Peatland Connections: Building Prosperity

What do we mean by public benefits?

Jo Pike, Deputy Chief Executive
Scottish Wildlife Trust
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“It is time to recognise that human capital and natural capital are every bit as important as financial capital.”

Ban Ki-moon
Former Secretary-General, United Nations
Natural capital

The earth’s stock of natural assets - including forests, rivers, land, minerals and oceans - that supply us with essential goods (such as food, medicine, fuel and building materials) and services (such as pollination, climate regulation and flood protection) on which all human life depends.
Undertake targeted campaigns and planning casework to protect high-priority marine and terrestrial habitats under threat.

In 2011, the UK National Ecosystem Assessment calculated the benefit peatlands bring to water quality as being worth £1.5 billion per year and the amenity benefits worth another £1.3 billion.
The global value of insect pollination to crop agriculture has been estimated at around €153 billion per annum.
If we don’t change our current practices, declines in ocean health and services will cost the global economy $428 billion per year by 2050.
Can’t see the TREES for the WOOD?

Natural capital explained . . .

Here’s what we get from WOOD

...but here’s what we get from TREES

- Pollinators
- Spiritual benefits
- Climate regulation
- Biodiversity
- Storm protection
- Carbon storage
- Recreation
- Shelter
- Improved water quality
- Resilience to diseases
- Natural flood defences
- Tourism
- Healthy soil
- Fresh air
- Wood fuel
- Employment
- Education
- Timber
- Food
- Medicines
HERE'S A VALUE WE CAN PUT ON WOOD

$ 1,000 per hectare

In Thailand, a study shows mangrove forests are worth about $1,000 per hectare if exploited for wood. ¹

...BUT LOOK WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE VALUE TREES

$ 21,000 a hectare

If left intact, their value for flood protection, carbon capture and as a breeding ground for fish is in excess of $21,000 a hectare. ¹

HERE'S THE BUSINESS VALUE OF WOOD

$ 0.4 Trillion

Global value of timber industry. ²

...BUT WE'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF VALUING TREES

$ 3.7 Trillion

Value of conserving forests just to cut greenhouse gas emissions. ³
Develop policy recommendations and secure their promotion by key influencers and adoption by decision-makers.
THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

1. NO POVERTY
2. ZERO HUNGER
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4. QUALITY EDUCATION
5. EQUALITY
6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13. CLIMATE ACTION
14. LIFE BELOW WATER
15. LIFE ON LAND
16. PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

World Forum on Natural Capital
EDINBURGH 2015
“Shifts in our climate bring potentially profound implications for insurers, financial stability and the economy [...] The horizon for monetary policy extends out to 2-3 years. For financial stability it is a bit longer, but typically only to the outer boundaries of the credit cycle – about a decade. In other words, once climate change becomes a defining issue for financial stability, it may already be too late.”

Mark Carney, Governor, Bank of England
September 2015
Natural Capital Restoration: payments targeted at delivery of public benefits and addressing societal risks

Natural Capital Enhancement: payments incentivising actions to build natural capital

Natural Capital Maintenance: payments to maintain stocks of natural capital

Regulations: retention and implementation of existing regulations, with additional regulation to address gaps
WHAT’S IN A DRAM?

You will need . . .

- WATER
- BARLEY
- OAK TREES
- DRAMATIC LANDSCAPES

Preparation in advance

FORM THE PEATLAND

Makes £5 billion per year*

Soak moss and other plants, store in damp conditions and leave to rise for 10,000 years. Healthy peatlands add flavour, filter water and provide flood protection, as well as being an excellent store for carbon.
Method

1: FILTER THE WATER

Squeeze rain clouds over fields and hillsides and allow water to filter through peat and other soils. If your rain is too acidic try reducing the release of carbon dioxide, sulphur and nitrogen into the atmosphere.

2: GROW THE BARLEY

Sprinkle barley grains over well managed, fertile soil and leave in a stable climate. If the mix is too wet and cost is an issue, try inexpensive natural solutions like planting trees to slow down water flow. To bring the whole thing to life, substitute pesticides with small birds and insects.

3: RE-USE THE OAK

To add interesting flavours, source oak barrels already used in other processes. In the 150 years it takes an oak tree to mature, it is an important home for wildlife. Be sure to re-use your barrels as 150 years is a long time to wait.
4: PRESERVE THE LANDSCAPES

Preserve dramatic natural landscapes and brand-defining species to evoke the deep connection with nature and promote a distinctly Scottish identity. Wild landscapes can also help to provide recreation and inspiration for staff and customers.

It's not just the whisky industry that relies on natural capital. **We all do.**

Join the Scottish Forum on Natural Capital and learn how the whole economy relies on the health of our natural environment.

[naturalcapitalscotland.com](http://naturalcapitalscotland.com)

@ScotNatCap   #ScotNatCap
• How do we communicate the public benefits of healthy peatlands imaginatively?

• How much is about benefits and how much is about need?

• And how should we decide which private benefits are acceptable?
Thank you