

Valuing our Life Support Systems: Reflections from a policy and delivery perspective



Ruth Waters



Reflections from the last five years



- Change in emphasis from the ecosystem approach....



© McCoy Wynne Photography

**Ecosystem Approach
Handbook**
Ideas and advice for your
project or partnership



to ecosystem services and valuation...

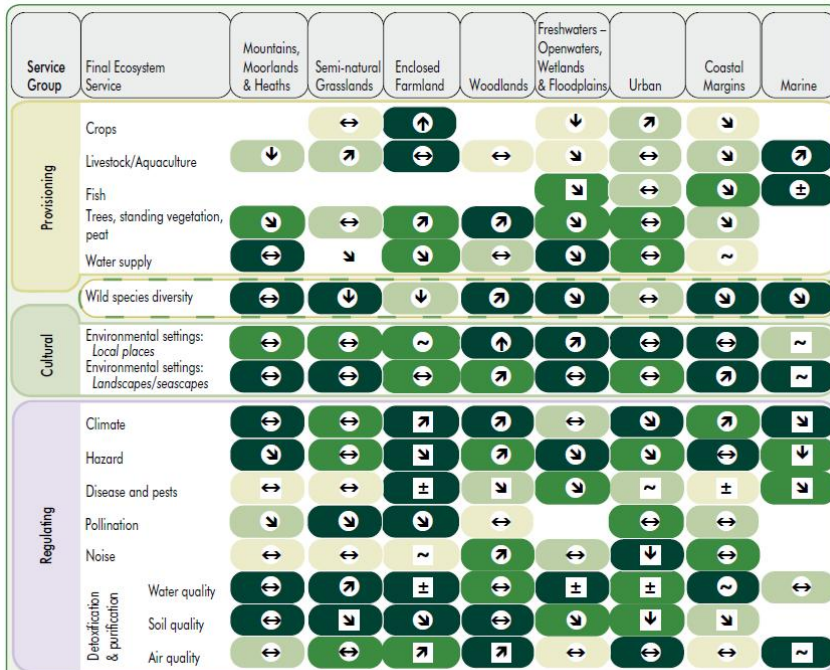
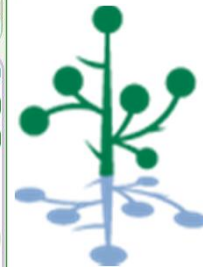
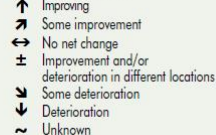


Figure 5 Relative importance of Broad Habitats in delivering ecosystem services and overall direction of change in service flow since 1990. This figure is based on information synthesized from the habitat and ecosystem service chapters of the UK NEA Technical Report (Chapters 5–16), as well as expert opinion. This figure represents a UK-wide overview and will vary nationally, regionally and locally. It will therefore also inevitably include a level of uncertainty; full details can be found in the Technical Report. Arrows in circles represent where there is high evidence for or confidence in the direction of service flow amongst experts; arrows in squares represent where there is less evidence for or confidence in the direction of service flow. Blank cells represent services that are not applicable to a particular Broad Habitat.

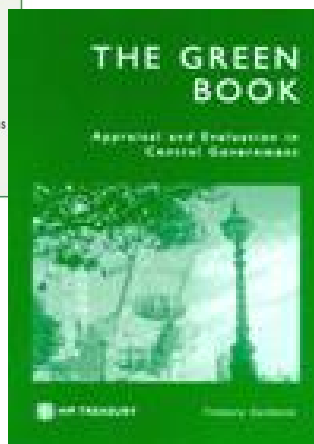
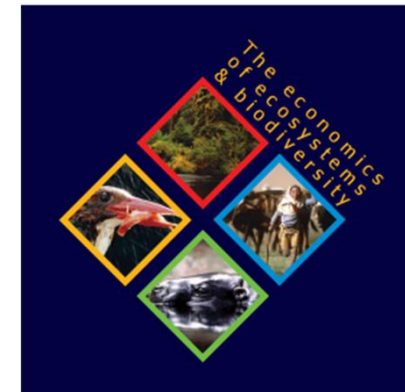
Importance of Broad Habitat for delivering the ecosystem service



