Green Finance workshop: Is the conservation sector ready?

Wednesday 17th May 2023 Royal Geographical Society, London

Peninne PeatLIFE delivery partners























Welcome and introduction

Chris Woodley-Stewart

North Pennines AONB Partnership

Peninne PeatLIFE delivery partners























The sweet: Finance

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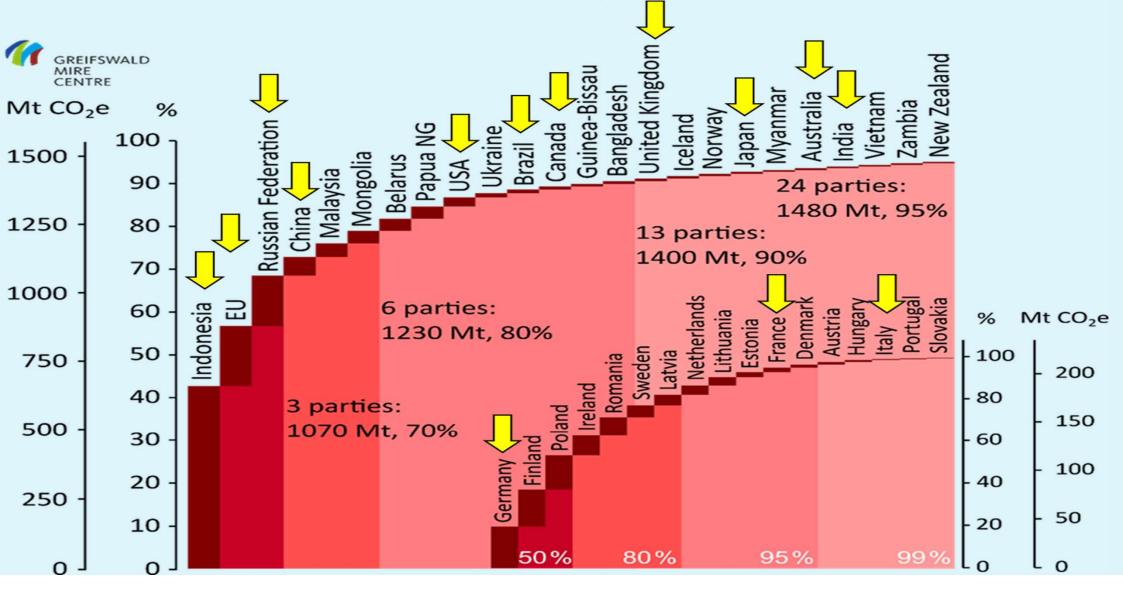


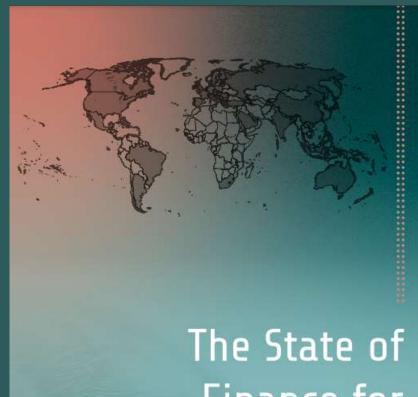
Scale Up & Speed Up Action for Climate, Water, Nature & People

17 May 2023 London, UK Dianna Kopansky, Global Peatlands Initiative, UNEP



Emissions from drained peatlands in the G20





Finance for Nature in the G20

Leading by example to close the investment gap









investments in nature-based solutions (NbS) need to reach USD 285 billion/year by 2050

however, 2021 G20 spending was only USD 120 billion/year

G20 investments represent 92%

87% or USD 105 billion distributed internally towards domestic government programs

Vivid Economics by McKinsey







State and Trends of Finance for Nature

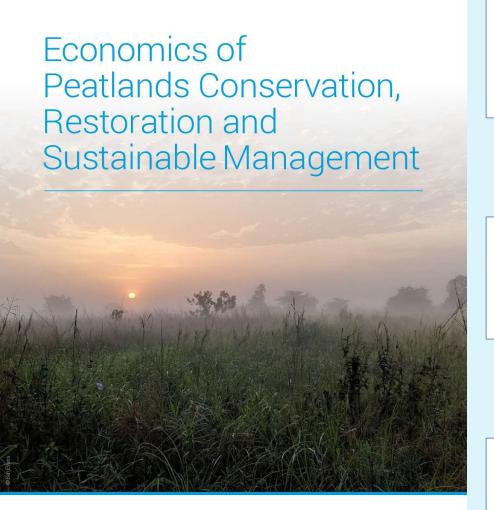
Tripling investments in nature-based solutions by 2030 September 2022



Need at least USD 9.8 trillion USD for NbS

Cumulative investment in peatlands restoration between 2022-2025 is 320 billion USD

abatement potential from peatlands alone is estimated to be up to 1.42 GtCO2e/year by 2050





