

# Building a Green Future: Transforming Land Use for Net Zero, Nature and People (LUNZ)

## Community Workshop for the Coordination and Translation Hub

London, May 03, 2023

### Agenda

Time	Activity	Lead / Presenter
10:30 – 11:00	Registration, Tea/Coffee available	
11:00 – 11:10	Welcome and Introductions	Liz Ogilvie (The collective) and Harriet Trewin (UKRI-BBSRC)
11:10 – 11:20	Participant introductions and networking	Liz Ogilvie (The collective)
11:20 – 11:30	Overview of Transforming Land use for Net Zero, Nature and People	Andrew Enow
11:30 – 12:05	Evidence into Policy – Perspectives from Government Departments and Devolved Administrations	Alistair Carson (DAERA) Dan McGonigle (Defra) James Davey (DESNZ) James Skates (Welsh Gov)
12:05 – 12:45	BREAKOUT DISCUSSION 1 - IMPACT	The Collective (Workshop facilitators) led the Breakout and Open floor sessions-
12:45 – 13:00	Open floor - For Sale and Wanted	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH	
14:00 – 14:10	Welcome Back - Open Floor	
14:10 – 14:50	BREAKOUT DISCUSSION 2 - Research focus and challenges	
14:50 – 15:05	Open floor - For Sale and Wanted	
15:05 – 15:40	BREAKOUT DISCUSSION 3 - Stakeholders	
15:40 – 15:55	Open Floor - For Sale and Wanted	
15:55 – 16:00	Next Steps and Close	Harriet Trewin (UKRI-BBSRC)

### Attendance

See attendance list in Annex 1

## Opening, Welcome and Introductions

### Purpose of the Workshop

- To provide prospective applicants with a chance to meet the funders, learn more about how the envisaged hub will work with policy makers and other key stakeholders, and lay the ground for networking among potential applicants towards building partnerships for formation of consortia.

### Who is in the room?

- Workshop participants submitted brief profile posters responding to four questions:
  - Who am I and where do I work?
  - What do I want to get out of this workshop?
  - Who would I like to speak to?
  - What am I bringing to the table?
- The purpose of this exercise is for participants to know who is in the room and identify people they may want to engage with, towards setting up a consortium.

### LUNZ programme Overview

- Andrew Enow gave a brief overview of the LUNZ programme, highlighting the scope of the programme and what the funders expect to get out of the Coordination and Translation Hub (see details in the slides - Annex 2; and in the [funding call](#) on the funding finder)

### Policy background and Government expectations (see details in the slides – Annex 2)

- **DAERA:** Alistair Carson commented on Northern Ireland's commitments to meeting ambitious net zero targets, pointed out the need for large scale transformation in the way land is used and managed in order to achieve the net zero targets, and stressed the importance of a joined-up approach in order to make maximum impacts.
- **Defra:** Dan McGonigle presented Defra's perspective of government expectations from the Hub, emphasising new ways of working and the need for systems understanding and agile responsive research to inform development of new policies on emerging challenges.
- **DESNZ:** James Davey stated the need for a good Project Portfolio Management (PPM) plan and defined what a good PPM should look like, while stressing the importance of making progress to deliver outputs that are good enough, rather than strive for perfection.
- **Welsh Gov.** James Skates stressed the importance of recognising differences across the 4 nations, and finding solutions that are adaptable to these differences by building relationships across the nations.

### Breakout Session 1: Impact

Participants were asked in their breakout groups to consider impacts. There were rich and diverse views emerging from various tables, but some major highlights include:

- 1) Defining what a successful Hub would look like – the key features would include:
  - Connection across four parts of the UK, incorporating diversity of perspectives and opinions. The Hub must be societally responsive and acceptable whilst being representative.
  - Inclusiveness, working across all relevant communities and representing a model of working together between research, policy, and practice. This includes incorporating industry and public perspectives as well as farmers' views from the very beginning to enable understanding risks of policy implementation and what is achievable. The Hub

needs to provide a platform that enables/empowers farmers and other land users to bring in their perspectives.

- Robustness to political pressures. The Hub should be an “immersion centre” that stands above party politics, and capable of providing a policy guidance framework that any government can buy into.
- Flexible and agile, able to quickly identify what works and what doesn’t, and provide the best available scientific evidence base to inform policy
- A dynamic and robust evidence base, serving as an access point or interface for users, and using different ways of working with what is available, but also critically weighing the trade-offs, bearing in mind that not everybody can or will win.
- Building on what already exists rather than reinventing things, but also bring in novelty in the understanding of natural sciences and how communities respond to new scientific evidence.
- Foresight on legacy and impact beyond the duration of the grant, bearing in mind that the situation in 50 years might be very different to what is being experienced today. The underlying economic, social and behaviour change trends, including trends in dietary changes, alongside the numerous future land use scenarios, all need to be considered in the long-term planning.