Direction of change in the flow of the service



VALUING NATURE NETWORK



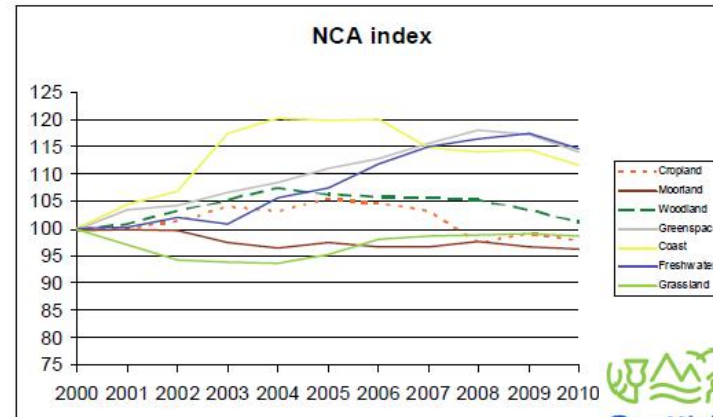
ecosystemmarkets
TASK FORCE



and onto natural capital....

- The Natural Capital Committee – an independent advisory body, established by the Government's Natural Environment White Paper in 2012 (to run to 2015).
- Natural Capital Asset Index in Scotland

NATURAL
ENGLAND

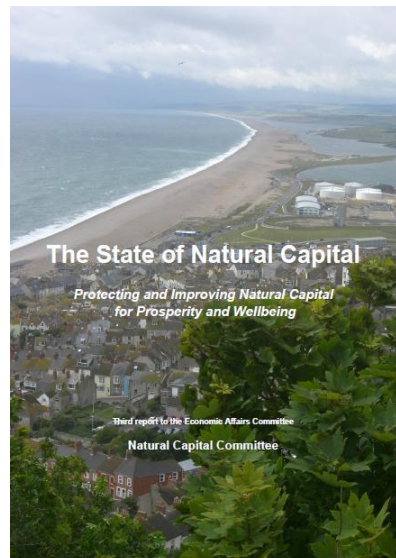


Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

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

HM Government

The Natural Choice:
securing the value
of nature



Environment (Wales) Bill Factsheet

Sustainable Management
of Natural Resources
Delivery Framework



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.gov.wales

But it's all part of the same story that we need to join up



Human health, wellbeing and economy



Regulating services



Cultural services



Provisioning services



Natural Capital

Underpinning biodiversity, landscape, geodiversity, and ecosystem processes

A policy shift

HM Government

National Planning Policy Framework

The Natural Choice:
securing the value
of nature



Shaping a more
Prosperous and
Resilient Future



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Department for Natural Resources
and Food

2020 Challenge
for Scotland's
Biodiversity



A Strategy for the conservation and
enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland

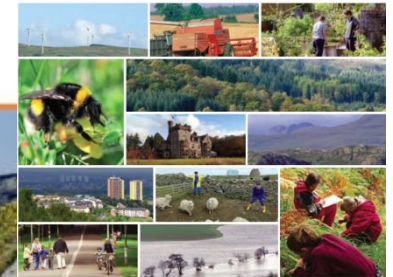
Natural Capital
Committee



Biodiversity 2020:
A strategy for England's wildlife
and ecosystem services



NATURAL
ENGLAND



Getting the best from our land
A land use strategy for Scotland

natural
scotland
SCOT Govt. Environment



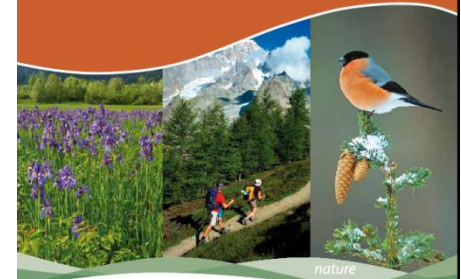
HM TREASURY



Accounting for
environmental impacts:

