


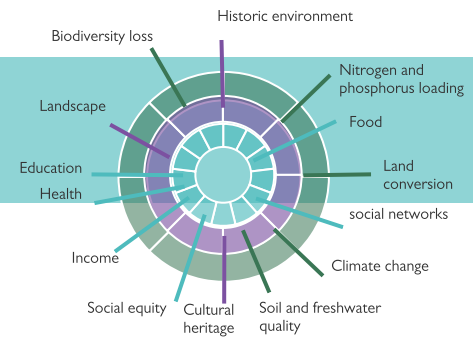
We will develop a portfolio of projects generating payments for Ecosystem Services



When we talk of ecosystem services we mean the wide range of benefits that humans obtain from the natural environment, including how nature contributes towards our well-being.

Payments for ecosystem services, commonly known as PES relate to a transaction between a land manager providing a natural service and an investor wishing to capitalise on the results of that service. For example offsetting carbon emissions through sponsoring woodland creation or creating clean drinking water through reedbed filtration or even, provision of increased opportunities for connection with the natural environment. This is something that the NPA has piloted previously through the [Black Mountains Land Use Partnership](#) and are working on collaboratively at a UK [National Parks](#) scale.

PAYMENTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



Why this is important

In order for protected landscapes to thrive we need to improve the connectivity, condition, scale/extent, and diversity of our ecosystems. This policy is one mechanism by which we raise the profile of this objective whilst creating economic investment to benefit rural communities.

Companies are looking for shovel ready investable schemes. There is a growing movement within the business world for investments which contribute to the realisation of corporate social responsibility goals. Such schemes compliment the emerging Sustainable Farming Scheme and should work together for wider ecological benefit.

There is opportunity which can be amplified through co-ordination. The Authority can utilise its convening powers to bring together service suppliers with investors for mutual benefit.

Where policy applies

The environment of the Park is well suited to deliver a range of investable benefits. Our three areas of focus are proposed as:-

Peatland for carbon credit the restoration of degraded peat is the most cost-effective way of carbon sequestration. Corporate sponsorship of restoration work would bring the National Park into the carbon trading arena.

Woodland expansion and regeneration The expansion of wooded areas of the Park is a key objective of this plan (please refer to our Treescaping Policy). It is an arena with well established trading mechanisms and is relatively easy to establish within the Park. This could transform the productivity of marginal land.

River catchments for nutrient trading

The Wye and Usk two of our most iconic rivers have levels of phosphate pollution harmful to aquatic life. These levels of pollution are such that the development industry in most of the National Park has ground to a halt. Investors could sponsor the creation of wetlands, woodlands and other natural features within catchments to contribute to the restoration of ecological health of the rivers and the economic benefits this could bring.

How the policy will be implemented

The route map delivery for this policy objective is dependent on the Authority building relationships of trust with landowners and investors.

The Authority will utilise all available expertise to target appropriate locations for the development of PES and help design systems which provide additional benefits that are viable in investment terms.

The Authority will work through all available channels to engage landowners, managers, farmers and commoners to create mechanisms for the delivery of investable benefits.

What success looks like

We will recognise progress when the NPA staff body has developed sufficient expertise to lead on portfolio development.

How we will measure progress

We will recognise progress through the number and total area (hectares) of PES schemes operational, and the generation and retention of additional income within the Park.