End the underfunding of peatlands

Invest in peatlands protection & restoration globally





Countries taking action & Financial commitments

UK: £3 billion will be invested in climate change solutions that protect, restore and sustainably manage nature. With £750 million committed to a Nature for Climate Fund (NCF), including for peat restoration and tree planting programmes

Germany: 4 billion Euros in nature protection and restoration over the next four years (until 2026)

Scotland: £500 million of extra funding over the next three years, in order to not only assist with the reduction of carbon emissions, but also to build climate resilience – includes restoration of peatland and woodland

How do we scale up action & finance for peatlands

Get ready – create a trusted formula for bankable programmes & share best practice –like the Great North Bog

Identify and resolve barriers to delivery – new businesses & new green & meaningful rural jobs

Create a new standard for peatlands restoration and conservation – collaborate with Global Peatlands Initiative & get involved in the emerging European Peatlands Initiative







A Centre Collaborating with UNEP



WORLD

RESOURCES

INSTITUTE



Joint Research Centre

INTERNATIONAL

CLIMATE

Global

European

Commission

















Global Green Growth Institute

UNIVERSITY OF

LEICESTER





The Nature (

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

Conservancy

International FORESTRY

STUDENTS'

ASSOCIATION







GLOBAL PULSE

Department for Environment

Food & Rural Affairs

IFAD INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT



UNIVERSITY OF

WATERLOO

FONDATION DAVID SUZUKI





Peatlands

Initiative



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS





CONSERVATION

INTERNATIONAL























UNIVERSITY OF

PLYMOUTH

climate

catalyst

Centre











Badan

Restorasi

Gambut









DAVID SUZUKI

















BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

Because #PeatlandsMatter

To learn more about the GPI please contact: Dianna Kopansky, UN Environment Programme dianna.kopansky@un.org

And visit our website: http://www.globalpeatlands.org/

A UK-wide perspective

Daniel Barwick

Defra

Peninne PeatLIFE delivery partners

























HMG's approach to Green Finance

Daniel Barwick Defra Green Finance Team Pennine PeatLIFE workshop, 17 May 2023







What is green finance and why is it important?	
HMG targets	
1. Nature Markets Framework and Standards	
2. Investment Readiness – pipeline development	
3. Investment – public/private	
4. Greening Finance	
Remaining barriers and next steps	

What is green finance and why is it important?

- Green finance is any structured financial activity that's been created to ensure a better environmental outcome
- Financing green = increasing the flow of capital to green projects and businesses
- Greening finance = ensuring the financial system and capital markets take account of environmental risks, impacts and dependencies





HMG targets

- HMG has set a target of stimulating at least £500m per year of private investment into nature recovery in England – rising to at least £1bn per year by 2030
- Not an end in itself underpinned by Environment Act Targets, Environmental Improvement Plan, England Peat Action Plan, England Trees Action Plan etc.





The England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024

May 2021





News story

New legally binding environment targets set out

Targets to protect our environment, clean up our air and rivers and boost nature have been published.

From: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. Environment Agency, Natura England, and The Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP Published 16 December 2022 — See all updates



1. Nature Markets Framework and Standards





2. Investment Readiness – project pipeline development support

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INVESTMENT READINESS FUND

Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC)

Providing four pioneering local and combined authority areas (Cornwall; Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmoreland & Furness; West Midlands Combined Authority; and York and North Yorkshire) with funding of up to £1 million each as part of the Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) programme. This two-year programme delivered by the Environment Agency and the four local authorities to test 'what works' in attracting investment into local priorities for nature.









3. Investment – public/private



Guidance

Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme

Information about the scheme to restore English peatlands and how to apply for funding.

Guidance

England Woodland Creation Offer

Get support to create woodland using the England Woodland Creation Offer.

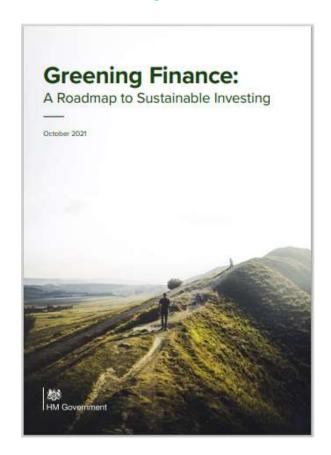
Landscape Recovery: get ready for the second round

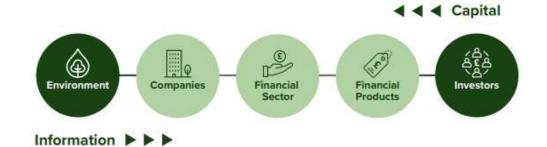
Sam Burford, 1 February 2023 - environmental land management schemes, Payments to restore landscapes and ecosystems



Government appoints fund managers for planned Big Nature Impact fund

4. Greening finance – disclosing nature-related risks, impacts and dependencies









UK economy's nature-related risk to be assessed for the first time

Apr 5, 2023

Analysis led by the Green Finance Institute, backed by Defra and the Bank of England, will quantify UK financial and economic risks from exposure to nature degradation.