2) Outlining some expectations from the hub – impacts that the hub will be expected to deliver:

- Pilot studies and evaluation to test things in practice through a creative engagement process, and provide feedback within a short timeframe (agile response).
- Applying social economic science to enable integration of sectoral changes that ensure co-benefits, including of alternative uses of land other than agriculture, e.g., national parks, tourism, forestry, urban and peri urban.
- Sustainable livestock management that safeguards the livelihoods of communities and addresses social economic barriers.
- Effective public engagement to entrench proper understanding of the need for change, and the urgency associated with this – massive changes required over a very short time
- Effectively restore degraded peatlands -peatland degradation results in more emissions that the trees can take up.

3) General Considerations:

- Appreciating the scale of change that may be required in the next five years but concerned that political resistance to the desired changes may stand in the way. In addition, it is difficult to work across different nations in the UK due to differences in opinions and perceptions. There is also a risk of changes in ways of working across the UK nations, depending on the governments of the day.
- Recognising the potential for policy shifts to be challenged by market forces. The move away from the Common Agriculture policy (CAP) may result in reduced control over land and this could lead to differences across the UK in the benefits earned by landowners and users/managers as payment for public goods may vary from one nation to another. If market forces become the stronger driver of land use change, land use policies will have little or no impact on delivering the desired change.
- Recognising that the role of social science in driving behavioural change is more obvious now than had been in the past when it was not adequately appreciated by policy makers. Place-based approaches will be required to ensure that sub-regional variations in

behaviour, character, economic and political circumstances are considered when designing multi-scale policies and solutions. The hub will need to consider how change happens and what the social policy queues are.

- Recognising that net zero is no longer a scientific problem but rather a societal challenge that requires cultural transformation, with policymakers taking the lead to 'walk the talk' through their actions. It also requires proper engagement with local governments and supermarkets on their roles in driving change, as well as clear communication with farmers on what is required of them.

## **Breakout Session 2: Research Focus and Challenges**

Participants were asked in their breakout groups to consider research focus and challenges. Some of the research challenges suggested for the hub to address include:

- 1) Landscape mapping and knowledge synthesis to understand what is going on in the policy environment. A two-way conversation will be required to determine where research needs to go next.
- 2) Understanding the motivators and drivers of change (markets, supply chains, green finance, etc), and developing a monitoring and evaluation system/framework to ensure that policy implementation produces the intended effect/impact. This should include assessing the social and economic impacts of change (e.g., the impact of changes in the livestock sector on livelihoods and the rural economy) to avoid unintended outcomes.
- 3) Horizon scanning to explore mechanisms for helping/supporting governments to deliver set targets at national and local levels, with harmonisation between urban and rural settings. The mechanisms may include leverage of private capital.
- 4) Developing capacity and capability for agile response to global and regional shocks and emergencies, and understanding what works and how this can be enforced – tapping into the right motivators, and ensuring flexibility of new legislation to adapt to changes on the ground.
- 5) Understanding the wider landscape, including farm-level business and the general public, in order to optimise co-benefits – using social science, arts and humanities to help bring in social and cultural perspectives, including incorporation of citizen science.
- 6) Getting a better understanding of Greenhouse gas fluxes from different land uses – this will require accurate and complete sets of the underlying field data to reduce uncertainty in prediction models.
- 7) Understanding the potential for multifunctional landscapes, with consideration of a broad range of potential futures that we might have to deal with, and paying attention to potential negative outcomes (e.g., displacing emissions to other sectors or to other parts of the world) and how these can be avoided.
- 8) Identifying and introducing or implementing new technologies that can deliver specific outcomes.
- 9) Reconciling benefits and trade-offs and translating these into appropriate policies.
- 10) In the short term, focus on implementing the green economy and authentication of carbon markets; and in the longer term, work on joining up systems thinking around land use change and the associated benefits and trade-offs.

There will be a need to prioritise from the myriad of options available, based on some considerations such as the potential to drive behavioural change, ease of implementation, potential to deliver most effective impact, potential value in guiding the development or realignment of good policies, cost/benefit ratio (look for options with least cost and most benefit), value to the end-users (policy, industry, and other users), etc.