Supplementary Green Book guidance

The EU Biodiversity
Strategy to 2020



Recommendations for policy makers and planners from the Valuing Our Life Support Systems Report

- Three Key themes:
- Evidence
- Policy
levers/regulation
- Integration



Evidence



Appropriate natural capital valuation methods



NOT

- Selective cherry picking ecosystem services
- Using financial values only
- Not a commodity

WE NEED

- 'scientifically sound, as well as ethically and socially acceptable natural capital valuation methods'
- Continued support for the Office of National Statistics work on valuation for policy



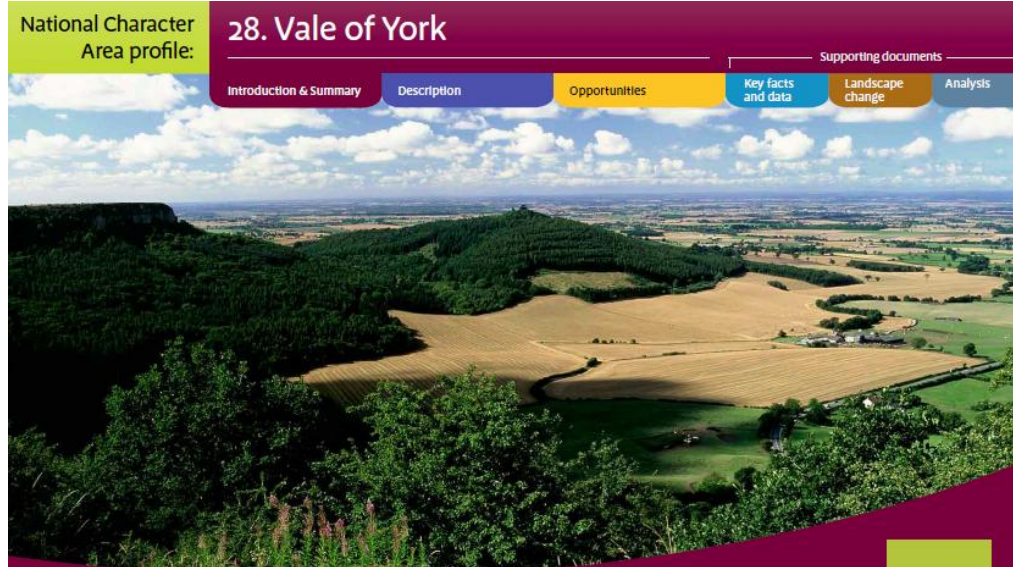
Cultural values and involving people




National Character Area profile: **28. Vale of York**

Supporting documents

- Introduction & Summary
- Description
- Opportunities
- Key facts and data
- Landscape change
- Analysis

A wide-angle photograph of the Vale of York, showing a vast landscape with rolling green hills, a large body of water (likely a reservoir or lake), and a mix of agricultural fields and forests. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

