Contribution to the Policy Process at Local Level

MAPs overview

- Rural Scotland – rural areas, Scotland-wide
- Dee Catchment – focus on water catchment in north-east Scotland

David Miller, Kate Irvine, Susan Cooksley

(MAP Facilitators and Monitors)

SHERPA receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 862448.

@ruralinterfaces

Informing Local/Regional Policy

- **Principal purposes of the Multi-Actor Platforms**
  - forums for exchanges of ideas, co-learning and co-creating knowledge
  - engage citizens, researchers and policy-makers at local and EU levels in debates
  - jointly develop strategic thinking and practical recommendations for the formulation of modern rural policies and research agendas

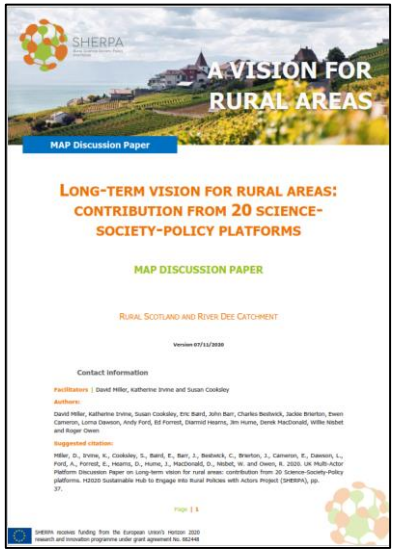
- **Mechanism in UK MAPs**: Process and outputs from co-authoring Discussion and Position Papers

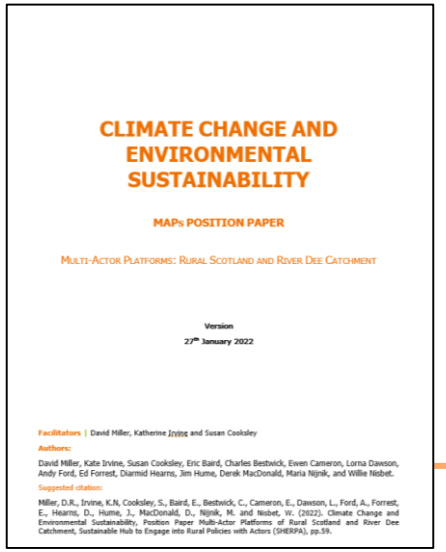
Feedback from MAP member

"This is very helpful for our thinking on where CNPA can contribute most effectively to tackling the climate emergency."

[CNPA = Cairngorms National Park Authority]

UK MAP Discussion/ Position Papers





Contribution to Process: Sharing Understanding

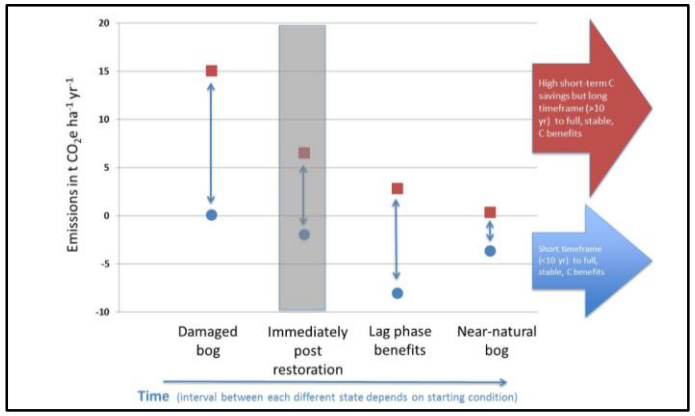
- Inform deliberations and creation of plans
- Example, investment in natural capital - **peatland restoration**
- Questions of policy teams …

Example key messages to policy:

- Design measures that account for geographic variation in magnitude and rates of reducing GHGs
- Facilitate different approaches (e.g. by businesses, NGO, communities)

Example of evidence identified for inclusion in Position Paper

How much GHG emissions reduced by peatland state?



(Source: Artz *et al.*, 2013)

How long to reduce GHG emissions?

