



# Environmental Co-operation Action Fund: Introduction

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# Agenda

14:00 Welcome and overview of ECAF

14:15 Presentations on ECAF priorities

- SNH
- SEPA
- FCS

14:45 Q&A (10 minutes)

15:00 Breakout group 1

15:25 Breakout group 2

15:50 Final reflections

16:00 Tea/coffee



# Need for ECAF

- Many environmental land management objectives are delivered most effectively at a **landscape scale**
- Typically requires an external **facilitator** to oversee co-operation across multiple holdings



# ECAF priorities

ECAF projects must help to deliver one of the following priorities:

- Habitat and degraded ecosystem restoration
- Conservation of vulnerable priority species
- Control of invasive non-native plant species
- Deer management
- Catchment management for water quality
- Physical restoration of water bodies
- Natural flood management
- Woodland creation



# What activities does ECAF support?

- Facilitation costs (up to £300 per day) + actual costs
- Examples of facilitation activities:

## Phase 1

- Engaging participation
- Preparing a landscape-scale management plan
- Preparing individual holding plans

## Phase 2

- Overseeing and adding value to project delivery
- Reporting and monitoring

- ECAF does **not** support the costs of on-the-ground delivery – applications must be made to AECS, FGS or other public funding



# Who can apply to ECAF?

- An individual facilitator
  - with the relevant experience, who has identified the need for a landscape-scale environmental project and intends to develop co-ordinated action
- An organisation
  - e.g. a public sector organisation, a private sector organisation, a constituted not-for-profit organisation or a constituted group



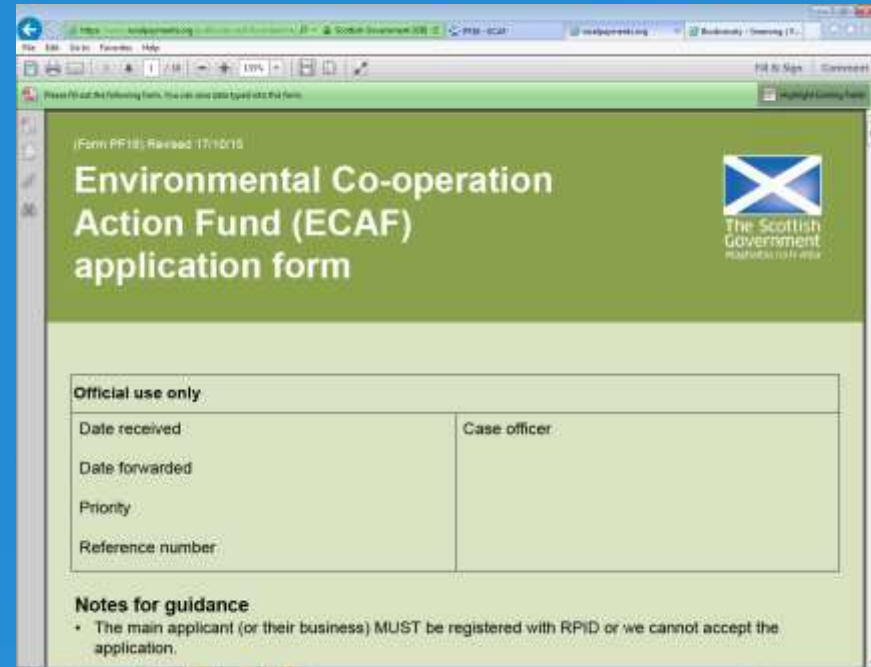
# Eligibility requirements

- Project must deliver:
    - one of the **ECAF priorities**
    - **additionality**
  - Project area must:
    - include **at least 2 holdings**
    - represent an **appropriate minimum spatial scale**
    - be located within the relevant **AECS/FGS target areas** (if delivered under SRDP)
- Full details on ECAF webpage



# How to apply

- Current application window open until 15<sup>th</sup> January
- To apply, you must:
  1. Register to receive a **Business Reference Number (BRN)**
  2. Read the **scheme guidance**, including priority-specific requirements
  3. Complete the **application form** on the ECAF webpage and submit by email



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the ECAF application form. The page has a green header with the text "Environmental Co-operation Action Fund (ECAF) application form" and the Scottish Government logo. Below the header is a table for "Official use only" with columns for "Date received", "Date forwarded", "Priority", "Reference number", and "Case officer". Below the table is a "Notes for guidance" section with a bullet point: "The main applicant (or their business) MUST be registered with RPID or we cannot accept the application."

