

Can local knowledges be included in policies in a meaningful way?

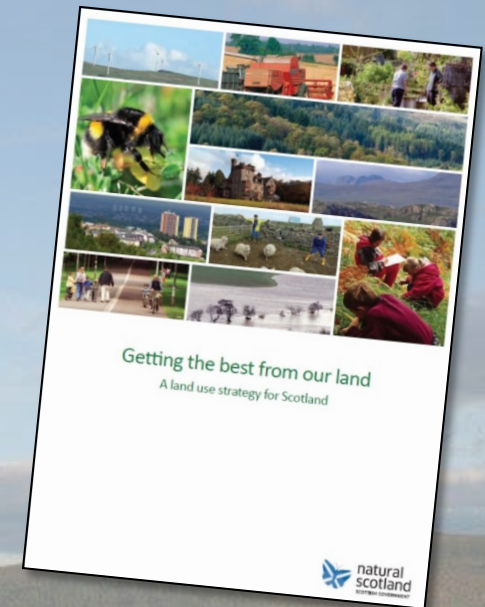


The James
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Background: The Scottish Land Use Strategy (2011)

- Ambitious, abstract, high-level document
- Promote multiple benefits from rural areas through better decision making
- Inclusion of stakeholders in decision making
- Compulsory for management of public lands, but not private



Background: The Scottish Land Use Strategy

- Two regional land use pilots: Aberdeenshire & Scottish Borders (~ 2 yrs, 2013-15)
- Trial & feedback → Revision of Land Use Strategy
- ‘Work closely with local decision makers’
- ‘Mechanism to guide future decision making’

Background: The Scottish Land Use Strategy

Combines an *Ecosystem Approach* and *Ecosystem Services* focus

Ecosystem Approach

'A strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way' (Convention on Biological Diversity)

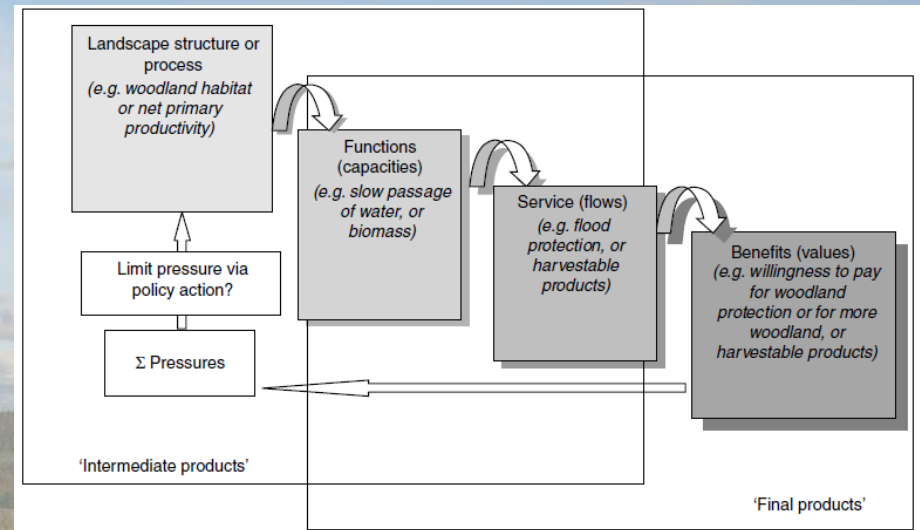
Malawi Principles:

- Decentralisation of decision making
- Stakeholder involvement
- Different forms of knowledge
- ...

