

## Annex 1: Ecosystem Approach self-assessment form, March 2016

*Note: the format for this self-assessment form was revised in April 2015 as a result of piloting by England's National Parks*

### Biodiversity 2020 Outcome 1C – Ecosystem Approach Self-Assessment Criteria and Method

#### Background

[‘Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services’](#) (Defra, 2011) includes ‘Outcome 1C: By 2020, at least 17% of land and inland water, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, conserved through effective, integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services including through management of our existing systems of protected areas and the establishment of nature improvement areas’.

The Terrestrial Biodiversity Group (TBG), set up by Defra and Chaired by Natural England, is responsible for overseeing action to implement this Outcome.

Following work by a TBG Task and Finish Group, including a range of stakeholders and local piloting, TBG agreed (at its meeting on 18 September 2013) this self-assessment form as a way to support partnerships and learn from the progress they are making in deploying ‘integrated and joined up approaches’ that deliver for both biodiversity and multiple ecosystem services, thereby adding value over and above other Outcomes in Biodiversity 2020.

Delivery of Outcome 1C will be measured through local partnerships\* (that operate at a large scale of national significance) undertaking the self-assessment set out in Part 2 below. This explores how they are currently applying an Ecosystem Approach to their planning and delivery.

\*Local partnerships and projects that are encouraged to complete the self-assessment include (but this is far from an exhaustive list): Nature Improvement Areas, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, catchment based and other large scale conservation initiatives. The Part 1 ‘screening stage’ below clarifies the intended audience.

It is expected that such large scale partnerships will seek to progress towards meeting the Outcome by 2020 (and as soon as reasonably practical). Once the partnership has ‘met’ the criteria, the area of the partnership will contribute to the 17%. The criteria include reflection of the 12 Ecosystem Approach principles set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – and summarised as an annex at the end of the form.

Advice on completing the self-assessment can be sought from Natural England area staff responsible for landscape scale delivery. Natural England will also shortly issue a ‘toolkit’ to support partnerships in applying the Ecosystem Approach and considering the assessment questions.

TBG is keen to receive completed assessments, regardless of whether or not all criteria are met, to help track progress towards the Outcome and consider where further support might be helpful. **Completed forms** and any queries that cannot be addressed via local Natural England staff, **should be sent to the TBG Secretariat** c/o [graeme.hayes@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:graeme.hayes@naturalengland.org.uk)

*TBG Secretariat, 14 November 2013*

**Notes on completing the self-assessment:**

The criteria are in two parts:

- ❖ Part 1 - 'Does Outcome 1C apply to you?'  
This is a screening stage – do you meet the scope of 1C?
  
- ❖ Part 2 - 'How is your partnership using the ecosystem approach in your work?'  
This is the self-assessment stage
  
- ❖ The questions in Part 1 and 2 refer to a 'Plan'. This can be a partnership management plan, delivery plan or project plan – *e.g. National Park Management Plan, AONB Partnership Management Plan, NIA Business Plan*

## Part 1 – Does Outcome 1C apply to you?

If you meet all 5 of these questions then proceed to Part 2

**PLEASE NOTE:** Section 1 has “reasons for reply” column has been left blank intentionally on advice that Defra takes it as read that National Parks meet the criteria required to move onto Section 2 of this self-assessment.

### Recording your partnership’s response to Part 1:

- Name of partnership or project:
  - Lake District National Park Partnership
- Completed by whom?
  - Judy Clavey on behalf of the Lake District National Park Partnership
  - Completion date: 14 March 2016
- Which partners and other organisations were involved in undertaking Part 1 of this self-assessment?

*See List of Partnership Members and the Rivers Trusts*

<b>Question about your partnership or project</b>	<b>Why are you being asked this?</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Your partnership’s response.....</b>	
			<b>Your reply to the question by highlighting the relevant response below</b>	<b>Your reasons for the reply</b> - why you responded YES or NO - be as specific as you can

<p>1. Are you a <b>partnership seeking to deliver multiple outcomes?</b></p>	<p>The ecosystem approach involves a range of partners working in partnership together across sectors and interests to agree management of an area.</p> <p>A partnership can be a formally constituted partnership, or a more informal partnership that is working together collaboratively. A key point is that planning and action is done together – see Q2.</p>	<p>Types of partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Park</li> <li>• AONB</li> <li>• NIA</li> <li>• Living Landscapes</li> <li>• Futurescapes</li> <li>• Catchment</li> <li>• Other landscape scale/large area partnerships</li> </ul>	<p><b>YES</b></p>	
<p>2. Does your partnership have a <b>shared plan</b> covering the project or partnership area?</p>	<p>Having a shared plan for management of the area demonstrates that joint decisions have been taken and joint action planned.</p> <p>Your partnership's plan will help you answer the questions in Pt 2.</p>	<p>Types of plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Park Management Plan</li> <li>• AONB Management Plan</li> <li>• NIA Business Plans</li> <li>• Living Landscape partnerships</li> <li>• Futurescapes projects</li> <li>• Catchment Management plans</li> <li>• Local Nature Partnership strategies</li> <li>• Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership</li> <li>• Other landscape scale /large area plans</li> </ul>	<p><b>YES</b></p>	
<p>3. Does your partnership operate at <b>landscape scale?</b></p>	<p>Ecosystems are usually large scale and cover large parts of a landscape. The ecosystem approach is about managing the function of ecosystems. The partnership should be operating at a scale that can influence the whole/a significant part of the ecosystems</p> <p>Generally smaller scale sites (e.g. many nature reserves, SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites) may be part of a larger landscape scale partnership, and will not be assessed on their own.</p> <p>For <b>specific sites or groups of sites</b> to be</p>	<p>Landscape scale partnership areas as above.</p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>	

	<p>assessed for the ecosystem approach they <b>should cover a continuous area of at least 10,000 ha</b></p> <p><i>[Links to CBD Principles 2, 3 and 7]</i></p>			
<p>4. Are you working in partnership in an integrated way at a landscape scale to benefit <b>both biodiversity and ecosystem services?</b></p>	<p>The recent policies that promote the linking of action for nature and benefits for people (Lawton Review; NEWP; Biodiversity 2020) all recognise the value of nature to people. Improving the health of nature will increase the benefits for people (ie ecosystem services). Management should combine improving both together – not at the expense of each other.</p>		<b>YES</b>	
<p>5. Are you working in partnership to deliver <b>multiple ecosystem services?</b></p>	<p>The recent policies also highlight that sustainable use involves integrated management across a range of interests and ecosystem services.</p>		<b>YES</b>	

## Part 2 - How is your partnership using the ecosystem approach now?

*This is the **formal assessment section**.*

*You must complete this to determine how your partnership is delivering for Biodiversity 2020 Outcome 1C.*

### **Ecosystem Approach Score Card**

**Date of self-assessment: 14 March 2016**

#### **Summary of your partnership's response to Part 2:**

➤ Name of partnership or project:

*Lake District National Park Partnership*

*The Lake District National Park Partnership has 25 representatives from a cross section of sectors.*

*It agrees and delivers The Partnership's Plan- The Management Plan for the English Lake District 2015-2020 which is the Management Plan for the Lake District National Park and if UNESCO confirm the designation in 2017, the Lake District World Heritage Site.*

*The Partnership was established in 2006 and the current Partnership's Plan is the second to be adopted by the Partnership.*

*The partnership has several sub-groups which effectively expand the membership to include other stakeholder organisations. This is currently under review to refresh and improve the ability of the partnership to deliver the plan effectively.*

➤ Part 2 completed by whom?

*Lake District National Park Authority*

➤ Completion date:

*March 2016*

➤ Which partners and other organisations were involved in undertaking Part 2 of this self-assessment?

*All members of the Lake District National Park Partnership and others (See Appendix 1) have been given the opportunity to contribute and comment to*

*the completion of this self-assessment.*

*This has been through a shared stakeholder workshops (held on 24 March 2015 and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016), 1:1 meetings with those unable to attend and following an opportunity to comment on the draft.*

*The self-assessment was approved by a meeting of the LDNP Partnership 14 March 2016.*

- What is the area your partnership or project operates over (in km2)?

*229,226ha.*

- Proposed date for reviewing Part 2 of your self-assessment:

*March 2018*

	Progressing towards meeting the criteria				Meeting the criteria	
<b>Your assessment</b> – of how far you are meeting each criteria/question	No or very little evidence	Some evidence	Good progress	Near to meeting the criteria	Meeting the criteria	Exceeding the criteria
<b>Indication of progress</b>	We have little or no evidence to demonstrate that we are underway with this criteria	We have evidence to demonstrate we are beginning to address this criteria – but we have not progressed far	We are at least half way to meeting this criteria and have identified actions planned to address the gaps	We have only one or two areas that require development and action to address these is underway	We have sufficient evidence to demonstrate we are meeting the criteria	We have met the criteria and can demonstrate good practice and/or innovative activity for this criteria
<b>Question 1</b> – Is your partnership actively considering and planning for a wide range of environmental assets, within your partnership area (beyond biodiversity, landscape and geodiversity)?	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Question 2</b> – Have you collated data to understand the most relevant ecosystem services in your partnership/project area?	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Question 3</b> – Are you involving a wide range of stakeholders and the local community in planning and delivering action for ecosystem services in your area, including those who benefit from them?	1	2	3	4	5	6

<p><b>Question 4</b> - Is there a management plan with objectives that deliver multiple benefits for biodiversity and other ecosystem services through joint action?</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p><b>Question 5</b> – Are you addressing the current and future risks, pressures and changes affecting the environmental assets in your area, and the ecosystem services they provide?</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p><b>Question 6</b> - Are you considering the long term (10+ years) management requirements for delivering high quality ecosystem services from functioning ecosystems?</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p><b>Question 7</b> - Are you using monitoring as feedback, to inform and adjust your management planning, actions and priorities? (I.e. adaptive management)?</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p><b>Question 8</b> – Is your partnership taking action to understand what ecosystem services people value from your project area, and using valuation to capture them? (Remember values can be both monetary and non-monetary values?)</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6

<b>Questions – for you to assess how you partnership is using the Ecosystem Approach <u>at the moment</u></b>					<b>Why are you being asked this?</b>	
<b>Question 1</b> – Is your partnership actively considering and planning for a wide range of environmental assets, within your partnership area (beyond biodiversity, landscape and geodiversity)?					To understand how your partnership is considering the <b>ecosystems</b> and the <b>environmental assets</b> that underpin them [Links to CBD Principle 5]	
<b>Question 1 self-assessment score</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Considering and planning for a wide range of environmental assets:</b>						
<p>The Lake District National Park Partnership has recently adopted <i><u>The Partnership's Plan- The Management Plan for the English Lake District 2015-2020</u></i> (See Questions 3 + 4 below for more detail). The plan, collectively produced by the Partnership combines the management requirements of a National Park and World Heritage site; the Lake District is currently being evaluated by UNESCO for inscription as a World Heritage Site, recognising the international importance of the English Lake District’s cultural landscape. This will ensure that if, as is hoped that World Heritage Site status will be confirmed in 2017, there will be a single strategic approach that is consistent and appropriate for both designations.</p> <p>The plan includes a set of strategies (together with supporting text) which are designed to assist directly or indirectly in sustaining the Lake District National Park’s cultural landscape and therein it’s Special Qualities. In doing so, a wide range of environmental assets which underpin ecosystems across the National Park are considered including: biodiversity (including a range of habitats and species), peatlands, wetlands, geodiversity and geomorphology, cultural landscape, water resources (defined as both surface and ground water) and woodland.</p> <p>The Partnership Plan focusses on “breakthrough actions” where there is recognition that the partners need to work together on an activity which needs special attention. In addition, it is also recognised that consideration and planning for environmental assets also occurs through “business as usual” activity by both the LD partnership members and other organisations. And so consideration of environmental assets also occurs by partners through development of other plans and strategies, some of which may be at a smaller, but nevertheless landscape scale or at a larger scale beyond the boundary of the National Park.</p>						
<b><u>Evidence and examples (but not exhaustive) of how the partnership, partners and other stakeholders are actively considering and planning for a wide range of environmental assets across the Lake District:</u></b>						
<b>Peatland:</b>						
<b>Cumbria Peat Partnership</b> - The Cumbria Peat Partnership (CPP) is a practical delivery group, made up of 14 organisations from across Cumbria. It brings stakeholders together to share knowledge, develop best practice and actively support the restoration, stewardship and the long-term future of the wide range						

of valuable peat habitats in Cumbria. The Cumbria Peat Partnership actively supports the restoration and better stewardship of peatland habitats with the aim of delivering flood risk management, biodiversity, water resources, water quality, carbon storage and Water Framework Directive benefits.