Official use only	
Date received	Case officer
Date forwarded	
Priority	
Reference number	

**Notes for guidance**

- The main applicant (or their business) MUST be registered with RPID or we cannot accept the application.





# How to apply: costs and activities form

https://www.ruralpayments.org/public/apply-test/submit/req... Scottish Government [GB] PFEB - ECAF ruralpayments.org ruralpayments... Biodiversity - Gre...


File Edit Go to Favorites Help

1 / 2 94.3% Fill & Sign Comment

Please fill out the following form. You can save data typed into this form. Highlight Existing Fields

(Form PF18(a) Revised 01/10/15)

## Environmental Co-operation Action Fund (ECAF) costs and activities template



Project name  Year

Facilitator name

Organisation name

Work activity - Phase 1	Description	Duration (days)	£	Actual costs involved	£
Overseeing project delivery					
Raising awareness of public and stakeholders					
Identifying potential land-manager participants	<input type="text" value="Cell2"/>				
Securing participation					
Evidence gathering					
Strategic management plan					
Individual holding-scale plans					
Consulting agencies and/or applying for consents needed					
Preparing and submitting relevant funding applications					



# Application assessment

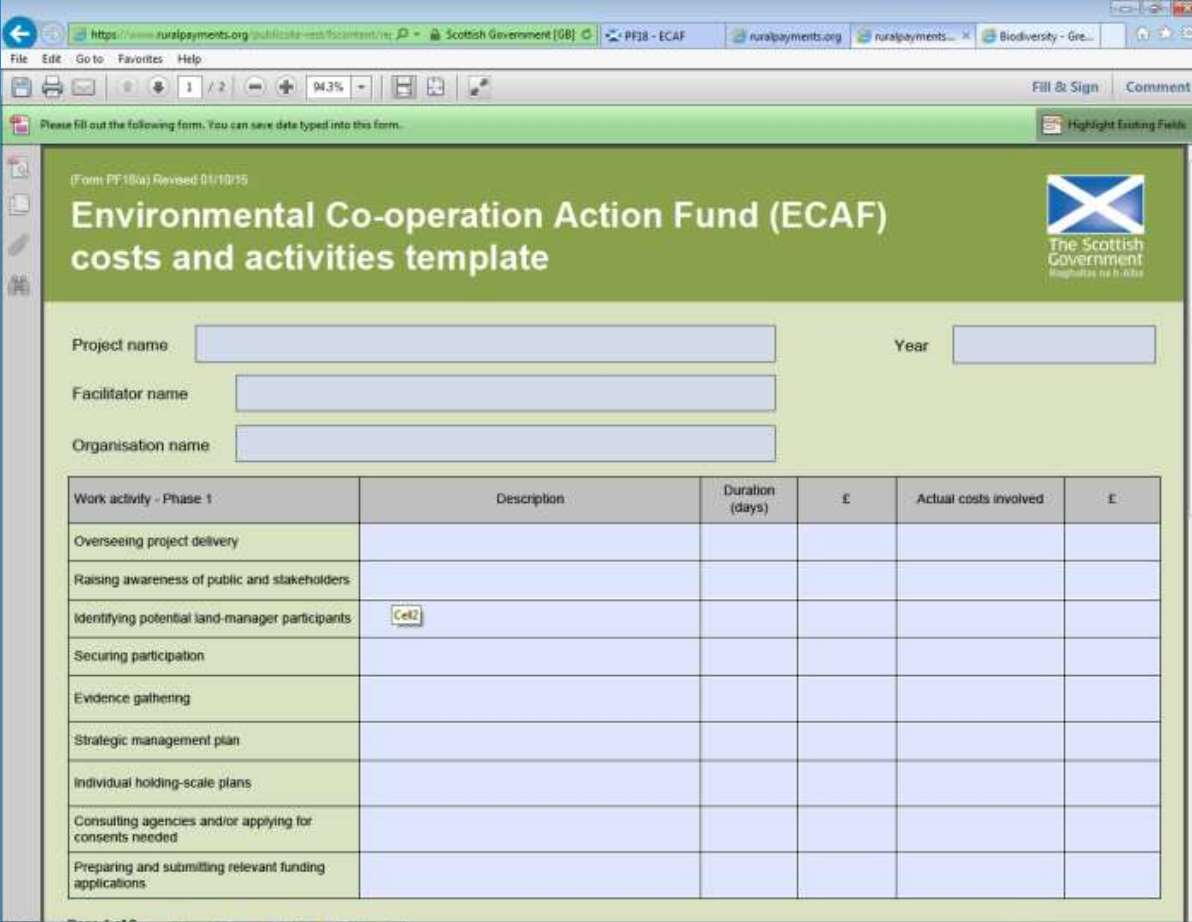
- SNH/SEPA/FCS case officers score applications based on e.g.
  - potential to deliver **ECAF priority**
  - potential to generate **effective co-operative action**
  - **additionality** and **value for money**
  - **feasibility**
  - **facilitator knowledge and expertise**
- Applications which meet a threshold score go to the National Project Assessment Committee (NPAC) for decision



