February 2020

**Scheme:**

You have been identified by the Resilient Dairy Landscapes and ICASP projects as a representative of an agri-environment scheme (AES) that operates in the UK and/or globally. We would like to invite you to take part in short interview to discuss key aspects of your scheme.

We are conducting this research to explore the synergies between different AES. Specifically, we are interested in understanding how your scheme operates, if and how your scheme accounts for social distribution of ecosystem services across the UK, how values have been attributed to ecosystem services within your scheme and the legal obligations or challenges surrounding implementation of your scheme. This research has the potential to inform the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS).

The interview has been divided into question 5 sections:

Section 1) Background information;

Section 2) Social distribution of ecosystem services;

Section 3) Economics/valuation;

Section 4) Legal issues, and;

Section 5) Other viewpoints

We expect the interview to take no longer than 30 minutes to complete.

**Section 1. Background Information**

In this section we would like to understand how you scheme operates.

1. Who makes major decisions in the scheme implementation, and what is the decision-making process?
2. Is there public funding involved? If so, who does it come from and in what formal capacity?
3. How do land managers/farmers interact with your scheme?
4. What options are available to land managers/farmers who engage with your scheme?
5. How are land managers/farmers compensated for the activities they undertake as part of the scheme?
6. What digital mechanisms or technologies are used to facilitate the scheme?
7. Are there any specific ‘lessons learnt’ or challenges from the scheme you would like to share with us?
8. Where there any issues/difficulties you overcame or are still dealing with in the scheme?
9. Any other comments regarding your scheme?

**Section 2. Social distribution of eco-system services**

We would like to understand what you are doing to understand the distributive effects of the interventions adopted by land managers/ farmers as part of your AES, considering for example, who benefits from your interventions at the local, regional and national scale, how are the beneficiaries of your scheme identified and the social distribution of ecosystem services provided by your AES assessed?

1. How are the beneficiaries of your scheme identified?
2. How does your scheme evaluate and balance needs from different companies? And from companies’ vs society?
3. Did you consider social distributive effects (on different populations) of the interventions in your scheme? If yes, how are they assessed?
4. Can you provide details of any considered impacts on the social distribution of the ecosystem service recipients?
5. Any other comments regarding equality and justice in relation to your scheme?

**Section 3: Economics/valuation**

It is important for us to understand how you came to the values you have placed on the ecosystem services that your scheme provides.

1. How did you conceptualise the ecosystem services and their values?
2. Is there any valuation involved in the scheme?
3. If so, who is making those valuations?
4. How is the valuations conducted?
   1. Based on any primary data? Is there any collection of values through surveys or another primary means?
   2. Using benefit transfer (values originally other areas)? Where do the original values come from? How are they adjusted?
5. How did you define your payments?
6. Any other comments regarding economics and valuations in relation to your scheme?

**Section 4: Legal issues**

For the provision of ecosystem services to be successful, consideration must be given to the legal issues surrounding the implementation of AES. This includes the contractual multi-party obligations for the sale of ecosystem services between companies procuring and land managers/ farmers supplying these, in addition to the necessary reforms to the land tenure law required to ensure a stable platform for the long-term management of ecosystems and landscapes.

1. How does the scheme ensure additionality of the outcomes compared to what farmers are doing without any payments?
2. Is there a legally binding aspect to exchanges between buyers (companies and public funding), sellers (farmers and landowners) and possibly intermediaries?
3. How are collaborative arrangements legally captured within your scheme?
4. What measures are put in place to ensure transparency, fairness, accurate monitoring and evaluation of the scheme?
5. Have you considered the uncertainty of the ‘benefit’ not being delivered in the future, for example due to the landowner changing the management of the land?

**Section 5: Other Viewpoints**

Finally, are there additional people whom you think we should talk to and can give  
us complementary or different viewpoint on this scheme?

**Thank you for your time and valued contribution to the research.**

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