

# Natural Capital Community Partnerships

## Opportunities for Natural Capital Community Partnerships participants

Providing community benefits as part of your natural capital project can open up a wide range of opportunities for landowners and project developers. Through the Natural Capital Community Partnership (NCCP) support package, advisers can help you explore how working with communities can strengthen your project, build local support, and deliver long-term value.

Below are some of the advantages of embedding community benefits and being a participant of the natural capital community partnerships project. These benefits are applicable to all types of landowners including public, private and community landowners as well as natural capital project developers.

### Understanding existing benefits:

- Reviewing operations on landholdings can help clarify what community benefits are already being delivered and the important role landowners play in supporting sustainable rural communities. This awareness of current benefits provided can also help catalyse ideas for further joint work between landowners and local residents, groups and businesses.

### Alignment with policy:

- Compliance with [Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement](#) sets out expectations for meaningful community engagement.
- Alignment with Land Reform (Scotland) Bill's requirements for landholdings over a certain threshold to develop land management plans through engagement with communities.
- Incorporation of the [Principles for responsible Investment in Natural Capital \(PINC\)](#) set out through the Scottish Governments' Natural Capital Framework. It is the expectation for investment in natural capital to deliver public, private and community benefits.

## Improved operations and long-term sustainability:

- Financial savings

Local insights and experience which supports effective land management can lead to cost savings (especially for new entrants).

- Skilled workers and contractors

Local developmental support from the landowners to that which engage with community can strengthen local jobs sectors and skills by improving availability of skilled workers and contractors.

- Funding

Collaborating with local community groups creates opportunities to apply for additional funding which you may not have been eligible for.

- Business opportunities

Local engagement can help identify market gaps, leading to new business and joint ventures with local community.

- Supported Developments

Effective community engagement can also increase local support for developments, and reduce objections and complaints about projects, saving time and money.

## Nature market standards and potential uplifts:

- Alignment of British Standard Institute's BSI Flex 701

The BSI Flex 701 has developed a series of standards outlining requirements for high-integrity UK nature markets. BSI Flex 705 is in development and will set out recommendations for community engagement and benefit.

- Carbon credits uplifts

Including community benefits can enhance the appeal and marketability of carbon credits, helping to attract greater buyer interest.

[Natural Capital Community Partnerships – Community Land Scotland](#)

[nccp@communitylandscotland.org.uk](mailto:nccp@communitylandscotland.org.uk)

Key Scottish Land Commission guidance:

- [Land Rights and Responsibilities Protocols](#)
- [Delivering community benefits from land](#)
- [Community engagement in decisions relating to land](#)
- [FAQs on community engagement in land use decision-making](#)