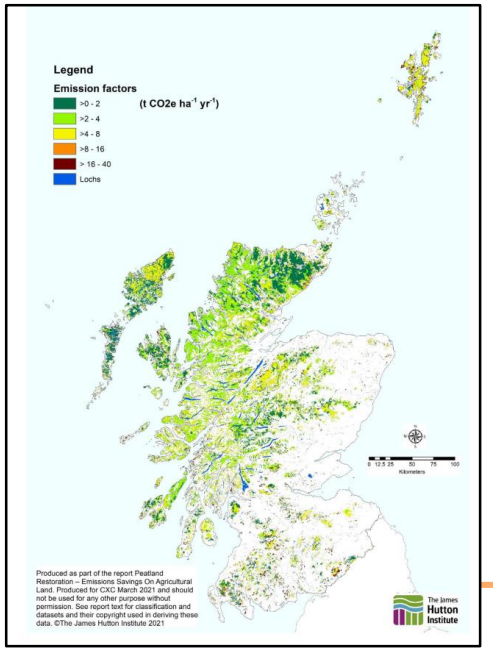
0 - 1Years	2-5 Years	10-15 Years	20-50 Years
Restoration works.	Detectable changes in water quality, water table depth and peat stabilisation by vegetation	Wet tolerant vegetation becoming dominant (including Sphagnum species).	Good hydrological and ecological functionality possible.

(Source: Defra, 2021, adapted from RSPB)

Role of UK SHERPA MAPs:

- Forum to share knowledge, identify barriers to uptake (social, economic, physical)

Where is greatest return?



Public Policy Deliberations

Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces

Issue:

- Climate neutral by 2045*, the role of rural areas

  *Scottish Government target
- Members of MAPs from public agencies, local authorities, NGOs, all producing Climate Action Plans to net zero
- Co-designing events at COP26, application, stand and online forums

Online Panel Sessions

Public Display, Green Zone

Informing Policy and Action

Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces

Issue:

- Mental health and wellbeing of rural people
- MAP member, Jim Hume, Convenor, National Rural Mental Health Forum
- Citing SHERPA in presentation to Scottish Parliament Cross-party Group on Rural Policy

SHERPA Stand, COP26 Green Zone

Roles of UK SHERPA MAPs:

- Mechanisms to exchange evidence, and share understanding of issue widely experienced but often not seen; 'join up' policy measures

Implementing Policy Measure

Rural Community Engagement Fund

12th January 2022 • Leave a comment

Support in Mind Scotland has been funded by the Scottish Government to work with th communities as we all recover from the pandemic.

This fund is part of a larger community engagement project, working directly with people in lo collectively to develop creative local solutions to address local needs.

rural wellbeing
the national rural mental health forum

Administered by Support in Mind Scotland

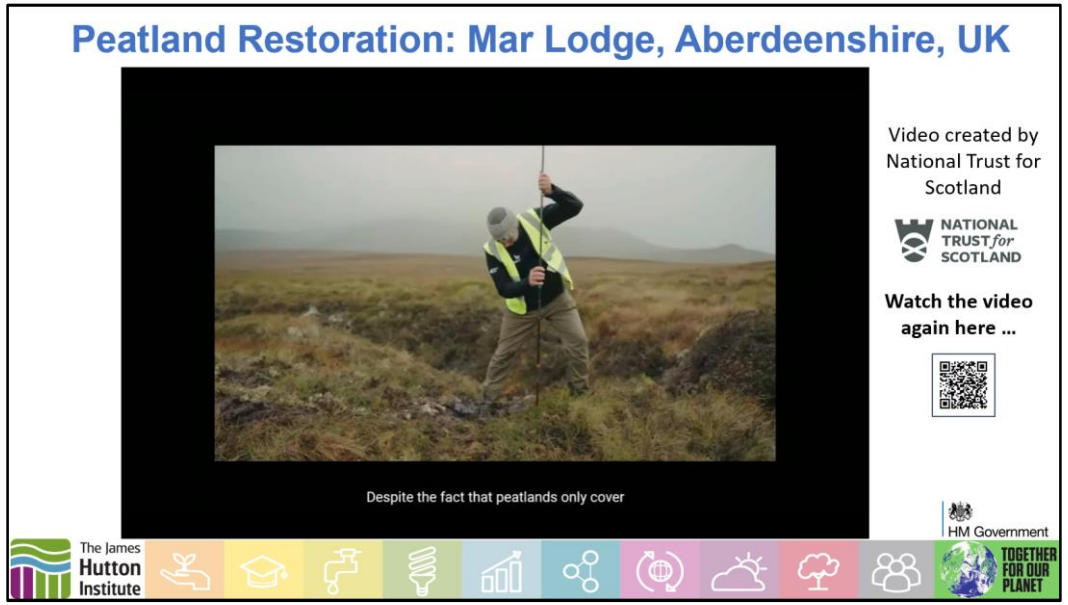
National Rural Mental Health Forum Makes Case for Climate Change at COP26

