



SRUC 

Re-thinking  
policy impact

# What is policy impact?

What is the evidence that public money leads to public goods delivery from agri-environment schemes?



## Key messages

- There is strong evidence that public goods including climate change mitigation, improved water quality and soil health can be provided by several on-farm interventions, such as watercourse fencing to exclude livestock, conservation tillage and planting hedges in arable land
- However, for the majority of options and public goods investigated, evidence was mixed or weak, and it was not possible to assess the magnitude or rate of change, requiring more research
- There are policy options that could prioritise public money for public goods that can most reliably be delivered, while developing the evidence-base for interventions that are feasible on-farm via Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) pilot trials



### Tenancies

125. Tenancy arrangements can be a barrier to tenant farmers implementing nature-based solutions. Tenant farmers work around 30% of land in the UK.<sup>255</sup> But their tenancy contracts can contain clauses that require them to manage land only for agricultural purposes.<sup>256</sup> There is also little motivation for tenants to invest in nature-based solutions if the long-term benefits will accrue to the landowner rather than to them. We heard that this can incentivise suboptimal land management, because the focus is on generating profit from the land in the short term.<sup>257</sup> Furthermore, short term tenancy contracts mean that tenant farmers do not have sufficient time to oversee changes in land use. Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park acknowledged that the Government would “not be able to meet our targets” without the full involvement of tenant farmers, but that he would “not pretend that we [the Government] have resolved those issues.”<sup>258</sup>
126. **Professor Mark Reed**, the Professor in Rural Entrepreneurship, at Scotland’s Rural College, told us of a possible solution. There are “contractual arrangements” where “the units are owned by the landowner” but where the “benefits” are shared between landowners and tenants.<sup>259</sup>
127. **Tenancy contracts impede the implementation of nature-based solutions. More flexibility in these contracts is needed for the Government’s schemes to be a success.**
128. **We recommend that the Government urgently addresses the barriers tenant farmers face to engage with the Environmental Land Management Schemes. This could include mechanisms for landlords and tenants to negotiate arrangements that allow them to share the costs and benefits of improvements.**

### Supply chains

129. We heard concerns that an insufficient supply of the resources needed for nature-based solutions could slow their adoption. From Dr Waring, we heard concern about ensuring sufficient “nurseries and ... seed stock to support the scale of expansion”.<sup>260</sup> Dr Lisa Norton told us that for “productive, species-rich grassland”, it is “difficult to get hold of suitable seed.”<sup>261</sup> Relying on overseas imports of trees risks importing pathogens. Professor David Coomes said that “there are horrifying statistics about how many new pests and diseases arrive each day” and he urged the Government to counter these risks with phytosanitary measures.<sup>262</sup> We have already emphasised the importance of resilience, and imported diseases threaten the long-term future of many trees.
130. **We recommend that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs supports the domestic industry for seeds and saplings and only imports bio-secure seeds and saplings where necessary, and with stringent phytosanitary safeguards.**

<sup>255</sup> House of Commons Library, Tenant Farmers, Library Note SN/SC/1337, May 2010

<sup>256</sup> Written evidence from the NFU (NSD0017)

<sup>257</sup> Q.13 (Professor Chris Collins)

<sup>258</sup> Q.141 (Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park)

<sup>259</sup> Q.10 (Professor Mark Reed)

<sup>260</sup> Q.2 (Dr Bonnie Waring)

<sup>261</sup> Q.13 (Dr Lisa Norton)