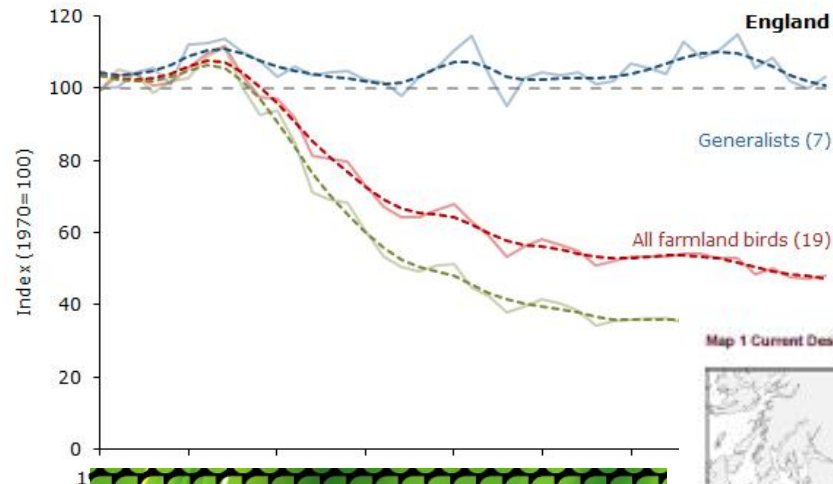
www.naturalengland.org.uk

The logo for Natural England, featuring the words "NATURAL" and "ENGLAND" in a sans-serif font, with "NATURAL" in green and "ENGLAND" in brown, set against a light green square background.

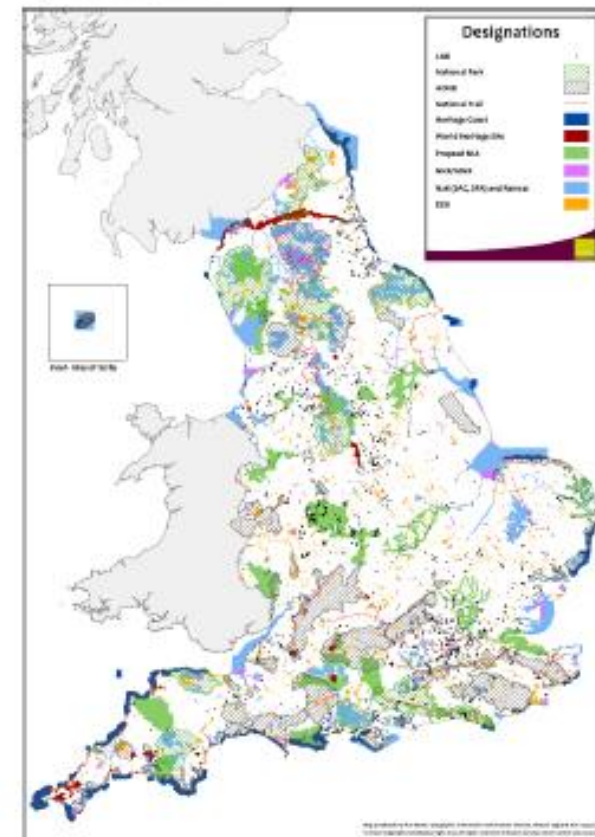
Move from a 'net loss to net gain for biodiversity'

'urgent need to value environmental assets effectively'

'The natural capital framework can support decisions on conservation priorities.'

