

## Strategic Research Programme Centre for Knowledge Exchange and Impact - Research Awareness and Joint KE Strategy Development Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> November 2016, Boat of Garten, 11.00am-3.30pm



Approx. Time	Item	Speaker
11.10	Welcome - overview of Cairngorms National Park priorities and research strategy; expected outcomes from the day.	Hamish Trench Chair, CNPA
11.20	<b>Themed Discussions (5 – 10 mins each)</b>	Chairs: 1. Lorna Dawson 2. Hamish Trench 3. Charles Bestwick
1. Peatland and Flood Management	Peatland Restoration	Justin Irvine JHI
	Flood Management	Mark Wilkinson JHI
	Practical Challenges of Peatland Restoration	Stephen Corcoran CNPA
1. Tree Health and Woodland Expansion	Tree Health	Ruth Mitchell JHI
	Woodland Expansion	Justin Irvine and Alessandro Gimona JHI

	Review of Cairngorms Forest and Woodland Strategy	Will Boyd Wallis CNPA
2. Role of Environment in Health and Wellbeing and Place Based Policy	Environment and Zoonosis	Lee Innes and Beth Wells Moredun Research Institute
	Wellbeing	Tbc JHI
	Place Based Policy	Jane Atterton SRUC
	Active Cairngorms	David Clyne CNPA
<b>13.00</b>	Questions and discussion	Chair: Hamish Trench
<b>13.15</b>	<b>Lunch.</b>	
<b>14.00</b> <b>Knowledge Exchange Systems and Strategies</b>	Overview of CKEI	Graeme Cook CKEI
	The role of catchment planning groups in Knowledge Exchange	Susan Cooksley SRP
	Knowledge Exchange in the Cairngorms National Park	Hamish Trench CNPA
<b>14.25</b>	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	Chair: Charles Bestwick SRP
	1. Peatland and Flood Management	Facilitators: 1. Lorna Dawson 2. Hamish Trench 3. Charles Bestwick
	2. Tree Health and Woodland Expansion	
	3. Role of Environment in Health and Wellbeing and Place Based Policy	
<b>15.00</b>	<b>Feedback and way forward</b>	Chair: Charles Bestwick SRP
<b>15.30</b>	<b>END</b>	

### Meeting Aims:

1. To provide an overview of key areas of SRP (and SRP linked) research of relevance to the CPNA and the agencies with which it works.
2. To provide SRP/CKEI with an overview of the Cairngorms National Park and discuss opportunities for future research partnership and KE engagement.
3. To discuss how engagement/KE strategy could be best developed between the CKEI and the CNPA.

	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	Facilitators
	1. Peatland and Flood Management	1. Lorna Dawson 2. Hamish Trench 3. Charles Bestwick
	2. Tree Health and Woodland Expansion	
	3. Role of Environment in Health and Wellbeing and Place Based Policy	
<b>Summary notes</b>	<b>Feedback and way forward:</b>	

Some points from general discussion before the breakout groups met were:

- Resilience – a general theme.
- People and Communities – how can we help make relevant connections for communities to benefit from the research programme?
- Opportunity for integrative projects? Geography and scale and bringing together capacity of research in CNP lends itself well to integrated approach.
- CKEI Cross cutting themes, Good Food Nation in year 3 at policy stage. Brexit contribution.
- UN Sustainable development goals. S Gov want to deliver to these. Can we work and communicate within that framework?
- Involving towns and cities also in the research – link to impacts and benefits?
- Tweed and Cairngorms are good examples of working well at catchment scale.