# Contracts, claims and reporting

Successful applicants will be offered a **contract lasting 2-5 years**. Contract-holders must:

- Carry out the **activities** in the 'costs and activities form' (unless a contract variation is approved)
- Submit quarterly **claims** for associated costs
- Meet **reporting** and **monitoring** requirements



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'Environmental Co-operation Action Fund (ECAF) costs and activities template' form. The form is titled 'Form PF18(a) Revised 01/10/15' and includes the Scottish Government logo. It contains several input fields for project details and a table for recording work activities.

Project name:  Year:

Facilitator name:

Organisation name:

Work activity - Phase 1	Description	Duration (days)	£	Actual costs involved	£
Overseeing project delivery					
Raising awareness of public and stakeholders					
Identifying potential land-manager participants	<input type="text"/>				
Securing participation					
Evidence gathering					
Strategic management plan					
Individual holding-scale plans					
Consulting agencies and/or applying for consents needed					
Preparing and submitting relevant funding applications					

# 4 ECAF Priorities led by SNH



**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
**Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba**

All of nature for all of Scotland  
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad



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Habitat  
Resto

Vulnerable

Priority  
Species  
(VPS)

# 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity



Scotland's  
**Wild Deer**  
A National Approach  
Including 2015 – 2020 Priorities



Invasive  
Non-native  
Plant Species (INNS)

Deer  
Management



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# Appropriate minimum spatial scale

**Habitat Restoration** – depends on habitat & project

e.g. ‘sufficient scale to restore habitat functionality’

**VPS** – depends on species

e.g. hen harrier: within core foraging range (2km)

**INNS** – entire plant population in area appropriately defined

**Deer Management** – discrete population



# What should applications provide?

	Habs	VPS	INNS	Deer
In right place – <b>eligibility criterion!</b>	X	X	X	X
Specific relevant experience & skills	X	X	X	X
Basic mapping	X	X	X	X
Methods for repeat habitat mapping	X			
Evidence of 50% match funding				X

- **info & evidence to inform assessment criteria**



# ~~Priority specific assessment criteria~~

*what we want  
projects to do*

benefit SSSI habitat

benefit 'wider countryside' habitat

enhance habitat connectivity

benefit water body physical condition

complement existing work

show initial land manager interest

post-ECAF strategy

[other specifics]





# SEPA Priorities



**Physical restoration of water bodies**

**Natural flood management**

**Catchment management for water quality**



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# Physical restoration of water bodies

Over 2000 kilometres of Scotland's rivers are affected by physical modifications to their beds and banks

- currently 269 water bodies downgraded due to their physical condition

Types of pressure: realignment, culverts, bank protection –impact flow regime, sediment transport, water quality, and ecology

Successful restoration of a river corridor often requires collaboration of many land managers and landowners.





**Before**



**During  
construction**



**First flow**



**After the first flood**



# Natural flood management

Increasing pressure on traditional flood risk management systems.

Need to look at more sustainable approaches and manage land and water throughout the river system