Background: The Scottish Land Use Strategy

Ecosystem Services

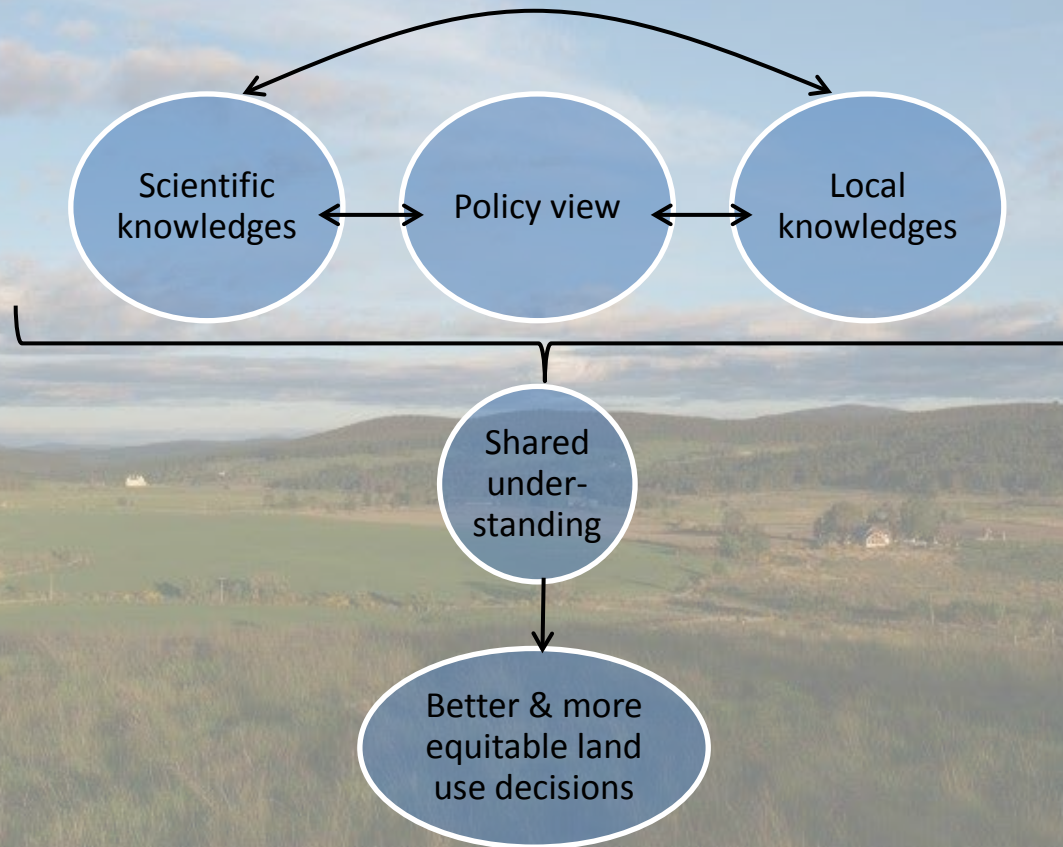
- Origins in ecology
- Processes in nature create goods and services for humans
- Humans can interfere with these processes
- Better (scientific) understanding of processes in nature & more explicit valuation of goods & services



Source: Haines-Young & Potschin 2010

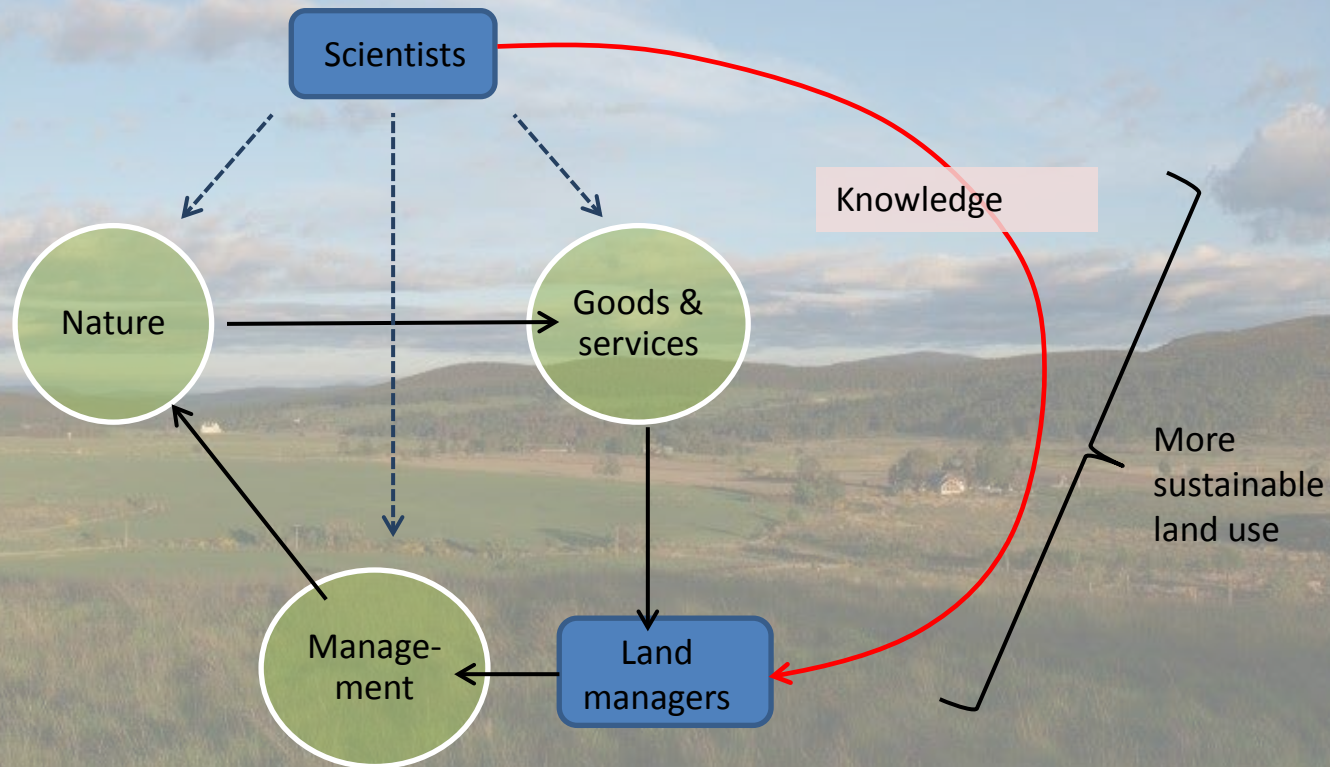
Background: Two different views of knowledge

