

WORK PACKAGE 1.4: INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL ASSETS

The aim of Work Package (WP) 1.4 is to show how natural assets can be managed to achieve sustainable land use and contribute to sustainable growth of the Scottish economy, our health and well-being.

WP 1.4 will illustrate the wide range of benefits that natural assets (e.g. soils, water, biodiversity) provide to Scottish society and will use this understanding to support decision-making on trade-offs and management at national, regional and local scales. To achieve this, the WP will provide a comprehensive picture of the state of Scotland's natural assets. It will identify the scope for delivering multiple benefits whilst ensuring the resilience of assets to change. In parallel, the WP will provide an applied demonstration of how these benefits can be delivered in practice.

The WP will draw on work from across the Strategic Research Programme. The WP will synthesise data on natural assets and their function, resilience and management across settings as diverse as peatlands, woodlands, extensive/intensive farming systems and peri-urban greenspace (Theme 1). It will also draw on data, tools and insights regarding agricultural systems and rural industries (Theme 2); and regarding rural communities and health and wellbeing (Theme 3).

The WP research is conducted at a range of spatial scales from national through regional, catchment, farm and field scale; and will set the Scottish picture in the context of international trends. This investigates how the different spatial scales of decision making are important for the sustainable management of our natural assets.

WP 1.4 will show how natural assets can be managed to achieve sustainable land use and contribute to sustainable growth of the Scottish economy, our health and well-being by:

- Using a dynamic natural assets register and natural capital accounts to illustrate how assets contribute to Scotland's green growth aspiration.
- Identifying and quantifying trade-offs and impacts on multiple assets and ecosystem services to illustrate where we are living beyond planetary limits.
- Supporting integrated decision-making and adaptive management to protect multiple natural assets and maximise benefits in socially acceptable ways.
- Illustrating how existing and novel measures can deliver integrated delivery of benefits.

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