



Scotland's Research Strategy for Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, 2027-32

Professor Mathew Williams

**Chief Scientific Adviser for Environment,
Natural Resources and Agriculture**

Scottish Government

Today's Objectives

- ▶ Outline the draft **ENRA Research Strategy 2027-2032** and elicit stakeholder feedback
- ▶ Showcase the excellence and impact of the Scottish Government funded ENRA Research portfolio
- ▶ Support efforts to build **impact** networks and collaborations with researchers, policy makers and wider stakeholders across the rural and environment research and policy landscape in Scotland.

Research Vision

*“to support high quality research
that is relevant and responsive
to Scotland’s environment,
communities, people and the rural
economy”*



Strategic Context

- ▶ The ENRA Research Programme is a multidisciplinary portfolio of research.
- ▶ Structured in five-year cycles to enable long term strategic research linked to government priorities.
- ▶ The new strategy outlines the approach for the next cycle, 2027–2032.
- ▶ The programme directly supports Scotland's commitment to addressing **global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss**.
- ▶ The research also supports agriculture, food production, and land management, helping Scotland **build a sustainable and resilient economy**.

Evolution: Moving to Outcome Focused Approach

The Scientific Advisory Board has advised more clarity in defining the overall structure of the research, its delivery and outcomes:

- ▶ Structure the research portfolio to be more integrated and systematic
- ▶ Focus on delivering key outcomes for our stakeholders, enhancing impact

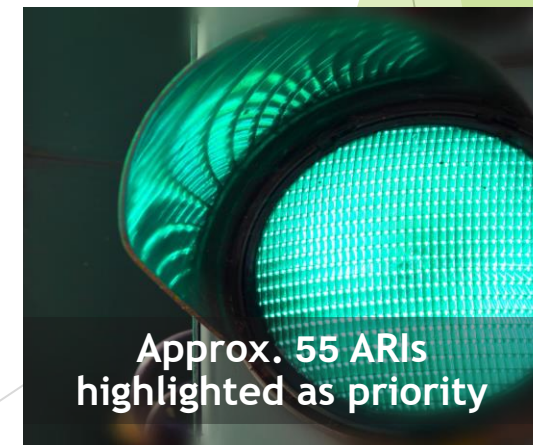
2027-2032 ENRA Research Strategy Approach

and key
customers



Gathering our research asks

- ▶ We have engaged with key Scottish Government policy, agencies and researchers to identify Area of Research Interest (ARIs)
- ▶ The ARIs are included in the strategy and are subject to further prioritisation and public consultation.
- ▶ ARIs will be published as a signal to the wider sector of Scottish Government's priorities.

