Supporting an ecosystem service approach at the local/catchment scale

Kit (CJA) Macleod, Julia Martin-Ortega, Didac Jorda and Andy Vinten
The James Hutton Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen, Scotland • kit.macleod@hutton.ac.uk

The James Hutton Institute

CREW centre of expertise for waters

This poster aims to generate discussion through: 1) presenting the approach taken and results from a recent workshop where we 'co-constructed an initial common understanding of the Lunan catchment based on an ecosystem service approach with a broad range of stakeholders'; **and** 2) asking you 'What do you think is required for taking an ecosystem service approach at the local/catchment scale?'

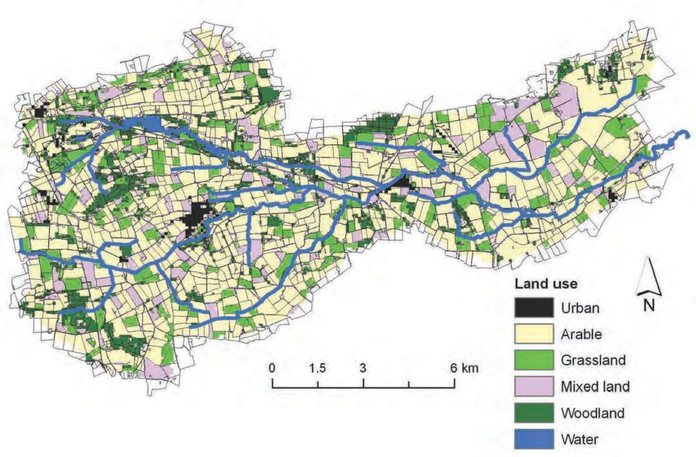
Lunan catchment workshop (14th March 2012)

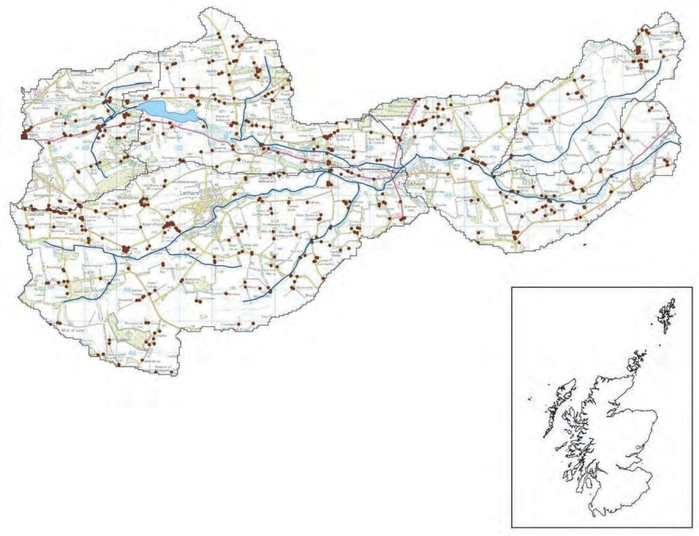
Where and why?

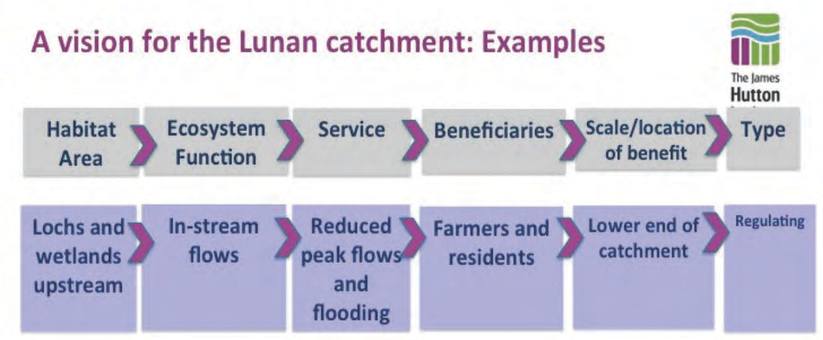
The waters of the Lunan catchment are under pressure from a wide range of pressures.

