



Peatland restoration in Scotland

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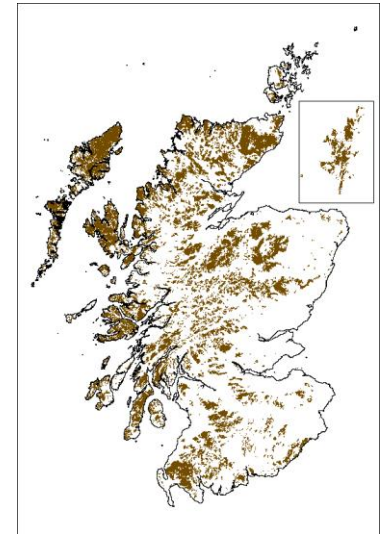
1:Scotland's Rural College (SRUC); 2:The James Hutton Institute; 3: University of Leeds

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Peatlands ('bogs') in Scotland



- Wet, nutrient poor, acidic
- Cover up to 20% of Scotland
- Consumptive & non-consumptive uses (trade-offs)
- National priority (carbon, biodiversity, water)
- Peatland ACTION Programme

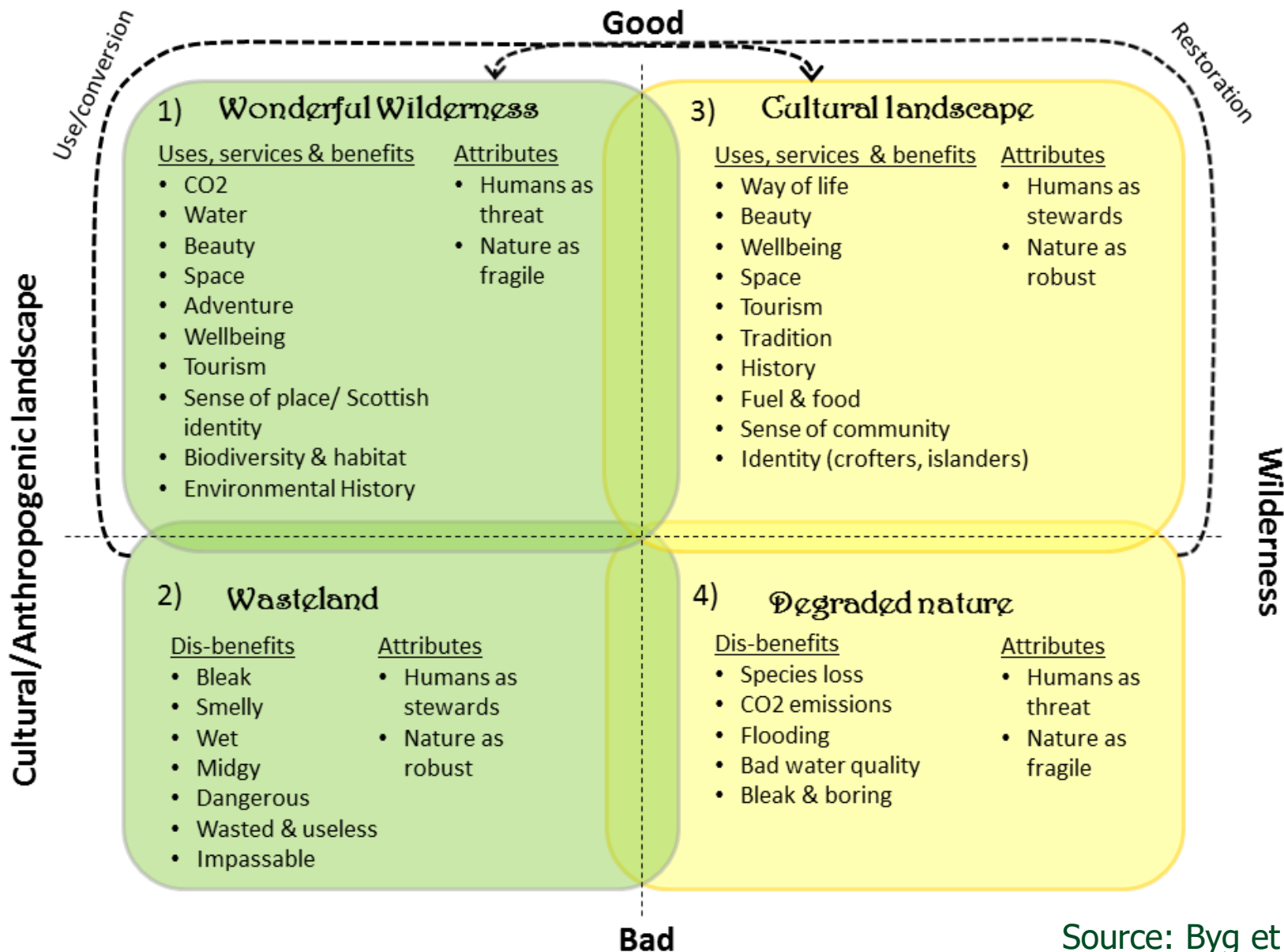


Peatland ACTION Programme



- Launched in 2012, Scottish Government allocated Scottish Natural Heritage £5 million
- Restoration of 10,315 ha from 2013-2015
- Draft Climate Change Plan – target to restore 20,000 ha each year (next 15 years)
- Research on public perceptions of peatlands in Scotland
 - Qualitative: workshops, participant observation, interviews
 - Quantitative: valuation survey, restoration cost