Remaining barriers and next steps

- Demand-side drivers
- Tax treatment
- Stacking and bundling public/private, baselining and additionality
- ELMs
- Data and technology
- Nature Markets Framework update: standards, market infrastructure etc.

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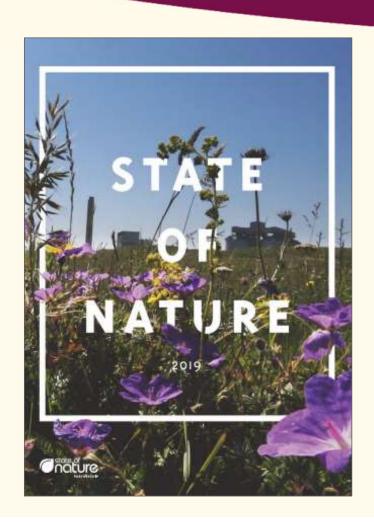
Green Finance

Is the Conservation Sector Ready?

Alan Law
Deputy CEO Natural England

The State of Nature in the UK

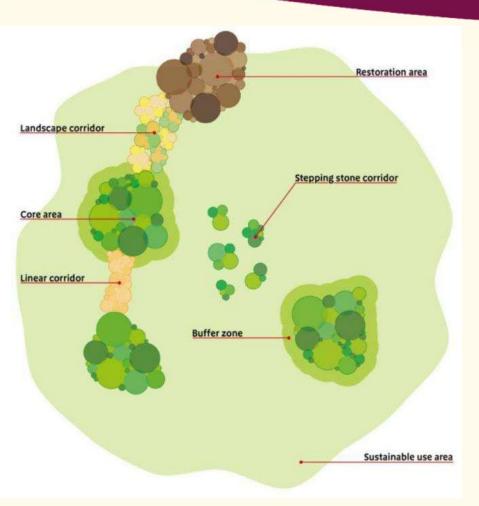




- State of Nature Report 2019 reported that the UK is one of the most naturedepleted nations on Earth.
- Causes of pressure on nature
 - ➤ Agricultural intensification
 - ➤ Pollution
 - Climate change

What's needed to tackle nature recovery?





- Focus on ecosystem resilience at scale
- A framework of nature standards and regulations
- Strategic planning including Local Nature Recovery Strategies which set local ambitions for nature recovery, helping to direct finance
- Support for delivery of agricultural transition;
 Environmental Land Management Schemes
- Green finance to compliment public finances

Green Finance: why is it important?



- Government Green Finance Strategy
- Funding gap for nature recovery (GFI for England £21-£53 bn estimate over next 10 yrs)
- Dasgupta review: private sector needs to do much more
 - £150bn spent by Gov globally on nature but 5-7X that spent on environmentally harmful subsidies
- Defra/HMT target for new private sector investment in nature recovery: £0.5bn pa by 2027 rising to £1bn pa by 2030



Maturity of revenue streams



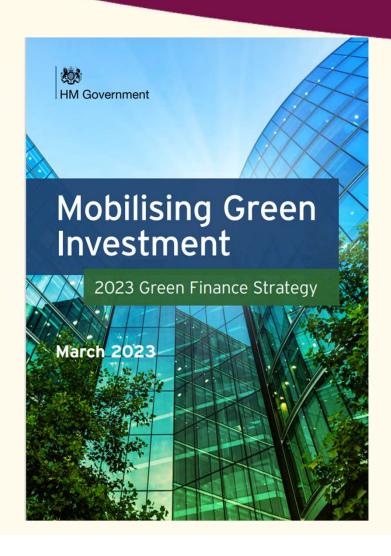
Relative maturity of revenue streams in the UK² Biodiversity offsets Payments for water quality outcomes Sustainable agriculture Sustainable fisheries / aquaculture Woodland products Carbon credits Place based enterprise and infrastructure Ecotourism Payments for natural flood management Payments for health outcomes less mature *

Taken from:

Emerging Funding Opportunities For The Natural
Environment 20201.pdf (Environmental
Finance/EKN/ Esmee Fairburn).

Government's approach to Green Finance





- The 2023 Green Finance Strategy brought more focus on nature recovery
- DEFRA Nature Markets Framework- setting principals for high integrity market growth
- DEFRA and the British Standards Institution (BSI) Nature Investment Standards Programme; building confidence in nature markets, scaling up investments and guarding against greenwashing
- The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)
 is a global initiative to shift financial flows toward nature-positive
 outcomes
- Mandatory disclosure could transform investment in nature recovery

How can this 🖖

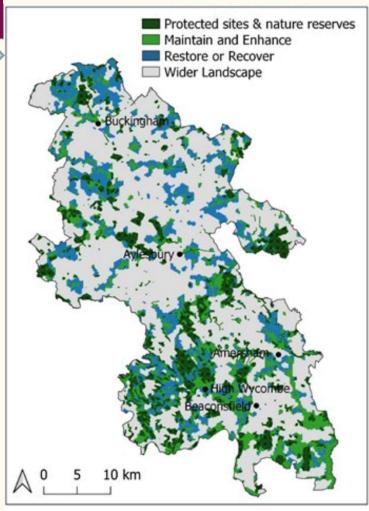


Help deliver this?