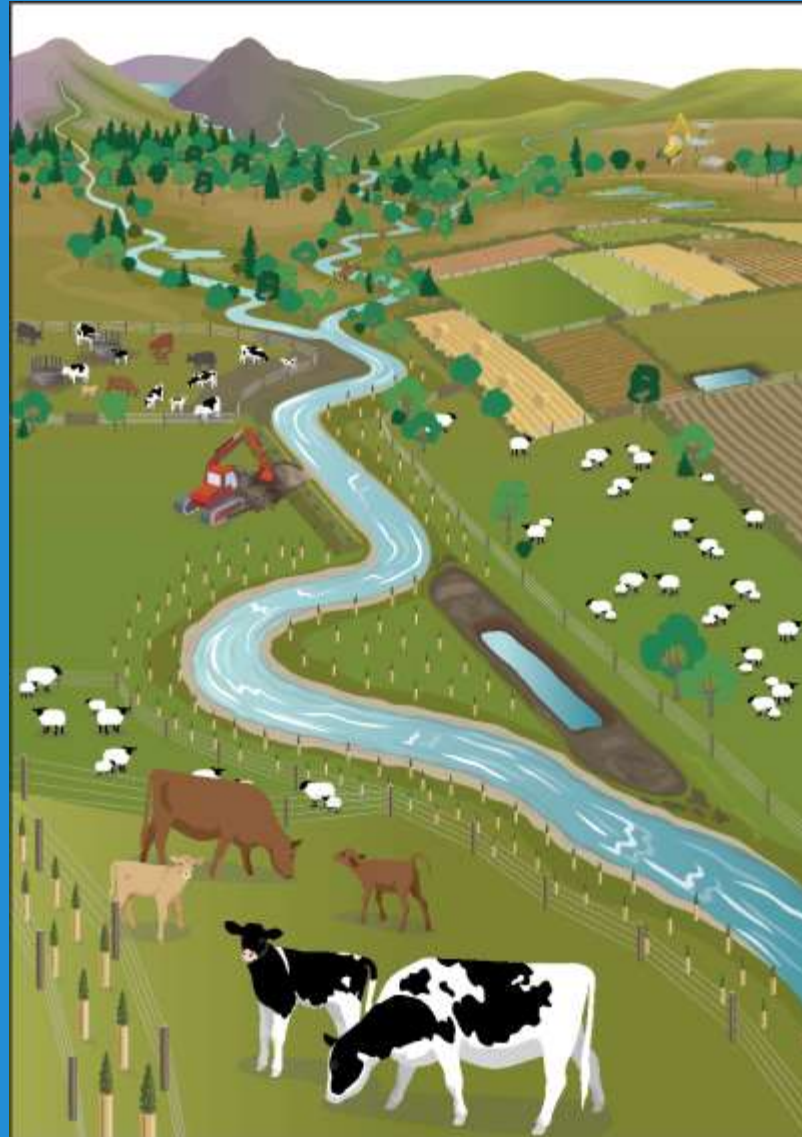
By working with natural features and processes to manage the sources and pathway of flood waters – NFM – can help reduce flooding for smaller scale events whilst also delivering other benefits

The greatest benefits will be achieved by targeted, collaborative, landscape scale projects.



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# Natural flood management



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# Catchment management for water quality

Diffuse pollution is Scotland's single greatest pollution pressure

## Diffuse Pollution

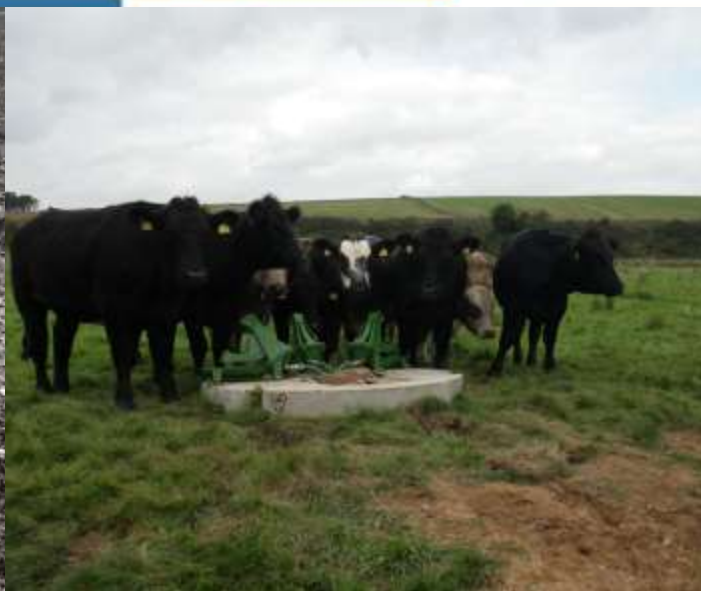
- individually minor, collectively significant
- nutrients, pesticides, sediment, faecal bacteria

Need to tackle at the catchment scale to be effective



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# Catchment management for water quality