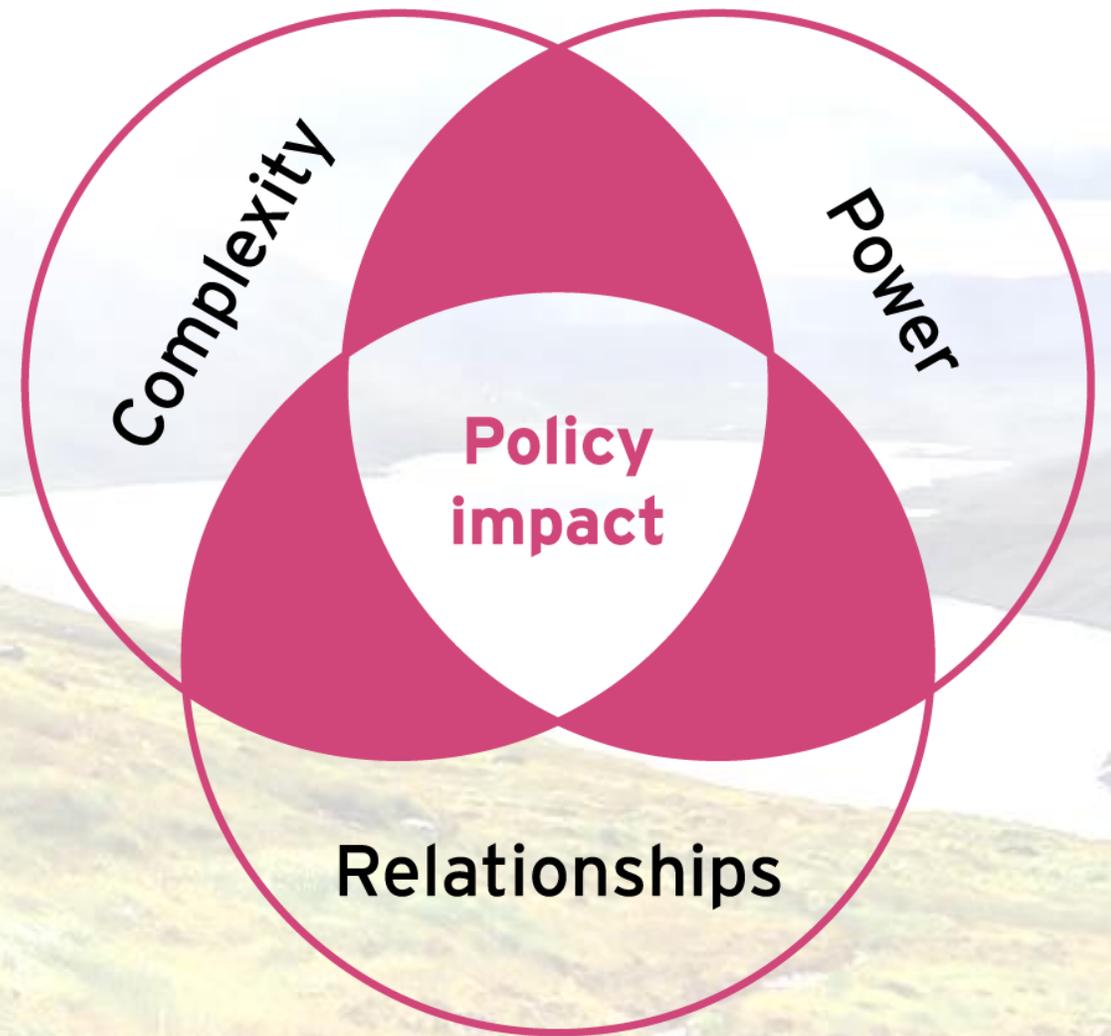
<sup>262</sup> Q.6 (Professor David Coomes)



# There is no such thing as (purely) evidence-based policy



# Responsible policy impact



# Who's relevant? 3i's

1. Who is interested (or not)?
2. Who has influence (to facilitate or block impact) or not?
3. Who is impacted (positively or negatively)?

The screenshot shows a Springer Link article page. At the top, the Elsevier logo is on the left, and the journal title 'Journal of Environmental Management' is on the right, with 'Volume 373, January 2025, 123437' below it. The article title is 'Analyzing who is relevant to engage in environmental decision-making processes by interests, influence and impact: The 3i framework'. The authors listed are M.S. Reed, E.A. Jensen, S. Noles, D. Conneely, H. Kendall, M. Raley, A. Tarrant, N. Oakley, C. Hinson, V. Hoare, K. Marshall, and L. Pugliese. Below the article title, there is a section for 'Reimagining the language of engagement in a post-stakeholder world' with a 'Download PDF' button and a note that the user has full access. At the bottom, there is a list of authors and a 'Use our pre-submission checklist' link.

Journal of Environmental Management  
Volume 373, January 2025, 123437

Research article

## Analyzing who is relevant to engage in environmental decision-making processes by interests, influence and impact: The 3i framework

M.S. Reed <sup>a</sup>, E.A. Jensen <sup>a,b</sup>, S. Noles <sup>a,b</sup>, D. Conneely <sup>a</sup>, H. Kendall <sup>c,d</sup>, M. Raley <sup>c</sup>, A. Tarrant <sup>e</sup>, N. Oakley <sup>a,d</sup>, C. Hinson <sup>f</sup>, V. Hoare <sup>f</sup>, K. Marshall <sup>g</sup>, L. Pugliese <sup>h</sup>

Home > Sustainability Science > Article

### Reimagining the language of engagement in a post-stakeholder world

Overview Article | Open access | Published: 29 April 2024  
Volume 19, pages 1481–1490, (2024) | Cite this article

