

Consultation Questions A COORDINATED AGENDA FOR MARINE,  
ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS SCIENCE (CAMERAS) (2011-2016)

Deer Commission for Scotland  
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<p><b><i>Question 1: Do you agree that the two broad categories of ‘Local Responses to Global Change’ and ‘Optimising the Potential of Scotland’s Natural Assets’ are helpful in providing an overlying structure to the Co-ordinated Agenda?</i></b></p>	<p>Yes,</p>
<p><b><i>Question 2: Are the descriptions of these set out in Section 3 (and Annex 3) comprehensive?</i></b></p>	<p>Yes,</p>
<p><b><i>Question 3: Do these cover the major policy challenges where science can contribute as you see them?</i></b></p>	<p>Yes, The steady removal of sheep from the uplands and the challenge this presents needs to be considered, perhaps here or elsewhere in the document</p>
<p><b><i>Question 4: Are they likely to remain broadly relevant over the longer time horizon (well beyond the 2016 focus of this Coordinated Agenda)?</i></b></p>	<p>Yes,</p>
<p><b><i>Question 5: Do you agree with the description of support for the National Capability Theme set out in Section 3 (and Annex 3)?</i></b></p>	<p>Yes, DCS are encouraged by the support for "long term data sets" in this section. These data provide a valuable resource but are difficult to maintain within organisations subject to frequent changes from above.</p>
<p><b><i>Question 6: What facilities, resources and data do you think are important for Scotland to maintain?</i></b></p>	<p>From a DCS perspective the maintainance of the Macaulay Land use Research Institute and within it a coherent and critical mass of upland ecologists is essential.</p>
<p><b><i>Question 7: Are there other resources that Scotland needs to acquire to support future policy development?</i></b></p>	<p>Yes, DCS would welcome Scotlands Universities having a greater involvement in upland ecology, particulalry deer ecology.</p>
<p><b><i>Question 8: Have we correctly identified the key policy issues and the associated scientific opportunities in Section 3?</i></b></p>	<p>Yes,</p>
<p><b><i>Question 9: Are there additional issues that should be included?</i></b></p>	<p>No,</p>

<p><b><i>Question 10: What do you think will be the most important influences on Scotland's future in the Marine, Environment, Rural Affairs and related areas?</i></b></p>	<p>1) climate change 2) changing economic scenarios from EU (eg subsidies changes and removal of sheep, changes to fisheries policy) 3) carbon-free energy generation 4) tourism 5) population movements to a "greener" lifestyle</p>
<p><b><i>Question 11: Why do you think these are important?</i></b></p>	<p>1) climate change - affects the natural environment and many aspects of the rural economy 2) changing economic scenarios from EU - causes changes to the response 3) carbon-free energy generation - will take increasing amounts of space and create economic activity in remote areas of the country 4) tourism &amp; 5) population movements to a "greener" lifestyle - both affect economic activity</p>
<p><b><i>Question 12: Are there other scientific opportunities which should be highlighted?</i></b></p>	<p>No,</p>
<p><b><i>Question 13: What existing areas of Scottish based scientific expertise should be maintained to contribute evidence to key policy issues?</i></b></p>	<p>The Macaulay Land Use Research Institute and the Upland Ecology group within it.</p>
<p><b><i>Question 14: How clear is the relationship between the scientific areas and the key policy issues?</i></b></p>	<p>Although the relationship is clear greater transparency would be welcomed by DCS.</p>
<p><b><i>Question 15: In which areas of science can we continue to make use of expertise supported elsewhere e.g. at the UK, EU and international levels?</i></b></p>	
<p><b><i>Question 16: In the time frame for CAMERAS (2011-2016) what new emerging areas of science are likely to mature and become available for more general use or application?</i></b></p>	<p>Marine windfarms?</p>
<p><b><i>Question 17: Do we have the expertise available to be able to use these new opportunities?</i></b></p>	<p>Difficult to say conclusively either way.</p>
<p><b><i>Question 18: In which areas does Scotland need to be self reliant?</i></b></p>	<p>Those that are unique to Scotland eg uplands with (wild) grazing ruminants, carbon sequestration in blanket bogs.</p>
<p><b><i>Question 19: Knowledge Exchange is essential for scientific activity to achieve</i></b></p>	<p>Yes,</p>

<p><i>impact. Do you agree that KE should be an explicit and integral aspect of the delivery of this Coordinated Agenda?</i></p>	
<p><i>Question 20: How can we continue to improve the integration of evidence from a diverse range of sources into forms that are accessible to end users?</i></p>	<p>Continue to offer training in presentation to scientists.</p>
<p><i>Question 21: How can we reconcile the requirement for science to be responsive and flexible to short term demands while at the same time ensuring that longer term strategic research continues to progress our knowledge and understanding?</i></p>	<p>This issue is crucial. We must continue to make long term commitments and ensure these are alligned with startegic themes to allow flexibility as well as short term results.</p>
<p><i>Question 22: How can we ensure that the 2 way flow of knowledge from science to policy and from policy to the academic community is optimised?</i></p>	<p>conferences and workshops</p>
<p><i>Question 23: Are there alternative structures/systems or new approaches/organisations that could enhance these flows?</i></p>	<p>Yes, More conferences and workshops; eg the forthcoming SHN &amp; Stirling University conference on Environmental Manageemnt and Conservation - which should be expanded and hosted outside of University semesters.</p>
<p><i>Question 24: Are there science delivery models which could provide examples of good practice for Scotland to follow?</i></p>	
<p><i>Question 25: We would also welcome any other general comments you may have on any of the issues raised in this document.</i></p>	<p>DCS welcomes the opportunity to engage in the CAMERAS consultation however the current consultation is at such a strategic level that it is difficult to get at, and challenge, the detail. We look forward to further opportunities to discuss in more detail as the consultation moves forward. DCS is concerned that the Vision (and hence the document flowing from it) does not give land use management adequate prominence. DCS is also concerned that there is no overt reference for the policy environment and hence the science to recognise the integrated nature of economic performance and the environmental and social implications of the rural economy rather than thinking in sectoral terms.</p>