# Effective delivery – what makes a good project?

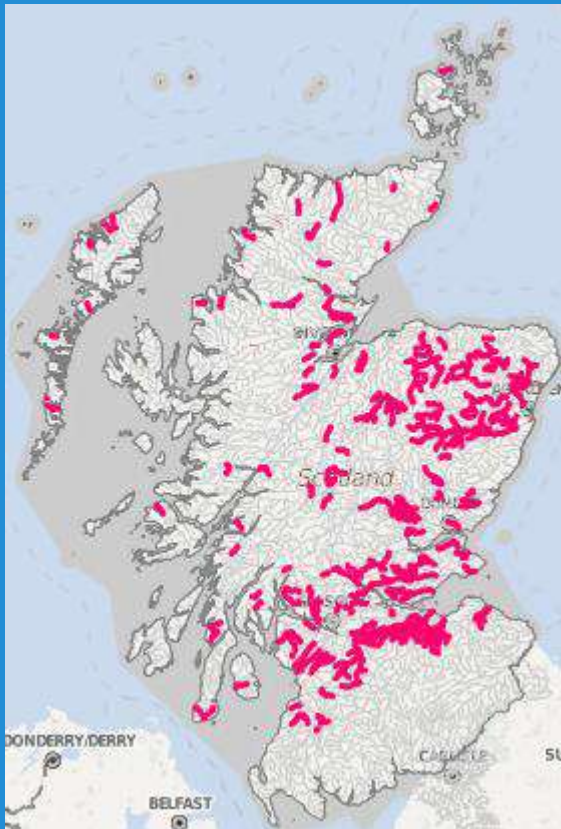
- Clear aims and objectives
- Understanding the pressures (and the catchment)
- Understanding what you want to do about these pressures
- Identifying how best to target to address pressures– getting the right measures in the right places
- Planning clear and appropriate process for delivery