### **Synthesis of main points from the breakout group discussions:**

#### **I. Peatland and Flood Management:**

- *Training required for work on paths in uplands.* Work could be done on producing general guidelines and competences for people able to deliver work in environmental restoration (including peat, path etc.).
- *Need to be more work done on how to best influence policy?* Good demonstrations? Good stories? Success stories; including the small and local success. Showing the impact and benefit of the collaborations in the pas.
- *Produce a tool box/multitude of tools and benefits and trade-offs for landowners.* And can funding schemes destroy the results of previous good work? Timescales of effectiveness of measures needs also to be considered. E.g. Bunds may halt loss of land and reduce impact of flooding but may also increase risk of liver fluke? And decrease numbers of certain organisms, loss of biodiversity? May lead to new added value work between Moredun (Lee Innes) and JHI (Mark Wilkinson).
- *Need to demonstrate where schemes have been effective* e.g Dee plan Natural Flood Management (Susan Cooksley). Demonstrate action at a site and site monitoring also necessary. (Step to policy is sometimes more difficult). Learn from examples of good practice.
- *Can we de-personalise the problems?* If we can take the blame away from the stakeholders involved in an issue, then may get a better working together atmosphere. For example, the Glenlivet *cryptosporidium* problem which was better resolved by all interested parties working together with the crypto research coming up with facts and solutions. Good example success story. Learn from examples of good practice
- *What about long term effects? Do we need more longitudinal studies?* Currently we have a large degree of uncertainty and need to scale up with improving modelling tools. Could link small scale with large scale studies and need better communication for this, such as through partnerships. E.g. Case study work such as at the Feshie? (Mark Wilkinson).

Also links are now being set up between Alessandro Gimona and his modelling approach with people at the CNPA. We need to demonstrate more the long term benefits of Natural Flood Measures to shift opinions.

- *We can help answer some issues in relation to inequalities and diversity ?* Building on flood plains is a problem. Linda Mathieson (Aberdeenshire Council) said that its now slowing down since storm Frank. It took a major flood to make a change. Problems still lies in how to best deliver the measures?
- *Culture change required?* This is probably required to accept natural Flood Management. It will never be the whole solution. Need to show farmers the benefits, and disseminate the 'good stories'. If there are good results for business then people will take notice. Adoptive Management and demonstrate its effect.
- *Peer to Peer communication required.* The overall message was that communication should be between the most appropriate people, at the right time (for both policy and industry and GP), with the right messages, communicated in a clear and effective manner.

#### **Actions proposed:**

- **Create a set of SRP /CNPA links to provide good demonstrations? good success stories? E.g. Dee group (Susan Cooksley) and crypto story (Beth Wells) ? Including the small and local successes.**
- **Further collaboration to look at some trade offs/tool box of approaches and effects, e.g. Moredun (Lee Innes) and JHI (Mark Wilkinson) to investigate possibility of added value work on bunds/disease implications.**
- **Link small scale with large scale studies and need better communication for this, such as through partnerships. E.g. Case study work such as at the Feshie? (Mark Wilkinson).**
- **Transfer of skill bases: e.g. links are now being set up between Alessandro Gimona and his modelling approach with CNPA (Alessandro will present at a meeting of NFM Mapping Opportunities in the Cairngorms National Park, 9/11/16). Justine I and Susan C will also attend.**

#### **2. Tree Health and Woodland Expansion.**

- *Strategies and policy* would ideally be more dynamic by using map based tools as per examples shown to explore options and trade-offs. These tools can a) create the space for discussions with land managers and b) provide evidence for chosen options and understanding of the implications. Opportunity to explore how we could use these tools in the refresh of the Cairngorms Forest and Woodland Strategy.
- Note that *woodland condition* should be as relevant a priority as woodland expansion.
- *Land managers will engage* in research if they feel the question is right and it is perceived as directly relevant to delivering their objectives. Opportunity to discuss SRP with the Cairngorms land owners group facilitated by SL&E. Also potential topic for future SL&E conference.
- Suggestion that *format of discussions* with land managers should be reversed – land managers should present on their challenges and needs and researchers should then identify how and where they can help. Could use this format for future Cairngorms events.
- *Catchment partnerships* are effective collaborations – they bring together both providers and users of data, advisors and deliverers. They are already part way towards

the concept of regional land use partnerships. Can we develop or replicate the role of catchment partnerships to address wider integration without losing what currently works?