### **Water and Wetlands:**

**Cumbria Flood Partnership** - The Cumbria Flood Partnership (CFP) is being led by the Environment Agency (EA) reporting to Defra and Rory Stewart MP, Defra Minister. The EA will lead the CFP in the production of catchment plans for the Derwent catchment, the Eden catchment and the Kent and Leven catchment to reduce flood risk to communities at risk. Each plan will include a 25 year framework and a 5 year action plan. They will be produced by the summer Parliamentary recess in July 2016. The plans will incorporate 5 work streams: upstream mitigation and catchment management; channel maintenance; internal drainage boards; flood defences and; community resilience.

**Catchment Partnerships – The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA)** - CaBA is a Government policy framework that empowers local action to improve the water environment through community partnerships. A renewed focus on the catchment based approach has led to new Catchment Partnerships being set up to drive local delivery in the Lake District. These are being hosted by the Eden Rivers Trust (the Saving Eden Coalition), West Cumbria Rivers Trust (Derwent and South West Cumbria “Wild Rivers” Catchment Partnership) and South Cumbria Rivers Trust (Coniston and Crake Partnership – one of five).

Coniston & Crake Catchment Partnership is made up of volunteers who live in the catchment and aims to work with its communities and landowners to improve the water quality in Coniston Water, local streams and the River Crake for the benefit of the fish, flora and fauna associated with the waterways. The Partnership and SCRT has recently been successful in securing a Heritage Lottery development grant which aims to carry out essential conservation work to restore reedbeds, re-naturalise river banks and reinstate fish passes, and remove non-native invasive species. There is also an emphasis on cultural activities associated with natural assets for example the distinctive boats associated with traditional char fishing, the mining history of the area and the coppicing and charcoal burning associated with the bobbin and gunpowder mills.

**The Lake District Still Waters Partnership (LDSWP - a sub group of the partnership)** - The LDSWP established a Lakes Scorecard which gathered together evidence of the condition and status / functionality of open waters in the national park to be reviewed, and prioritised for action. Natura 2000 site status and the Water Framework Directive were considered and the scorecard has been used to identify priority lakes for action.

**Cumbria Freshwater Invasive Non-native Species Initiative** - The Cumbria Freshwater Invasive Non-Native Species (CFINNS) Initiative is a collaborative project currently funded by the Environment Agency, Natural England and DEFRA. It is a pilot for a county-wide, multi-catchment project for freshwater and riparian invasive non-native species (INNS). The Initiative’s vision is to achieve a sustainable county-wide management framework that will prevent the introduction of, or detect, control and/or eradicate specified INNS throughout Cumbria. The CFINNS Initiative is aiming to promote awareness and management of freshwater invasive non-native species issues from promoting biosecurity to training volunteers and co-ordinating removal of certain species. Cumbria Freshwater Biosecurity Plan – production involved wide scale partnership e.g. water based recreation providers and The Rivers Trust and Rivers & Fisheries Trusts Scotland (National Bodies).

**United Utilities - Water Resources Management Plan** - This includes the development of the West Cumbria pipeline which is driven by the needs of freshwater mussel populations and a requirement to build resilience into the regional water supply network. This results in multiple ecosystem delivery including biodiversity and building resilience into water supply.

**Cumbrian Lakes Research Forum** - The fresh waters of the English Lake District are some of the best studied in the world. The forum meets annually to bring together academics, policy makers and delivery staff to disseminate updates on research and maximise awareness of available knowledge for the

practical management of lakes by highlighting how current research and novel techniques can be used to promote evidence-based management. It is also an opportunity for scientists to flag environmental threats and for policy makers and delivery staff to feedback on research needs.

## **Geology**

**Geological SSSI's** - Natural England have identified and designated a number of sites in the National Park for their geological / geomorphological interest. These sites are monitored and included, where necessary, in identification and implementation of any remedial action needed to look after these sites.

**GeoConservation** - Cumbria Geo Conservation is a voluntary geological conservation group working in partnership with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Cumbria County Council and LDNPA to record and look after important geological sites. Affiliated to UK RIGS, the group has responsibility for: identifying new RIGS sites in Cumbria; monitoring and reviewing existing sites; developing an awareness of the educational value of earth science field locations not only for essential teaching but for recreational and for research purposes; liaison with other county or regional RIGS groups in the UK RIGS system; and seeking to maintain responsible access to valued sites.

**Local Plan Policy and Minerals Safeguarding Areas** - Local Plan policy sets out both policies to protect important geological sites from unsuitable development and also identifies mineral safeguarding areas which restrict non-mineral related development which would compromise the extraction and potential economic value of the mineral deposit in the future.

## **Woodlands:**

Cumbria Woodlands has published in partnership with the Farming and Forestry Task Force (a sub group of the LDNP Partnership) the Cumbria and the Lake District, Woodlands and Forestry Strategy and Action Plan

**Forest Design Plans** - Forest Design Plans are produced by the Forestry Commission, to set out the management proposals for the next thirty years for the woodlands that the FC look after. They describe the woodland assets as they are, explain the rationale for the plan proposals and show how the woods will develop over the period of the plan. The plans aim to meet the needs of those using the wood, the needs of the wildlife of the area and the needs of the Forestry Commission as managers of a multipurpose sustainable resource.

**Cumbria Local Nature Partnership** - CLNP has developed a vision, strategy and action plan for Cumbria. Chaired by Lord Inglewood, the partnership focusses on four key themes: putting people at the heart of environmental policy, managing environmental impacts and the growing economy, adopting an integrated landscape approach to conservation on both land and at sea, and improving knowledge and understanding of the environment. This is accompanied by an action plan which identifies a number of actions which consider planning for assets at a landscape scale. For example: developing a programme of targeted landscape scale conservation for insect pollinator habitat as part of Bug Life's B-Lines network in Cumbria which was developed in association with the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre.

## **Genetic Diversity and Traditional Breeds**

Sheep play a significant role in delivering environmental goods and services like biodiversity, habitat management and landscape character, as well as enhancing the value of pastures as carbon sinks. The Herdwick flock in the Lake District is a traditional breed with its own characteristics and unique genetic line and is intrinsically linked with the character of the National Park and local cultural activities. The partnership's plan highlights the importance of sustainable land management which also maintains a sustainable Herdwick flock. Planning for this has included achieving Protected Designation of Origin

status for the breed, and development of markets for Lakeland Herdwick.

The Lake District Climate Change Adaption Report examines the risks and opportunities of a changing climate and the adaptive actions that will enable the Lake District to better cope with these changes over the coming decades. “Climate Change Adaptation Assessment of Risks and Opportunities” was completed in 2012 and updated in 2014 and 2015.

**Upland and grassland ecosystems**

Several landscape scale initiatives seek to improve the quality of upland habitats using the ecosystem approach. RSPB’s North Lakes Futurescapes initiative, United Utilities Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP), Cumbria Wildlife Trust’s – Lakeland Living Landscape and the National Trust’s application of The Lake District – Our Sustainable Land Management Principles” as one of the major landowners in the National Park. More details of these initiatives are given below.

**Gaps & areas for development:**

**Catchment Planning** - Catchment management plans are at various stages of development across the national park. Derwent, South West Lakes and South Cumbria are in the process of being developed.

**Climate adaptation** - Better understanding of how to manage ecosystems and landscape scale features to adapt to climate change.

**Opportunities:**

- Imminent review of the local plan
- The Partnership sub-groups are currently under review with an intention to better align these to achieving the outcomes expected through delivery of the plan.
- Further development of existing Lake District Climate Change Adaptation Plan, to include better integration with the Partnership and existing management plans.
- Development of the Cumbria Catchment Alliance.

**Question 2** – Have you collated data to understand the most relevant ecosystem services in your partnership/project area?

**Note:** *Natural England’s Natural Character Area Profiles consider ecosystem services in each NCA, and can help with this stage – see toolkit. Prompt questions to help you answer Question 2: Considering the main ecosystem services is fine – but include a range across sectors. Have you collated data from partners – including local and national data? Using proxy data is fine where you do not have direct data. Have you got what you need? Have you identified the gaps in data for the ecosystem services in your area?*

To see how your partnership is considering **ecosystem services**

*[Links to CBD Principle 11]*

**Question 2 self-assessment score**

1

2

3

4

5

6

### Summary:

Numerous examples are given below of projects that have happened or are planned to understand ecosystem services across the National Park. Initial focus has been on the benefits of woodland and peatland in relation to carbon sequestration and the ability of the uplands to provide high quality drinking water to the NW region. This has expanded into developing better understanding of a wider range of goods and services including food, health and well-being, and recreation benefits. The Partnership has also undertaken detailed assessment and consolidation of the cultural landscape through the nomination for inscription on the list of World Heritage Sites. This produced a comprehensive volume of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) from the cultural landscape, e.g. collated new data on fell-going flocks and native breeds of sheep; land owned and gifted to the National Trust by Beatrix Potter; landscape connections to important poetry; collation of data on important farm buildings and villas; and described the qualities of the cultural landscape at valley scale and made geographically scored components of the attributes of OUV of the cultural landscape. This data has had input from a variety of professional experts and local knowledge and will be further scrutinised academically through the ICOMOS evaluation process.

### Evidence and examples:

#### **Bassenthwaite Ecosystem Services Pilot Project (initial phase 2009 to 2011).**

- The Bassenthwaite Upland Ecosystem Services Pilot Project, covering a fifth of the National Park, was one of three upland ecosystem services pilot projects initiated by Natural England. The project set out to demonstrate how multiple public benefits can be delivered within the Bassenthwaite catchment (Lake District, Cumbria) through integrated partnership working. The project involved both those benefiting from ecosystem services, as well as those who influence their provision, through a series of workshops as well as a public conference. Two workshops were held with farmers. Maps were used to identify existing ecosystem services and develop an integrated delivery plan.
- A map-based baseline assessment was compiled of the existing ecosystem services provided by the Bassenthwaite Catchment, using national and local data from a range of partners.
- A map-based integrated delivery plan was developed, consisting of seven key actions to enhance multiple public benefits, possible funding mechanisms and how this could fit with farm businesses. The maps were developed through an opportunity mapping workshop and show where there could be potential to enhance ecosystem services. The delivery plan covers the period from 2011-6 with actions embedded in existing delivery mechanisms, including agri-environment schemes.
- Ecosystem Approach handbook highlights this work as good practice and the initial phase of the project was evaluated in 2012.

#### **Ecosystem Accounting Pilot:**

- The Lake District has been one of four pilot areas in England for developing Ecosystem Accounting. For the first time methods have been developed and tested to identify and value the ecosystem services that the Lake District's landscapes provide.
- Consultants working for Defra have developed ecosystem accounts for 6 key habitats in the Lake District to quantify the 'stock' of environmental assets (e.g. woodland, lake/open water habitats), the physical flow/supply of services they provide (e.g. timber and drinking water) and the monetary flows (i.e. an estimate of the monetary value of the services such as timber and drinking water).
- We hope the final reports will be published by Defra in 2016.