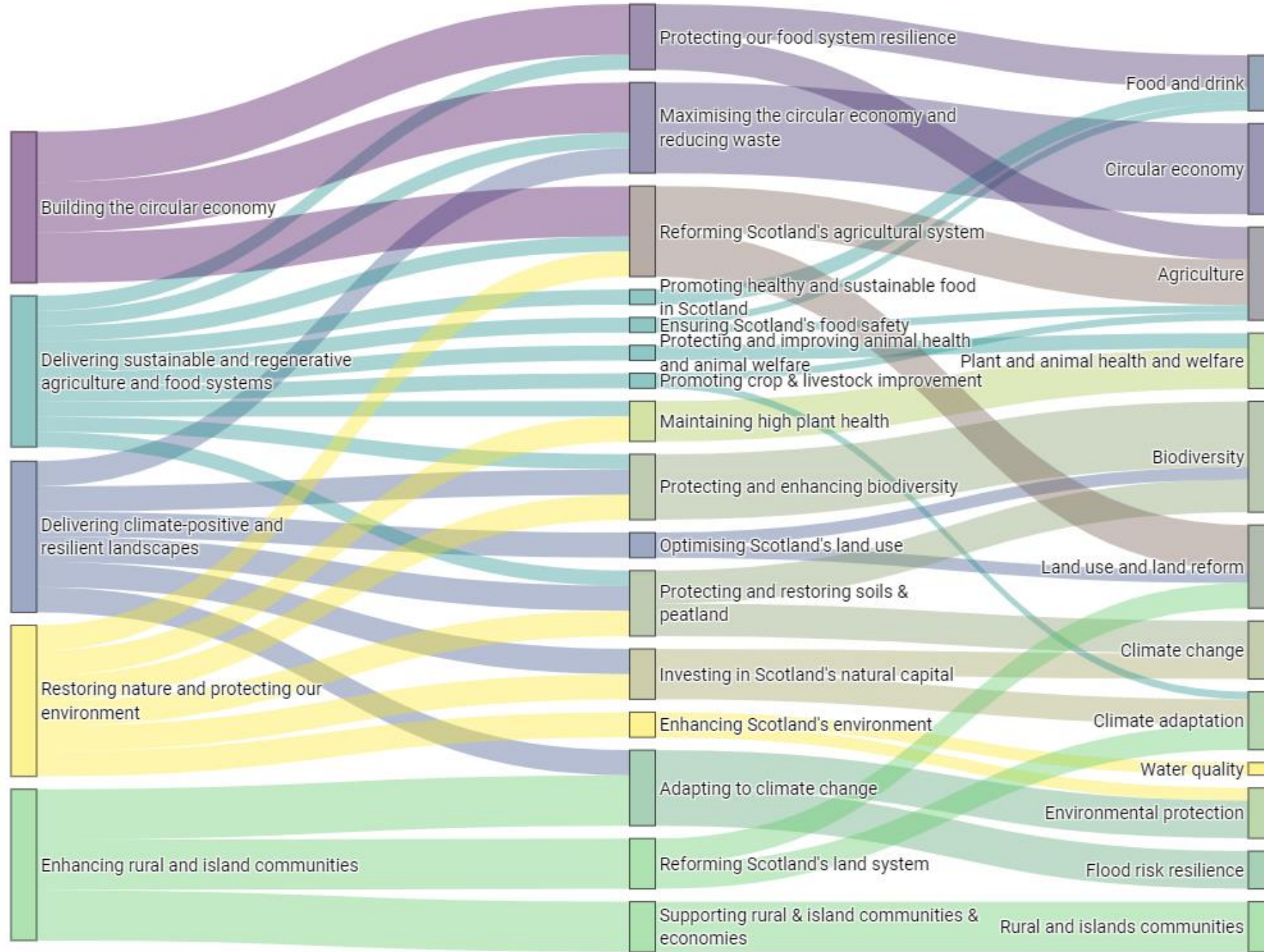


New Research

- ▶ Optimising Scotland's land-use for multiple objectives
- ▶ Assessing the risks of wildfire
- ▶ Adaptive management approaches for grazers
- ▶ Strengthening Scotland's food system resilience
- ▶ Integrating models and data, e.g. LiDAR



Connecting Missions-Challenges-Policy Areas



MISSIONS

CHALLENGES (ARIs)

POLICY AREAS

What does research deliver for customers?

