

# Terms of Reference for the Ecosystem Approach Working Group (EAWG)

## Purpose

The Scottish Government envisages the Ecosystem Services Theme (EST) providing an overarching framework across both research programmes. To achieve the synthesis of information and integration of data to meet its objectives the EST will need to draw information and expertise from all other themes. The purpose of the EAWG is to bring together working scientists from the Ecosystem Services theme with lead Principal Investigators (PIs) in other themes who can identify priorities, synergies and deliverables across the programme and partake in reviews and synthesis of information. As external data sources, information and expertise will likely to be needed, external scientists will be invited to join as full partners. These members will be scientists from key organisations who can benefit from working under a shared framework and can bring datasets to, and benefit from datasets generated by, the work of the theme.

## Core Functions

- 1) To **raise awareness** of the ES theme and the EA across other themes and external partners, and agree common approaches and standard definitions for contested concepts.
- 2) To **enable dialogue/knowledge exchange** and identify tactical opportunities for "synergies" (e.g. ensuring that Case studies and research sites are chosen to complement other interests; awareness and integration with other initiatives).
- 3) To partake in reviews and synergies of concepts and frameworks, and identify priority ES for study and exploration across the two programmes.
- 4) To facilitate access to information and data required from across the programme and from external organisations to undertake the assessment of ES and ecosystem service valuation.
- 5) To foster a new partnership of collaboration among researchers to effectively address current and future challenges effectively and with mutual benefit.

## Measures of Success

- New integrated datasets and databases on indicators of ES and values of ES.
- Joint publications with authorship drawn from members of EAWG.
- Research platforms (study sites, long-term experiments) are utilised by collaborations among MRPs and between MRPs and other research providers in CAMERAS
- Implementation and research on a set of common and shared scenarios of change and priority ES for Scotland within Theme 1 and, where relevant, across Themes.
- Establishment of new linkages and partnerships to address ES priorities for Scotland

## Membership and Mode of Working

The group will initially be chaired by a member of the EST team or a member of the EAWG Facilitation team (WP1.3 and WP1.4). Permanent members will comprise each of the WP leaders from WP1- 4 in the ES theme, nominated representatives from each of the other themes 2-8, as well as scientists from key external stakeholders e.g. CAMERAS, SG, NGOs, RSPB. Additional members (drawn from across the programme and externally) will be invited to attend workshops depending on the purpose and objectives of each workshop. Reviews, workshop reports and all relevant documents and data sets will be established on shared web site to facilitate joint working. Reviews and outputs will be authored jointly by contributing scientists.

## Limitations

The overall strategic direction of the Scottish Government research programmes has been set by the Scottish Government. An overall programme management group will be established to provide independent advice and help to the Programme Co-ordinators/Advisors and the Directors/CEOs of the Main Research Providers involved in delivering the required outputs specified by Scottish Government for the Programmes overall. An Ecosystem Services Working Group is nested within this overall structure and provides tactical inputs to ensure the effective delivery of the required outputs, and to maximise their potential benefits to the relevant end-user communities. The responsibility for steering the research programme resides with the commissioning body, Scottish Government.