#### **Payment for Ecosystem Services:**

- 'Opportunities for Payment for Ecosystem Services: Bundling services across Cumbria and the Lake District National Park' (2014) This work audited

the range and extent of ecosystem services; land management required to improve current ecosystem service delivery and the associated cost. It focused on the following areas: climate regulation; flood regulation; water quality and regulation; biodiversity; access and recreation and cultural heritage. It built on this to look at innovative ways of funding improvements.

- A Knowledge Transfer Partnership researched data to better understand and assess carbon storage and sequestration at the landscape scale, in relation to its role in climate regulation. The project also worked to understand stakeholders views and existing knowledge and to then disseminate the knowledge gained to stakeholders with the most impact on this particular ecosystem service. Carbon Brokering project work continues to collate new data in this area, see also Q8.

#### Gaps & areas for development:

**Ecosystem Accounting pilot project** identified a numbers of gaps and potential areas for development. Part of Breakthrough Action 5a of the Partnership Plan is for the Partnership to agree the next steps following this project:

**Local refinement** – using local data to refine and improve on the nationally-focused approach in the pilot study. This could include replacing national datasets for local equivalents, replacing the indicators for ecosystem services with different alternative local data or supplementing the national datasets with additional local data. Suitable data could be scoped with partners.

**Improving the base habitat data** - the underlying habitat data for the assessment of the extent of each of the 6 habitats is taken from the Land Cover Mapping 2007 survey. This is based on broad habitat types. Refining this, particularly improving the definition of fell and enclosed farmland habitats that fall into the 'semi-natural grassland' and 'mountain, moor and heath' categories has the potential to significantly improve the definition to reflect the Lake District's habitat distribution and farming patterns.

**Developing accounting for other ecosystem services** – The accounts produced to date exclude key benefits the Lake District environment provides – flood protection, educational value, heritage, aesthetic and existence. These have all been recognised in other studies as being important additional benefits from Lake District ecosystems.

**Including water quality** - Water quality was not included in the national pilot project as an ecosystem service based on the rationale that it is not an ecosystem service and that habitats contribute by providing raw drinking water, which is a service. However, the significance of the Lake District is far greater than providing raw drinking water with fundamental links to water quality and the tourist economy. For example, algal blooms on Windermere were a blow to the local economy when a major open water swimming event had to be cancelled. The links in impact on water treatment costs and upland habitat condition are well documented by United Utilities. The scope to include the habitat-derived water quality benefits could be explored further.

**Sustainable Land Management Tool** – Breakthrough Action 1a and 1b in the Partnership's Plan - Currently in development, the National Trust is leading a partnership project to develop a GIS-based land management decision support tool reflecting land capability across 6 land functions, or ecosystem services. This experimental approach will be piloted and tested on National Trust owned land and then tested and developed by the partnership group more widely across the National Park in 2016.

**Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)** - Part of Breakthrough Action 5a in the Partnership's Plan – This project is aimed at developing PES so that the benefits for people provided by the Lake District's landscapes and environment are linked into the costs of ongoing management and the livelihoods of land managers, through innovative payment mechanisms. This project will scope and assess potential PES models for future development relevant to the Lake District, identifying one or two potential models to take forward. It will take account of the learning from previous ecosystem service projects in the Lake

District, Cumbria and more widely, including those mentioned in this document.

**West Cumbria Catchment Partnership** – is building an evidence base and action plan for improving waterbodies for multiple benefit including flood risk management, biodiversity, water quality, carbon storage and local economy.

**Catchment Plans** will also include interactive maps which host information layers accessible to partners and public. These GIS-based interactive maps, which are being developed by South Cumbria Rivers Trust, will be accessible to both partners and the public and will display information on the projects carried out to date and the issues and opportunities around 7 key themes / services: water quality, habitat & wildlife, sustainable development, channel form, flood & drought resilience, invasive species & evidence and monitoring.

Opportunities:

The **Ecosystem Accounting pilot project** identified the opportunities for use of the outputs of the project. The accounts, although experimental, could be applied in the Lake District in a variety of ways:

- Recognition of the multiple benefits from the Lake District’s ecosystems
- Communicate the importance and value of the Lake District’s environment to different audiences
- Bringing environmental benefits into economic planning and decisions
- New partnership and funding opportunities
- Provide a baseline for future change
- Demonstrates linkages between land management and ecosystem services

Recommendation from: ‘Opportunities for Payment for Ecosystem Services: Bundling services across Cumbria and the Lake District National Park’ (2014): a) Look at the landscape as a whole – identify how different land management actions fit together and work towards net benefit overall b) conduct more detailed ecosystem services analysis for particular valleys or catchments.

**Natural Capital Investment Plans** – Local Nature Partnerships have been tasked with writing and developing these. There is a strong link with Ecosystem Accounting and the Ecosystem Approach and the CLNP Board is about to draw partners (CWT, LDNPA and University of Cumbria) together in a working group to develop this and add to the ecosystem and PES work already taking place in the County.

**Question 3**– Are you involving a wide range of stakeholders and the local community in planning and delivering action for ecosystem services in your area, including those who benefit from them?

*Prompt questions: Have you involved a wide range of relevant stakeholders from across different sectors (economic, community and environment)? Are they involved in developing the plan AND delivery of the actions*

*How have you done this? – e.g. visitor surveys, consulting beyond the boundary of your partnership*

To understand how your partnership is **involving** relevant **stakeholders**, and the **beneficiaries and providers of ecosystem services**?

[Links to CBD Principles 1 +12]

<b>Question 3 self-assessment score</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6
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## **Stakeholder Involvement in Development and Implementation of the Partnership's Plan**

The primary forum for integrated management in the National Park is the Lake District National Park Partnership comprised of 25 organisations across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors (See Appendix 1). Each partner has committed to delivery of the Partnership's Plan and is signed up to a Memorandum of Understanding. Each member of the partnership is equal and the Partnership has an independent chair.

Section 4.1 of the MOU states that the partnership will:

- Develop, agree and continuously review, the Vision by engaging others.
- Develop, agree and monitor a rolling five year management plan for the Lake District National Park ("the Partnership's Plan"), with clear priority actions, outcomes and success measures, ensuring agreement and participation by all partners; and provide strategic advice and recommendations to the Partners increasing, monitoring and reviewing policies for developing and managing the National Park and issues related to its future. This will include regularly reviewing the Partnership Plan, the Local Plan for the National Park and the State of the Park Report.

Section 4.3 of the MOU adds that the Partners will encourage and facilitate effective working relationships between each other in those topics relevant to the delivery of the Vision.

Section 6.10 of the MOU also provides for the ability to conduct its business through sub-committees or task and finish groups. This has allowed further /extended representation and greater consideration of specific topics / issues where necessary. (Examples have included the Lake District Still Waters Partnership, the Farming and Forestry Task Force)

A recent Partnership Improvement project has identified ways to make the partnership work even more effectively. In addition, the LDNPA are in the process of recruiting a dedicated officer to work with and engage the farming community as this has been a gap in the past.

Development of the Partnership's plan was not confined to the 25 partners. A six week public consultation was also held giving everyone an opportunity to influence the content. It was also written as the management plan for the Lake District as a potential World Heritage Site, taking into account guidance from a UNESCO World Heritage perspective concerning the cultural landscape as a site that if inscribed "transcends national boundaries and...of common importance to the international community". Therefore stakeholder feedback on cultural heritage was sought, including from non-UK based international experts.

The Partnership recently adopted "The Partnership's Plan – The Management Plan for the English Lake District 2015-2020. Implementation is guided primarily through a set of "Breakthrough Actions", which set out the detail of what the Partnership intends to focus its collective attention and resources on to deliver the Strategies set out in the Plan.

The approach also recognises that in addition to the breakthrough actions, the Partnership and partner organisations are, both together and individually, continually engaged in activity to deliver projects and meet the ongoing needs of effective management. This is part of many partners' core or statutory remits and this "business as usual" for each partner organisation also assists with the delivery of the Partnership's Plan and the Ecosystem Approach.

These other "business as usual" approaches can also include development of strategies and plans which extend beyond the NP boundary and involve widespread consultation. For example, River Basin Management Planning.

Evidence and examples of other activities in the Lake District (plans and strategies, forums, workshops, projects and events) where stakeholders are

engaged (including beneficiaries and providers) in planning and delivery of action to deliver the ecosystem approach include:

**Neighbourhood Development Plans** - Several Parish Councils in the national park are leading the development of Neighbourhood Plans. The Coniston Neighbourhood Plan 2015 - 20125 is a community led planning document which will supplement the Local Plan as part of the development plan for the area. It includes local planning policies designed to protect and enhance natural and cultural features that are valued locally and provide for long term protection of water quality within the areas. These plans are formally adopted and become part of decision making in relation to planning applications.

**Upland Outcomes Approach** - A series of workshops facilitated by the Heather Trust on behalf of Natural England, one of which was held on the Derwent Fells, Keswick and brought together farmers, land managers, and staff from organisations including NFU and Natural England, with the aim of helping stakeholders to address complex and emotive issues through partnership working. Based on a The National Upland Outcomes framework published in December 2013.

**Distinctive Area Working** - The National Park is divided into 5 “Distinctive Areas” each of which is looked after by a multidiscipline team of National Park staff and members of the Authority. The DA teams have a strong focus on community engagement, organising events with the parish councils and other stakeholders. “Distinctive Area Tours” have proved a positive way to create an open dialogue to address issues and opportunities with local communities. And the DA teams have also supported local communities in development of a range of plans and projects which are relevant to the ecosystem approach including the Ullswater Valley Plan and the Rusland Horizons initiative. Further details of these can be found below.

**Ullswater Valley Plan:-** The Ullswater Valley Plan sets out what people want to see happening in their area in the future. By involving local people, visitors and businesses it establishes what they want to change, keep the same or improve in their area. The process includes: people who live in the area, local businesses and farmers, Parish Council, visitors to the area and interprets the National Park Vision at a local level. Over 120 people have taken part in community engagement events in the Ullswater area, and three sub-groups set up under a community-led steering group around the themes of Environment, Economy and Vibrant Communities (including heritage). The work led to production of an action plan, which is overseen by the community-led groups.

**Go Lakes Initiative** - The Go Lakes team have worked with local landowners, residents and businesses, the Parish Council, National Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, Parish Councils to improve family cycling networks around the Hawkshead area, which have not only improved safety but provided a better enjoyment of woodland and wetland habitats, resulted in mitigation of existing impacts on biodiversity and improved links to local businesses.

**Rusland Horizons:-** Rusland Horizons is one of the first community-led Landscape Partnership Schemes to be funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. The development of this Heritage Lottery Fund project was led by the local community with support from a number of organisations including Lake District NPA, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Cumbria Woodlands, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Westmorland Red Squirrel Society, Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre, University of Lancaster and the Bill Hogarth Memorial Apprenticeship Trust. Local community involvement will continue through the implementation phase, providing many opportunities to become involved in a range of projects recording, restoring, managing and celebrating the heritage, wildlife and wooded landscape of the Rusland Valley.

**Full Cycle project** – A good example of including and benefitting communities beyond the Park. National Parks contain inspiring landscapes but evidence has shown not many 16 to 25 year olds use them. The Full Cycle project (commissioned by Colton Parish Council and the Rusland Horizons Landscape Partnership) targeted disadvantaged 16-25 years olds from the Furness peninsular towns of Barrow, Dalton and Ulverston to participate in traditional woodland management and produce woodland products in the Rusland Valley. The group included individuals disadvantaged in a variety of ways including NEET (not in employment, education or training), disabled, young carers, poor economic circumstances, living in sheltered accommodation and low in

confidence and self-esteem. Most of the participants had never been into a woodland prior to joining the scheme.

**Mosaic** - Mosaic is an initiative led by the Campaign for National Parks and was developed because national and local survey has identified that there are sectors of our society who never or rarely visit National Parks or experienced these inspirational wild landscapes. Mosaic works beyond the boundaries of National Parks, to overcome barriers to access to the Lake District for disadvantaged groups, including ethnic minorities, young adults and people with disabilities. There is a focus on using opportunities to making links with communities and understanding their needs. The latest Mosaic initiative in the Lake District has been Mosaic 16-25 year olds in partnership with the Lake District National Park and the YHA. It has focussed on finding Young Champions who can then get involved in a variety of ways, including opportunities to influence what happens in the National Park and experience and learn more about communications, tourism, conservation, farming, rural skills. They also magnify the benefit by organising visits for other young people.