- 1 Woodland creation
- 2 Agroforestry/ silvopasture
- 3 Water cooling/ filtering
- 4 Food production
- 5 Adopting regenerative agriculture principles
- 6 Renewable energy generation
- 7 Hedge planting
- 8 Biodiversity provision
- 9 Species protection
- 10 Nutrient reduction
- 11 Building soil fertility
- 12 Access to green space (public access, engagement and education)
- 13 Wetland creation
- 14 Flood management
- 15 Peatland restoration

Taken from Buckinghamshire LNRS pilot, developed to represent a 'doubling nature' ambition (aspiring for coverage of at least 30% of Buckinghamshire compared to the 14.9% baseline)



Natural England's hopes for Green Finance





Our objectives;

- Supporting markets operating with high integrity, avoiding green washing
- Seeking to ensure that markets are underpinned by scientifically robust standards
- Funding the right land use change in the right place
- Ensuring GF effectively blends public/private finance to maximise impact for nature recovery
- A biodiversity credit that could be traded
- Upskilling our staff, building capability and capacity

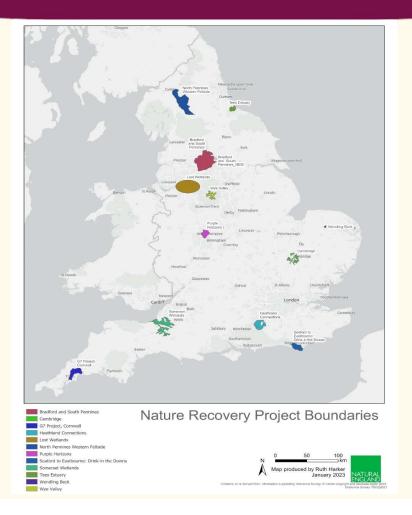
Right outcome right place



Emerging policy framework and new delivery mechanisms;

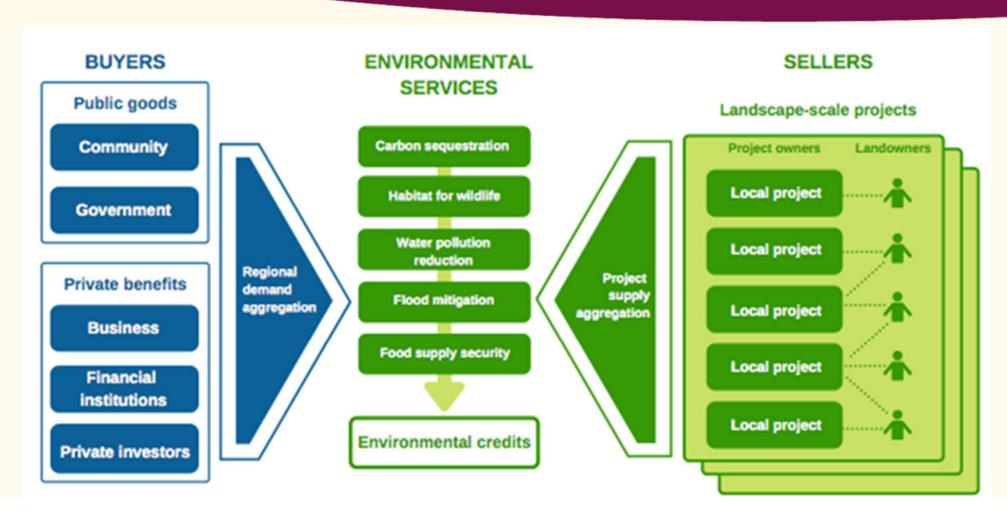
- Land Use Framework
- LNRS inc habitat mapping
- ELM Landscape Recovery
- Use of public estate
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Nutrient Mitigation Scheme

The challenge is to bring this together to deliver a pipeline of investible projects and ultimately a Nature Recovery Network.



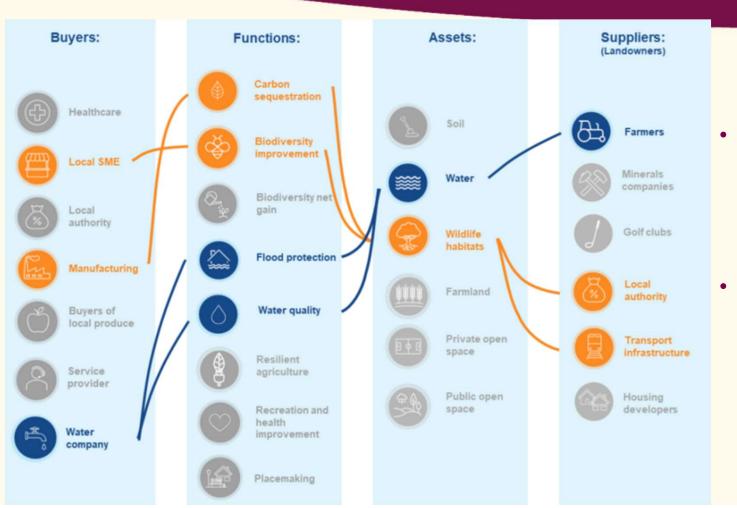
How aggregated environmental markets could operate





