Natural capital and landscape approaches in conservation

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6 September 2018
The problem:
Nature’s value is invisible

- We need to start incorporating the value of nature into decisionmaking
- By both public and private sector
Embedding the value of nature in public sector decisionmaking

- Incorporate natural capital into measures of economic success e.g. Net National Product instead of GDP, and report on it in the Budget
- Stress testing of the economy’s resilience to natural capital depletion
- Incorporate into Cost Benefit Analysis e.g. Treasury’s ‘Green Book’
- Should scrutinise all relevant govt policy for nat cap impacts
- Incl. industrial strategy, infrastructure development, urban planning, agriculture policy etc.
UK policy developments

Through the 25 Year Environment Plan

1. Setting long term goals and required actions
2. Analysing and prioritising based on value to society
3. Involving local business and local communities – pioneer projects
4. Developing markets, incentives and catalysing private finance

Policy applications

1. Net environmental gain
2. Local natural capital investment plans
3. Post-CAP agriculture policy
4. Pioneer projects – Marine pioneer, Cameo catchment
Natural capital assessment: Cam-Ely-Ouse Catchment

- Plus support for flood management, biodiversity and water quality
  - £1.7 million/year carbon sequestration services
  - £8 million/year in timber and £44 million in crops
  - £20-135 million/year water use provisioning
  - £135 million/year in recreation benefits

Natural capital assets provide ecosystem services valued at more than £200 million/year
Natural capital assessment: Cam-Ely-Ouse Catchment

Risk of £220 million annual damage to residential property caused by flooding in catchment.

- **High flood risk (*)**
Natural capital / landscape applications elsewhere

- **Kenya**: Land use planning
- **China**: Ecosystem Function Conservation Areas
- **Myanmar**: Informing infrastructure development
Thank you

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