Ecosystem Approach: Construction of a shared understanding from different forms of knowledge (normative)



Background: Two different views of knowledge

Ecosystem services: Knowledge flow from nature to scientists to land managers



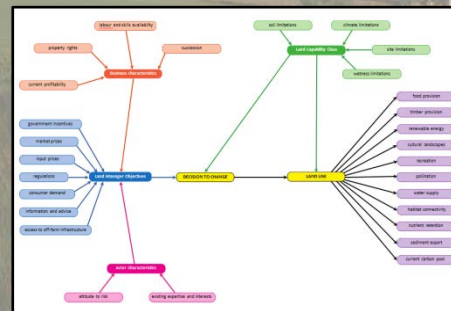
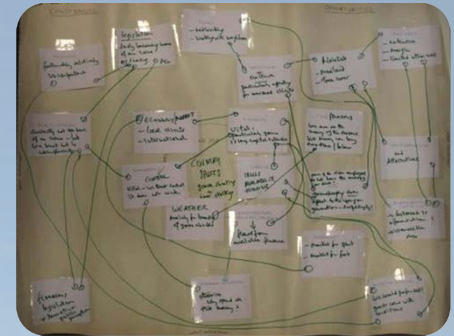
Our work

- Shared understanding through interaction of local knowledge & experience, scientific knowledge and policy ?
- How do the two different views of knowledge shape the Aberdeenshire Regional Land Use Pilot?



Activities

- Workshops and participatory exercises with local stakeholders
 - Engagement with scientists
 - Feedback to and engagement with Aberdeenshire Council
- ⇒ Shared understanding of the social-ecological system (?)



Some findings

Local stakeholders

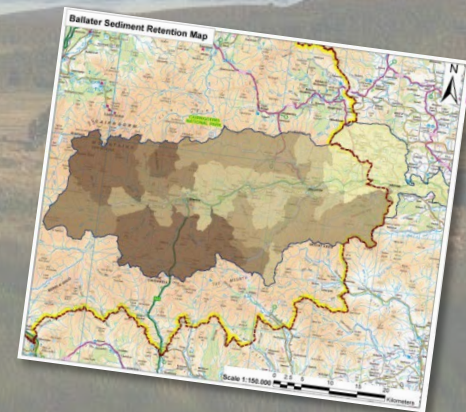
- Outside expert knowledge & local experience
- Local
- Complexity, multiplicity, overlaps, feedbacks and inter-linkages
- Tangible & intangible, individual & societal
- Holistic
- Importance of 'how'
- Interwoven knowledge & values
 - Land use and management as moral issues
 - Fairness