Pitfalls of monetising nature





- Landowners/managers will have a variety of new options for generating income from their land
- Choices of landowners/ managers likely to be driven by max financial return which might not align with spatial priorities

Challenges to resolve



- Increasing concern regarding impact of land prices and insufficient supply of land to meet demand and targets
- Offsetting vs Insetting; if landowners need to include their own landholding in their net zero calculations it will reduce the carbon related transactions
- Plans but no/insufficient sustainable funding to deliver and maintain change
- Land held back from providing nature/climate recovery awaiting better future prices, more certainty around other issues like tax and stacking
- Challenge for the sector is develop investible projects at scale to offer investors and buyers.
 Broader partnerships, closer collaboration, greater ambition from us all to put together
 projects at scale we haven't often managed before. In turn we'll need to build new delivery
 and governance models.

Conclusions





What is going well

Large speculative interest in the market

What are the risks to GF delivery

- Developing investible projects at scale to meet investor and buyer demand
- There is no standard approach that will work everywhere;
 the implementation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies
 needs to be aligned with green finance

What does NE want to see

We need to aim for high integrity, monitored green finance mechanisms

Thank you to North Pennines AONB Partnership and the EU LIFE Programme

Refreshments and networking

Peninne PeatLIFE delivery partners























Are we ready? Workshop session 1

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Lunch and networking

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...And the sour: Opportunities and challenges

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Green Finance workshop

How to attract private sector financing into UK peatland restoration

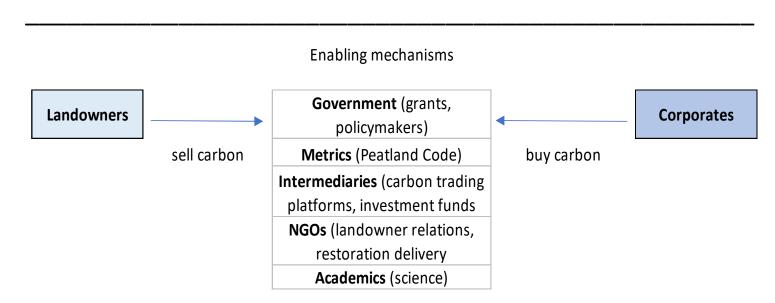
17 May 2023

Dan Hird





Understanding opportunities and barriers



Assertion: The key parties to accelerating peatland restoration are Landowners (sellers) and Corporates (buyers). Everyone else is part of the enabling structure





Private sector drivers

Assertion – It's important for governments and third sector (and general public) to understand and create private sector drivers

Operational or commercial drivers (high value but only visible internally)

- Reduce environmental risks (flooding)
- Regulatory (water quality, nutrient neutrality)

ESG drivers (often published and increasingly becoming operational)

- Net Zero commitments
- Biodiversity commitments
- Regulatory pressure TCFD, TNFD, Net Zero transition plans (UK)
- Stakeholder expectations increasingly linked to financing costs, market value and executive pay

CSR/PR (often published or visible)

Less corporate target driven – more brand reputational, voluntary

ESG – Environmental, Social, Governance

CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility





Ecosystem services generated

Ecosystem service	Metric	Corporate interest
Carbon (emission reductions)	IUCN Peatland Code	Very high
Biodiversity	(Defra metric – in UK)	Unsure (can't be stacked)
Water storage	(VWBA) Volumetric Water Based Accounting	Growing – water stewardship
Water quality	No standard – by measurement	Unsure – evidence base?
NFM	Hydrological modelling	Potential – case by case

Assertion – as a result of science behind CO2 emission reductions, governmental and corporate Net Zero commitments, emerging carbon markets, availability of Peatland Code – carbon (emission reductions) are the currently the "currency" of peatland restoration





Understanding opportunities and barriers

Corporates:

Opportunities:

- Buy Peatland Code accredited carbon credits
- Contribute to ESG targets
- Positive reputational impact

Challenges:

- Access to credits
- Scale
- Reliance on landowners for permanence
- Pricing of credits
- Accusations of greenwashing

Landowners:

Opportunities:

- Get funded for peat restoration.
- Sell carbon credits
- --- or achieve own Net Zero targets

Challenges:

- Long term/permanent land use change.
- Impact on other activities (grazing, shooting etc
- Uncertainty future carbon markets
- Long term commitment impact on land value
- Maintenance obligations