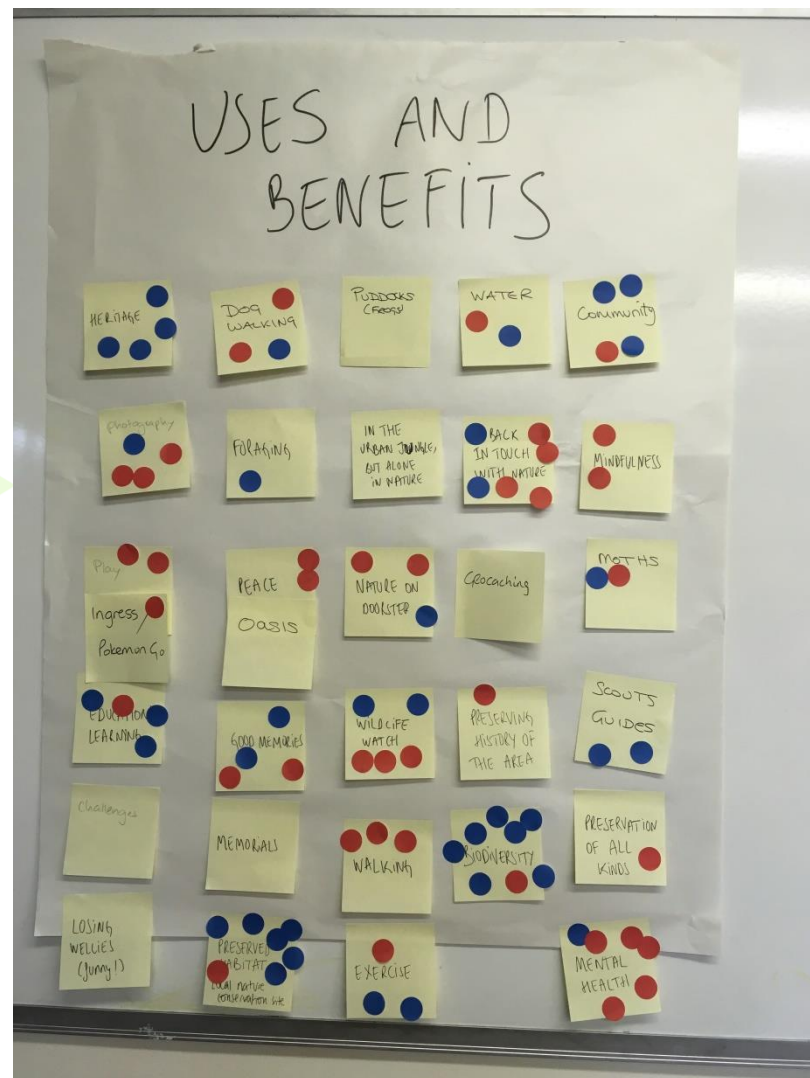
Public perceptions of peatlands



Source: Byg et al (2017)

Links to this workshop

- Potential for multiple benefits
 - Private benefits (e.g. improved access to land, reduced livestock mortality)
 - Public benefits (e.g. improved water quality, carbon storage, flood reduction)
 - Intangible benefits (e.g. mental wellbeing, sense of place, mindfulness)
- Urban co-benefits (both tangible & intangible)



Links to this workshop



- High readiness for deployment
 - Extensive investment in the UK
 - Links to different management tools, e.g. carbon markets, subsidies, offsetting
 - Experience with different techniques
 - Economic justification for public support
- Barriers to upscaling
 - Perceptions about restoration impacts
 - Potential trade-offs/interaction with productive activities, land manager identity, urban expansion
 - Limited understanding of restoration costs (including opportunity costs) and cost-effectiveness
 - Equity concerns (land ownership)

Key messages



- Public perceptions and attitudes towards peatbogs are more complex than often assumed
- People recognise multiple private and public benefits, disbenefits and trade-offs
- Most people are willing to support restoration, but this depends on location
- High readiness for deployment (but barriers still present)
- Consultation with and involvement of local populations is key to long term success

Many thanks

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