#### **Actions Proposed**

- **CNPA & Scottish Land and Estates to consider SRP invitation to future land owners discussion group.**
- **Consider how far woodland mapping tools could be used in developing Forest and Woodland Strategy.**

### **3. Role of Environment in Health and Wellbeing and Place Based Policy.**

- *On Health & Wellbeing:* the CNPA partnership with health boards on outdoor access for health improvement (includes GP referrals) was noted as extremely important and a unique relationship.
- *Barriers to outdoor access knowledge?:* A Local Authority representative queried what further research was needed to be known about barriers to outdoor access and ensuing discussion noted need for engagement on this.
- *On Place Based Policy:* it was noted that while there was a lack of evidence as to how communities are impacted by decisions and activity in the park. A case study approach may, therefore, be helpful. Gaining views of local residents was seen as valuable.
- *Dissemination:* The discussion group also asked as to what the SRP could do to better disseminate research ideas. A request was to know about research pre-publication and so essentially requesting more ongoing dissemination of emerging findings. A proposal from the group was for the SRP to provide a map of its relevant work in terms of what was happening and who was the contact. This "mapping" needs to be straightforward in its descriptions.
- *Opportunities for further research funding:* An LA representative noted that there may be opportunity for support for small projects from LAs. It was queried as to whether Community Planning Partnerships could commission research. Overall, there was a desire to seek co- funding opportunities. It was noted that the next year 3 SRP work plans may offer some opportunity to further interact with CPNA.
- *On communities:* it was felt there was wide variation on the extent and effectiveness of engagement activity in the park. Reasons for community disengagement still needed to be understood. Some communities felt poorly engaged, others "workshopped out". It was proposed that there was a broad opportunity to engage on land-use issues (and it was noted that the Brexit situation could offer a driver for such dialogue). Overall, it was considered that broadening out dialogue across the park with the SRP research would have benefits.

#### **Actions proposed:**

- **Create SRP links to park-wide network of community groups.**
- **Look at opportunities for SRP to interact with the Park-Health Board Partnerships.**
- **Investigate opportunities to link to Landowners and agents e.g. the Tomintoul-Glenlivet Landscape Partnership (involves public sector, landowners, residents).**

### **4. Knowledge Exchange.**

	<p>Graeme Cook, Director, CKEI suggested that in terms of the mutual KE, that there were three main questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the research Q's the Park is looking to ask, and how can SRP work help answer them?</li> <li>2. What are the good case studies of work being done which could be given a wider audience?</li> <li>3. How can we work with existing networks in the park to help both facilitate research questions, and share the results (and see action!)?</li> </ol> <p>The Centre could look at funding a secondment to the CNPA to work on mutually important issues.</p> <p>It was noted that it was important for engagement to be carried out at the "right time" and this required relationship and dialogue.</p> <p><b>Action proposed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A secondment of a SRP researcher or a KE representative to the CPNA was suggested as an action.</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Closing summary.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several good research-management connections evident from presentations and discussions which relevant researchers/Park contacts should follow up directly.</li> <li>• The National Park brings together a place-based approach across sectors at a meaningful scale of geography – so good opportunities for integration and using outputs in practice.</li> <li>• Several practical opportunities for knowledge exchange events and connections suggested – potential secondment would significantly help put these into practice.</li> </ul>

## Summary of list of proposed actions:

### Peat and NFM

- 1. Create a set of SRP /CNPA links to provide good demonstrations? good success stories? E.g. Dee group (Susan Cooksley) and crypto story (Beth Wells) ? Including the small and local successes.
- 2. Further collaboration to look at some trade offs/tool box of approaches and effects, e.g. Moredun (Lee Innes) and JHI (Mark Wilkinson) to investigate possibility of added value work on bunds/disease implications.
- 3. Link small scale with large scale studies and need better communication for this, such as through partnerships. E.g. Case study work such as at the Feshie? (Mark Wilkinson).
- 4. Transfer of skill bases: e.g. links are now being set up between Alessandro Gimona and his modelling approach with CNPA (Alessandro will present at a meeting of NFM Mapping Opportunities in the Cairngorms National Park, 9/11/16). Justine I and Susan C will also attend.

### Woodland

- 5. CNPA & Scottish Land and Estates to consider SRP invitation to future land owners discussion group.
- 6. Consider how far woodland mapping tools could be used in developing Forest and Woodland Strategy.

### Wellbeing

- 7. Create SRP links to park-wide network of community groups.
- 8. Look at opportunities for SRP to interact with the Park-Health Board Partnerships.
- 9. Investigate opportunities to link to Landowners and agents e.g. the Tomintoul-Glenlivet Landscape Partnership (involves public sector, landowners, residents).

### KE

- 10. A secondment of a SRP researcher or a KE representative to the CPNA was suggested as an action.