



Business Engagement with Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

or

'What did nature ever do for us?'

The workshop which ESKTN ran with NERC in March 2012 had the explicit objective of initiating new collaborations between the research community and businesses who had an interest in valuing nature and the services that it provides. With over 120 participants, it was clear from the outset that there is considerable interest in this emerging area of research and application.

This led on to a competitive call for proposals from which NERC funded 4 short projects / internships around the topic of Business Engagement with Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services, in a programme managed by ESKTN. The programme was established in order to explore and demonstrate how business or third sector partners can make use of scientific knowledge, data and valuation tools to understand and manage their impacts and/or dependencies on ecosystem services.

The following four case studies demonstrate the wide variety of applications for R&D in this area, with considerable benefits for all the participants being demonstrated even over such a short collaborative programme.

The researchers have been able to demonstrate considerable impact from their activities, in terms of both social and economic outcomes. The businesses have benefited by learning much more about Natural Capital and Ecosystem services and how they can be applied and integrated into their business operations.

For more details on this programme and to explore future potential collaborations please contact the programme manager:

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