**Cumbria Connections**:-From 2012 to 2014 farmers in the Bassenthwaite and Ullswater catchments came together with The Farmer Network, Cumbria Local Nature Partnership and Natural England to prepare the Cumbria Connections Action Plan. The project was partly funded by Defra following the proposed Cumbria Lakes to Fells Nature Improvement Area. The Vision of the Plan is “Farm businesses in the Ullswater and Bassenthwaite catchments are profitable and sustainable; and an integral part of a healthy natural environment and a vibrant rural economy.”

**Fell Care Days** - Fell Care Days are mass-volunteering practical conservation and learning events which bring together local communities, schools and volunteers from many different walks of life. They are run by Friends of the Lake District and focus on reconnecting people with the landscape by raising awareness of the immense value of uplands in providing diverse and unique habitats; food and fuel; clean water; flood control; jobs; locking up carbon in peat soils; opportunities for recreation and improving our health and well-being. <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/fell-care-days>

**The Cumbria Freshwater Biosecurity Plan** - The Cumbria Freshwater Biosecurity Plan (2011-2015) produced by Cumbria Freshwater Invasive Non-Native Species Initiative (CFINNS) was the first of its kind in England to establish a framework to help reduce the risks of new introductions of invasive non-native species (INNS) and enable detection and effective control of any species that have invaded. Production involved wide scale partnership consultation including water based recreation providers, The Rivers Trust and the Rivers & Fisheries Trusts Scotland. And these stakeholders along with local volunteers are involved in delivery of the plan.

**Cumbria Visitor Survey** - Cumbria Tourism commission the Cumbria Visitor Survey annually. It identifies the reasons that people visit the Lake District some of which are related to ecosystem goods and services. For example respondents are asked if they visit to: bird watch / observe wildlife; enjoy the spectacular landscape. In the latest survey, several additional questions related to improvements in physical and mental well-being were added to the survey to improve information relating to the health and well being agenda.

**Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor** - Cumbria Tourism, the district councils, Lake District National Park Authority commission the use of a model called STEAM to estimate the economic impact of tourism in Cumbria. The data has been collected annually since 2000. It uses locally derived data from a variety of sources including tourist information centres, visitor attractions and events and accommodation providers. The data is analysed to produce estimates of the number of visitors, visitor days, employment supported by tourism and the revenue generated. And this in turn can help to understand the monetary value placed on some ecosystem services.

**National Trust Visitor Survey Segmentation** -This uses segmentation approaches to identify and categorise its customer/audience groups. In doing so, there is greater insight into the value that is placed on ecosystem services. This helps to maximise engagement with the different groups (labelled by the Trust as Curious Minds, Explorer Families, Home and Family, Kids First Families, Live Life to the Full), for example by using audience appropriate

communication methods such as web sites, face to face or social media.

**Nurture Lakeland** Has established a small grants fund which provides financial support to improve local areas for people and nature. It has helped hundreds of tourism businesses understand their environmental impact and take action to reduce it. (See Love Your Lakes in Q5 ) It has also encouraged organisers of challenge events to follow a “Sustainable Outdoor Recreational Challenge Events Guide”. Local businesses are invited to become members to support conservation projects and are listed in a green business directory providing visitors a way to choose accommodation and visitor attractions with good environmental credentials.

**The Lake District Local Access Forum** - The Lake District Local Access Forum (LAF) is made up of local people from all walks of life who are interested in how access to the countryside is developed throughout the National Park. The LAF was introduced as part of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and has been in place since 2004. The Forum's purpose is to advise the Lake District National Park Authority on the improvement of public access to the National Park for open air recreation and enjoyment of the area. And In carrying out its work, the Forum considers the needs of land management and conservation of the natural beauty of the area. The LAF advises on the content of the Cumbria Access and Recreation Strategy.

**River Basin Management Planning and Catchment Plans** - Development of the RBMP has involved widespread public consultation. And catchment partnerships have continued to take on board the views of stakeholders in development of more specific catchment management plans by the catchment partnerships located within the three rivers trusts (South Cumbria, West Cumbria and Eden) located in the National Park. See Question 4 below for more details on the Coniston and Crake catchment. There is a strong focus on delivery, with continued stakeholder engagement. Currently SCRT, as DEFRA appointed catchment hosts, are working with catchment partnerships, local businesses and stakeholders across South Cumbria to develop catchment plans.

**Cumbria Flood Partnership** - The process of producing the flood partnership catchment plans (see Q1 above) will be an inclusive process involving all stakeholders. In particular the communities at risk, farmers and landowners, alongside other businesses, the third sector, local authorities and public agencies will come together under joint ecosystem service interests, with task and finish groups including evidence review and culminating in catchment plans by end of June 2016.

**Cumbria River Restoration Strategy** – a partnership between the EA/NE and the 3 Cumbria Rivers Trusts, working with landowners and local community to plan and implement river restoration projects throughout Cumbria including the National Park. These projects have significant multi-benefit benefit for example reducing flood risk and benefitting biodiversity.

**Forest Design Plans** - In developing Forest Design Plans, Forestry Commission Estates widely consult with a range of stakeholders on their planting and felling proposals.

**Site Improvement Plans (SIPS)** - As part of the improvement programme for England's Natura 200 sites (IPENS) Natural England, is actively involving stakeholders in the development of Site Improvement Plans (SIPS). Sites in the Lake District can be found [here](#).

#### Gaps & areas for development:

Health and Well-being: With the growing understanding of the benefits of the natural environment for health and well being understanding needs in relation to the people who could benefit need to be expanded.

Understanding the benefits for communities beyond the park. We have some awareness through visitor surveys, and understanding of the benefits of raw

water provision for communities distant from the National Park. There is more scope for a greater understanding of these wider connections.  
Working more closely with the Farming community. We are refocussing our farming and forestry task force to ensure strong engagement.

<p><b>Question 4</b> - Is there a management plan with objectives that deliver multiple benefits for biodiversity and other ecosystem services through joint action?</p> <p><i>Prompt questions to help you answer Question4: Have you identified the priority ecosystem services which require action? Have you considered tensions and conflicts when managing for the range of ecosystem services? Are you openly dealing with these? Is ecosystem integrity, function and health being considered? for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hydrology</li> <li>• carbon storage and sequestration</li> <li>• nutrient cycling</li> </ul> <p><i>Have you considered linkages for ecological networks and ecosystem services beyond the partnership/project area?</i></p>	<p>To see how your partnership is planning for future <b>management which is integrated and holistic</b>; combining the conservation and use of your local environment.</p> <p><i>[Links to CBD Principle 10]</i></p>
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<b>Question 4 self-assessment score</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
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Summary:

The Lake District National Park has a mature and well-developed management planning system based on statutory requirements. In recent years, this has been developed further through the Lake District National Park Partnership which recently adopted the *The Partnership's Plan- The Management Plan for the English Lake District 2015-2020*

The Vision for the national park highlights a long term commitment to achieving “A landscape whose natural and cultural resources are assets to be managed and used wisely for future generations.” These assets are identified in the 13 “special qualities” of the National Park (p66 of the plan) and being clear about what they are enables the Partnership to actively consider and plan for their effective management in an integrated way.

The plan includes 34 strategies under the following main themes: Spectacular landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage (SL); prosperous economy (PE); world class visitor experience (VE); Vibrant Communities (VC). Each strategy is designed to assist directly or indirectly in sustaining the Lake District National Park’s Special Qualities and Outstanding Universal Values. Appendix 2 gives a breakdown of the ecosystem services covered by the different strategies in the Partnership’s Plan. A selection of these are further illustrated below:

**Supporting services - biodiversity delivery**

Relevant Strategies: SL7: Resilient and well-functioning habitats and wildlife.

Breakthrough Action 3a – Increase and improve the focus of biodiversity and ecosystem service delivery at a landscape scale. Mapping Wild Rusland (a project within Rusland Horizons) is being used as a pilot to collate all relevant datasets (local and national) to establish extent, condition, and current management of priority habitat and identify gaps in knowledge. A plan to obtain missing data and facilitate improvements in the coherence and resilience of the ecological network in the project area.

### **Provisioning services – food**

Relevant Strategies:

Existing partner activity: Cumbria Tourism are leading on “Lake District on a Plate”, exploring adding value to locally produced products

### **Provisioning services – forestry, woodland and fuel wood**

Relevant Strategies: SL1 A world class living cultural landscape SL6: Well considered tree and woodland establishment and improvement; SL7: Resilient and well-functioning habitats and wildlife; PE1: Profitable land management, farming and forestry industries; PE2: Maintaining traditional land based skills; PE7: reducing energy costs for businesses.

Existing partner activity – Forestry Commission will continue to work independently and with others to expand woodland cover within the context of UK Forestry Strategy and the Lakes Cultural Landscape and lead the North West tree health group to increase and tree and woodland resilience and bring undermanaged woodlands into management providing more wood fuel/biomass.

### **Regulating services – flood control and water quality**

Relevant Strategies: SL4 – Increased resilience to Flooding; SL5 – Improved Water Quality and resources in lakes, tarns, rivers, ground waters and sea; SL7: Resilient and well-functioning habitats and wildlife; VE1: Opportunity for experiences in unique landscapes; VC1: Pride and sense of ownership of the local environment

Breakthrough Action 4a – Develop an alliance of partners to ensure more effective and efficient delivery of projects, to achieve improvements to the quality of Lake District Lakes and Landscape. The Cumbria Catchment Alliance concept is progressing well, both in terms of ways of working and topic areas. Three themes have emerged including – river restoration, diffuse pollution and priority lakes. Three projects across Cumbria are being led by the Rivers Trusts (RT). Eden RT is focussing on a Diffuse Pollution Plan, South Cumbria RT on a Point Source Pollution Plan and West Cumbria RT will be developing river restoration plans.

Existing Partner Activity - Flood control– Environment Agency lead on implementing many flood alleviation schemes and appropriate catchment scale measures to reduce flood risk to our communities as identified in the NW Flood Risk Management Plan. Natural England will aim to mitigate flood risk through group applications for Countryside Stewardship and the Forestry Commission is working with partners to identify and promote where woodland management and creation might realistically increase resilience to flooding. Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) are promoting community resilience planning through community groups and Parish Councils, the National Farmers Union is working to help farmers to work with partners to get the best advice on how best to manage land to reduce flooding issues, which Cumbria Wildlife Trust is working with EA on the Slow the Flow Project. Another “slow the flow” approach is being taken by the Cumbria River Restoration Strategy (EA, NE and Cumbria Rivers Trusts) delivering multi-benefit projects. Cumbria Flood Partnership (CFP) is developing catchment plans for the Derwent, Eden and the Kent and Leven catchments to reduce risk to communities of flooding. Each plan will include a 25 year framework and a 5 year action plan.

Existing Partner Activity - Water quality: Catchment Sensitive Farming raised awareness of diffuse water pollution from agriculture by giving training, advice

and capital grants to farmers in priority catchments. From 2015 this work will be integrated into the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Nurture Lakeland will continue to deliver the "Love Your Lakes programme and the National Trust will deliver its "Catchments in Trust project. A renewed focus on the catchment based approach has led to new Catchment Partnerships being set up to drive local delivery in the Lake District. Several catchment based partnerships have been established in the Lake District. The Coniston Crake Partnership is a good example of how local people have engaged in developing action with multiple outcomes. United Utilities' new approach to tackling water quality issues in lakes, rivers and coastal waters is "Catchment Wise" will build on the Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP which focussed on raw water quality) and aims to drive a similar change around wastewater issues, sharing expertise about how land is used and managed and tackling pollution at source to improve water quality. Natural England will deliver the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, develop Site Improvement Plans for Natura 2000 sites and with the Environment Agency, prioritise farms where Diffuse Water Pollution Plans will bring most benefit.