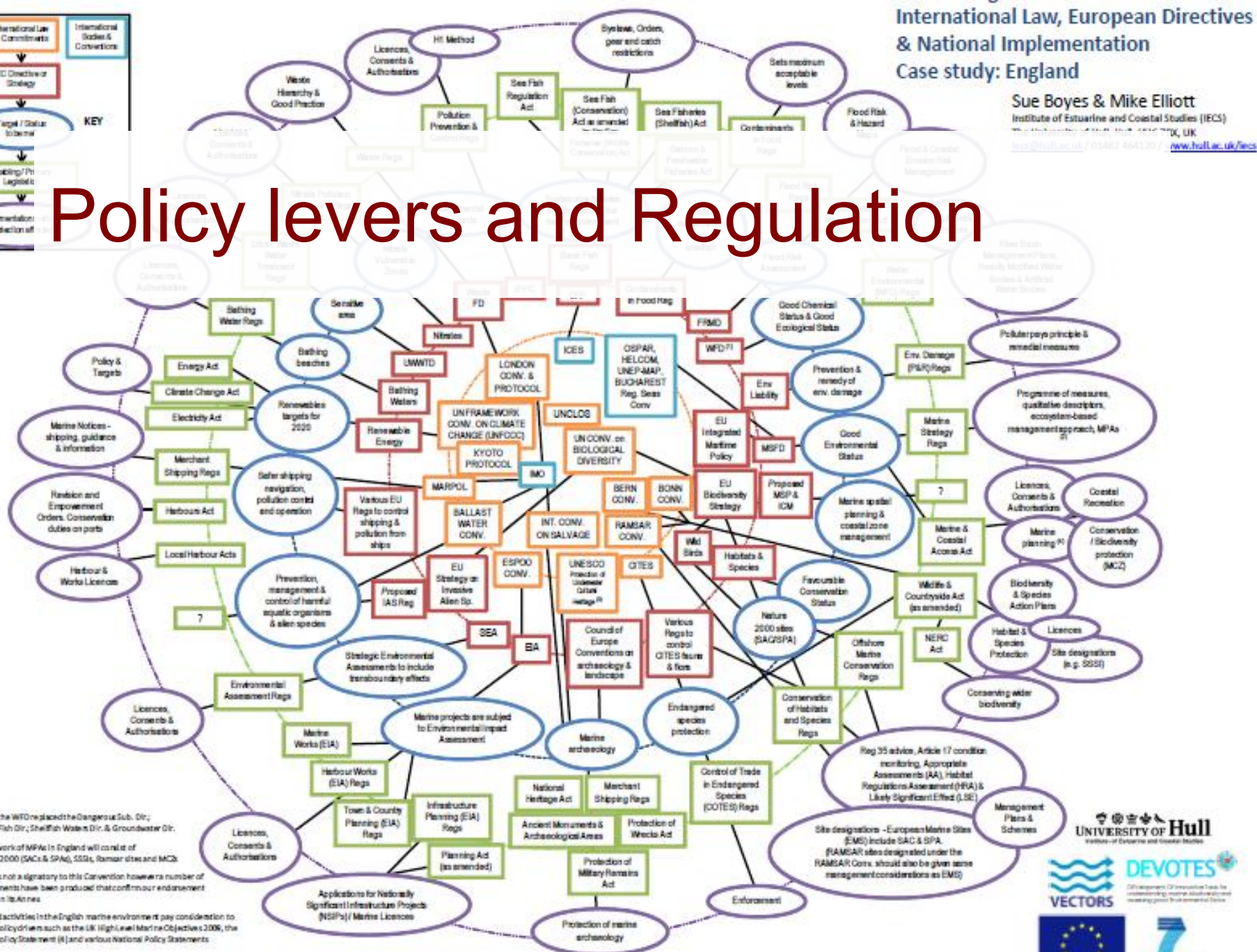


Map 1 Current Designations




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graph TD
    A[International Law or Commitments] --> C[EC Directive or Strategy]
    B[International Bodies & Conventions] --> C
    C --> D((Target / Status to be met))
    D --> E[Enabling / Policy Legalized]
    E --> F((Implementation / Protection of))
    D --- KEY[KEY]
  
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'A clear and long term policy framework is necessary'



West Yorkshire flood victims call for peat burning ban

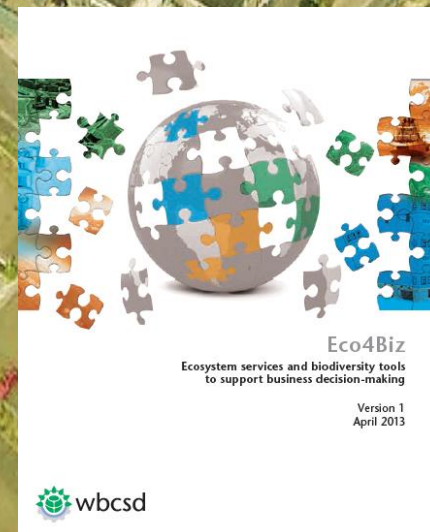
Residents of a town hit by flooding have launched a campaign to stop the burning of moorland peat bogs.

The centre of Hebden Bridge in West Yorkshire was flooded twice during the summer.

Campaigners claim that peat burning on the surrounding moors has increased the flood risk, as the peat acts as a sponge soaking up rain water.