Some findings

Aberdeenshire Council

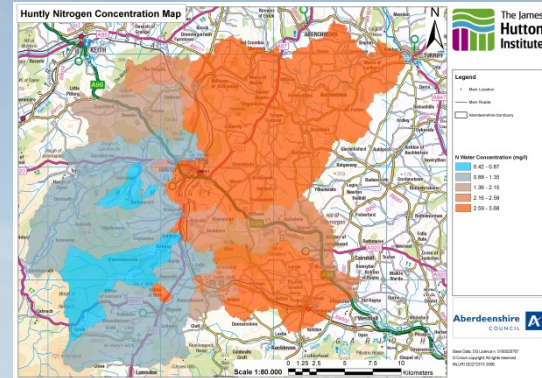
- Regional level
- Importance of 'what'
- Provide information & 'tool' (interactive maps & data)
- Guide land managers' decisions



Some findings

Scientists

- Willingness to engage
- Tools & data requirements
 - Focus on land cover
 - Lack of (quant.) data
 - ‘Model not able to do that’ (e.g., feedback loops, weighting factors differently, too many factors/levels...)



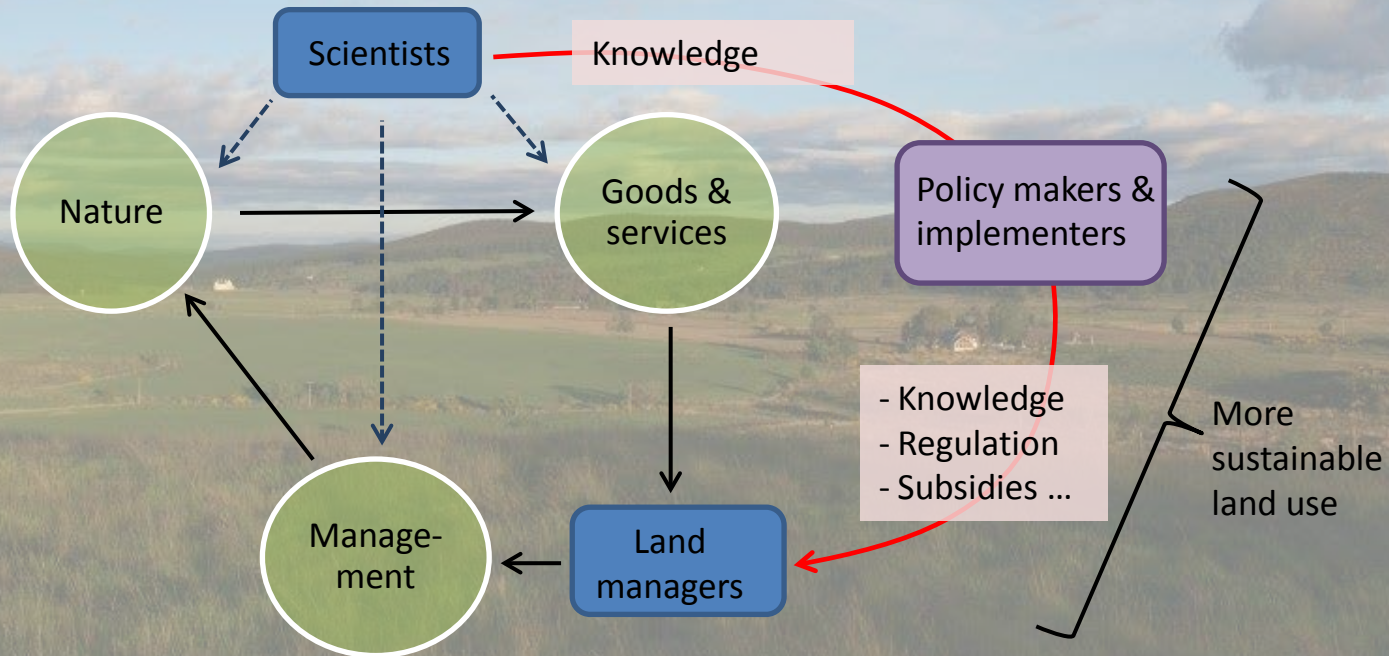
Inclusion of other knowledges?

- Other forms of knowledge seen as legitimate and relevant (?)
- Different views of roles
- Land Use Strategy
 - Ecosystem Approach vs. Ecosystem Services focus
 - Land use focus (measure, evaluate, control)
- Wish to be objective: The visible and the quantifiable → counteracts the inclusion of local knowledge and experiences
- Practicalities: time and resource constraints, familiarity,...
- Concerns about representativeness?

