



SHERPA  
Rural Science-Society-Policy  
Interfaces

## GOVERNANCE IN RURAL AREAS



### RURAL SCOTLAND AND DEE CATCHMENT MAP

This MAP Fiche is a joint output from the Rural Scotland MAP (aligned with the Scottish Environment, Food and Agriculture Research Institutes Gateway) and the Dee Catchment MAP (aligned with the Dee Catchment Partnership).

The Governance of Scotland's rural areas is multi-level across topics, types of territories, and particular places. The diversity of governance arrangements creates a complex governance landscape with xx complementary and competing objectives. Enabled by public policy, new forms of governance and inputs to decision-making are emerging enabled by public policy (e.g. land reform, community empowerment, Land Use Strategy), and with a willingness to try new models of governance (e.g. Regional Land Use Partnerships, participatory budgeting).



### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Future rural policy

- Mainstream participatory budgeting and prioritising resources to guide investment in rural areas in line with nature positive and wellbeing concepts.
- High level mapping of governance frameworks onto policies to identify gaps in the delivery of public goods or approaches which are incompatible, and the preparation of plans for their improvement.
- Build platforms for knowledge sharing to inform agile responses to tackling challenges facing rural areas

#### Future rural research

- What is the relevant level of subsidiarity for authority over levers of policy that can instigate or manage change in rural areas.
- What evidence is there of the types of impacts and consequences of different forms of participatory governance at different levels?
- What are the implications of different forms of governance (e.g. tenure, public/private partnerships) on natural resource management, with a particular emphasis on natural capital and mitigating and adapting to climate change?



## KEY STRENGTHS

- Partnerships & collaborative forums delivering multi-levels of governance of rural areas on specific topics/places and for types of territories.
- Political support for trialling & using mechanisms to provide citizens with direct inputs to place making, visioning rural futures and policy, notably on mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- Mechanisms for citizen-led directing financial resources within agreed parameters.
- Communities or civil society leading initiatives that create societal benefit.
- Extensive datasets & tools for informing debate and planning by the public, private and third sectors made available in line with Open Data and Open Science.



## KEY NEEDS

- A dialogue process between communities, institutions and production sectors to achieve the aims of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Alignment of funding streams & transfer of investment from national to local governance to enable delivery of person-centred, place-based planning.
- New economic governance mechanisms to facilitate public, private and civil society partnerships, ensuring participation is embedded in processes, deliberation, and cooperation structures.
- Involvement of actors at early planning stages of value chains to understand the necessary actions on the ground for just transitions to tackle climate change, loss of biodiversity and inequalities.



## EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

### The Udney Community Trust Company

The company was set up by the local community in 2011 to help the people of Udney in Aberdeenshire, UK, and is primarily funded by the Udney Turbine Company. It manages the community designed and owned wind turbine, an idea originating in 2004. Since 2011 it has distributed £470k to 70 local organisations and good causes working to benefit the community including a community building and has levered an additional £350k through national funding.