Download PDF You have full access to this open access article

Mark S. Reed , Bethann Garramon Merkle, Elizabeth J. Cook, Caitlin Hafferty, Adam P. Hejnowicz, Richard Holliman, Ian D. Marder, Ursula Pool, Christopher M. Raymond, Kenneth E. Wallen, David Whyte, Marta Ballesteros, Sadiq Bhanbhro, Siniša Borota, Marnie L. Brennan, Esther Carmen, Elaine A. Conway, Rosie Everett, Fiona Armstrong-Gibbs, Eric Jensen, Gerbrand Koren, Jenny Lockett, Padi Obani, Seb O'Connor, ... Mascha Stroobant

Use our pre-submission checklist →  
Avoid common mistakes on your manuscript.

Part of a collection:  
Concepts, Methodology, and Knowledge

# Evidencing policy impacts

1

News story

## Budget 2020: What you need to know

Measures announced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak in the Budget.

Published 11 March 2020  
From: [HM Treasury](#) and [The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP](#)



### 6. Green priorities and protecting the planet for the future

- Flood defence investment of a record £5.2 billion over six years will better protect 336,000 properties
- £39 million in the Environment Agency's network of water supply and water navigation assets
- £500 million to support the rollout of super-fast electric vehicle charging network
- £533 million to extend Plug-in Grant schemes for ultra-low emission vehicles to 2023.
- We will establish Carbon Capture and Storage in two sites to capture CO2 emissions before they are released into the atmosphere.
- Launching a new £100m scheme to help households and small businesses invest in low carbon heating systems, and consulting on introducing a Green Gas Levy to increase biomethane production for the gas grid
- A Green Heat Networks scheme to encourage new and existing heat networks to adopt low carbon heat sources, backed by £270 million funding.
- £640m Nature for Climate Fund to plant more than 40 million trees and restore 35,000 hectares of peatland in England
- Up to £25m to create the Nature Recovery Network in England

Credible link between policy and research (even if not cited)



### Acknowledgements

The Committee would like to thank:  
**The team that prepared the analysis for this report:** Ella Davies, Eva Krimmova, Richard Milner, Alexandra Scott and India Thirananthan, with oversight from Chris Clark and Mike Thompson.  
**Other members of the Secretariat who contributed to this report:** Tom Andrews, Jo Barrett, Kathryn Brown, James Clarke, Tom Doodes, Brendan Freeman, James Lee, Charles O'Riordan, Fenny Serna and Gae Taylor.  
**Land use expert advisory group led by Prof Allan Buckwell**, and including Patrick Begg (National Trust), Simon Billing (Eating Better Alliance), Prof Iain Dounson (University of Aberystwyth), James Highmore (Scott's Forest Carbon), Dr Stephen Rensford (Nottingham University), **Prof Mark Reed** (Newcastle University), Prof Jonathan Scarlett (National Farmers' Union) and Susan Twining (Country Land & Business Association).  
**Delta expert workshop** chaired by Prof Tim Benton (Chatham House), and including Judith Batthorpe (Ganeshbury), Simon Billing (Eating Better Alliance), Hazel Culley (MGS), Mike Hansen (Bristol Strang), Professor Susan Jebb (University of Oxford), Professor Diana Thomas (Mulluska University of Applied Sciences, Bielefeld), Dr John Thorne (University of East Anglia), and Prof David Tilman (Cornell University).  
**Assumptions for restoring upland peat**

Category	Value	Unit	Notes
Percentage of upland peat in the UK	12.5%	%	Based on the 2015 National Land Use Review (NLUR)
Percentage of upland peat in the UK that is degraded	12.5%	%	Based on the 2015 National Land Use Review (NLUR)
Percentage of upland peat in the UK that is severely degraded	12.5%	%	Based on the 2015 National Land Use Review (NLUR)

2

Evidence used in credible pathways

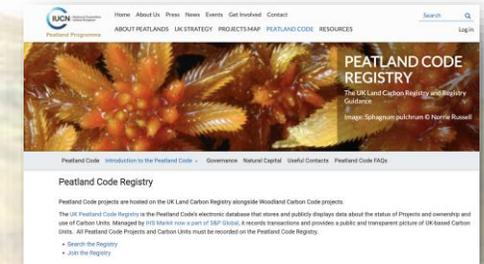
3



Testimonial to prove causal link

4

Implementation and benefits





SRUC

[www.sruc.ac.uk](http://www.sruc.ac.uk)