



Newsletter 7

July 2021

**Hello and welcome to our seventh Newsletter.**

We hope you are all taking some time off to rest and take some time off during this summer, and we are all looking forward to a return towards normality.

The summer has been of mixed fortune for the Centre. Dissappointingly, we received news that our submission for a grant in the UKRI Treescapes programme was ultimately not successful, despite excellent comments from the three reviewers. Yet we do have a well constructed and exciting proposal which we intend to redevelop, together with our academic partners at Universities of Sheffield, bangor, SRUC and Forest Research for submission elsewhere. The development of the proposal also led us to discuss ideas with over 30 non-academic partners, and we are in a good position to build on this network.

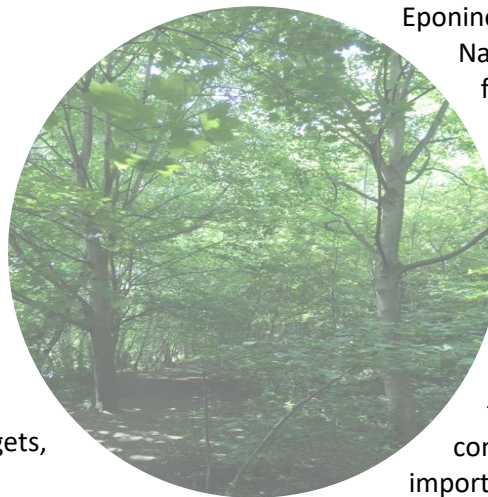
More positively, Jaboury has secured funding for a project on peatland evaluation, modelling, and mapping across Europe, with the added intention of pursuing a number of case study locations in more depth, Scotland being one of these case studies. With the project not due to start until January, there is opportunity to contribute to the development of this work for those who have interest.

We look forward to being able to meet up in person before too long.

## Events

We are very pleased to be hosting the **2021 ialeUK conference ‘The Landscape Ecology of Forests, Woodlands and Trees’, 7-9**

**September.** ialeUK is the UK regional chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology. It is the main forum for landscape ecology in the UK and part of a global community. The provisional programme for this year’s conference includes 37 talks including four key notes by Jo Pike (CEO of the Scottish Wildlife Trust); Jenny Hodgeson (conservation biologist at the Liverpool University); Sallie Bailey (deputy chief scientific advisor at Scottish Government) and Jon Stokes (director of Trees, Science & Research at The Tree Council). Our aim was to bring together people with relevant expertise from across science, policy, conservation and industry, to learn from each other, and identify ways in which landscape ecology can support ambitious policy targets, including those for woodland expansion, greenhouse gas reduction, biodiversity conservation, commercial viability, and sustainable development goals. We are pleased that a third of the talks are by non-academic experts from conservation NGOs (Woodland Trust, RSPB), Government agencies (NatureScot, Natural England), and other organisations with an interest in treescapes including Galbraith and the National Forest Company. Registration is now open for online participation. We hope to be able to announce the ability for some in person participation too, but some uncertainties remain. We aim to make a final decision on whether the conference will continue as a hybrid event or switch to running entirely online by the 23 July. Regardless, we hope to welcome many of the Centre’s members and relations as participants to the conference.



## Cashel Forest Trust Natural Capital Accounts – lunchtime webinar

Cashel Forest Trust (“Cashel”) is located on the eastern shores of Loch Lomond approximately seven miles north of the village of Drymen. A former hill farm, the site was acquired by the Royal Scottish Forestry Society (RSFS) in 1996 with the long-term aim of *“demonstrating the restoration and regeneration of Scotland’s native woods through sound forestry practice for the benefit of the public”*.

The Cashel trustees have recently been working with our centre (Prof Marc Metzger, Eponine Loridant) to produce a Natural Capital Account (NCA) for Cashel. The aim has been to build up a better understanding of the range of benefits provided by Cashel (e.g. timber, carbon storage, recreation, health) and their relative value / importance, to improve the long-term management of the site and help frame communications around Cashel’s importance as a key natural asset for East Loch Lomondside.

This webinar will involve a presentation from the researchers providing: (i) an introduction to the approach adopted in producing an NCA for Cashel; (ii) a run through of the main results in terms of the accounts produced and the values derived; and (iii) consideration of future developments of the work. This will be followed by a Q&A with the research team and Cashel Trustees.

**Date and time:** Wednesday 21 July 2021  
13:00 – 14:00

**Format / joining details:** please contact [marc.metzger@ed.ac.uk](mailto:marc.metzger@ed.ac.uk)

**Leo Peskett**, in collaboration with the James Hutton Institute, ran a short **workshop** with the Scottish Government and leaders of Scotland’s new pilot **Regional Land Use Partnerships**. The five pilots, led by local

authorities and national park agencies across Scotland, aim to build a more strategic and regional approach to land use decision making to address climate change. The workshop focussed on how such partnerships can be successfully established and governed, sharing learning from existing initiatives. It was one of a number of activities being developed as part of Leo's UKRI land use decisions fellowship. For more information, please contact [leo.peskett@ed.ac.uk](mailto:leo.peskett@ed.ac.uk).

### New funding

**Janet Fisher** and collaborator Chris Sandbrook (Geography, Cambridge), have been awarded £80k from the Endangered Landscapes Programme to extend Janet's work within the Landscape Decisions Fellowship, on ameliorating contention surrounding proposed restoration in the UK. Crucially, this will enable us to appoint a PDRA for 15 months to support this work.