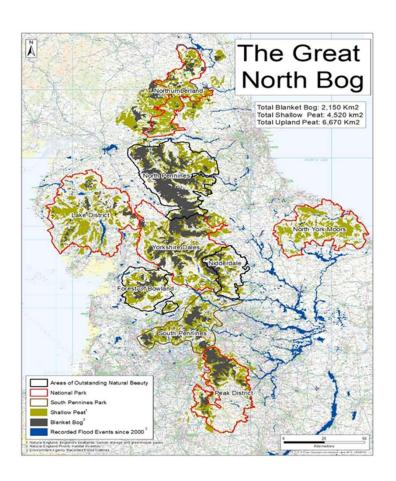


Overcoming cultural differences





Case study – The Great North Bog



UK has 15% of world's blanket bog

Great North Bog

- Made up of six peat partnerships
- 92% of all blanket bog in England
- Covers 7.000 km2
- Supported by Nature For Climate Fund (75% public match funding)
- Hundreds of individual landowners

Our aim: Procure private sector partner(s). Potential £30m - £100m carbon pipeline over next 3 years. Create attractive landowner offer





Case study – The Great North Bog

Great North Bog process:

Step 1 – Park all interest and explain that we're developing a Specification



Step 2 – Develop a Specification and EOI template



Step 3 – Draw up list of potential private sector partners and send out the Spec



Step 4 – Receive EOI Responses by 30 May 2023 NEXT

Step 5 – Meetings with shortlisted prospective partners – June 2023

Step 6 – Second round and final proposals – July 2023

Step 7 – Select final GNB Partner(s) – by September/October 23





Private sector financing for peatland restoration The Great North Bog Specification – some key features

Attractive features for corporates - Scale and Profile, Peatland Code, A structured process, Sustainable partnership (min 3 year contract)

Landowner barriers –front and centre of Specification (it's not just carbon price)

Need for innovative and flexible match funding and carbon++ proposals

- PIUs or PCUs conventional but.....
- New concept = long-term carbon contract between landowner and corporate with annual payments linked to a carbon price index

Framework approach suggested – 3 GNB partners who bid on individual projects

Potential for co-creation – we're open to counter proposals and ideas?

Need to convince GNB partners you are the **right partner** for them and can demonstrate tangible commitment towards Net Zero. It's not just the money....





Stakeholder perspectives on Great North Bog investment options

Tim Thom

Wild Ingleborough Programme Manager & Green Finance Advisor

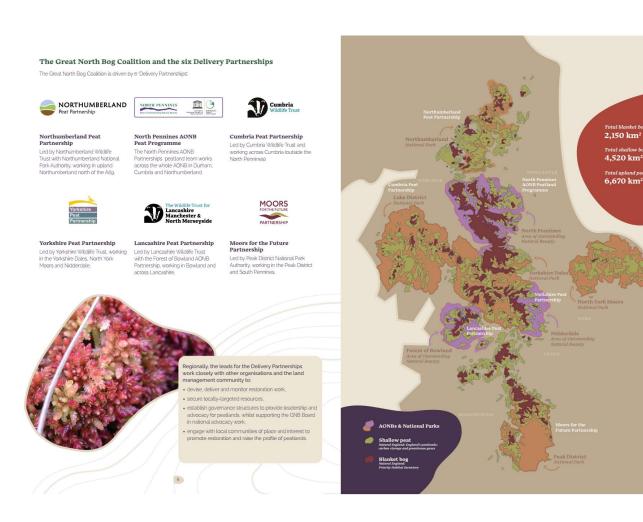
ywt.org.uk

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity entirely dedicated to conserving, protecting and enhancing Yorkshire's wildlife and wild places



Great North Bog

- 6 Delivery
 Partnerships in the
 North of England
 collaborating to
 restore 90% of
 England's blanket bog.
- Initial scoping phase funded by DEFRA & EA including assessing potential private investment options with stakeholders





What did we do?

Desk-based review by of potential ecosystem services from the Great North Bog and investment markets (Ritson & Gauld, 2021).

Two workshops to evaluate stakeholder responses to the suggested investment markets in the review facilitated by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, University of Manchester, Collaborative Capacities, Fast Track Impact & Finance Earth.

Desk-based business assessment of viability of investment options preferred by the stakeholders (Reed, Fitton & Khuri, 2022).









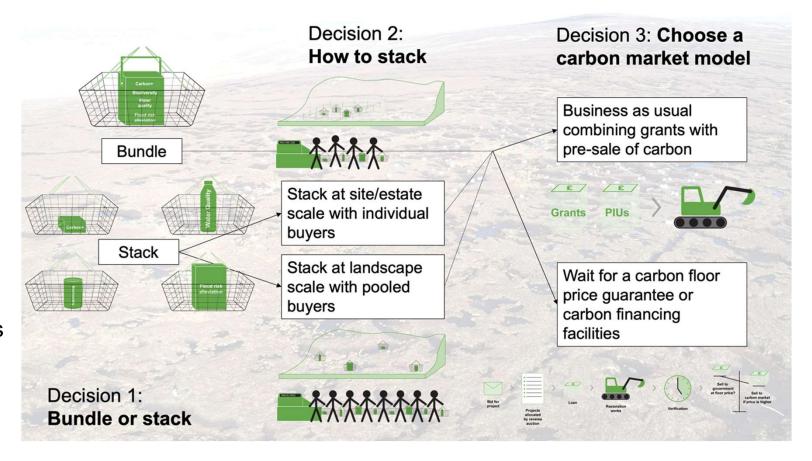




Workshops

Structured around 3 sequential decisions – bundle or stack, how to stack, choosing a carbon market model