### **Regulating Services – Climate**

Relevant Strategies: SL7 (Resilient and well functioning habitats and wildlife)

Breakthrough Action 3d - Agree programme of support for the Cumbria Peat Partnership to achieve its target of 2020ha of peatland restoration by 2020. Further details of the Cumbria Peat Partnership are given in Q1

### **Cultural Services - Sense of place, Inspiration, Aesthetic**

Relevant Strategies: VC1: Pride in and sense of ownership of the local environment and its distinctive character. Our strategy is to promote local understanding for what makes a place special through engaging with and supporting communities. And celebrating and supporting the continuation of local cultural traditions and activities.

SL8: The continuation of the Lake District as a source of artistic and cultural inspiration

Breakthrough Action: Inspiring and engaging residents, businesses, farmers and land managers, visitors and new audiences through the World Heritage Site campaign and Lakes Culture Programme 2b

**Existing Partner Activity - Duddon Valley Pilot** – Integrating Cultural Values and Services in Landscape and Ecological Planning - ADAS was commissioned, together with the Research Box, by Natural England to undertake a pilot study and to develop practical advice and guidance on how cultural service information gathered from the public could be used in landscape planning. The study has also shown that certain types of land use and land cover have stronger associations with cultural services than others, and not all of the places people value are currently protected by designation or conservation management agreements. This has important implications for how decisions are made on land-use change which may affect these locations. It has led to recommendations for how cultural services information can be captured and integrated with other GIS datasets for use in land-use and landscape planning.

### **Cultural Services – Recreation and Ecotourism**

Relevant Strategies: PE4: A year round visitor industry; VE1: Opportunity for experiences in a unique landscape; VE2: Responsible visiting; VC7: Access to high quality amenity and recreation green spaces, public rights of way and facilities

Existing partner activity: Cumbria Access and Recreation Strategy 2014 (CCC/LDNP/YDNPA) - focusses on delivery of land based recreation and access

across Cumbria and the Lake District. The strategy recognises that the county's spectacular scenery, beautiful countryside and open spaces are a big part of the appeal of access in the Lake District and that the quality of the natural environment improves and delivers high quality access experiences. One of its strategic aims focusses on access and recreation contributing to a thriving economy whilst protecting and, where possible enhancing, the sustainability of the County's natural and cultural resources. Nurture Lakeland - Continue to use opportunities provided through the visitor giving scheme to inspire tourists to the area to value the spectacular landscape which draws them here. Information is provided to visitors by fundraising businesses about the nature conservation projects being supported, thereby helping to strengthen the relationship between people and nature. And ensuring that The Lakes Culture programme fully integrates and promotes the principles of responsible tourism.

### **Cultural Services - Education**

Relevant Strategies: SL1 A World Class living cultural landscape; PE2: Profitable land management, farming, and forestry industries; SL5: Improved water quality and resources in lakes, tarns, rivers, ground waters, and sea; SL6: Well considered tree and woodland establishment; SL7: Resilient and well-functioning habitats and wildlife; SL8: The continuation of the Lake District as a source of artistic and cultural inspiration

**Breakthrough Action - 1d Scope the Viability of establishing a Research and Training Hub – for the English Lake District. - University of Cumbria** will lead and develop a centre to coordinate, channel and champion education and training needs which focus on land management, conservation, sustainability and cultural heritage.

### **Cultural Services – Cultural Heritage**

Relevant strategy: SL1 A World Class living cultural landscape

Breakthrough action 1c: Agree a model and approach to monitor landscape and environmental change based on the Lake District Character Assessments & National Character Areas – furthers our strategy to increase coordinated management, understanding and appreciation of landscape character at a valley scale and our intention to encourage local approaches to landscape management informed by the Landscape Character Assessment and monitoring landscape change.

The Lake District National Park designation is principally based on the quality of its landscape. The World Heritage Site Nomination develops this further, recognising that the Lake District has Outstanding Universal Value to the world as a prime example of the combined works of nature and man.

### **Multiple Ecosystem Services**

Relevant Strategies: SL1 A World Class living cultural landscape; PE2: Profitable land management, farming, and forestry industries; SL4: Increased resilience to flooding; SL5: Improved water quality and resources in lakes, tarns, rivers, ground waters, and sea; SL6: Well considered tree and woodland establishment; SL7: Resilient and well-functioning habitats and wildlife; SL8: The continuation of the Lake District as a source of artistic and cultural inspiration.

Breakthrough Action 1a, 1b - Sustainable Land Management Tool - Land managers are often faced with choices in relation to which group of ecosystem services should be pursued. This depends on how each service is valued and the recognition that favouring one could be at the expense of another. In response to this, the National Trust has been developing, as a breakthrough action on behalf of the partnership, a GIS based sustainable land management

tool that will be used to help land managers take more informed management decisions. The action is developing well, with the intention of testing application in pilot areas on the NT Lake District estate.

Gaps & areas for development:

**Local Plan** development - using the Ecosystem Approach in development of the Local Plan

**Soil quality as a regulatory service** - Although there is much action relating to prevention of loss of soils, restoration of active peatland and reduction of pollution, the more specific links / understanding of soil quality as a regulatory service could be improved.

Opportunities:

**Diffuse water pollution** – addressing this across the catchments can improve the recreational value of lakes, by avoiding algal blooms.

**Catchment management and flood management planning** - for example upstream management of land particularly where hydrologically linked and generating sediment sources, diffuse inputs affecting water quality.

**Question 5** – Are you addressing the current and future risks, pressures and changes affecting the environmental assets in your area, and the ecosystem services they provide?

To understand how your partnership is addressing **key risks**, both for the local environment and the ecosystem services it provides.

*[Links to Principle 6]*

<b>Question 5 self-assessment score</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
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**Summary**

Section 2.4 of the Partnership’s Plan identifies the key risks and issues affecting the Lake District. The list includes:

- climate change (resulting in flooding and changes to habitats)
- tensions between managing the cultural landscape and enhancing the natural environment
- biodiversity decline
- disease and pests including non-native species
- visitor management
- impacts of development
- decline of rural communities and rural isolation

Appendix 5 (of the Partnership plan goes on to elaborate on which of the special qualities these risks could impact on, the indicators which are expected to

monitor the risk, and risk management solutions (in relation to the Partnership's Plan strategies, breakthrough actions and LDNP local plan policies).

Evidence and examples:

**Cumbria Flood Action Group** - The Cumbria Farm Flood Action Group is formed of the Farming Community Network, The Farmer Network, RABI, Cumbria Commoners, NFU, Foundation for Common Land, Forage Aid, Cumbria Agricultural Chaplaincy, Addington Fund, Westmorland Agricultural Society and Mitchells Auction. This group will assess the nature and scale of damage to farms and on farm diversified businesses following recent floods in Cumbria. Learning lessons from Somerset and previous Cumbria floods the Cumbria Farm Flood Action Group will collect data from all the farm businesses affected to assess the scale and nature of the flooding on farms and also make available help to farmers. This is additional to the Cumbria Flood Partnership which has a wider remit.

The issue of flooding is particularly high on the agenda currently due to the impacts of extreme weather events at the end of 2015. Local flood action groups have already begun to develop their own flood action plans – for example in Patterdale.

**NW River Basin Management Planning** - Many of the key issues in the partnerships plan are based on an assessment of the water courses in North West River Basin undertaken by the Environment Agency and key partners. A shortlist of the issues believed to threaten the current and potential future uses of the water environment includes: physical modifications, pollution from waste water, pollution from both rural and urban areas, changes to natural flows and water levels, abstraction pressures, pollution from mines and the impact of invasive non-native species.

**The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA)** - CaBA is a Government policy framework that empowers local action to improve the water environment through community partnerships. A renewed focus on the catchment based approach has led to new Catchment Partnerships being set up to drive local delivery in the Lake District. These are being hosted by the Eden Rivers Trust (the Saving Eden Coalition), West Cumbria Rivers Trust (Derwent and South West Cumbria "Wild Rivers" Catchment Partnership) and South Cumbria Rivers Trust (Coniston and Crake Partnership – one of five). The work considers risks such as flooding, soil erosion and diffuse pollution, as well as building resilience to mitigate future potential impacts of climate change on aquatic species such as freshwater mussel and salmonids.

**Love Your Lakes** - was delivered by Nurture Lakeland as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded Project, Windermere Reflections 2011 - 2014. The campaign aimed to improve water quality in Lake Windermere and the surrounding catchment lakes by helping local businesses, residents and visitors to take simple lake friendly steps to support the reduction of harmful blue green algae blooms. During the campaign, local businesses were visited, events hosted, and information was distributed to 1000s of residents. A Love Your Lakes Property Pack, full of practical tips and case studies for businesses and home owners was also produced. See more at: <https://nurturelakeland.org/our-impact/our-campaigns/love-your-lakes#sthash.L1Ks6dEF.dpuf>. The campaign also covered the River Derwent and Bassenthwaite Lake Catchment.

**River Derwent & Tributaries and Bassenthwaite Lake Diffuse Water Pollution Plan** - This evidence based plan focuses on the impacts of phosphorous, nitrates and sediment levels on water quality and identifies a number of mechanisms for delivery of action for example through catchment sensitive farming, entry and higher level stewardship scheme, Countryside Stewardship, woodland grant scheme, farming and forestry improvement scheme, SCaMP and the Love Your Lakes campaign.

**United Utilities Water Resources Plan** - The Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) considers likely future changes to water supply such as the impacts of climate change and changing public demand and considers how to mitigate the effects of drought, upland erosion and flooding. It recognises the need to consider delivery of multiple ecosystem benefits and focusses on contributing to a high quality natural environment in the National Park. This has led

to the development of the West Cumbria Water Supply Project which, in addition to improving the security of water supply to communities on the west coast of Cumbria, will deliver more resilient habitats in which some of our internationally important species are far more likely to prosper. (The Catchment Abstraction Management process is also relevant to management of abstraction pressures.)

In addition the plan recognises the part that UU has in long term improvement of water quality, particularly in lakes and rivers in relation to waste water treatment. And the economic value of high quality upland habitat in relation to providing clear water (which requires less subsequent treatment to remove peat coloration) is reflected in large investments in management of upland land in the catchments from which water abstraction is being carried out.

**Cumbria Freshwater Invasive Non Native Species** - Invasive Non-Native Species damage the environment, diminish the services provided by ecosystems and, in some cases, raise risks to human health. Freshwater is particularly vulnerable to both plant and animal invasive non-native species with threats to endangered native species, loss of biodiversity, diminished water quality, spread of disease and restricted navigation, all examples of the detrimental outcomes that commonly arise. CFINNS seeks to reduce the risk of new non-native species arriving and manage the populations of those that have already become established. A 5 year rolling strategy and action plan responds to latest information on threats.

**Climate Change - Low Carbon Lake District** Whilst we have little control over climate change at a global level, we can manage, mitigate and adapt to climate change at a local Lake District Level, as shown by the Low Carbon Lake District Initiative. The initiative seeks to tackle climate change locally through the LD Partnership working with local businesses, communities and agencies to reduce greenhouse gases and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Climate Change Adaptation Assessment of Risks and Opportunities completed in 2012 and updated in 2014 and 2015.

**Facilitating species movement through habitat networks** - B-Lines a BUG life national initiative has worked locally with Cumbria Wildlife Trust and Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre to address the need for networks of habitat to facilitate the movement of pollinators as climate change influences species microclimate requirements. Linked to the work of projects such as Cumbria Wildlife Trust's Hay Meadow project this landscape scale strategic approach will maximise the value of resources allocated to hay meadow and other habitat restoration.

**Biodiversity Decline** - Some species in the Lake District have shown decline due to a range of pressures. Some examples, along with the approach that is being taken include:

**Duke of Burgundy** - Butterfly Conservation are working with the National Park Authority and other landowners to manage habitat to facilitate the movement of this species through the landscape, increasing the resilience of the population to future climate change.