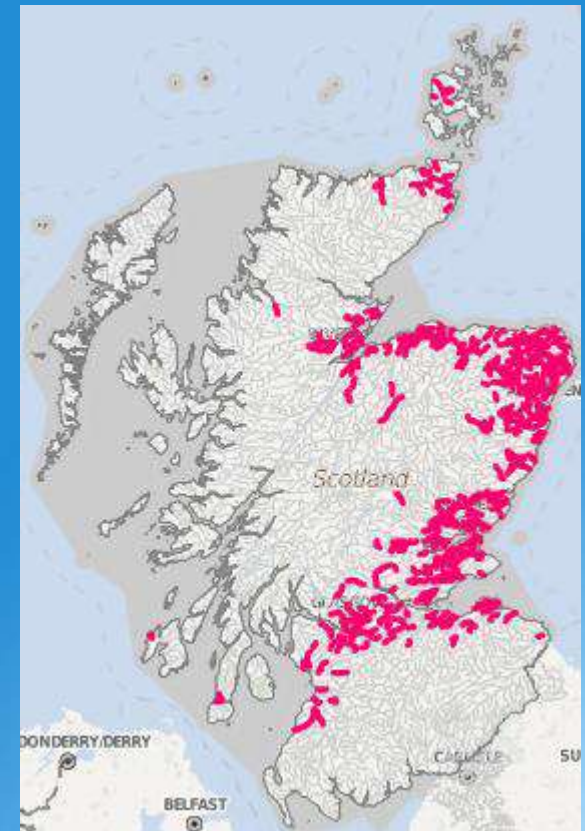


# Physical restoration of water bodies - targeting

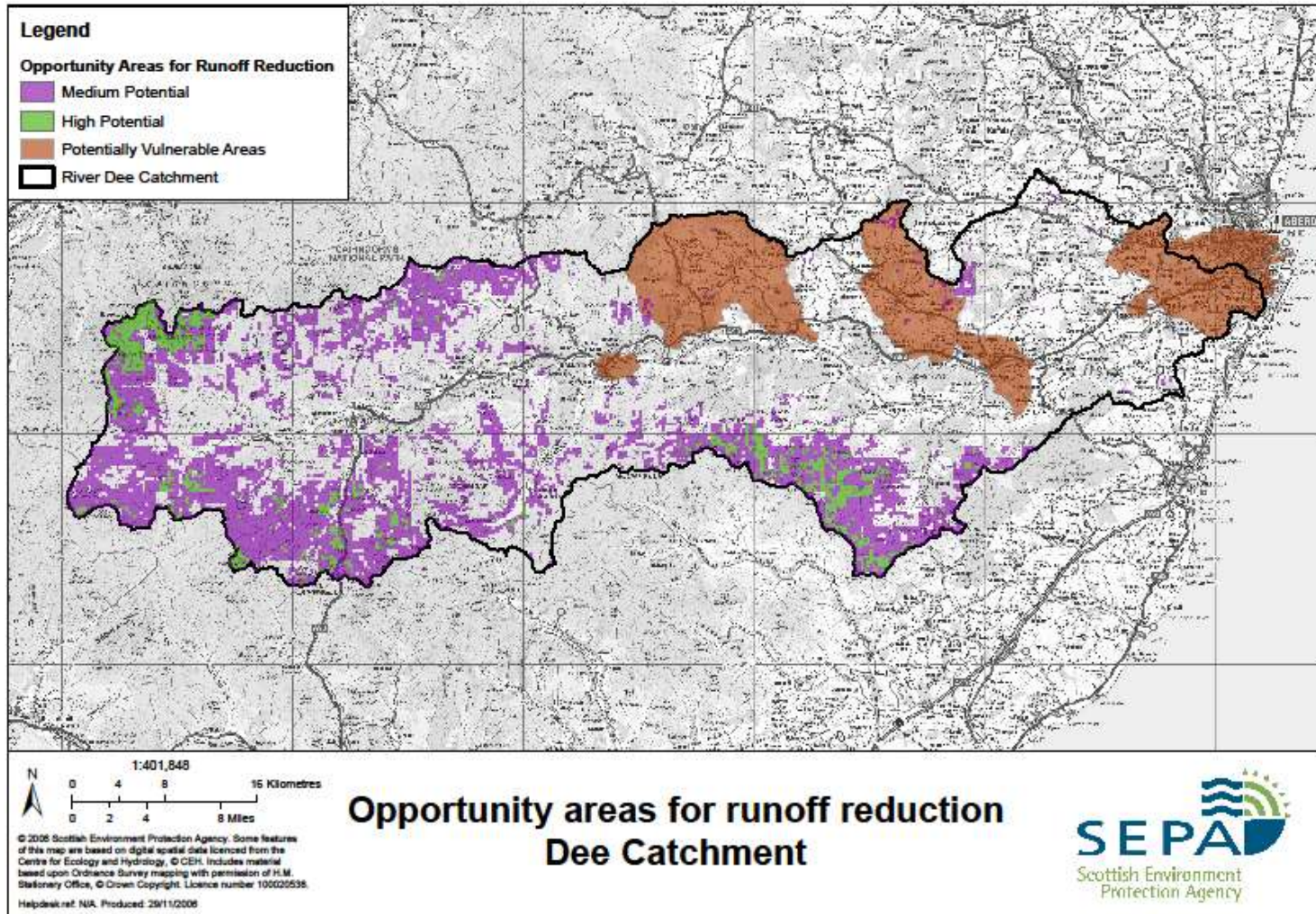
Water bodies at less than good status due to impacts on the physical condition of their beds, banks or shores



Water bodies at less than good status due to the impact on fish populations due to man-made barriers



