



## Communities & Conservation Info Sheet

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## **Scottish Community Development Centre**

The Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) supports best practice in community development and is recognised by the Scottish Government as the national lead body for community development. The organisation works across sectors and with a wide range of professions to support community engagement and community capacity building in any context and at strategic and practice level.

SCDC website: <http://www.scdc.org.uk/>

The following documents can be accessed via the hyperlinks, from the SCDC website:

Building Stronger Communities: A practical assessment and planning tool for community capacity building in Scotland is an important new resource for practitioners and planners working within a range of sectors to help make Scotland's communities better places to live.

[SCDC, 2012: Building Stronger Communities - A practical assessment and planning tool for community capacity building in Scotland.](#)

The National Standards for Community Engagement: Good-practice principles designed to support and inform the process of community engagement, and improve what happens as a result.

[SCDC: National Standards for Community Engagement.](#)

[SCDC, 2015: Review of the National Standards for Community Engagement.](#)

Community-led Action Research: Action research is about using research tools and methods appropriate to engaging with the community concerned. Emphasis is placed on ensuring the community is informed of the results of the research in ways that are appropriate to engaging them and showing the importance of their contribution.

[SCDC, 2016: Community-led action research reimagined.](#)

## **Governmental Papers**

### **The Smith Commission Report**

The Smith Commission was announced by Prime Minister David Cameron on 19 September 2014 in the wake of the 'No' vote in the 2014 Scottish independence referendum. The establishment of the commission was part of the process of fulfilling "The Vow" made by the leaders of the three main unionist parties during the last days of the referendum campaign. The Vow promised the devolution of more powers from the Parliament of the United Kingdom to the Scottish Parliament in the event of a No vote.

Following the No vote, Lord Smith of Kelvin was given the task to "convene cross-party talks and facilitate an inclusive engagement process across Scotland to produce, by 30 November 2014, Heads of Agreement with recommendations for further devolution of powers to the Scottish Parliament".

Some pertinent topics included in the report are:

- Responsibility for the management of the Crown Estate's economic assets in Scotland, including the Crown Estate's seabed and mineral and fishing rights, and the revenue generated from these assets, to be transferred to the Scottish Parliament (points 32-35)

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- The licensing of onshore oil and gas extraction underlying Scotland to be devolved to the Scottish Parliament (points 34, 41, 68)

[The Smith Commission Report, 2014.](#)

### **Island Areas Ministerial Working Group**

Following the Lerwick Declaration of July 2013, the Scottish Government established an Islands Areas Ministerial Working Group in response to the Our Islands - Our Future campaign.

The Group agreed its focus as being to:

- Consider how the Islands councils are and can be supported to use existing powers available to them and engage communities to deliver improved, more responsive public services and better outcomes for communities;
- Consider the development and extension of local democracy in the island groups and opportunities in the context of the referendum, including the issues raised by the Our Islands - Our Future joint position statement; and
- Agree a prospectus outlining opportunities for island communities in the future.

The Group met 6 times and its work concluded in June 2014 with the publication of the prospectus: *Empowering Scotland's Island Communities* which set out proposals for increased autonomy for island communities.

The proposals were based on three underpinning objectives:

- promoting islands voice;
- harnessing island resources; and
- enhancing islands wellbeing.

[Empowering Scotland's Island Communities, June 2014.](#)

### **Islands Bill Consultation**

The Ministerial Working Group re-convened in February 2015 and was tasked with taking forward the implementation of as many of the recommendations set out in the Government's Islands prospectus within the powers of the Scottish Parliament. The Group also oversaw plans for the Islands Bill consultation which was published in September 2015. The findings from the consultation were published in March 2016.

[Consultation on Provisions for a Future Islands Bill, updated March 2016.](#)

[Consultation on Provisions for a Future Islands Bill – Findings and analysis.](#)

### **Islands (Scotland) Bill 2017**

On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the Islands (Scotland) Bill was introduced by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing MSP. This was filed as a Bill for an Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision for a national islands plan; to impose duties in relation to island communities on certain public authorities; to

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make provision about the electoral representation of island communities; and to establish a licensing scheme in respect of marine development adjacent to islands.