### Presentations

**Jaboury Ghazoul** presented the keynote talk at the Treescapes 2021 conference on 6 July. His talk emphasised the importance of thinking about landscapes through a systems oriented perspective if we are to successfully address the multifaceted and complex challenges we face.

### Recent publications

**Dr Jia Yen Lai, Dr Sam Staddon** and **Dr Alistair Hamilton** (Scotland's Rural College) co-authored a paper on the neglected perspective and recognition of migrants in situations of land tenure conflicts and environmental injustice in Indonesia: Jia Yen Lai, Alistair Hamilton & Samantha Staddon (2021) Transmigrants Experiences of Recognition (in)Justice in Indonesia's Environmental Impact Assessment, *Society & Natural Resources*, DOI: [10.1080/08941920.2021.1942350](https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2021.1942350)



**Patrick Meir** co-authored the following papers:

- Laughlin DC, Mommer L, Sabatini FM incl Meir P et al, & Weiglet A (2021). Root traits explain plant species distributions along climatic gradients yet challenge the nature of ecological trade-offs. *Nature Ecology and Evolution* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-021-01471-7>

- Huasco WH, Riutta T, Girardin CAJ et al, Meir P, Malhi Y (2021). Fine root dynamics across pantropical rainforest ecosystems. *Global Change Biology* DOI: 10.1111/gcb.15677

- Menezes J, Garcia S, Grandis A incl Meir P et al, & Quesada CA (2021). Changes in leaf functional traits with leaf age: When do leaves decrease their photosynthetic capacity in Amazonian trees? *Tree Physiology* (in press)

- Poyatos R, Granda V, Flo V, Adams M, Adorján B, incl Meir P et al, & Martinez-Vilalta J (2021). Global transpiration data from sap flow measurements: the SAPFLUXNET database. *Earth System Science Data*, Copernicus Publications, 2021, 13, pp. 2607 -2649. doi: 10.5194/essd-13-2607-2021

**Jaboury Ghazoul** published *Forests for the Future: Restoration success at landscape scale – what will it take and what have we learned?* This edited book, supported by the Prince Bernhard Foundation and WWF Netherlands, is available online at <https://www.uu.nl/en/news/forests-for-the-future-moving-from-paper-commitments-to-real-restoration-impact-at-landscape-scale>.

**Jaboury Ghazoul** working with **Galina Toteva** are publishing an article in the Institute of Chartered Foresters journal *Trees*, outlining the key outcomes of the Landscapes as Carbon Sinks project on the contribution of

wood use in a construction bioeconomy for climate mitigation. This article is also being developed as a longer academic paper.

**Student publishes dissertation research demonstrating contributions of Scottish Community Woodlands to local wellbeing before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Our recent BSc Ecological Sciences student **Matthew Logan** had just completed data collection for his undergraduate dissertation when Scotland went into its first lockdown. He had completed a survey with visitors to three community woodlands and interviewed committee members to understand wellbeing benefits of the woodlands. By the time he had submitted his dissertation, there was substantial media coverage highlighting the importance of open, local greenspaces in supporting healthy lifestyles and providing safe social spaces. In consultation with his supervisors Prof Marc Metzger and Jon Hollingdale, the CEO of the Community Woodland Association, Matthew decided to repeat his survey and interviews to explore whether any changes in finding before and after the first lockdown. Findings confirmed community woodlands are highly valued for providing opportunities to exercise and connect with nature but also provide a range of other social, communal and symbolic benefits. Following lockdown, respondents visited community woodlands more often, developed further interest and appreciation in community woodlands, and placed significantly more value on connecting with nature and relatively less on social and shared benefits. These results reflect the impact of national restrictions and highlight community woodlands as important local green spaces which, despite limitations on communal use, continue to support wellbeing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This work has just been



published as an open access paper in the Scottish Geographical Journal: Matthew J. Logan, Marc J. Metzger & Jon Hollingdale (2021): Contributions of Scottish community woodlands to local wellbeing before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, Scottish Geographical Journal, DOI: [10.1080/14702541.2021.1945670](https://doi.org/10.1080/14702541.2021.1945670)

Visit Scotland has recently published a [blog](#) written by **Marc Metzger** where he discusses how Scottish tourism can adapt to the challenges of climate change.

**Marc Metzger** also co-authored the following paper:

Angelstam, P., M. Fedoriak, F. Cruz, J. Muñoz-Rojas, T. Yamelynets, M. Manton, C.-L. Washbourne, D. Dobrynin, Z. Izakovičova, N. Jansson, B. Jaroszewicz, R. Kanka, M. Kavtarishvili, L. Kopperoinen, M. Lazdinis, M. J. Metzger, D. Özü, D. Pavloska Gjorgjieska, F. J. Sijtsma, N. Stryamets, A. Tolunay, T. Turkoglu, B. Van der Moolen, A. Zagidullina, and A. Zhuk. 2021. Meeting places and social capital supporting rural landscape stewardship: A Pan-European horizon scanning. *Ecology and Society* 26(1):11. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-12110-260111>

**Jack Covey** co-authored 'Co-producing knowledge: A demand-led, prosperity-focused, research agenda with forest and farm producer organisations'. This paper utilises knowledge demand surveys from 41 forest and farm producer organisations (FFPOs) to highlight how co-productive methods of knowledge generation can support FFPOs to pursue their members' broad conceptualisation of prosperity and contribute to delivering the SDGs. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S146290112100191X>

## **Contact**

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