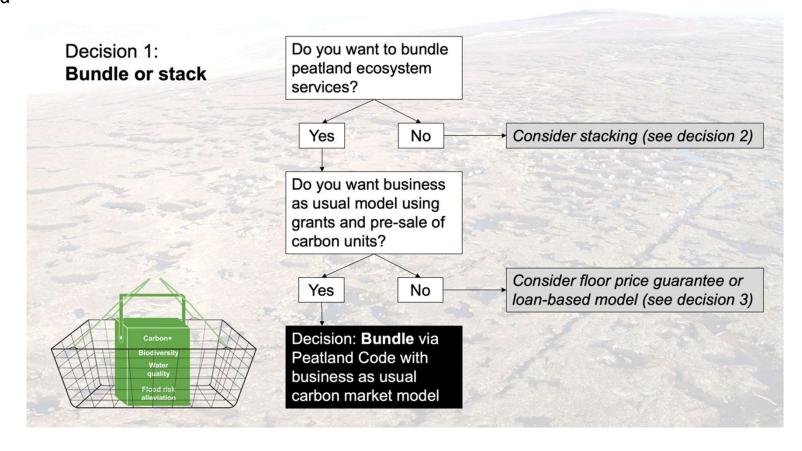
- Landowners & managers
- Community members
- Natural capital investors, intermediaries & brokers
- Land agents and advisors
- Policy and agency staff
- eNGOs
- 267 and 205 written comments were recorded by participants in the first and second workshops respectively





Bundle or Stack?

- Agreement from all that private investment is needed
- ensure fairness in the supply chain in the same way we're trying to do for food supply chains
- make enough to reinvest in their businesses and landscapes
- ensure there is benefit sharing with tenants
- Support was evenly split for bundling versus stacking (represented by 48 and 44 comments in favour of each approach respectively)





Bundle or Stack?

Bundling

- Perceived to be simpler to market. Current demand for non-carbon services is low.
- Simpler to deliver ecosystem service outcomes rather than trying to disaggregate different ecosystem services which are delivered by the same restoration action.
- Proven demand for bundled schemes, e.g. Peatland Code.
- Currently majority of project costs via public funding (up to 85% based on additionality criteria in the Peatland Code). Good value - landowners claim 100% of the carbon units for just 15% of expenditure
- · Peatland Code contract lengths
- · Perceived complexity
- · calculations of emissions savings were too conservative, selling people short.

Stacking

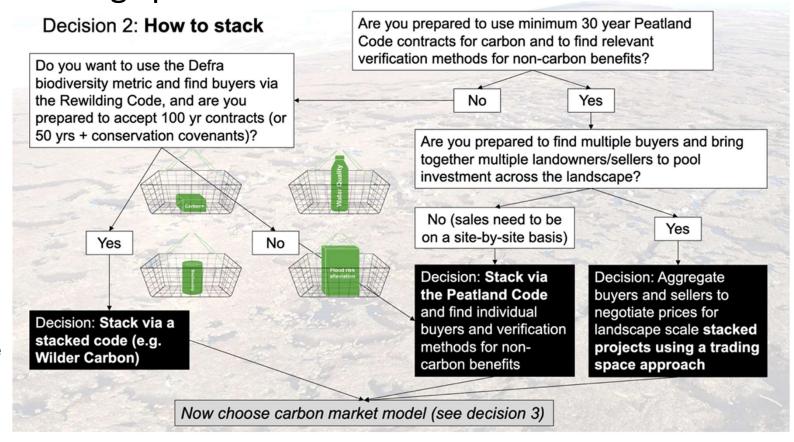
- Potentially likely to monetise a higher proportion of the benefits arising and income overall.
- May need greater private finance through stacking if public funding decreases.
- Higher costs and fees in navigating multiple codes and validation schemes and marketing to multiple buyers.
- Complexity of managing land for multiple complex outcomes overcoming additionality constraints.
- Lack of consistent standardised valuation and verification methods for non-carbon services
- Difficulties in predicting which ecosystem services will have value.



- Need for trials and case studies e.g NEIRF and Landscape Recovery
- Delivery of non-carbon benefits over shorter timescales
- fear of designations which restrict land use
- Additionality rules (e.g. BNG and carbon can't now be easily stacked) overcome by temporal or spatial differentiation.
- Preference for site / estate scale

How to Stack?

Site/Estate scale or Landscape scale through trading spaces?





How to Stack?

Site / Estate scale

- Simplicity fewer potential stakeholders.
- Zoning estates (spatially and/or temporally) for different services could overcome additionality issues
- Some peat restoration delivers limited financial return from carbon so might be better promoted through different markets such as biodiversity.

