andy Wells possibly in liaison with RICS**
  - Consider natural capital item in Scotland Europa activities/papers. **Action: Diane Murray with SNH**

#### Newsletter and other briefings

2. Participants noted and welcomed the briefings circulated in advance. The newsletter highlights the variety actions that organisations are undertaking and progress within Scottish Government.  
**Action: Participants to send in additional material for newsletter** that can be posted to SFNC website, including Scottish Water involvement at UK level; Crown Estate Scotland Values Project to broaden benefits from asset management; SEPA's involvement in finance initiative.
3. The communications messages and graphics will support participants' work, for example building in natural capital to the new Scottish Forestry Strategy, an issue that has come out of the public dialogue on the Strategy consultation.  
**Action: SFNC project officer and SNH to work with FCS** to help demonstrate natural capital links in new Scottish Forestry Strategy.
4. A number of forthcoming opportunities for integrating natural capital were highlighted by participants including future land use and land management support, relevance of natural capital to public health reform, creation of South of Scotland Enterprise Agency and Borderlands Growth Deal, and links to tourism.  
**Action: Ken Massie** to forward link to plan for Year of Coasts and Seas 2020.

### II. Presentation by Martin Valenti, Strategic Director Scottish Land Commission

5. Martin Valenti gave a stimulating presentation on the Vacant and Derelict Land Initiative emphasising the need to set out an ambitious vision of what you want to achieve. He encouraged the group to focus messages on why natural capital is important to your audience, before moving on to tools and methods. Finding the right people to communicate to key audiences is critical, as is a collaborative approach, focussing on opportunities and outcomes rather than problems and processes.

### III. Discussion

## 6. Discussion centred around three related themes:

### **Getting traction**

- We need a positive narrative and an approach that is opportunistic, outcome-focussed and optimistic, e.g. 'if you do this now, you can improve people's lives and be more efficient and cost effective'.
- Powerful messages can create public demand for change, e.g. marine plastics, which leads to business responses
- Reward those who're already building natural capital though driven by different objectives, with support
- Natural capital is a catalyst for action towards the goal we want to see rather than the end in itself
- We all have influence over people who are inspiring. We need to bring this together into a plan that combines stories (like the regular nature-linked stories on the BBC website facilitated by SNH) and hearing from inspiring people.
- Business leaders want to make a difference to improving people's lives, not just focus on the bottom line. In the same way, with natural capital, businesses want to make a positive impact, a visible contribution, like the change in farmers' perspectives on trees on farms from a sign of failure to a symbol of success.
- There are moral as well as economic arguments to support investing now in natural capital rather than using it unsustainably. We need a different model as with the current approach it won't last forever. Sweating the assets is not sustainable. With this in mind, we should involve young people.
- We want to avoid a divergence between environment and economy
- Rather than drawing monetary benefit from management of public assets then using these revenues to support public objectives, better to manage the assets for the widest range of public good in the first place. Natural capital assessments can help to identify missed opportunities to unlock more benefits.
- The case is already made for investing in natural capital for preventative spend – in the same way as for physical activity.
- Case studies demonstrate individual actions but we need to show how multiple organisations are committed – such as through the Scottish Forum.

### **Developing local and regional approaches**

- We need a local and regional approach as well as actions at the national/ macro level
- Demonstrate natural capital values of ordinary land and catchments – a place-based approach, not just separate accounts for different assets – Forest estate, NNRs, Crown Estate
- Celebrate what's happening locally, e.g. Rest & Be Thankful tree planting to reduce landslides, Clyde Gateway, and use this to demonstrate what can be done
- Fit natural capital with other objectives as part of place-based approach
- The natural environment can be presented as part of the solution for local communities, particularly where they can see good examples of what's happening elsewhere presented in a clear and engaging way.
- Local development plans and rural development frameworks (e.g. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park) present opportunities

### **Integrating natural capital in our own work**

- We should share learning on how to increase understanding of natural capital within our organisations
- Getting traction internally is important too so that staff have vision to make a difference
- We can take the shared messages and adapt for use in our own plans
- We can highlight the natural capital values of land – to make these visible rather than trade-able – and demonstrate value for money in public investments
- It's easier to make change where change is already happening. Can we spot shifts and take advantage of opportunities, e.g. Climate Change Bill, new Forestry structures?
- We need to professionalise what we're doing to get a real shift

### **IV. Next steps.**

7. Members identified some possible next steps around the three themes of communications, local & regional approaches, and internal integration and professionalising our approach, including possible workshops, task groups or virtual networks.

**Action: SFNC (Punit Desai) with SNH to discuss with participants and agree next steps following the meeting.**

**January 2019.**

## Participants

Andy Ford	Head of Conservation	Cairngorms National Park Authority
David Findlay	Solicitor	Crofting Commission
Courtney Peyton	Value Project Manager	Crown Estate Scotland
Jo O'Hara	Head of Forestry Commission Scotland	Forestry Commission Scotland
Neil Ross	Head of Community Growth	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Alison Turnbull	Director of Development and Partnerships	Historic Environment Scotland
Simon Jones	Director of Conservation and Visitor Operations	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority
Helena Gray	Deputy Director	Marine Scotland
Gerald McLaughlin	Chief Executive Officer	NHS - Health Scotland
Simon Milne	Regius Keeper	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Jo Green	Chief Officer - Performance & Innovation	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Punit Desai	Project Officer	Scottish Forum on Natural Capital
Bridget Campbell	Director Environment & Forestry	Scottish Government
Chris Dodds	Environment & Forestry (Head of RESAS)	Scottish Government
Julie Wilson	Chief Economist Directorate	Scottish Government
Martin Valenti	Strategic Director, Vacant & Derelict Land Initiative	Scottish Land Commission
Rebecka Bergh	Graduate - Natural Capital Communications	Scottish Natural Heritage
Francesca Osowska	Chief Executive	Scottish Natural Heritage
Claudia Rowse	Head of Natural Resources Management	Scottish Natural Heritage
Mary Christie	Ecosystems & Climate Change Strategy Manager	Scottish Natural Heritage
Mark Williams	Environmental Regulation and Climate Change Manager	Scottish Water
Stewart Harris	Chief Executive	sportscotland
Ken Massie	Head Of Regional Leadership & Development	VisitScotland
Iain Gulland	Director	Zero Waste Scotland