

# Ebay for Ecology ?

The Scope for market based mechanisms to deliver ecosystem services

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The ever increasing body of evidence on the value of ecosystems and the services they provide



## UK Policy background: a greater role for greener markets?

### Defra's White Paper (June 2011)

- Key overarching message of mainstreaming value of nature in decision-making at all levels.
- 4 themes: Protecting and improving our natural environment; Growing a green economy; Reconnecting people and nature and International and EU leadership
- Particular focus on developing a green economy. Leveraging wider sources of finance - new commitments on encouraging and facilitating payments for ecosystem services and new business led Ecosystem Markets Taskforce



## Concerns

Provision of regulating/provisioning services vs biodiversity

Aversion to 'valuing nature'


Can't measure everything

Cultural services difficult to quantify

Relationship between location of service & beneficiaries


Intrinsic values aren't considered

Waste of time

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### Ouse Washes

- Wetland is the key habitat
- Previous win-win for multiple services:
  - Flood mitigation
  - Carbon sequestration
  - Recreation
- For biodiversity too
- Now compromised – too much water, wrong time!



### Conservation – we deliver ‘cultural’ ES



- Ospreys in the Lake District 70,500 visitors
- £1.7million of spending by Osprey visitors
- £420,000 is additional spend due to the presence of the Ospreys
- Bringing an extra 11.3 FTE jobs to the area





# Opportunities from ES

Conservation in new places



Revenue

Novel partnerships


Working within new sectors

Large scale habitat creation/restoration

Recreation


Trading opportunities

Peregrine Manchester



## Scope for new approaches

- Capture the cultural benefits we provide. User charging
- Creating new 'ES' products (Green gyms)
- Cross subsidise from providing ES at Reserves (energy?)
- Develop prestige products (market enhancers)
- Biodiversity Offsets (Possible ES element)
- Conservation covenants
- PES









## Sustainable Catchment Management Programme - SCAMP

- Wildlife ✓
- Water quality ✓
- Habitat resilience ✓
- Amenity ✓
- Carbon sequestration ?
- Flood attenuation ?
  
- Benefits to farmers, water companies & customers, general public



# Practicalities of PES

Fairness & willingness

Identify the winners & losers

Evidence

Identify services

Area boundary

Partnerships

Stakeholder buy-in

Spatial & temporal relationship between services & beneficiaries







## SCaMP issues


- Phase 1 Strictly about biodiversity goals
- Phase 2 now includes water quality objectives
- The Capex bias in water management
- Regulatory Barriers – certainty of outcome
- Longevity of outcome. Obligations on tenant farmers
- How to capture other ES delivered ?



### Poole Harbour


- Defra funded PES pilot study
- Intertidal mudflats are the key habitat
- Important for birds
- SPA status




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### Poole Harbour


- Nitrate deposition stimulating algal growths
- Nitrates at 130% 'safe' level
- Problems for the LA who want more housing
- 78% pollution from farmland c.f. 2% from new houses



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### Poole Harbour

- Problem identified & solution found
- However:
  - Farmers don't want to sign up
  - LA doesn't want to pay the farmers (i.e. The 'polluters')
- LA investing in parkland instead



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**Wallasea Island**

- Coastal wetland restoration project
- Largest in Europe
- Multi stakeholder project with novel partnership

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**Wallasea Island**

- Problem - not enough material for habitat creation
- Solution - Crossrail have 4.5 million tonnes of unwanted spoil!







**Wallasea Island**

- On completion will be nature reserve – benefits for biodiversity!
- Delivering multiple services:
  - Flood mitigation
  - Climate adaptation
  - Recreation

**=> Useful partnerships can be found in unexpected places!**





Through conservation comes the provision of a range of **cultural services** which help people **engage** with nature & promotes a sense of **wellbeing**





- Opportunities for working with **new sectors**