This is intended to *“help create the right environment for sustainable growth and empowered communities.”*

Measures in the bill will include:

- A requirement to ‘island proof’ future legislation and policies
- The creation of a National Islands Plan
- Statutory protection for the Na h-Eileanan an Iar Scottish parliamentary constituency boundary
- Greater flexibility around Councillor representation within island communities
- Extended powers to island councils in relation to marine licencing

[Islands \(Scotland\) Bill.](#)

### **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015**

The Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 17 June 2015 and received Royal Assent, becoming an Act, on 24 July 2015.

The Community Empowerment Act will help to empower community bodies through the ownership of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in the decisions that matter to them. It will also improve outcomes for communities by improving the process of community planning, ensuring that local service providers work together even more closely with communities to meet the needs of the people who use them.

The Act does a number of things including: extending the community right to buy, making it simpler for communities to take over public sector land and buildings, and strengthening the statutory base for community planning. Crucially it can help empower community bodies through the ownership of land and buildings and strengthening their voices in the decisions and services that matter to them.

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015, easy read summary.](#)

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015 , Summary of the contents of the Act.](#)

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015, Full text.](#)

### **Academic Papers & Research**

[A collaborative GIS method for integrating local and technical knowledge in establishing biodiversity conservation priorities](#), Balram, S. et. al. 2004:

The identification of priority areas demands the integration of biophysical data on ecosystems together with social data on human pressures and planning opportunities. But comprehensive and reliable data are rarely available to demarcate where the need for action is most urgent and where the benefits of conservation strategies can be maximized. In order to fill the missing data gaps, the combined knowledge of local and technical experts can be used. This study presents a collaborative geographic information system (GIS) method for integrating the knowledge of local and technical experts with existing spatial environmental data to establish priority areas for biodiversity conservation. Procedures for structuring and framing the discussions,

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establishing assessment criteria, integrating knowledge with data, and building consensus are incorporated into the method. The method provides a novel cooperative mechanism to aid spatial knowledge management and inclusive biodiversity planning.

[Rethinking Community-Based Conservation](#), Berkes, F. 2004:

Community-based conservation (CBC) is based on the idea that if conservation and development could be simultaneously achieved, then the interests of both could be served. This paper examined CBC from two angles. First, it identified three conceptual shifts—toward a systems view, toward the inclusion of humans in the ecosystem, and toward participatory approaches to ecosystem management—that are interrelated and pertain to an understanding of ecosystems as complex adaptive systems in which humans are an integral part. Second, it investigated the feasibility of CBC, as informed by a number of emerging interdisciplinary fields that have been pursuing various aspects of coupled systems of humans and nature —common property, traditional ecological knowledge, environmental ethics, political ecology, and environmental history. The lessons from these fields include the importance of cross-scale conservation, adaptive co-management, the question of incentives and multiple stakeholders, the use of traditional ecological knowledge, and development of a cross-cultural conservation ethic.

[Developing Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+](#), A guide for a bottom-up approach, Bonfante, T. 2010:

Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) mechanisms are one of the best short term alternatives for significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, thus contributing to minimize the impacts of global climate changes. This guide describes a process for developing REDD+ socio and environmental safeguards in Brazil that is based on a broad participation of all parties involved. The discussion process included the private sector, environmental organizations, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, smallholders, and research institutions. This guide has the objective of providing a platform for duplicating the process in other countries where the subject REDD+ may also involve risks and challenges. We hope that, as we have done in Brazil, this process can be carried out in an open and democratic way, with ample participation of civil society and representatives of indigenous peoples, local communities and smallholders.