Knowledges as reflections of views of social order and roles?

Aberdeenshire Council

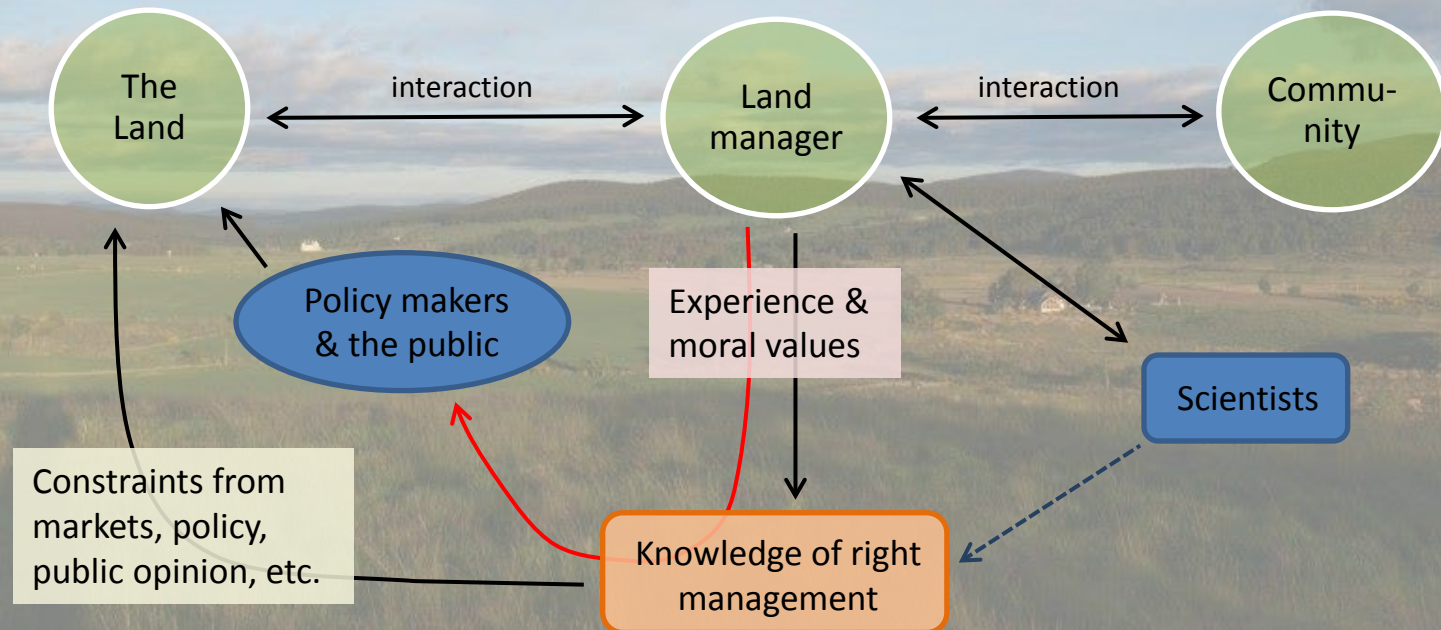
- Benefit of society
- Manage the land managers through subsidies, regulation, etc.
- Translate knowledge from scientists into policy and management

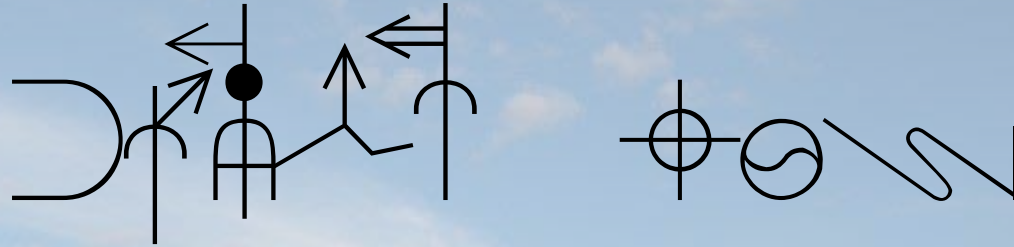


Knowledges as reflections of views of social order and roles?

Local land managers

- Personal, moral, long term relationship with land and local community
- Knowledge from experience and personal interaction with the particular piece of land
- Policy makers as detached with a short term, segmented view





Any questions?

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