

Edinburgh Ecosystem Services Cluster

October 2013 – October 2016

There is a great deal of research activity in Scotland relevant to the BESS Programme, mainly funded by Scottish Government (SG). BESS and SG have so far been unable to practically collaborate in these mutual areas and this focus at Edinburgh provides a vale-for-money opportunity to engage with some in the Scottish research community. An interim progress report on this working group has been provided by Dave Gunn who co-ordinates the group.

Last Year on October the 10th we ran a workshop on "Biodiversity Offsetting & Habitat Banking for Scotland", this workshop benefited from BESS workshop funding enabling us to invite a keynote speaker Fabien Quetier from France, Fabien is a participant in the EU FP7 Operational Potential of Ecosystem Research Applications (OPERAs) project. The workshop format was restricted to thirty participants and highly interactive and a summary meeting report was produced and distributed under Chatham House rules.

The ecosystem services organisational landscape has changed in Scotland since applying for BESS workshop funding, in less than a year the Scottish Natural Capital Forum has been launched and more recently the Scottish Ecosystem Services Community has been setup from within EU OPERAs project.