Landscape scale via trading spaces

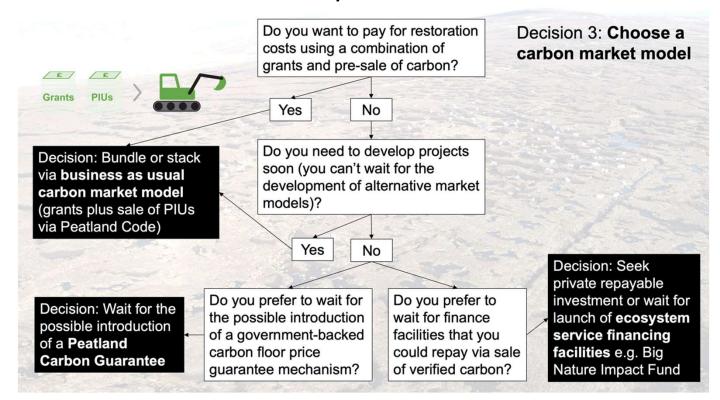
- With effective facilitation and incentives for collaboration, differences in land management objectives could be overcome with positive benefits from economies of scale.
- Potential for reduced / streamlined costs in monitoring, verification and validation for some investors who
 do not require this level of scrutiny.
- Savings to landowners if investors or the "scheme" itself managed the collaborative arrangements
- Spreading the management risk for land managers across multiple holdings.
- Gives investors a wider range of services to invest in.
- Complexity in allocating benefits between different investors in the "pool".
- High transaction costs of negotiating with multiple investors.
- Achieving management consensus between multiple land managers with multiple objectives would be complex, particularly on common land.



- Upfront capital comes from grants and landowner funds or sale of credits (PIUs).
- Better to hold onto credits and sell when they become VCUs. 15% minimum of costs now paid by project developer to keep 100% of credits.
- PIU model creates risk of failure or poorer returns on investment.
- Repayable finance such as the UK Nature Fund (was BNIF) may provide a solution.
- Government backed floor price and reverse auctions

Choosing a carbon market model

Grants combined with private funding (business as usual) or government backed floor price with repayable finance or carbon market private finance facilities?





Choosing a carbon market model

Business as usual - PIUs

- Better to hold on and wait until they become VCUs using own finance to cover 15% costs. Considered to be a good investment while others cover the 85% upfront costs.
- Won't work if 85% public grants are no longer available
- Buyers of other commodities produced by landowners may require insetting as part of their supply chain net zero needs so need to hold onto PIUs to future proof.
- Need to ensure fairness with tenants and develop benefit sharing agreements.

Floor price mechanism & reverse auctions

Feedback was mixed:

- Could provide some comfort and be useful if projects can wait until carbon prices are higher.
- Concern that reverse auctions promote a "race to the bottom" and encourage under-estimation of lifetime
 costs in order to "win" the bid.

Repayable finance

- Repayable finance pushes risk of failed projects onto investors with landowners shielded through e.g. special purpose vehicles.
- Concern that market conditions might make it difficult to repay finance.

Other barriers

- Length of contracts being locked in if a better deal comes along, impact on land values, restrictions on other parts of the business.
- Lack of understanding of these new markets and uncertainty around ELMs too much "up in the air".
- Concerns about transparency in carbon pricing. "How do we know the price of carbon?"
- View expressed that all the restoration completed to date wasn't eligible for the markets retrospectively so by being early adopters of peatland restoration landowners had lost out – need for a "carbon storage" incentive?
- Concerns about the motives of the investors how to ensure due diligence
- Concerns about precision of measurement in the Peatland Code and, if this changes over time, will it impact on the carbon market.
- Concerns over potential for non-delivery and insurance for this risk (e.g. from wildfire).
- · Restrictions on existing management such as burning and grazing.



Report recommendations

12 conclusions including:

- Pursuing a bundled approach through e.g Peatland Code but consider temporal and spatial separation to enable pseudo-stacking as other markets mature.
- Enable landowners to retain as many of the carbon credits as possible and minimise the use of PIUs?
- Ensure benefit sharing mechanisms are in place for tenants.
- Do not commit to non-carbon benefits in Peatland Code design plans but create documentary evidence of other benefits to enable access to future markets.
- Provide advice on the balance between funding restoration through public grants and private finance and clarification of the risk of missing out on one or the other in future.
- Production of guidance to help improve understanding of ecosystem markets.
- Engage with the investor and fund management community to co-develop investment structures that
 provide environmental safeguards and share benefits and risks equitably with local communities and,
 avoiding potentially inflationary land-acquisition models in favour of leasing arrangements with revenueshare agreements.





Thank you

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity entirely dedicated to conserving, protecting and enhancing Yorkshire's wildlife and wild places

ywt.org.uk

What are the challenges you are experiencing? Workshop session 2

Peninne PeatLIFE delivery partners























Refreshments and networking

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How do we move forward together? Workshop session 3

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Closing remarks

Chris Woodley-Stewart

North Pennines AONB Partnership

Peninne PeatLIFE delivery partners





















Thank you and goodbye

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