Regional Land Use Partnership Pilots in Scotland

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Introduction

- **Location(s):** Scotland (five regions)
- **Timeline:** 2021-2023
- **Key partners/stakeholders:** Scottish Government, five Regional Land Use Partnership pilots
- **Objectives:** Identify opportunities for land use change to tackle the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss
- **Relevant theme(s):** 1) Multi-stakeholder engagement, 2) Environmental focus
Land use and climate change in Scotland

- Land use and management are crucial in addressing climate change
- Key: reducing agricultural emissions and enhancing land use related sinks
- Needs large-scale changes that deliver multiple objectives
- Practical challenge: amplification of longstanding land use governance issues

Commitment to regional scale land use planning and partnership working
Scotland’s Land Use Strategy

- Guiding an integrated approach
- Responsible stewardship
- Connecting people with the land
The Scottish Government is piloting Regional Land Use Partnerships (RLUPs) in five areas across Scotland. Regional Land Use Partnerships (RLUPs) will help identify opportunities for land use change to tackle the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. RLUPs will seek to establish partnerships working between national and local government, landowners, local communities and other stakeholders, to find ways to optimise regional land use in a fair and inclusive way. Programme for Government Commitment to have a second phase of RLUPs from 2023, if the current pilots can demonstrate they meet expectations.

“Our landscape and natural environment is one of our greatest national assets” (CCPu 2020)
Five pilot regions

RLUP Pilots will test approaches to:

1. Governance
2. Stakeholder engagement
3. Data and natural capital
4. Development of Regional Land Use Frameworks (RLUFs) which help meet Scotland’s climate and nature targets and aims

Cairngorms National Park
The South of Scotland
The Highland Region
The North East Region
Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park

Mapping: Mehdi Walji & David Cook
Multi-stakeholder engagement

Toward a Holistic Approach to Sustainable Development: A Guide to Integrated Land-Use Initiatives

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Engage Expertise
- Enable Collaboration
- Data and Natural Capital
- Understand Influencing Instruments
- Bottom-up Approach & Knowledge Exchange
- Context – existing strategies, on-going work
- SG Governance, Support and Evaluation

RLUP Pilots

WORLD BANK GROUP

Climate Change

Scottish Government
Rìoghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

BioCarbon Fund
Multi-stakeholder engagement

Engagement is key to the success of the RLUP pilots.

There are different ‘levels’ of external engagement:
- **National** – carried out by Scottish Government team
- **Regional** – carried out by RLUP pilots

**Key messages:**
- Managing expectations
- Focus on land use changes
- Bottom-up approach
- Importance of engagement
- Importance of influencing mechanisms
- Importance of taking a holistic approach
- Data/natural capital knowledge, and keep it simple
- Importance of local knowledge
Progress and next steps

- Scottish Land Commission published RLUPs advice in November 2020
- Volunteer pilot regions announced in February 2021
- Project Specifications agreed with pilots and grant letters issued in Summer 2021
- National-level stakeholder engagement August 2021
- Five pilot regions beginning to identify and engage with key stakeholders
- Governance structures to be determined in FY 2021/22
- Natural Capital approach to be determined, RLU Apps development & working with CXC
- Influencing instruments to be considered by Scottish Ministers (on-going)
South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership

- **Location:** South Scotland
- **Timeline:** 2021-23
- **Key partners/stakeholders:** South of Scotland Enterprise, Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Statutory agencies, land use sector including farming & forestry, local communities
- **Objectives:** Establish a partnership Board to deliver collaborative decision making; Develop a Regional Land Use Framework using a natural capital approach to prioritise land use change in the region to deliver Net Zero 2045 and address the biodiversity emergency
- **Relevant theme(s):** 1) Multistakeholder engagement, 2) Environmental focus, 3) Economic focus, 4) Boundary setting
Multi-stakeholder engagement (Theme 1)

- Pilot is at an early stage of development, undertaking a stakeholder mapping exercise and policy review, and developing a stakeholder engagement and communications plan for an extensive programme of engagement in 2022
- Board to be appointed by end of March 2022, tripartite model of government/land use sector/community representation, locally representative and democratic
- Need to engage with those directly connected with land use (farming, forestry, environmental groups, government agencies), businesses associated with land use including tourism, recreation, supply chain, food & drink, communities and the young people
- Evaluate existing land-use related partnerships & collaborative initiatives – establish a new partnership (RLUP) that adds value
Development of the Regional Land Use Framework 2022/23

• Adopt a place-based approach around the landscapes of the national Land Use Strategy and regional landscape areas (grouped by land use types e.g., coastal, lowland, upland and within geographic areas)
• With stakeholders, consider the key land uses that can deliver the objectives of NetZero2045 through a Just Transition and enhance biodiversity

Key Questions:
• What are the priority land uses to achieve this?
• What trade-offs might be required?
• What solutions and mechanisms may be required?
• What are the opportunities for natural capital investment?
Place-Based Approach (Themes 2 and 4)
Regional Economic Strategy (Theme 3)

- Natural Capital – the USP for South of Scotland
- Regional Economic Strategy – Delivery Plan Theme 5 Green & Sustainable Economy
- *Harness full potential of our natural resources and approach to land use to improve our quality of life, restore nature, develop our visitor offer, adapt and enhance our resilience to climate change and deliver greener jobs.*
- Harnessing & Enhancing Natural Capital
- Seizing the economic opportunity of a Just Transition to Net Zero
- Improving efficiency of homes & buildings
- Supporting Community Wealth Building and Growing Regional Supply Chains
Earlier pilot - implementation in Upper Teviot catchment for natural flood management and multiple benefits

>100ha native & riparian woodland created delivering multiple benefits
Blended Funding- biodiversity offset (wind farm), Forestry grant scheme, Carbon funding
Scottish Borders Council, Tweed Forum, Scottish Forestry

RLUP to facilitate natural capital investment and build environmental & economic resilience

Natural Flood Management
Water quality Improvement
Biodiversity
Landscape Enhancement
Integrated Land use
Thank you