### **Breakout Session 3: Stakeholders**

Participants we asked in their breakout groups to consider key stakeholders, bearing in mind that the Hub would require a broad spectrum of actors to bring in new perspectives other than the Business as Usual and ensure a truly transdisciplinary approach. Key stakeholder groups would include:

- 1) Industry, landowners, farmers, and other land users/managers including parks and local communities.
- 2) Academics in public and private institutions, and policy/decision makers at all levels of government from local to national, and in public organisations and agencies.
- 3) Other hubs, networks, and groups – linking with these to get an insight of the lessons learned.
- 4) The Hub needs to ensure that the right people are involved, and this will require finding people who can help identify place/based challenges. The stakeholders involved should cover a cross-sectoral representation, bringing in new entrants that come with new perspectives that would otherwise not be heard of.
- 5) Different communities with a shared purpose will need to be connected and enabled to deliver regionally relevant solutions at the right scale, preferably focusing on specific shared questions. This will help avoid stakeholder fatigue.
- 6) The hub will need to cover the broad research landscape, but to be relevant at local and regional levels it may need to be multi-located to ensure the appropriate level of engagement with relevant stakeholders, whilst still ensuring synthesis of the knowledge and evidence at the national scale.
- 7) The hub will need to consider developing a novel methodology/approach for engagement around scenarios and potential futures using a systems approach. This may require the services of an engagement specialist.
- 8) The approach of the hub should be to work with the stakeholders, not for them. In doing so it is important to recognise the need for mutual learning as academics stand to learn from the experiences of the practitioners, who in turn, may be lacking in some skills and scientific understanding.
- 9) The Hub will benefit from some examples that can be shared where policy is engaging well with research, so it can draw from the lessons learned from such engagements. Specific examples from the perspectives of Devolved Administration will be particularly helpful.

### **Next Steps**

- 1) Expressions of interest will be welcome till 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 16:00. The forms for submission of EoI are available for download on the funding finder, and completed forms should be submitted by email to [tlunznp@bbsrc.ukri.org](mailto:tlunznp@bbsrc.ukri.org)
- 2) Invitation for full proposals will be sent out in early June after checking the EoIs for eligibility of the applicants and their institutions.
- 3) Full proposals (from invited EoIs) must be submitted through Je-S by 25 July 2023 at 16:00
- 4) Declaration of intent to lead a consortium for the Hub was pronounced by:
  - a. Heiko Balzter, University of Leicester.
  - b. Christine Foyer, University of Birmingham; and Susannah Bolton, SRUC.
  - c. Nik Petek Sargeant, University of Cambridge.
  - d. Lee-Ann Sutherland, James Hutton Institute.

Other potential applicants interested in joining any of these groups are encouraged to contact them directly.

## Annex 1. Workshop Attendance Register

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Graham Jellis	Agrifood Charities Partnership
Sarah Garry	British Society of Soil Science
Ximeua Schmidt	Brunel University London
Francesca Remanning	Cambridge University
Michelle Wan	Cambridge University/DESNZ
Nik Petek-Sargeant	Cambridge Zero and Archaeology
Chris Yap	City University/Defra
Paul Burgess	Cranfield University
Dan McGonigle	Defra
Roisin O'Riordan	Defra
Emanga Alobuede	Defra
Andy Clark	Defra
Nada Saidip	Defra
James Davey	DESNZ
Savio Moniz	DESNZ
Simon Thelwell	Harper Adams University
Scott Kirby	Harper Adams University
Iain Donnison	IBERS/Aberystwyth University
Lee-Ann Sutherland	James Hutton Institute
Oliver Perkins	King's College London/Defra
Liongxiu Han	Manchester Metropolitan University
Russ Thomas	Meat Promotion Wales
Mike Morecraft	Natural England
Eleanor Moore	Newcastle University/Willow
Tom Fayle	Queen Mary, University of London
Katerina Velchova	Rothamsted Research
Holly Shearman	Royal Agricultural Society/Innovation for Agriculture
Evie Arachoviti	Royal Agricultural Society/Innovation for Agriculture
Tom MacMillan	Royal Agricultural University
Anthony Ussher	Silas Science
Helen Aldis	Soil Association
Susannah Bolton	SRUC
Ben Reynolds	Sustain
Bridget Emmett	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Luke Williams	UKRI-BBSRC
Andrew Enow	UKRI-BBSRC
Harriet Trewin	UKRI-BBSRC
Jamie Stone	UKRI-BBSRC
Sarah Keynes	UKRI-ESRC
Oliver Knevvitt	UKRI-NEERC
Christine Foyer	University of Birmingham
Lili Jia	University of Cambridge

Neil Ward	University of East Anglia
Julie Ingram	University of Gloucestershire
Stefan Kepinski	University of Leeds
Heiko Balzter	University of Leicester
Will Blake	University of Plymouth
Tom Oliver	University of Reading
James Skates	Welsh Government
Anthea Stephenson	Willow

## Annex 2. Slides Presented at the workshop



LUNZ - Hub  
Workshop-03-05-202