**Arctic Alpines** - With the impact of climate change squeezing habitat availability for the plants found only at the highest altitudes in the National Park, the Arctic –Alpine project is working to improve resilience of montane heath habitats and populations of arctic alpine plants in the Lake District High Fells.

**Red Squirrel** -One of the Lake District's iconic species, the red squirrel is part of the cultural heritage of the Lake District, linked to the children's books written by Beatrix Potter and the tourism economy. Predators, viruses and changes to the landscape all pose threats, but the introduction of the grey squirrel from America has devastated local red squirrel populations. Red Squirrels Northern England (RSNE) is a red squirrel conservation partnership working right across northern England. The project works across Cumbria, Northumberland, Merseyside, Lancashire, north-west Durham and the Yorkshire Dales, in and close to areas where red squirrels are still living free in the landscape. Evidence and research has been used to develop and update the strategic approach and action is delivered through an enormous network of voluntary red squirrel groups and land managers

**NE SSSI Condition Monitoring and Remedies** - working with land owners to put measures in place to maintain and enhance the quality of the biodiversity

and the function of these sites. For example remedial works to lowland raised mires to restore hydrological function, and the establishment of suitable grazing pressures to deliver both habitat improvement and maintenance of viable farm businesses through Countryside Stewardship schemes.

**Lakes Research Forum** - annual meeting of academics and practitioners and policy makers to identify what research needs are. Examples relating to ecosystem approach include: application of modelling at a local scale i.e. for Windermere into the future to understand water quality improvements needed over and above current targeting to compensate for added effect of climate induced water temperature increases.

**Visitor Management** - Fix the Fells is a long term initiative focussed on restoration of upland habitats in relation to visitor pressure. Repair of badly eroded paths has resulted in significant improvements in soil erosion prevention.

**Large Scale Outdoor events:** - Large scale outdoor events, can impact on the environment in which they take place. In order to ensure that people have the opportunity to enjoy recreational challenges, there is a focus in the National Park on sustainable events. This has been addressed in several ways. Single Point of Contact (SPOC) is an approach that has been developed to enable event organisers to get the information that they need to plan an event to avoid important wildlife and historic features. Nurture Lakeland has produced “Your Guide to Sustainable Organised Recreational Events”. The guide is aimed at organisers of events such as triathlons, orienteering

**Reducing risk of spreading freshwater invasive non-native species** The ‘Check Clean Dry’ campaign has been promoted locally by Cumbria FINNS.

**Development Plans** - including Neighbourhood Plans identify and plan for future risks.

Gaps & areas for development:

Pollution - nitrogen air pollution has been identified as a risk to SSSI habitats in the National Park by Natural England and the vulnerability of heavy metal laden deposits (relating to historic mining) to extreme flooding are both areas where further development will be possible.

Opportunities:

**Forestry Commission Estates** - The Forestry Commission is taking a strategic approach regionally and building in resilience to future change through the Forest Design and Planning Process. To facilitate multi-purpose objectives set in the context of climate change and risks such as the spread of tree diseases across the forest estate approaches such as continuous cover forestry are being increasingly used as well as changes in tree planting choices in anticipation of expected changes. Some private forest land managers are also taking this approach.

**Question 6** - Are you considering the long term (10+ years) management requirements for delivering high quality ecosystem services from functioning ecosystems?

*Prompt questions for Q6 - Are you working to improve long term ecosystem function? Are you working to improve long term ecological connectivity? Are you planning to adapt ecosystems to climate change?*

To see how your partnership is taking a **long-term view** to management of the local environment

*[Links to CBD Principles 8 + 9]*

**Question 6 self-assessment score**

1

2

3

4

5

6

The Partnership’s Plan refers to maximising favourable condition and building resilience to change, and the concept of bigger better more Lawton / B2020.

## Examples / Evidence

**The Partnership's Plan** - The 2030 Vision for the Lake District National Park is described in Section 2.7 of the Partnership's Plan together with the supporting strategies in Section 3 which set out the intention for moving towards achieving the vision over the period 2015-2020.

The Vision is underpinned by the strategies which highlight the intention to achieve optimum quality, diversity and extent of habitats and species in relation to open water (SL5), trees and woodland (SL6) and resilient and well-functioning habitats and wildlife (SL7).

Part of the wording of strategy SL7 is to:

“Achieve bigger, better and more joined up resilient habitats and species in line with Biodiversity 2020 targets, by taking an “ecosystem approach”, delivering integrated programmes to enhance biodiversity, and restore ecosystem function through sensitive and improved management, recognising the multiple benefits for people and wildlife. We will work with the Local Nature Partnerships, and land management, farming and forestry industries to achieve this , supported by establishing good quality available and accessible biodiversity data to improve our understanding on population, condition and distribution of species and habitats”

Section 5 of the World Heritage Nomination Document considers long term management of the Lake District as a cultural landscape and potential World Heritage Site, including associated monitoring and risk management required for the site.

**The Vision and Climate Change** - The Partnership's Plan also identifies our response to climate change (co-ordinated through the Low Carbon Lake District project) and our intention that we will make the landscape more resilient to the impacts of climate change. The Lake District Climate Change Adaption Report examines the risks and opportunities of a changing climate and the adaptive actions that will enable the Lake District to better cope with these changes over the coming decades.

**United Utilities Water Resources Plan** - The Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) covers the period 2015-2040. It addresses building greater resilience in the water supply in the event of drought and also considers the requirements of maintaining a high quality aquatic environment in the National Park and has led to the development of the West Cumbria Water Supply Project which in addition to improving provision of water to communities on the west coast

**North West River Basin Management Plan and Solway Tweed River Basin Management Plan** – This runs from 2015 to 2021 and supports the government's framework for the 25-year environment plan. It will allow local communities to find more cost-effective ways to take action to further improve our water environment.

**Cumbria Flood Partnership** - The Cumbria Flood Partnership (CFP) is developing catchment plans for the Derwent, Eden and the Kent and Leven catchments to reduce risk to communities of flooding. Each plan will include a 25 year framework and a 5 year action plan. See Q1 above for more details. The catchment plans being developed by the Cumbria Flood Partnership have 5 work streams: upstream mitigation and catchment management; flood defences; community resilience; channel maintenance; internal drainage boards. Upstream mitigation provides opportunity for downstream flood alleviation. There is an opportunity to move beyond meeting WFD targets and helping to deliver long term, sustainable catchment management.

Cumbria Trees Woodland and Forestry Strategy - This document is based on extensive consultation with a wide range of people and businesses. It reflects their wishes for the long term and illustrates the very real opportunities that trees, woodlands and forests offer and recognises the goods and services, such

as woodfuel, timber, wildlife habitat and the local economic importance of the forestry sector. The focus is on promoting practical actions which people can take to achieve the overall vision and is accompanied by a rolling action plan for Cumbria's woodlands and trees. It is in line with, and overarched by, the government's Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement which confirms that the Government shares a long term vision for the future of our forests to 2060.

### **Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Strategy:**

Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Strategy was agreed in 2014 and followed by an action plan in 2015. The LNP's vision for the environment of Cumbria: *"Cumbria is a place where consideration for the environment informs every decision making process and where the environment is managed to provide a wide range of benefits for nature, people and the economy. In Cumbria nature's role within the landscape is understood and valued by all"*.

In order to realise this vision the CLNP has adopted four key themes. These are:

- Putting people at the heart of environmental policy; this includes more engagement with the environment through recreation, volunteering and learning and greater contribution by the environment sector to improving the health and wellbeing of people
- Managing environmental impacts and growing the economy; focussing on greater awareness of and consideration for the natural environment especially amongst those that have the greatest potential impact and developing Cumbria as an exemplar of best practice of how the environment underpins and contributes to economic growth
- Adopting an integrated landscape approach to conservation on both land and at sea; seeking coherent and resilient ecosystem networks and priority species populations in recovery
- Improving knowledge and understanding of the environment – with good quality data more widely available in suitable formats.

**Living Landscapes** is a national recovery plan for nature championed by the Wildlife Trusts since 2006. It applies the ecosystem approach and recognises the need for large areas such as river catchments and entire tracts of upland to be improved for ambitious landscape scale objectives to be realised. It aims to achieve abundant and flourishing wildlife, restoration of whole landscapes and ecosystems, free movement of wildlife to allow adaptation to the effects of climate change and local communities benefitting from the fundamental services that healthy ecosystems provide;

In the National Park this is being delivered through the Lakeland Living Landscape by working closely with landowners and local communities. It aims to retain, restore and reconnect high-quality habitats within the Lake District. This will not only allow species to move more freely through the landscape allowing them to adapt to climate change, but will also lock up carbon in peat and woodlands, stabilise soils and purify water as it flows off the fell. To date the project has focused on two key habitats, upland water bodies (known locally as 'tarns') and upland hay meadows.

**North Lakes Futurescapes** – RSPB Working with partners, aim to inspire a landscape that combines the Lake District's dramatic scenery with wildlife-rich areas. Working to help improve the water quality of lakes, tarns and rivers, restore lost hay meadows, re-wet dried-up upland bogs and reverse the historical loss of native woodland and heather moorland, the project aims include a landscape that: supports wildlife such as red grouse, wood warblers, golden eagles and curlews; provides livelihoods for future generations of farmers; supports tourism and local communities; and can adapt to climate change; as well as provide high-quality drinking water.

### **Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan 2014-2024**

- 'The Four Pronged Attack: Cumbria Strategic Economic Plan 2014 - 2024 includes Cumbria's environment as one of the County's four economic drivers.

- The Lake District National Park attracts millions of visitors each year and is widely recognised as one of the most scenic areas of England. The landscape has iconic status due to its association with famous artists and poets including William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter. Much of the county is rural in character and land-based activities are an important part of the economy. Key activities in the agri-food sector include agriculture, forestry, horticulture, conservation and environmental management, as well as outdoor activity and recreation; but most significant is tourism.
- With forecasts for the tourism sector to grow nationally by 4% p.a. through to 2025 (Deloitte 2013), our rural economy needs to be promoted as a national asset for growth.

#### The Tourism Strategy for Cumbria 2008 - 2018 and the Cumbria Destination Management Plan 2014 - 2016

- The strategy's vision states that in 2018, "Cumbria, as well as being known for world-class landscapes, will have an unrivalled reputation for outdoor adventure, heritage and culture with a year-round programme of events. Our accommodation, our food, our public realm and our customer service will reinforce our reputation as the number one rural destination in the UK".
- Cumbria attracts both visitors and those who want to settle and run businesses. The tourism strategy recognises that the environment, culture and way of life in the Lake District are fundamental to the success of tourism and the well-being of the people who live here. This strategy guides the development of tourism both for economic success but also in sympathy with what makes the Lake District special.

**National Trust in the Lake District** - Based on NT's National Policy for Land, the National Trust locally has developed "The Lake District – Our Sustainable Land Management Principles". It is intended that these principles will guide the Trust's thinking and strategy over the next decade. The principles are based around provision of goods, water cycling, carbon storage, biodiversity, landscape and cultural history, recreation and inspiration and space for development across a range of landscapes. The trust intend to facilitate planning for the long term by developing a sustainable land management tool, a decision support mapping tool which can spatially represent the primary functions of land within the Lake District, which in turn will help inform management planning and investment decisions..

**Slow the Flow Project** - Cumbria Wildlife Trust has found mounting evidence that slowing the flow of water through river catchments can help to delay and reduce the magnitude of flooding. To help communities at risk of flooding, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency recently created a Slow the Flow partnership which is looking to work with landowners, farmers, rivers trusts and agencies such as Natural England and Forestry Commission to help communities. As well as building in additional flood resilience into the landscape, evidence suggests that slowing the flow is more cost effective and sustainable than traditional flood alleviation schemes. The slow the flow approach is being considered alongside traditional flood defence schemes to provide greater alleviation, rather than replacing them.