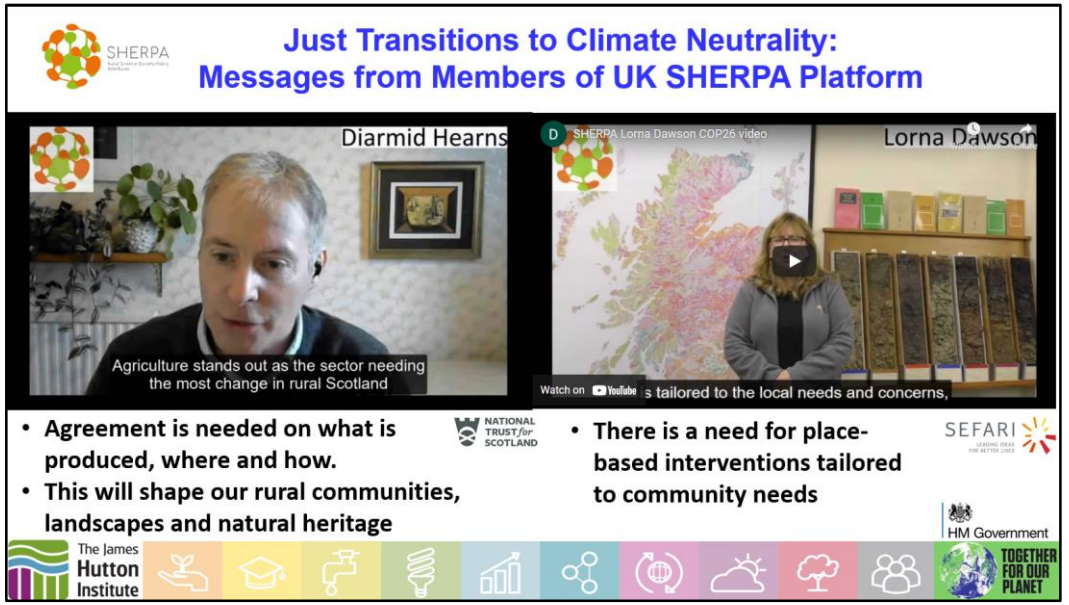
23rd November 2021

Supporting Inputs to Policy of MAP Members

Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces

Issue: Managing soil carbon and recreating carbon sinks





National Trust for Scotland, in COP26 Blue Zone, UNFCC Peatlands Pavilion

Roles of UK SHERPA MAPs:

- Provide one in a portfolio of means of members engaging with policy at multiple levels (local to international)

MAP Members Contributing to Implementing Policy

Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces

Issue: Tackling the climate emergency

- Linking scientific evidence with on-the-ground experience and actions


SEFARI Covid-19 Response Latest Our Work About Us Our Expertise SEFARI Gateway Blog Site search

