



# Methods for valuing the benefits of peatland restoration: a co-developed user guide

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 @YorkshireiCASP

# Outline

1. The Yorkshire iCASP programme
2. Peatland practitioners' needs
3. Co-development of an user guide
4. Key features
5. Views from the users

# The iCASP programme

- NERC funded programme to generate benefits for Yorkshire by applying environmental science to catchment challenges
- Led by University of Leeds in partnership with 16 regional Springboard partners (including MMF & YPP)
- Co-development of science-based ‘solutions’ to respond to regional needs

# Practitioners

Yorkshire Peat Partnership and Moor for Future are dealing with large-scale peatland restoration projects

€16million MoorLIFE2020 project managed by MFF

€6.6million EU LIFE Project and Defra's new £10million initiative, partly managed by YPP



# Practitioners needs

- Understanding the existing evidence of types and value of benefits of peatland restoration
- Communicating about those values and raising public awareness
- Making the case for investment in restoration and justify spends
- Stimulating private investment
- Helping management decisions on where to restore (to maximize benefits)

# Guidance needed to

- Better understand existing methods for valuing benefits provided by peatlands
- Understand what the methods entail (difficulty, resources needed, etc.) so that their application can be planned and managed as part of the restoration programmes
- Demonstrate existing evidence of values through examples





# Co-development of peatland tailored user guide of valuation methods

# Objective

- Increase capacity of staff working on peatland restoration in making decisions about valuation techniques and allocating resources
- From the existing available methods:
  - How to know which one to use and how to use it?
  - How costly/difficult are they to implement?
  - Are special skills needed?
  - ....
- With acknowledgment that application of some of the methods will still require external expert input



# How?



## Co-development workshops and sustained interaction

- What do we need?
- What is possible to achieve?
- How to make it accurate/detailed enough without converting it into an environmental economics book! ?.... etc....

# Key features

## **Request: Understanding different valuation methods....**

- Introduction to valuation of ecosystem services (what it is? what it is not?)
- Simple description of the valuation methods relevant to peatlands
- Summary of main advantages and disadvantages
- “Be aware” sections highlighting critical points that require attention in the application of method

## Request: What method for which service?

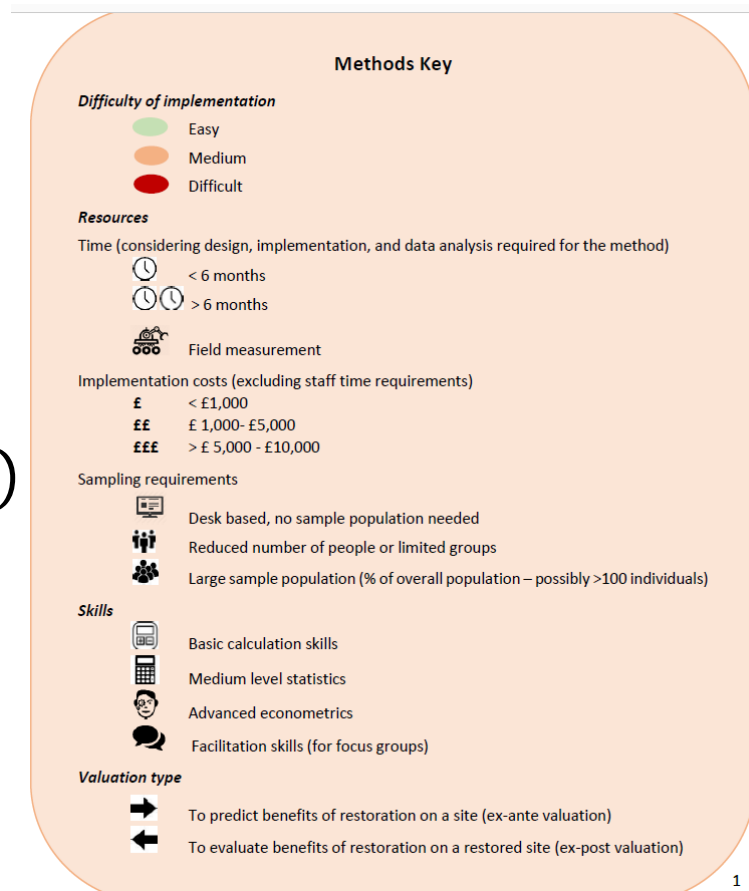
→ We described at least 1 method for valuing main benefits and bundles of services :

- Carbon benefits
- Water quality benefits (including both drinkable water + ecological status)
- Flooding risk mitigation benefits
- Recreational and cultural benefits
- Bundle of benefits

# Request: Choosing a method

→ A 'key' associated to each of the methods, with indicators on:

- Difficulty of implementation
- Resources needed  
(time, costs, sampling requirement)
- Skills required
- Valuation timing (ex-ante/ ex-post)



## **Request: ‘Real’ illustrations of method application...**

→ Illustrations through existing applications – open access if possible

## **Request: Evidence (beyond method description)**

→ Compilation of and reference to existing evidence (not exhaustive but comprehensive)

→ Aim is to help communicate about peatland benefit values and make the case for investment in restoration

## **Request: What if you can't implement the method 'perfectly'?**

- Considerations on sampling procedures, targeted population, etc.
- Examples of cheaper/easier alternatives to stated-preferences method (deliberative valuation)

## **Request: Illustration on how to use the values**

- Cost-benefit analysis of restoration
- Design of mechanisms to incentive land management change (eg. PES, Peatland Code)



# Format & Timelines

Interactive pdf that will be made widely available online

Content under review

Interactive pdf to be produced by November 2018

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