



VALUING NATURE

Developing understanding and strategies for business to engage and inform UK Food and Farming policy to ensure Natural Capital is an integral part.



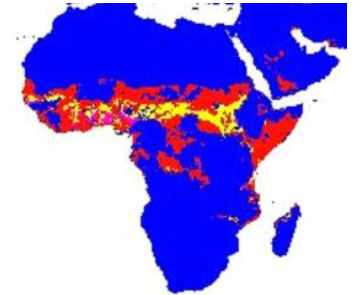
Dr Colm Bowe Liverpool John Moores University



Host: Dr Gemma Cranston University of Cambridge
Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)

Interests and motivations

- Natural Scientist - Earlier Research (PhD and Postdoc) on underutilised crops – sustainable agriculture
- Applied this knowledge to valuing natural capital with agri –food business (VNN right values for externalities project) – worked alongside CISL
- Develop knowledge beyond valuation in regards to the policy and social context of natural capital (i.e. around decision making/investment) – develop social and policy science skills.



Placement project background

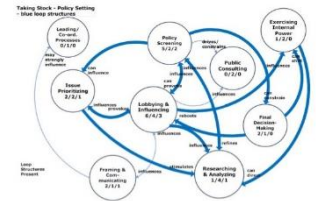
- Placement with CISL's Natural Capital Leaders Platform – help business understand the benefits of investment in natural capital.
- Defra developing separate 25 year plans for Food and Farming and the Environment for a post Brexit UK.
- Management and investment in Natural Capital key to developing a:
 - Productive and resilient farming industry
 - strong food brand
 - Underpinning the strategy to “grow more, buy more and sell more British food”.
- Agri-businesses such as Volac understand the potential in investing in policy engagement in order to integrate Natural Capital into post Brexit UK farming policy – need analysis and support to do this effectively



What are we planning to do?

- Objectives
 - Explore the policy environment around “food and farming and natural capital” and business engagement with this
 - Make recommendations to business on how best to invest resources to influence UK policy to ensure natural capital is an integral part of the UK food and farming strategy
 - facilitate the engagement of businesses with policy makers through development of a high level workshop

Systems Map



How will we do this?

- Mapping who is working in political space and developing an understanding of the political landscape (i.e. Brexit and Devolved governments)
- Conducting discourse analysis
- Conducting interviews with business and policy makers to identify key policy objectives
- Identifying and developing the evidence base
- Engaging with critical stakeholders and partners to establish a network of influencers and experts and to understand business policy engagement in practice
- Make recommendations to business - How, when and who should business engage



What will we produce?: Outputs

- Research Reports and Papers
 - A discourse analysis around Natural Capital and Food and Farming Policy
 - Exploring the political landscape of Natural Capital and Food and Farming Policy
 - Final Report and recommendations to Volac + research paper(s)
- Presentations to Volac, DEFRA and CISL
- Policy Brief
- Strategic plan to engage policy makers
 - Business Guidance Document
 - Planning a high level workshop between business and policy makers

Business impacts and benefits to the Valuing Nature Community

- Impact:
 - allow companies to better understand the commercial benefits of investing in policy engagement
 - how to effectively engage with critical stakeholders to influence the inclusion of natural capital in UK policy
 - Ensure natural capital is part of Brexit negotiation, around food and farming
- Benefits to Valuing Nature Community/Agenda
 - Wide ranging calls to develop a more integrated environment (natural capital) and food and farming policy.
 - The outputs of this study could influence
 - the type and degree of environmental legislation for food and farming and how natural capital is embedded in this
 - decisions around a developing a multifunctional countryside
 - how farm payment relate to ecosystem services investment and provision
 - landscape approach to farm management.