#### Gaps & areas for development:

**Climate change adaptation plan** - further integration of adaptation within the Partnership and across management plans.

**Adaptation Management:** E.g. Future proofing public rights of way by raising bridges

**Forest Design Plans** – Forestry Commission is reviewing forest design plans with climate change in mind – particularly in relation to restocking choices

Opportunities:

- **Review of the Local Plan** to ensure that potential ecological connectivity is not compromised and the ecosystem approach is taken into account by facilitating appropriate sustainable development. For example: covered farmyards / housings.
- Work carried out by initiatives such as the B-lines project which focuses on identification of strategic corridors for the movement of invertebrates through the countryside will help to target positive conservation work and to allow protection of the integrity of these routes.
- **RSPB futurescapes** - further development North Lakes.

<p><b>Question 7</b> - Are you using monitoring as feedback, to inform and adjust your management planning, actions and priorities? (I.e. adaptive management)?</p> <p>This can include qualitative assessment and feedback.</p>	<p>To understand how your partnership uses <b>monitoring to inform future actions</b></p> <p><i>[Links to CBD Principles]</i></p>
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<b>Question 7 self-assessment score</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6
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**Monitoring and Review of the Partnerships Breakthrough Action Plan**

The Partnership reviews the action plan annually, allowing for regular review and revision of priorities in light of any changes to the issues and risks that influence the delivery actions that are identified in the plan.

The Partnership has several sub-groups which effectively expand the membership to include other stakeholder organisations. In addition to reviewing plans, actions and priorities, the structure and composition of the partnership sub-groups and other alliances is regularly reviewed to refresh and improve the ability of the partnership to deliver the plan effectively. This additional flexibility has recently been demonstrated in the wake of recent flood events resulting in the establishment of the Cumbria Flood Partnership, with partners from across the National Park responding swiftly with co-coordinated action.

Annual monitoring reports give an update on progress on all the actions in the Partnership’s Plan, the first of which was published September 2015. Many of the actions have continued to be progressed since then.

**Monitoring Framework**

The LD Partnership has adopted a monitoring framework which consists of two components:

- The first is a list of indicators dedicated to monitoring the special qualities of the National Park. (Section 6.2 Partnership’s Plan). There is an emphasis that the indicators will help to provide an overall picture of how the LD is evolving and performing holistically and partners recognise that we have a shared responsibility to assess the impacts of change, both positive and negative. The indicators will be analysed and interpreted to tell a story of what overall impact our management decisions are having. This awareness will inform our future individual and joint decision making reviews of the Partnership’s Plan.
- The second is a set of vision outcome indicators which are intended to add understanding of how successful the Partnership Plan strategies are in

delivering the intended outcomes.

Special Quality Indicators from section 6.2 most relevant to the Ecosystem Approach include:

1. A world class cultural landscape: Landscape change (SQ2) and Area of protected landscape features managed, restored and created under agri-environment schemes (SQ3)
- 4 Unique farming heritage and concentration of common land: Sustainable use of agricultural land (SQ12)
6. Wealth of Habitats and Wildlife: Indicators are: condition and extent of priority habitats (SQ16 +SQ17), condition of SSSI's (SQ18), status of priority species (SQ19) and amount of peatland restored (SQ20).
7. Mosaic of Lakes, tarns, rivers and coast: Indicators are: condition of waterbodies (lakes, tarns, rivers) (SQ21)
8. Extensive semi-natural woodlands: Indicators are: extent of semi-natural woodland (SQ22), woodland in Forestry Commission Management and Countryside Stewardship Schemes (SQ23)
11. A model for protecting cultural landscapes: Number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects approved contrary to the policies of the adopted local plan (ideal status zero) (SQ30)
12. A long tradition of tourism and outdoor activities: Indicators include: visitors partaking in activities which involve experiencing the landscape and environment (SQ32)
13. Opportunities for quiet enjoyment: Visitors who feel health and well-being benefits (SQ37)

The data for this monitoring comes from a variety of partners and is detailed in including and also links with the “Business as Usual” work of members of the Partnership:

For example:

Natural England are responsible for monitoring the condition of SSSI's, and report against improvements on baseline figures (SQ18), Cumbria Peat Partnership, Cumbria Tourism (Cumbria Wildlife Trust) are reporting on progress in achieving peatland restoration targets (SQ20), Cumbria Tourism are reporting on how many visitors experience health and wellbeing benefits as a result of visiting the national Park (SQ37).

Status of priority species monitoring has been highlighted as a weakness. West Cumbria Rivers Trust in partnership with local angling groups, Derwent Owners Association, and the River Corridors group has in 2015 begun undertaking fish population surveys in the Derwent catchment to monitor freshwater priority fish species. This will be undertaken on a yearly basis subject to funding. The Trust is seeking funding & partnerships to extend this to other catchments such as the Ellen, Ehen, Irt etc. (SQ's 16,17, 18 and 21). West Cumbria Rivers Trust also plan to train local communities in River Fly monitoring, this gives an indication of the invertebrate assemblages in watercourses and can help give an early warning of any changes a result of pollution. Monitoring of the critically endangered freshwater pearl mussel population is ongoing on the Ehen and Irt.

Cumbria Freshwater Invasive Non Native Species initiative uses regular survey and monitoring to constantly react and plan for the changing risks posed by

invasive species. (SQ's 16,17, 18 and 21)

#### Examples of Vision Outcome Indicators from Section 6.3 Partnership Plan

- V03 – Condition of Existing water based Natura 2000 sites – reported on by Environment Agency and Natural England.
- V08 – Percentage of degraded ecosystems restored as a contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The baseline for this was established in 2015. Cumbria Local Nature Partnership is responsible for reporting on this.

Adaptive Management is not confined to the action listed in the Partnership's Plan.

For example, while Natural England report the condition of SSSI's across the Park, it is the NE Cumbria Area Team Strategy which identifies the priorities and focus that will best achieve the overall outcome. And this is modified in relation to more specific site casework and changes that occur on the ground. In terms of gaining better awareness and feedback on the success of agri-environment schemes, NE are also engaging commoners on some sites to also monitor and report on the health of the habitats that are being managed, creating an even better picture of what is being achieved.

#### Gaps & areas for development:

There is an acknowledgement (p233) that some of the indicators established to monitoring the effectiveness of the plan do need further development. Of those listed above this relates to: SQ2 – landscape change and SQ19 – status of priority species. Development of these indicators is listed as breakthrough actions 1c and 3b of the Partnership's Plan. Baseline data for SQ37 (visitors who feel health and well-being benefits) was established in 2015.

Cumbria Local Nature Partnership has a list of indicators of success and priorities and themes but no method of monitoring if these are met yet – other than review of action plan.

Better demonstration of adaptive management

#### **Other approaches to improving understanding to allow adaptive management.**

A framework for ongoing research has been identified in Section 7.1 (p266) of the Partnership's Plan.

#### Opportunities:

- Agri-environment schemes monitoring outcomes of agreements and sharing with farmers signing up to the schemes.
- To take account of ecosystem approach in the review of the local plan and monitoring of policy
- Using existing surveys to monitor people's use of the natural environment and other new angles. E.g. the 2015 CT Visitor survey had a question on health and well being
- WHS monitoring – cultural landscape and enjoyment if it = cultural services = gap
- Use and further development of Ecosystem Accounting pilot methodology (see Q2 Opportunities)

**Question 8** – Is your partnership taking action to understand what ecosystem services people value from your project area, and using valuation to capture them? (Remember values can be both monetary and non-monetary

To see how your partnership is taking account of the **values people place on their local environment/landscape** –

values?)  <i>Prompt questions for Q8 – How are you recognising what people value? E.g. citizen panels, visitor surveys. What values are you looking at? E.g. economic, perception, cultural. What valuation methods are you using to capture and demonstrate these different values?</i>				both monetary and non-monetary?  <i>[Links to CBD Principle 4]</i>		
<b>Question 8 self-assessment score</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The links between the values that are placed on the ecosystem goods and services by the National Park are becoming increasingly understood and considered. This understanding is developing on a number of fronts and the recent work on the World Heritage Site nomination documents has made big inroads into awareness and understanding of the non-tangible cultural, aesthetic and cultural values that are placed on the Lake District by people <a href="#">worldwide</a>.</p> <p><u>Evidence and examples:</u></p> <p><b>Eco-system Accounting</b> - The pilot Ecosystem Accounting for the Lake District study, based on the assets of six key habitats, looked at the physical and monetary flows associated with them. In particular the value of air quality, climate regulation and recreation were valued for the first time. The report demonstrated that the Lake Districts woodlands are particularly important for ecosystem services and were attributed a high value.</p> <p><b>Visitor Giving</b> - Nurture Lakeland, Fix the Fells project and Friends of the Lake District all utilise visitor giving schemes. Visitor giving is a way of inviting voluntary donations (for example time or money) from visitors who feel inspired to put something back into looking after the places they love, for example Fix the Fells project which repairs footpaths. The partnerships plan includes performance indicators one of which is V036 – Amount of money collected per head from voluntary contributions to Nurture Lakeland, Fix the Fells and Friends of the Lake District, which is a proxy indicator of willingness to pay for a high quality natural environment.</p> <p><b>Cumbria Visitor Survey</b> - Cumbria Tourism commission the Cumbria Visitor Survey annually. It identifies the reasons that people visit the Lake District some of which are related to ecosystem goods and services. For example respondents are asked if they visit to: bird watch / observe wildlife; enjoy the spectacular landscape. In the latest survey, several additional questions related to improvements in physical and mental well-being were added to the survey to improve information relating to the health and well being agenda. Cumbria has a strong visitor economy and continues to be one of the UK’s most visited destinations, with 38 million visitors in 2012 (8% from overseas) generating £2.1 billion of visitor expenditure for Cumbria’s economy and providing 31,200 FTE jobs (STEAM tourism data 2012). Part of this revenue is reliant upon the ecosystem goods and services provided by the Lake District National Park.</p> <p><b>Lake District National Park Landscape Quality Survey</b> - This internet based survey asked respondents to apply value scores to a range of visual elements in 145 landscape photographs. Analysis of the survey results included ranking different landscape types and comparison of scenes with and without certain features. 540 people responded to the survey, including 70 from outside the UK.</p> <p><b>Bassenthwaite Ecosystem Services Pilot</b> – the baseline assessment report on the range of ecosystem services in the catchment gave recognition to the ecosystem services that stakeholders value and fed into the development of the integrated delivery plan for this pilot. In December 2009 Cumbria County Council and Natural England commissioned Rebanks Consulting to prepare a report on the economic benefits of ecosystem services in the Bassenthwaite</p>						

## Catchment.

**Mapping and integrating cultural values into landscape/ecological planning** - In 2015 Natural England commissioned a pilot research study to explore ways of capturing and mapping public perceptions and cultural values and to consider how this might be used to inform landscape & ecological planning. The research was undertaken with members of the public in three areas within Cumbria & Lancashire including the Duddon Valley in the Lake District National Park. The research used 'cultural ecosystem services' as the frame and means to engage the public and explored ways of spatially mapping this information, so that it can be considered alongside other environmental data. The study, although based on a small sample group, has demonstrated the potential of new participatory tools and methodologies for mapping cultural services with the public that could be applied more widely in all sorts of landscape change contexts, whether ecologically driven change or where there is need for new development and infrastructure.

**Carbon Brokering Pilot** - This pilot followed production of the North West Carbon Market Potential (2013) report which looked at valuing carbon sequestration, particularly focusing on woodland creation and peatland restoration. The pilot tested the value by actually making a sale of the carbon, resulting in 15 hectares of new woodland at Fisherground, Eskdale, planted to secure almost 5,300 tonnes of carbon which will be stored over the next 85 years.