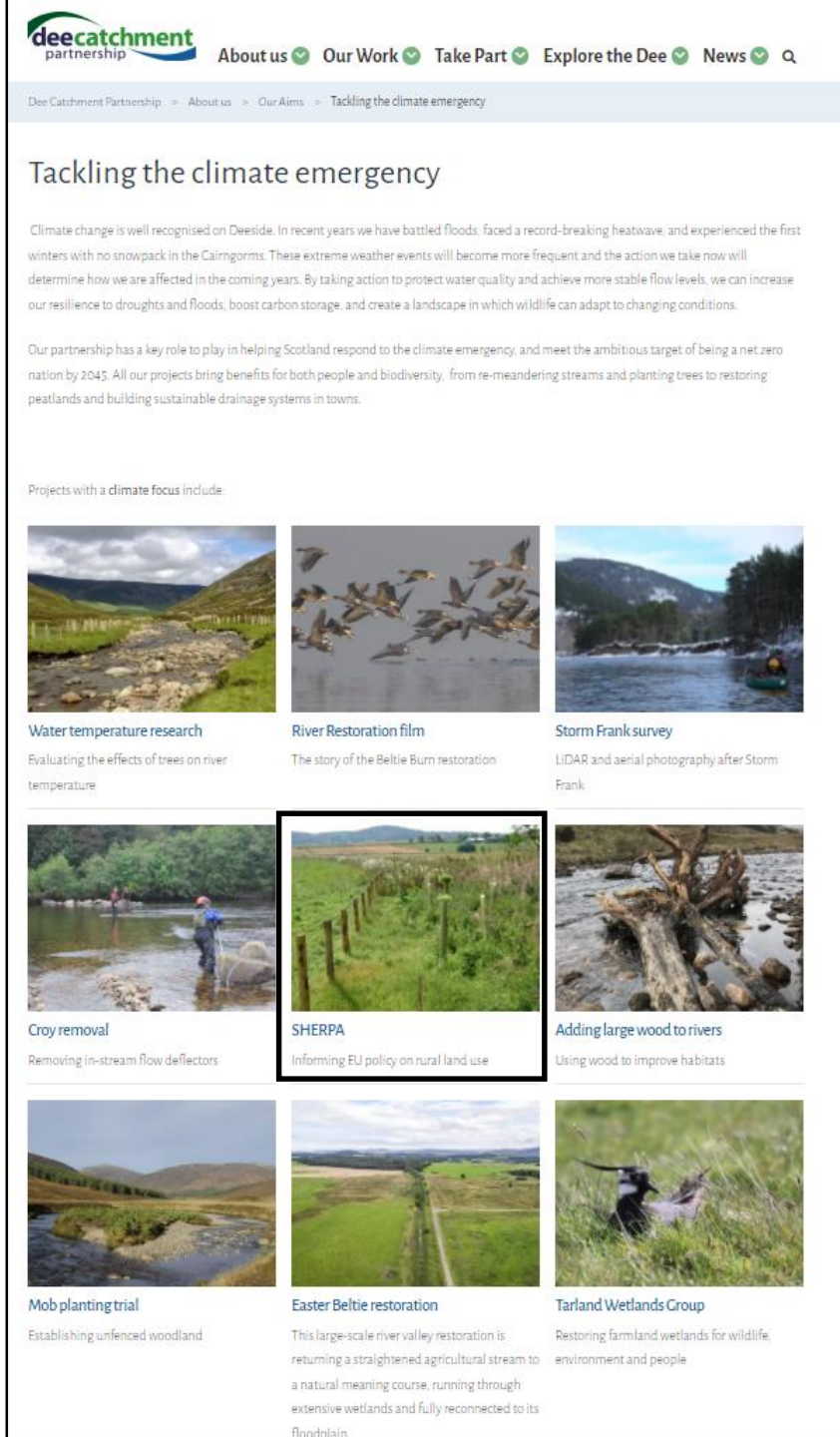
Dee Catchment Partnership scoop Nature of Scotland climate action award

18 Nov 2021

"We are over the moon to have won this fantastic award, exactly one year after the Easter Beltie restoration was completed."

The Dee Catchment Partnership, a collective of organisations tasked with looking after the river Dee catchment in north east Scotland, has won the Nature and Climate Action award at the RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards. The highest accolade for nature conservation in the country, the awards recognise excellence, innovation and outstanding achievements in Scottish nature conservation. The 10th annual ceremony was held virtually this year, hosted by BBC Landward's Arlene Stuart.

- Restored 2km of river channel to reduce flood risk and create benefits for nature


deecatchment partnership

About us Our Work Take Part Explore the Dee News

Dee Catchment Partnership > About us > Our Aims > Tackling the climate emergency

Tackling the climate emergency

Climate change is well recognised on Deeside. In recent years we have battled floods, faced a record-breaking heatwave, and experienced the first winters with no snowpack in the Cairngorms. These extreme weather events will become more frequent and the action we take now will determine how we are affected in the coming years. By taking action to protect water quality and achieve more stable flow levels, we can increase our resilience to droughts and floods, boost carbon storage, and create a landscape in which wildlife can adapt to changing conditions.

Our partnership has a key role to play in helping Scotland respond to the climate emergency, and meet the ambitious target of being a net zero nation by 2045. All our projects bring benefits for both people and biodiversity, from re-meandering streams and planting trees to restoring peatlands and building sustainable drainage systems in towns.

Projects with a climate focus include:

Water temperature research
Evaluating the effects of trees on river temperature

River Restoration film
The story of the Beltie Burn restoration

Storm Frank survey
LIDAR and aerial photography after Storm Frank

Croy removal
Removing in-stream flow deflectors

SHERPA
Informing EU policy on rural land use

Adding large wood to rivers
Using wood to improve habitats

Mob planting trial
Establishing unfenced woodland

Easter Beltie restoration
This large-scale river valley restoration is returning a straightened agricultural stream to a natural meaning course, running through extensive wetlands and fully reconnected to its floodplain

Tarland Wetlands Group
Restoring farmland wetlands for wildlife, environment and people

Acknowledgments

Lorna Dawson
MAP member

David Miller
MAP Facilitator

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James Hutton Institute Research Team: Maria Nijnik, Chen Wang and colleagues

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