[Assessing community-based conservation projects](#): A systematic review and multilevel analysis of attitudinal, behavioral, ecological, and economic outcomes, Brooks, J. et. al. 2013:

Community-based conservation (CBC) promotes the idea that long-term conservation success requires engaging with, and providing benefits for local communities. Though widespread, CBC projects are not always successful or free of controversy. With criticisms on all sides of the conservation debates, it is critical to have a better understanding of (1) whether CBC is an effective conservation tool, and (2) of the factors associated with the success or failure of CBC projects, and the scale at which these factors operate. This study evaluates success in four outcome domains (attitudes, behaviors, ecological, economic) and explores synergies and trade-offs among these outcomes. This paper tests how features of the national context, project design, and local community characteristics affect these four measures of success.

[Community Based Land Reform: Lessons from Scotland](#), Bryden, J. & Geisler, C. 2005:

In recent years, the Scottish Highlands have become the epicentre of a land reform significant for its strong embrace of culture and community. Close inspection of the Scottish land reform – wherein communities are granted the right to purchase lands to which they historically enjoyed only conditional access - leads to a series of questions about the relationship between land reform and community. This paper argues that most land reforms have paid insufficient attention to community strengthening as an end in itself and are the weaker for it. Drawing on insights from community-based natural resource management, it offers qualified evidence suggesting that, as in the current Scottish case, community-centric land reform has a promising future. It

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traces the pre-reform history of community buy-outs in Scotland and poses various issues that must be addressed if Scotland's community-centric land reform legislation is to succeed.

[Indigenous Peoples, their livelihoods and fishery rights in Canada and the Philippines](#): Paradoxes, perspectives and lessons learned, Capistrano, R. 2010:

The involvement of indigenous peoples in natural resource management varies widely around the world, and invariably involves complex interactions. This paper examines the experiences of indigenous peoples in Canada and the Philippines with respect to their participation in fisheries management and policy, and how the mismatch between formal frameworks and local practice affects this participation. Combining approaches based on sustainable livelihoods and those relating to rights over natural resource access and management proves a useful vehicle for positive change in collaboratively improving the situation of indigenous peoples. Thus rights to fisheries are fundamental not only as a key tool in fisheries management and conservation, but also as an integral ingredient in the pursuit of secure livelihoods on the part of indigenous peoples. This paper also discusses the impact of local and national policies on the participation of indigenous peoples in the Philippines in relation to fisheries management.

[The Impact of Sea Fishing on Social Well-being in Scottish Fishing Communities](#), Report for the Marine Analytical Unit, Marine Scotland:

This project has been commissioned to investigate possible linkages from fishing activity to wider community wellbeing. The project involved an investigation into the social conditions found in fishing communities in Scotland that have experienced a reduction in fishing opportunity in recent years. It examined whether social deprivation or other aspects of social change had occurred in these communities and could be accounted for by trends in fishing activity.

[North East Kent European marine site: Overcoming barriers to conservation through community engagement](#), Roberts, T. & Jones, P. 2013:

This paper examines the nature of the management and governance structures underpinning the North East Kent European Marine Site (NEKEMS). It tells the story of how a strong and effective partnership has been built over the last 15 years, overcoming historical disputes between proponents of economic development and conservation. It explores a range of techniques used to encourage community engagement with marine conservation and looks at an innovative approach to community consultation. The development of social capital is identified as a central factor in the success of the partnership. Furthermore, the concept is also used as an analytical tool for evaluating the effectiveness of the partnership.

### **General web articles and links**

[Land Trust Alliance: Community Conservation](#) – A description of community conservation

[WWF: Communities and Conservation, 50 Inspiring Stories](#) – Inspiring stories from Indonesia

[TEDxExeter: How listening to communities can help save our oceans](#) – You Tube Video of the TEDx talk “ How listening to communities can help save our oceans”.

[Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations](#) – championing Scotland's vibrant charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises.

[The Crown Estate Scotland](#) - the business is tasked with managing assets on behalf of Scottish Ministers, including agricultural and forestry land, most of the seabed, around half of the foreshore and some commercial property.