



Newsletter

March 2021

Hello and welcome to our fifth Newsletter.

With the start of spring comes hope that, with the fall in Covid cases and the huge success in vaccination, our lives may soon start getting back to some form of normality.

In this newsletter, we share news of ongoing projects, latest grants, and publications. The Centre has been involved in a number of proposals for research funding. We submitted a proposal for the UKRI Treescapes programme in December. We also have a major role in an EU proposal that was submitted at the end of January. We hope for successful outcomes of these proposals.

However, we mustn't forget the enormous amount of work, effort and dedication our colleagues have shown while working from home, recording their lectures, teaching online, offering support for their students and colleagues, all the while juggling other responsibilities, such as caring for family members, home schooling and just trying to stay as healthy and sane as possible in these challenging times.

Ongoing projects

Climate-KIC Landscapes as Carbon Sinks

The [Landscapes as Carbon Sinks](#) project has come to an end. We have worked with a truly amazing team during some very challenging times, and are extremely proud of all the work we have done.

We have created a [policy analysis](#) for the Scottish Parliament to support the recommendations of a Citizen Jury regarding land management in Scotland.

This report provides valuable insights on the policy context of the Scottish land sector.

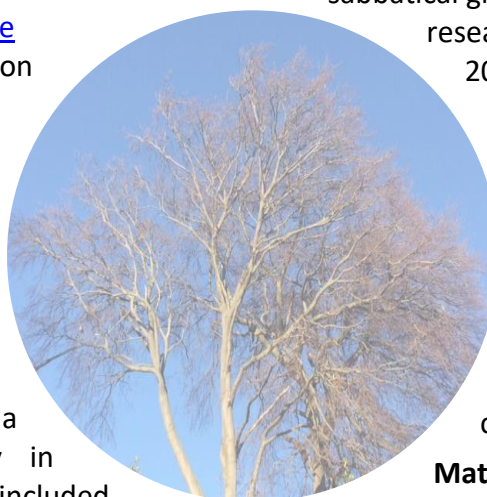
[We worked with the Scottish Land Commission](#) on

a review and synthesis of different existing approaches to regional management and governance systems in Scotland.

During the course of the project, we ran three workshops on building a wood-based bioeconomy in construction, which included partners across the value chain. This led to the creation of an [interactive systems map](#) through which we identified points of intervention that can leverage the largest impact for the development of a construction bioeconomy that draws on domestic wood production. The map also featured in [this Climate-KIC article](#).

We have drawn up a report titled [Wood in construction, a policy data and summary](#) which provides policy background and information on carbon emissions and sequestration in the construction industry, along with recommendations for policy.

We organised two funding mechanisms workshops where we looked at different funding mechanisms for low emissions management and the impact they have.



We assimilated the rich discussion into a systems map, and you can read more about it in our latest [blog](#).

In partnership with WWF Landscape Lab, Wageningen University, and The Peatland Partnership, we held a workshop on 5 November for Flow Country Stakeholders to understand their vision for green recovery and the bioeconomy.

New funding and grant awards

At the end of 2020, **Darrick Evensen** received a Royal Society of Edinburgh sabbatical grant (12 months of full time research, August 2021 – July

2022) to study the role of

Scottish institutions

(Parliament, Government, and NGOs) in influencing the process and

outcomes of the UNFCCC COP26. He is interested

in the role a devolved host nation plays in

climate governance.

Mathew Williams, Ed Mitchard, and Murray Collins have won £220K funding from UK Space Agency NSIP project to develop a Data SlipStream (DSS) service, in partnership with Resilience Constellation, a business working to develop new satellite capacity for monitoring climate change and associated action. Their goal is to use University expertise in earth observation and new investment in the Edinburgh International Data Facility to develop and support the DSS infrastructure to manage large volumes of satellite data and their processing and conversion into environmental information. Resilience Constellation will define and scope products with a commercial demand and build and operate an online marketplace for these. Their test project is SingleTree,

a technology to detect tree cover at fine scales (10 m) and its change over time, using Copernicus Sentinel satellites calibrated with airborne LiDAR data. The test case is being developed over Scotland.

Media and Recent Publications

Dominic Moran co-authored a paper titled [Forest-linked livelihoods in a globalized world](#), which was published at the end of 2020.

Mat Williams co-authored the following papers:

ForestPlots.net [548 contributors including M Williams, C M Ryan] (in press) Taking the Pulse of Earth's Tropical Forests using Networks of Highly Distributed Plots. Biological Conservation.

Worden, J., S. Saatchi, M. Keller, A.A Bloom, R. Fu, S. Worden, J. Liu, N. Parazoo, J.B. Fisher, H. Worden, Y. Yin, K. Bowman, P. Gentine, A.G. Konings, G.R. Quetin, M. Williams, J.T. Reager, A. Barkhordarian, K. Fahy, M. Shi & D Schimel (in press) Satellite Observations of the Tropical Terrestrial Carbon Balance and Interactions with the Water Cycle During the 21st Century. Reviews of Geophysics.

Milodowski, D.T, D.A Coomes, T. Swinfield, T. Jucker, T. Riutta, Y. Malhi, M. Svátek, J. Kvasnica, D.F.R.P. Burslem, R.M. Ewers, Y.A. Teh, and M. Williams (in press) The impact of logging on vertical canopy structure across a gradient of tropical forest degradation intensity in Borneo. Journal of Applied Ecology.

Flack-Prain, S., L. Shi, P. Zhu, H.R. da Rocha, O. Cabral, S. Hu, and M. Williams

(in press) The Impact of Climate Change and Climate Extremes on Sugarcane Production. Global Change Biology Bioenergy.

A. Bloom, K. W. Bowman, J. Liu, A.G. Konings, J. R. Worden, N. C. Parazoo, V.Meyer, J. T. Reager, H.M. Worden, Z. Jiang, G.R. Quetin, T.L. Smallman, J. Exbrayat, Y. Yin, S. S. Saatchi, M. Williams, and D.S. Schimel. Lagged effects regulate the inter-annual variability of the tropical carbon balance. Biogeosciences 17: 6393–6422.



Jia Yen Lai has recently published a paper, which she co-authored with **Sam Staddon** and **Alistair Hamilton**. The article investigates the justice-related norms prioritized and promoted by intermediary actors in the technical review process of Environmental Impact Assessment in Indonesia. It also examines the facilitating or constraining factors for negotiating and mobilizing those norms in the project debates of EIA at the sub-national level.

Lai, Jia Yen, Sam Staddon, and Alistair Hamilton. "Technical experts' perspectives of justice-related norms: Lessons from everyday environmental practices in Indonesia." Land Use Policy 102 (2021): 105234.

Centre Blog

Our [latest blog](#) comes from Hester Robertson, the Landscapes as Carbon Sinks project manager, where she writes about key forces enabling and inhibiting private investment in Scotland's natural capital.

Contact

If you have items for our next newsletter, news to share with CSFL community, or if you would like to contribute to our blog, please get in touch with Nataša Honeybone (natasa.honeybone@ed.ac.uk).