

Scottish Forum on Natural Capital
Remit and governance for the Sustainable Land Management Group (SLMG)

1. Remit

This paper summarizes the remit, membership and governance of the group. This version of this remit was confirmed at the working group on 25th August 2022.

The purpose of this working group is to bring together public, private and voluntary sector organisations to explore and share learning about innovative approaches to sustainable land management that restores and enhances natural capital.

Land managers provide a range of products and services to society, customers and other businesses. This working group focusses on understanding the initiatives and issues that enable land managers to sustainably manage natural capital in Scotland. It will draw on the experience of its members and the current projects and research. Working together will help achieve a broad level of alignment where this is needed. The work of the group will build on existing approaches that businesses use and have developed such as the Natural Capital Protocol, as well as drawing together learning from previous work. It will also enable shared learning about barriers and opportunities from the projects.

See Figure 1 for a visual overview of the remit of the group.

2. Background to SLMG

The working group was developed to support applying the natural capital concept under the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (the Natural Capital Group) was merged with the Scottish Forum on Natural Capital after a RAFF review of SBS working groups earlier in 2016. The Chair of NCG, along with Scottish Forum staff, took the opportunity to review the role and remit of the group. They proposed to refocus the group on specific outcomes that would demonstrate the natural capital approach and drive action for sustainable land management. The revised remit was presented to the Scottish Forum for Natural Capital and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Chairs group in September 2016 who approved the general direction. The first meeting of the working group on 22 May 2017 explored the purpose of the working group, members of the group, what the working group could achieve and the action to get there.

The primary drivers of the group are to encourage and promote the natural capital approach to support delivery of The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (and The 2020 Vision for Biodiversity) and the Land Use Strategy. The key opportunity provided by the Scottish Forum on Natural Capital (SFNC) umbrella is the linkage to Scottish business interests and the pragmatic lens this provides to activities and outcomes. The outcome of the group is to work towards progress in land management to ensure sustainable use of Scotland's natural capital now and in the future by accounting for natural benefits and risks.

In August 2022 the remit and governance of the SLMG was reviewed and refreshed, highlighting a clear focus on knowledge sharing.

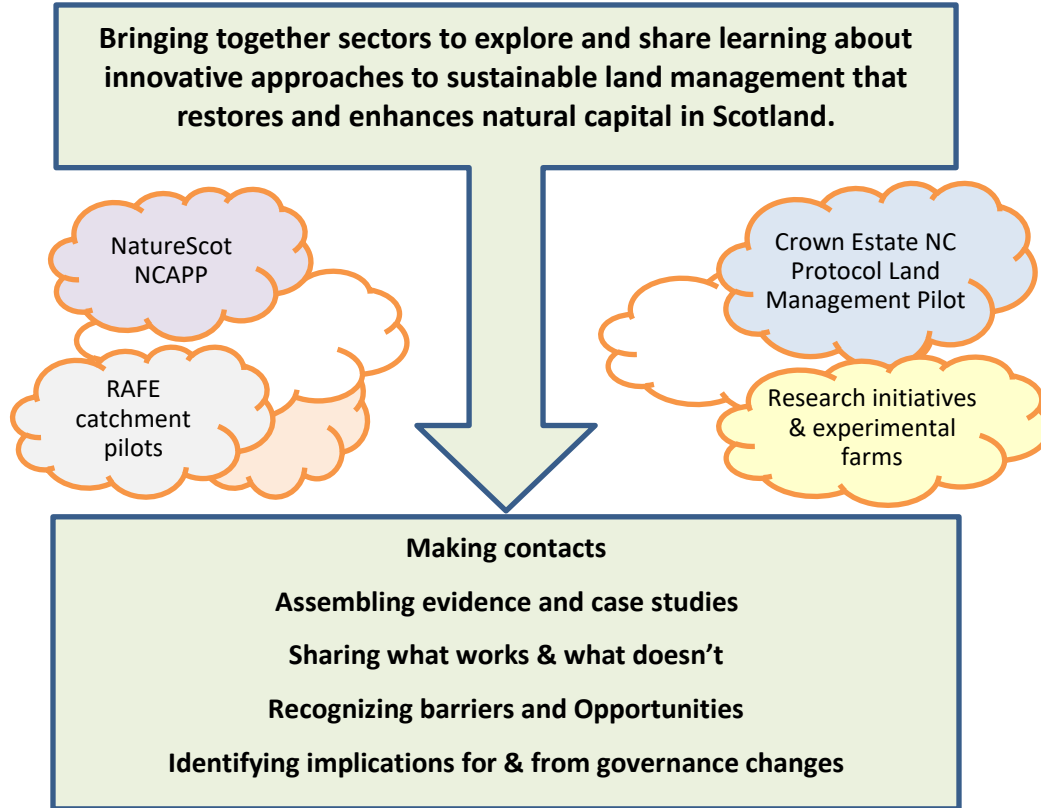


Figure 1: Remit of the SFNC Sustainable Land Management Group (SLMG)

3. Membership

- 3.1 Members must have enthusiasm for the group remit, be active participants and willing to co-deliver the tasks that provide the outcomes of the group.
- 3.2 There is no maximum number of members
- 3.3 There should be representatives from all sectors related to land management. This can include but is not limited to; downstream (asset user) businesses, land agents and factors, SEPA, NatureScot, Scottish Forestry, Scottish Water, Local Authorities, consultants and advisers, the Ecosystems Knowledge Network and academia.
- 3.4 In addition to regular members, visiting representatives of different types of land management business and asset users may vary their engagement with the group contributing to specific themed discussions emerging from the projects and research of members. The themes will be agreed in good time, to enable time for these members to engage.

4. Governance

- 4.1 There will be a chair, whose principal role is to facilitate meetings and any decision-making. The Chair can switch to another member with agreement of the Working Group.
- 4.2 There will be a secretary, whose principal role is to send out appointments, make and distribute keep notes of the meetings. The Secretary can switch to another member with agreement of the Working Group.

- 4.3 A 'core' facilitation group of the Chair, Secretary, a Scottish Forum representation (as a minimum) – and optionally, 1-3 additional individuals from complementary sectors - will decide the agenda, based on the recommendations and ideas of the working group.
- 4.4 The frequency of meetings of the group is typically 3 times per year, but will be adjusted to respond to relevant events and according to the perceived usefulness. The timing will take account of when new projects require group input and projects are completing to enable integration and shared learning.

5. **Communications and connections**

- 5.1 A brief description of the SLMG, together with summary notes arising from each meeting, is provided online at https://naturalcapitalscotland.com/what-we-do/sustainable-land-management-working-group#.YtAsdt_TXcs
- 5.2 All members are encouraged to share learning with their colleagues. However, members should feel comfortable to share and discuss ideas that are not fully developed/ proposals not yet formally launched etc. Therefore please do not quote individuals on public fora such as twitter, and respect any requests for confidentiality.
- 5.3 The Group will report a yearly update to the Scottish Forum on Natural Capital Steering Group, via a member who sits in both processes, and can provide advice, as required and when requested, to the RAFF Delivery Board and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Chairs group.