Who was involved?

21 participants that included farmers and land owners, researchers, local fishery and river trust, SEPA, SNH and local environmental consultants.

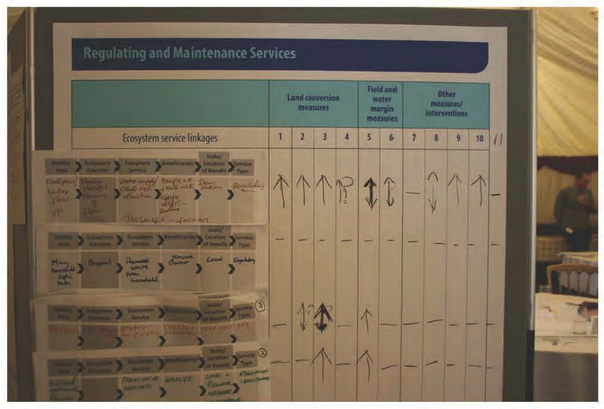


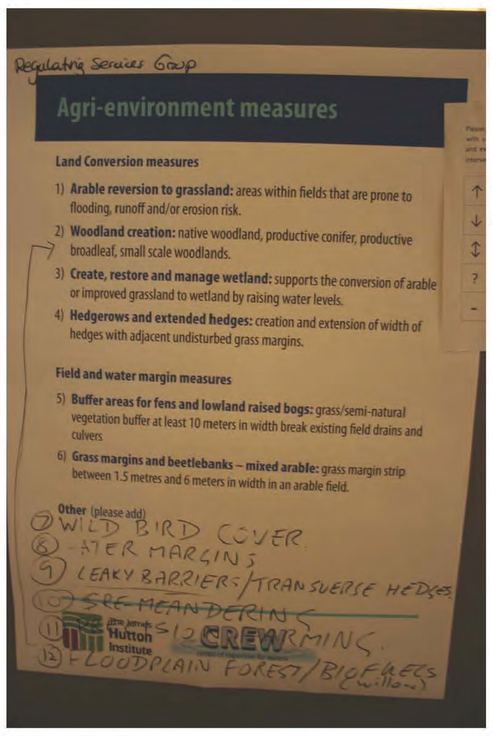




How we organised the workshop?

Following an introduction that included worked examples, small groups populated ecosystem service linkage templates that link habitats and areas to beneficiaries for different types of ecosystem services (Regulating and Maintenance; Provisioning; and Cultural and Social) (Haines-Young and Potschin, 2011). Then three larger groups assessed and consolidated this material and considered how land and water management interventions could affect the delivery of ecosystem services.





What we learned?

The participants identified over 45 ecosystem service linkages. In the evaluation of the workshop 16 of the participants found it useful or very useful, with the further five finding it somewhat useful. In response to the question "Do you think applying an ecosystem service approach to understanding the Lunan catchment would be useful?" One said very valuable, 11 said it would be valuable, a further eight said it would be somewhat valuable and one farmer chose the not very valuable option. Participants commented it may be the latest government buzz word and not fully adopted by government agencies; it is complex and may be lost on the public.

There are a number of challenges to taking an ecosystem service approach to catchment management. These include: complexity of ecosystem service delivery; ambiguity in what is an ecosystem service and where it is produced; and the surprising fatigue of some participants to hearing about ecosystem services, but not seeing practical activities to further the approach (like this workshop).

References

Haines-Young, R., Potschin, M., 2011. Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES): 2011 Update. Paper prepared for discussion at the expert meeting on ecosystem accounts organised by the UNSD, the EEA and the World Bank, London, December 2011. Contract No EEA/BSS/07/007, November 2011. European Environment Agency.

Acknowledgements: This work was funded by the Scottish Government through CREW and RESAS Theme 2 Water and Renewable Energy.