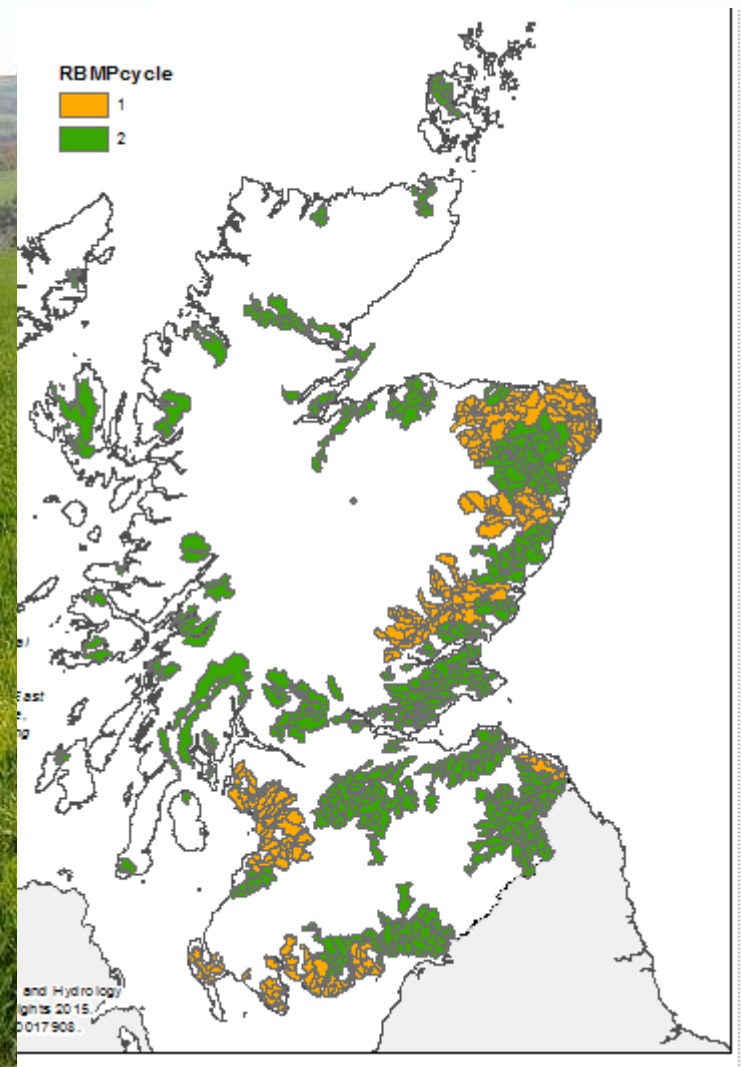
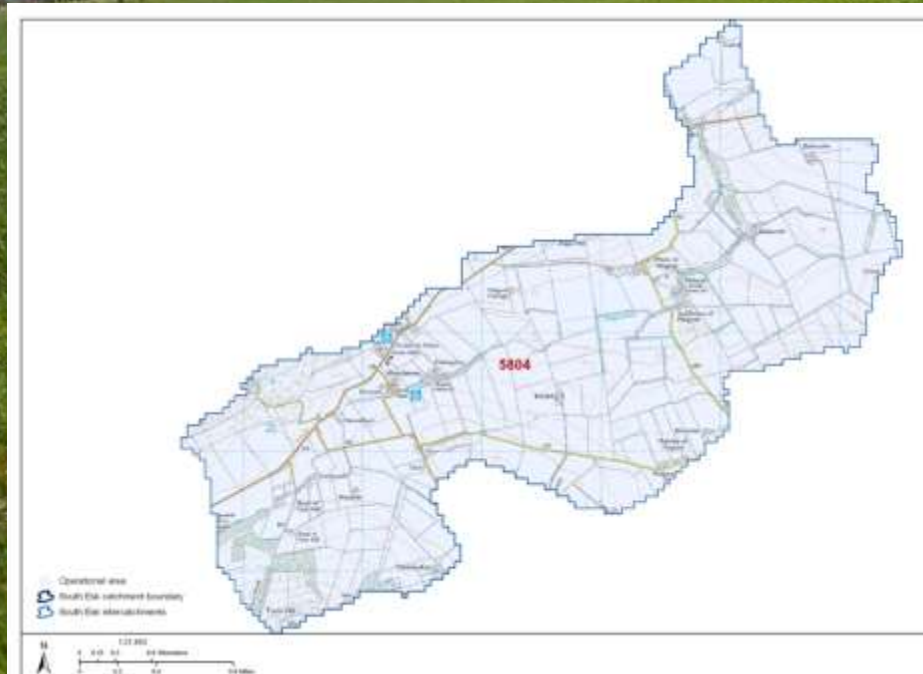
# Natural flood management - targeting



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# Catchment management for water quality - targeting

Diffuse pollution priority areas



# Typical project process for SEPA priorities

## Phase 1

Identify pressure/need and define objectives –  
may be informed by scoping/baseline study

Landowner engagement (ongoing)

Production of Strategic Management Plan  
and Holding scale Plans –  
may require site surveys, options appraisal  
and/or design contracts