The centre of Hebden Bridge in West Yorkshire was flooded twice during the summer



A role for regulation and policy

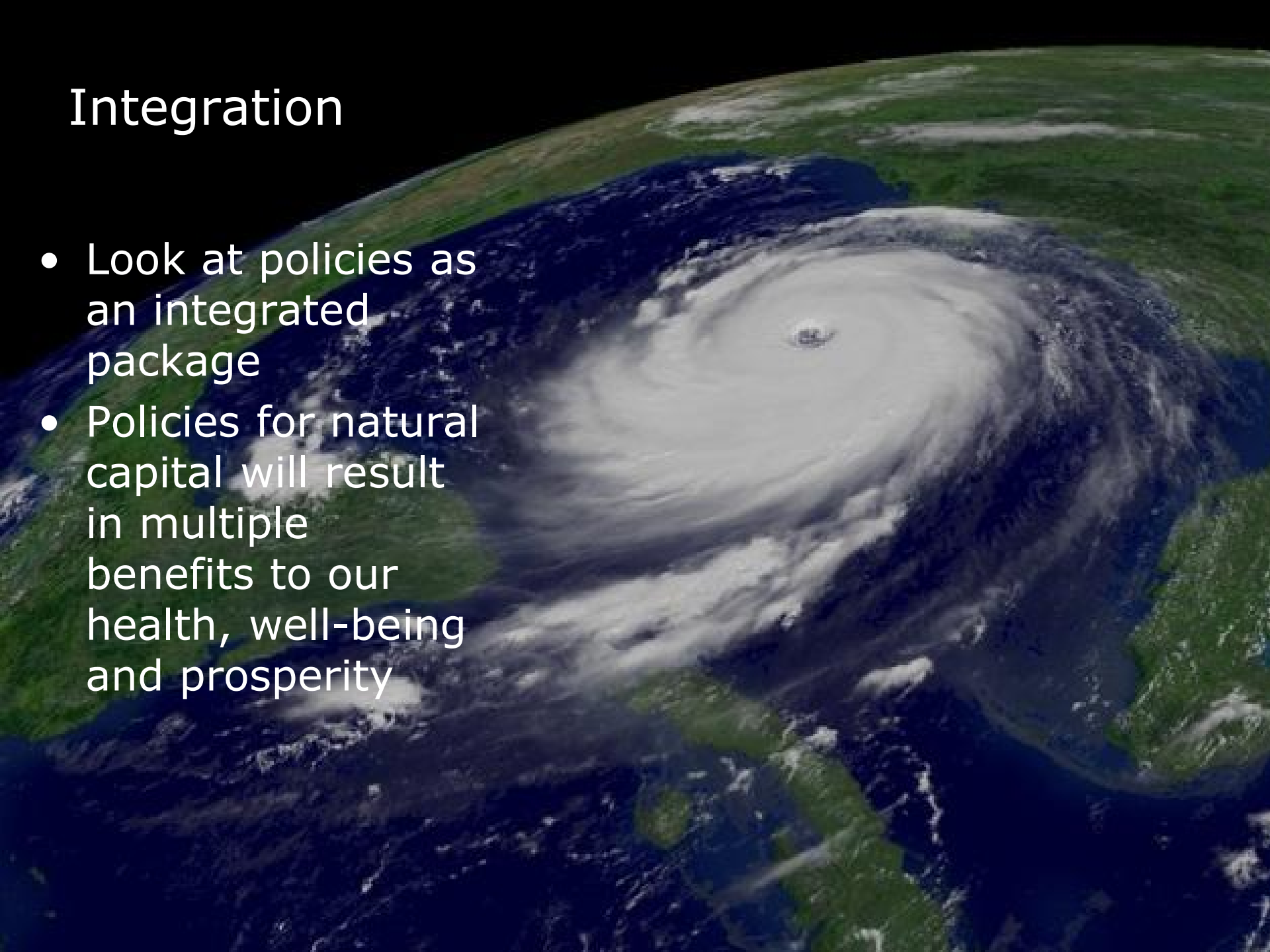


- If we want to stimulate new markets and environmental profit and loss accounts we need to think about policy levers and regulation as mechanisms
- 'environmental regulation is needed to guard important natural assets and ecosystem services' and we can't leave it to markets alone