**Opportunities for Payment for Ecosystem Services** - Bundling services across Cumbria and the Lake District National Park' (2014) (RSPB PES project). The aim of this report was to determine the potential market for bundles of multiple ecosystem services in the Lake District. It explored how bundling multiple ecosystem services could work in an upland context and began to identify the scale of new funding that could be secured through payment for ecosystem services (PES) for improved land management that supports high quality ecosystem services.

**John Muir Award** - The John Muir Trust run an environmental award scheme focused on encouraging people from all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places. The scheme encourages participants to think about what makes a place special and explore the reasons for which these wild places add value to their lives. Feedback is captured in participant's surveys.

**West Cumbria Rivers Trust** as part of the development of the catchment plans for the Derwent and SW Lakes catchment plans undertook a community survey to evaluate people's perception of the local water environment & ecosystem services gained from it.

**Saving Eden Community Consultation** - The Eden Rivers Trust, as hosts of the Saving Eden Coalition has developed its catchment based management plan: Saving Eden: the next three years. As part of the plan development, the Saving Eden Community Consultation revealed that for the people of Eden a powerful theme was that the river environment could be accessed and enjoyed in ways that made their lives richer.

**Saving Eden Coalition**, Hosted by Eden Rivers Trust is the Catchment Partnership for the River Eden. It is an over-arching organisational partnership that represents the four key audiences of the Eden catchment: Farmers & Land Managers; Communities; Politicians and Planners; and Investors. The formation of the Coalition represents a new approach in catchment management.

**Cherish Eden Project** - a catchment based plan secured Heritage Lottery Funding for the Cherish Eden Project. This is a five year programme of community participation including volunteer action, skills development, access and recreation and cultural events.

**Sustainable Land Management Tool** – See Q2 will use evaluation of goods and services to model strategic approaches to land management.

**Duddon Valley Pilot** – Integrating Cultural Values and Services in Landscape and Ecological Planning - ADAS was commissioned, together with the

Research Box, by Natural England to undertake a pilot study and to develop practical advice and guidance on how cultural service information gathered from the public could be used in landscape planning. For each area, a participatory workshop was arranged. Participants were invited beforehand to record the cultural services they experience from the landscape and indicate the location of these experiences on a map by using either an interactive Participatory GIS website (pgis.adas.co.uk) or a smartphone Landscape App. The study has also shown that certain types of land use and land cover have stronger associations with cultural services than others, and not all of the places people value are currently protected by designation or conservation management agreements. This has important implications for how decisions are made on land-use change which may affect these locations. It has led to recommendations for how cultural services information can be captured and integrated with other GIS datasets for use in land-use and landscape planning.

### **Gaps & areas for development:**

The need to address cultural values within the WHS framework - challenge of developing effective tools to capture and understand the cultural services people draw from this cultural landscape. This is a significant challenge given the WHS bid and the need to monitor impacts on people's enjoyment of it.

Ecosystem Accounting Project – further developments identified in the report included establishing the links between asset account indicators and ecosystem service flows; agreeing a system of classifying and quantifying measurement of habitat extent; primary research could be undertaken to develop understanding of certain priority services. In particular filtration of pollutants from water, flood protection, heritage, aesthetic and existence values were identified. This could include willingness to pay values for important cultural heritage

Cumbria Visitor Survey – could be further developed to gain better understanding of non tangible benefits that visitors gain from the National Park's landscapes in relation to access, recreation and the cultural landscape (for example health and well being)

### **Opportunities:**

**Rusland Horizons** - Part of community engagement plan for the Rusland Horizons initiative will involve local community and local schools in workshops to discuss how people value their local environment. It is intended that the workshops will result in art work that will be shared in displays located in the valley.

**Full Cycle Project** - At the outset, during and at the end of the first phase of the Full Cycle Project, participants were asked for feedback on what they hoped to gain / had gained from involvement in the project. The participants, who had little exposure to the natural environment prior to becoming involved, were able to experience at first-hand developing woodland management skills and making woodland products such as charcoal. Participants began to make the links between the woodland and the goods and services that could be obtained. They reported changes in the way that they valued the natural environment and they experienced a range of improvements in physical and mental well-being. There is an intention to extend the programme to a wider range of community groups some of the first round participants will be involved in leadership and support as the programme moves forward.

**Ecosystem Accounting**- development of the framework – building on the pilot

**Payments for Ecosystem Services** – will need to grow our understanding of the benefits through development of models, likely to be based on land management PES model and a visitor benefits PES model (growing Nurture Lakeland)

**Catchment Planning** - South Cumbria Rivers Trust, as part of the catchment planning process will be consulting and engaging with local community partnerships and the wider community to explore the values placed on ecosystem goods and services.

Natural Capital Investment Plans (to be developed by Cumbria Local Nature Partnership would involve valuing (monetary and non-monetary) positive

conservation action for natural assets.

### Areas for development of the Ecosystem Approach

- To be completed once you have responded to Question 1-8 above.
- Record below the actions you will undertake to address the gaps and areas for development that you have identified in your responses to Question 1-8, when you will deliver them by and who in your partnership will lead each action.
- You may adjust this table to a format that best suits your partnership.

Possible Next Steps – Key Actions designed to improve score	When – date to begin this action	Lead for this action
<b>Question 1:</b>		
Ensuring that an integrated landscape scale ecosystem approach is embedded in the Local Plan review	<b>March 2016</b>	<b>LDNP</b>
Incorporation of the natural flood risk management plans required by DEFRA under the Cumbria Floods Partnership within the catchment plans & integrated consultation for both (Cumbria Flood Partnership / Catchment Partnerships)	<b>Summer 2016</b>	<b>CaBA hosts / EA / DEFRA</b>
<b>Question 2:</b>		
Improvement of baseline habitat data – through the Mapping Wild Rusland Project	<b>April 2016</b>	<b>Rusland Horizons</b>
Catchment modelling to support the implementation of natural flood risk management implementation	<b>2017</b>	Rivers Trusts / DEFRA
<b>Question 3:</b>		

<b>Question 4:</b>		
<b>Question 5:</b>		
<b>Question 6:</b>		
<b>Question 7:</b>		
Monitoring of critically endangered freshwater pearl mussel populations in the River Ehen & Irt to inform management strategies - Ehen since 2013 (ongoing), Irt since 2015 (ongoing).		<b>West Cumbria Rivers Trust</b>
<b>Question 8:</b> Through community engagement, seek to gain an awareness of the values placed on the new extension areas of the National Park by local communities.	<b>May 2016</b>	<b>LDNP</b>
Monitoring of watercourses to understand results of work to reduce diffuse pollution – in particular Loweswater (ongoing WCRT & NT). Detailed monitoring of the ecological benefits of river restoration schemes through the Cumbria River Restoration Strategy ongoing.		<b>West Cumbria Rivers Trust and National Trust</b>
Catchment planning & consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and local communities.	<b>Launch during 2016 and continual development/ live action plans into the future.</b>	<b>South Cumbria Rivers Trust</b>

<p>Workshop on cultural ecosystem services for everyone ad especially the environment sector. What are they, how do we manage them to the same level as the other ecosystem services esp. the biological ones.</p>		<b>Forestry Commission</b>
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**Annex: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 12 Ecosystem Approach principles (summarised):**

1. A matter of societal choice
2. Management decentralized to the lowest appropriate level
3. Should consider the effects on adjacent and other ecosystems
4. Usually a need to understand and manage the ecosystem in an economic context
5. Conservation of ecosystem structure and function should be a priority
6. Should be managed in the limits of their functioning
7. Should be undertaken at the appropriate spatial and temporal scale
8. Ecosystem management objectives should be long term
9. Must recognise change
10. Appropriate balance between/integration of conservation and use
11. Should consider all relevant information
12. Should involve all relevant sectors of society

[Full version at <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=7748> ]

**Appendix 1: Contributors to the self-assessment.**

Lake District National Park Partnership:

ACT  
Allerdale District Council  
Business Task Force  
CLA  
Copeland District Council  
Cumbria Association of Local Councils  
Cumbria County Council  
Cumbria Tourism  
Cumbria Wildlife Trust  
Eden District Council  
English Heritage  
Environment Agency  
Forestry Commission  
Friends of the Lake District  
Lake District National Park Authority  
Local Access Forum  
Local Enterprise Partnership  
National Farmers Union  
National Trust  
Natural England  
Nurture Lakeland  
RSPB  
SLDC  
United Utilities  
University of Cumbria

Other partners:

South Cumbria Rivers Trust  
West Cumbria Rivers Trust  
Eden Rivers Trust  
Bowfell Consulting

Appendix 2: Cross reference of Ecosystem Services in relation to the Strategies in the Lake District National Park Partnership's Plan

Key: Grey minor support of the service, dark grey = medium support, **black** = strong support

	Provisioning			Regulating					Cultural					Supporting					
	Food	Fresh Water	Fuel Wood	Climate Regulation	Disease Control	Flood Control	Erosion Control	Water Purification	Spiritual Aims	Recreation	Aesthetic	Inspirational	Educational	Communal	Soil formation	Photosynthesis	Primary production	Nutrient Cycling	Water Cycling
<b>Lake District NPPP</b>																			
<b>Long Term Aims</b>																			
A world class visitor experience	<b>Black</b>								<b>Black</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Black</b>					
A prosperous Economy	<b>Black</b>		<b>Dark Grey</b>						<b>Dark Grey</b>			<b>Black</b>							
Vibrant Communities	<b>Black</b>		<b>Dark Grey</b>	<b>Grey</b>					<b>Black</b>					<b>Grey</b>					
Spectacular landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage	<b>Grey</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Dark Grey</b>	<b>Grey</b>	<b>Grey</b>	<b>Grey</b>	<b>Grey</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Grey</b>	<b>Dark Grey</b>	<b>Dark Grey</b>	<b>Dark Grey</b>	<b>Dark Grey</b>	<b>Dark Grey</b>
Strategies:																			
<b>Management Plan Aims</b>																			

	Provisioning			Regulating					Cultural					Supporting					
	Food	Fresh Water	Fuel Wood	Climate Regulation	Disease Control	Flood Control	Erosion Control	Water Purification	Spiritual Aims	Recreation	Aesthetic	Inspirational	Educational	Communal	Soil formation	Photosynthesis	Primary production	Nutrient Cycling	Water Cycling
SL1 – A world class living cultural landscape	Black	Light Grey	Dark Grey	Black	Light Grey	Light Grey	Dark Grey								Light Grey	Black	Light Grey	Light Grey	
SL2 – Sustained Distinctive and well maintained built and historic environment									Light Grey	Light Grey	Light Grey	Light Grey	Dark Grey	Light Grey					
SL3 – Wise use of geology contributing to local and national needs and demands													Dark Grey				Dark Grey		
SL4 – Increased resilience to flooding						Black													
SL5 – Improved water quality and resources in lakes, tarns, rivers, ground waters, and sea		Black		Light Grey		Dark Grey	Black	Black		Dark Grey	Light Grey	Light Grey	Light Grey				Light Grey	Light Grey	Black
SL6 – Well considered tree and woodland			Black	Dark Grey	Black	Dark Grey	Black	Light Grey		Light Grey						Black	Black	Black	

	Provisioning			Regulating					Cultural					Supporting					
	Food	Fresh Water	Fuel Wood	Climate Regulation	Disease Control	Flood Control	Erosion Control	Water Purification	Spiritual Aims	Recreation	Aesthetic	Inspirational	Educational	Communal	Soil formation	Photosynthesis	Primary production	Nutrient Cycling	Water Cycling
establishment and improvement			■	■	■	■	■	■		■						■	■	■	
SL7 – Resilient and well-functioning habitats and wildlife	■	■		■	■	■	■	■							■	■	■	■	■
SL8 – The continuation of the Lake District as a source of artistic and cultural inspiration									■	■	■	■	■	■					
PE1 – Profitable land management, farming, and forestry industries	■		■							■	■	■	■	■			■		
PE2 – Maintaining traditional land based skills	■		■				■				■	■	■	■			■		
PE3 – Increasing the number of staying visitors										■	■	■							
PE4 – A year round	■									■	■	■	■	■					