AECS/FGS/other  
public fund  
application

## Phase 2

Delivery

Monitoring and  
management



# Woodland Creation Priority



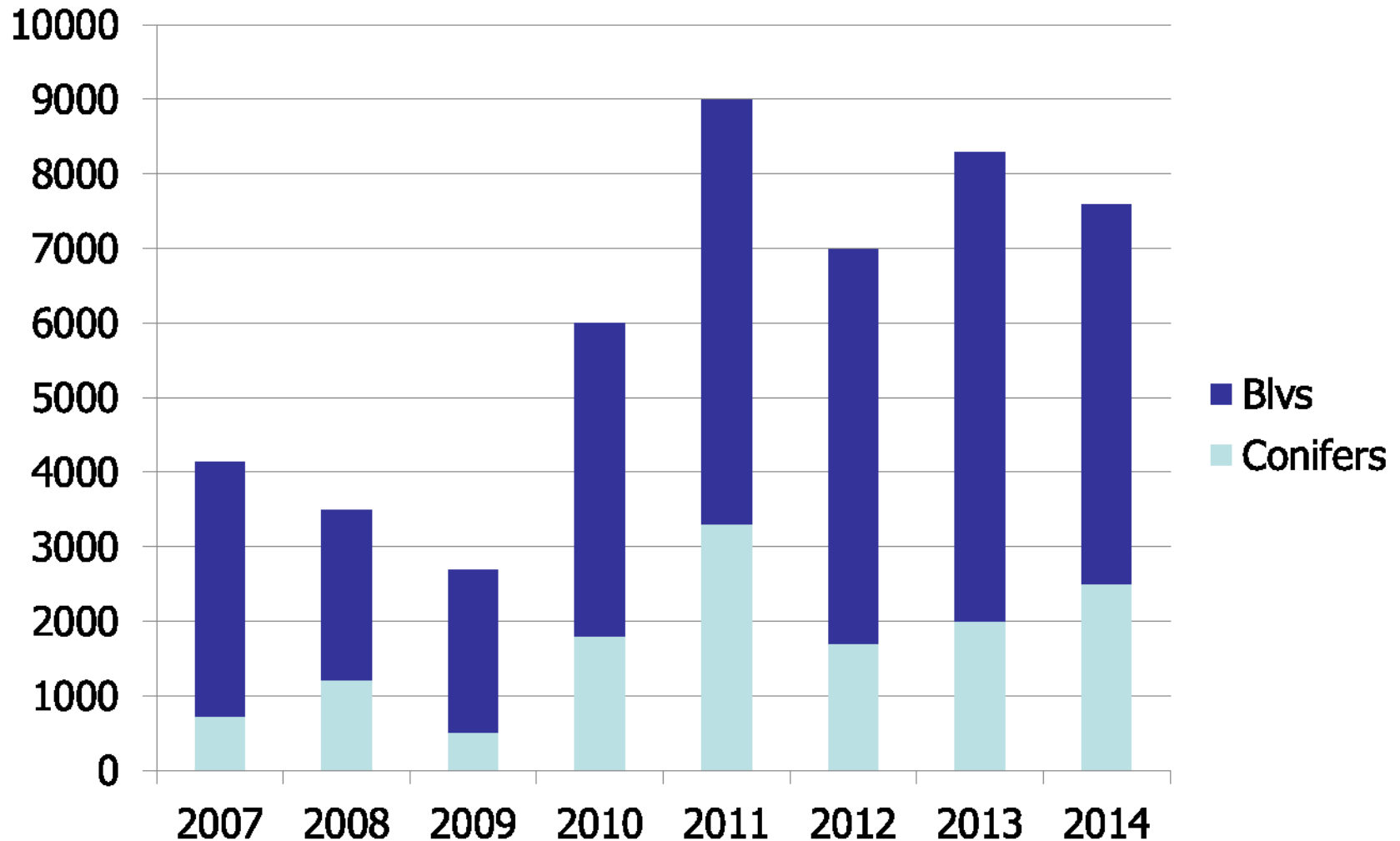
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# Woodland Creation Priority

- 100,000ha Target from 2012-2022
- Confirmed by Woodland Expansion Advisory Group (WEAG)
- 60% productive woodland
- Key driver is the contribution of woodland creation to SG CO2 emissions reduction target (12% of whole economy reduction)



# Woodland Creation Priority



# Woodland Creation Priority

ECAF provides an opportunity for:

- Landscape scale woodland creation projects
- Woodland creation in 'target areas'
- A range of woodland types





# Woodland Creation Priority

## Eligibility

- Within target areas as defined under Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS)
- Minimum of two neighbouring land owners
- Minimum project area is 50 hectares
- Consistent with local woodland strategies and woodland creation options within FGS
- Expression of interest by landowners



# Woodland Creation Priority

- Funding for Phase 1 activities only
  - Raising awareness
  - Identifying potential land owners
  - Securing participation
  - Evidence gathering
  - Strategic management plan
  - Preparing individual holding plans
  - Consulting stakeholders



# Woodland Creation Priority

- What makes a good application?
  - Scale of delivery
  - Degree within Target area
  - Well integrated proposals with a range of woodland creation options
  - Three or more landowners



# Woodland Creation Priority

- Break out session will look at the:
  - Detail of woodland creation priority
  - Cost and Activities Table
  - Forestry co-operation option within the Forestry Grant Scheme



An aerial photograph of a Scottish landscape. A winding river flows through a valley, surrounded by rolling hills and fields. The terrain is a mix of green, brown, and blue, suggesting a mix of vegetation and water. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

Any questions?



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# Any questions which are not answered in the workshop

1. Write your question on a **post-it**, with your email address or
2. Insert your question on the Survey Monkey **feedback form** or
3. **Email** your question to [ECAFBusinessSupportMailbox@gov.scot](mailto:ECAFBusinessSupportMailbox@gov.scot)