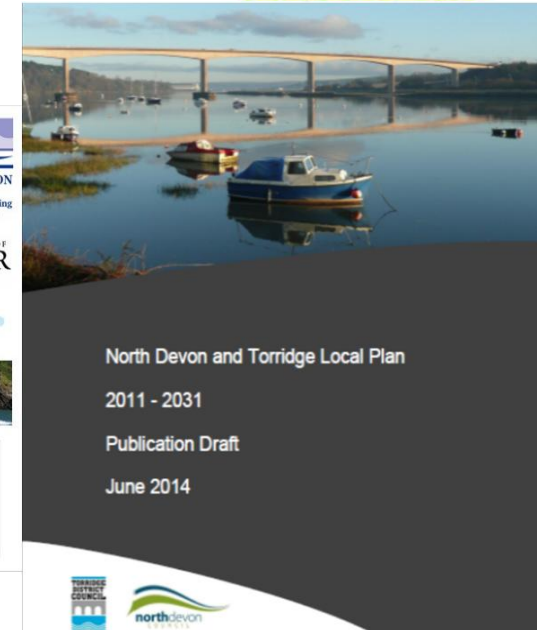
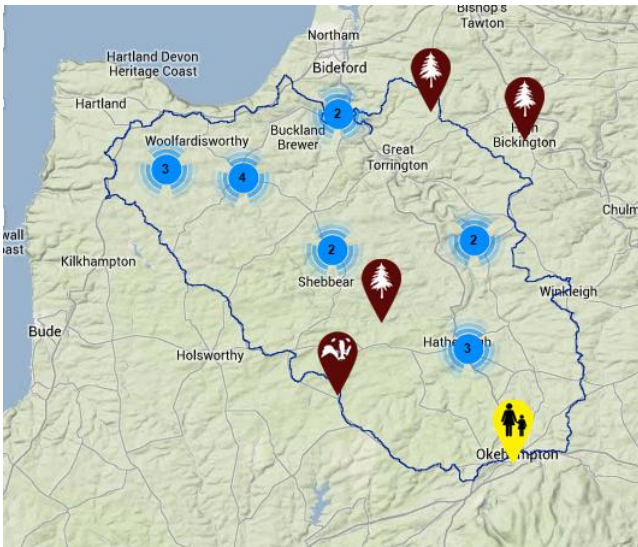


Integration

- Look at policies as an integrated package
- Policies for natural capital will result in multiple benefits to our health, well-being and prosperity



'Collaborative frameworks' in places



NIA Northern Devon
Nature Improvement Area

Linking life in the Torridge



Join up

- Across Government and Governments
- Across sectors – water, planning, health, conservation.....
- Across disciplines
- Across evidence, policy and delivery



science



policy

delivery



My own personal reflections...

- We need to keep the long term goal in mind and not get distracted by the detail
- We have made great progress in the last five years across all areas of the work and filled in lots of pieces of the jigsaw
- But we are kidding ourselves if we think we have nailed it, even in the more progressed sectors such as water



My own personal reflections...

- The jigsaw has got bigger, we are working with business and the health sector and their role is set to increase
- I am not sure that the public are any the wiser than five years ago in general, but we do now know that the public can get this whole agenda if it's explained to them clearly
- We still desperately need investment in our natural capital and this hasn't yet unlocked new funds yet



A scenic landscape photograph of a river flowing through a valley. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains with steep cliffs. The middle ground is filled with a dense forest of evergreen trees. The foreground shows the river with some rocks and grassy banks. The sky is clear and blue.

**"If you really think the environment
is less important than the economy**

**try holding your breath
while you count your money."**

- Dr. Guy McPherson

Sustainability the Musical