Effective policy for Government

Decision
support tools

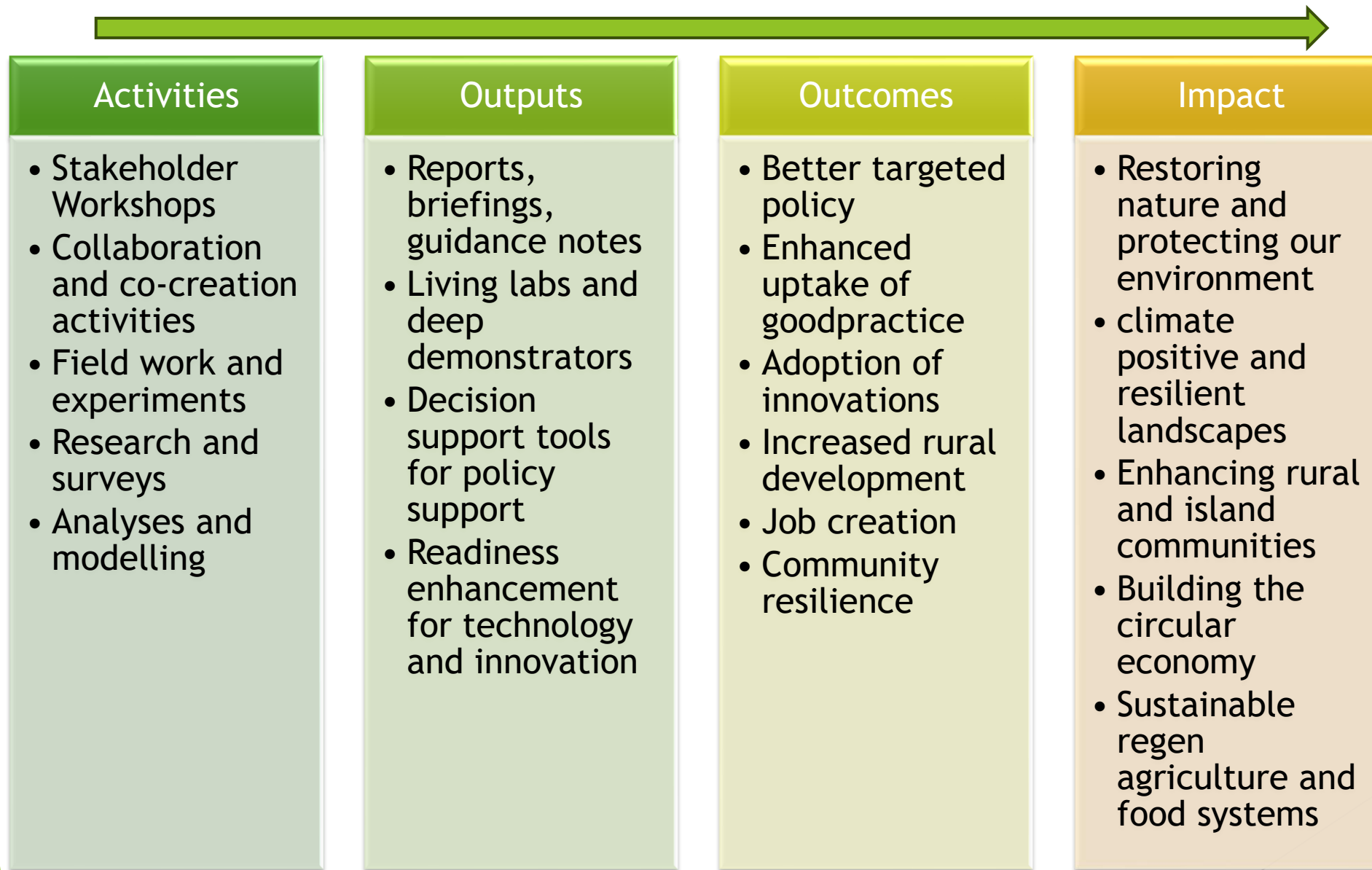
Better practice for
producers/land managers

Living Labs

Support for innovation

Enhancing
readiness

Theory of Change



Delivering our investment

Strategic Research Programme

- Long term research to support ARIS
- Main Research Providers used to deliver
- Processes to support flexibility
- Support for living lab activities

Underpinning National Capacity

- Support for National Collections
- New support for integrated data and modelling

Centres of Expertise

- Interfaces between policy and research
- We will review the scope of subjects covered to ensure that the impact of our investment is maximised

Impact Investment & Responsive Research

- Focus on impact
- Deliver effective knowledge exchange tools
- Collaboration with other UK funders or industry stakeholders

The Draft Strategy for 2027- 32 Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Research *consultation is open*

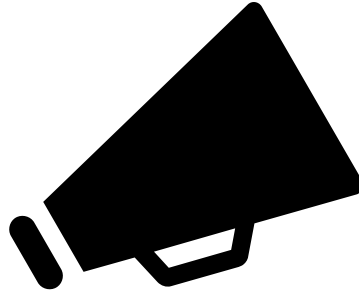


GIVE YOUR VIEWS

We are now seeking views on these proposals to help inform and shape the future direction of environmental and agricultural research in Scotland. Give your views here:

<https://consult.gov.scot/environment-forestry/draft-strategy-environment-2027-2032/>

If you would prefer to respond to the consultation via email, or have any questions, please use: RESASConsultation2025@gov.scot



Consultation on 2027-32
Environment, Natural Resources
and Agriculture (ENRA)
Research Strategy

August 2025

 Scottish Government
Riaghaidh na h-Alba



Your
Feedback-
More
interaction



Today's structure

- ▶ Delivering impact session with Q&A
- ▶ Key note with Sir Ian Boyd on science-policy interactions
- ▶ Poster sessions on ENRA science and research
- ▶ **Roundtable Discussions to answer key Impact questions:**
 - ▶ Living Labs to enhance practice
 - ▶ Decision support for policy
 - ▶ Adoption of new technology and innovation
- ▶ Finish with prize giving by Prof Calum Semple, CSA-Scotland