

Workshop Guide

BACKGROUND

- 1 The Understanding Predation project is founded on the basis that stakeholders want to achieve healthy populations of predator and prey species in upland and lowland systems in Scotland.
- 2 In this context, the purpose of the workshops is to help us identify, and better understand, areas of common ground and any differences of opinion between stakeholders.
- 3 Today's workshop will take around two hours and will be run in three main parts. We'll explore:
 - 3.1 The extent to which you base your understanding of predation on science and/or local knowledge, and how and why you decide which form of knowledge to prioritise;
 - 3.2 Your knowledge and understanding of changes in wild bird populations in upland and lowland systems in Scotland and the reasons for these changes; and
 - 3.3 Conservation and management goals for predator and prey species (in the context of maintaining healthy populations of both) and your knowledge and understanding of different techniques for achieving such goals.
- 4 Thank you all for completing the online questionnaire. We have done some preliminary analyses so we can discuss the most interesting findings. That inevitably means going through some questions that you've already answered in the questionnaire, but we'll be looking at the group's overall results and will discuss these together in more depth.
- 5 Throughout we will seek clarification, consistency and explicitness so that claims can be treated appropriately according to the level of supporting evidence and their overall relevance.
- 6 In terms of what we'll do with the information you provide: firstly, I'll send you a summary of what we've discussed today for your records. Then the results of all the workshops will be compiled and included in the project report. I have a draft report structure here, and it's on the Project's webpage¹, if you'd like to look through it. The

¹ <http://www.jottercms.com/showpage.php?id=12411>

report will include findings from the natural science review, the online questionnaire and the workshops. The draft report will be presented to three seminars in late October / early November where participants can provide their feedback. The final report will be launched in February by Dr Aileen McLeod, MSP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.

- 7 May I have your consent to record this workshop, so we have an accurate record of what is discussed? This recording will be kept confidential to the Research Group and no statements will be directly attributed to any individual in our project outputs. Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity, nor the affiliation of the speakers, nor that of any other participant, may be revealed by any party.

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WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

A. INTRODUCTION

- 1 Discuss rules of engagement.
- 2 Participants asked to introduce themselves and describe their interest in predation of ground nesting wild birds in Scotland.

B. CURRENT PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATION OF WILD BIRDS IN UPLAND AND LOWLAND SYSTEMS IN SCOTLAND (20 MINUTES)

1 Knowledge and Information

- 1.1 How is knowledge about predation currently gained?
- 1.2 Which forms of knowledge are considered most important, and why?
- 1.3 In what circumstances is local knowledge prioritised over scientific knowledge, and vice versa?
- 1.4 In what circumstances could knowledge change opinions/behaviour
 - 1.4.1 What form might that knowledge take?
 - 1.4.2 Who might influence opinions?

2 Changes in Species Abundance (20 Minutes)

- 2.1 How do assessments of prey and predator species abundance change compare with Bird Atlas data?
 - 2.1.1 Black Grouse; Curlew; Golden Plover; Grey Partridge; Lapwing; Oystercatcher;
 - 2.1.2 Buzzard; Crow (Carrion/Hooded); Raven; Red Fox, Other species.
- 2.2 Why do differences in opinions exist, if any?
- 2.3 Which other key predator species are significant, if any, and why?
 - 2.3.1 What is the evidence for this?

3 Environmental and human impacts on ground nesting wild bird prey species (20 minutes)

- 3.1 Which factors have most significant impact on individual prey species and what is the evidence for this?
 - 3.1.1 Climate change/weather... etc.
 - 3.1.2 Black Grouse; Curlew; Golden Plover; Grey Partridge; Lapwing; Oystercatcher.

4 Impacts of Predators on Ground Nesting Wild Bird Prey Species (20 Minutes)

- 4.1 If predators are not considered important, why is that? What is the evidence?
- 4.2 If there's a divergence in views about the impacts of predators, why is that, who thinks that?
- 4.3 If predators are considered important, which predators have most significant impact on individual focal prey species and what is the evidence for this?
 - 4.3.1 Buzzard, Crow...etc.
 - 4.3.2 Black Grouse; Curlew; Golden Plover; Grey Partridge; Lapwing; Oystercatcher.

C. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PREDATOR-PREY INTERACTIONS

1 Conservation and Management Goals (10 Minutes)

- 1.1 We'll be talking about different management strategies in a moment but first of all we'll explore conservation-management goals.
- 1.2 As discussed earlier, this project is founded on the basis that stakeholders want to achieve healthy populations of predator and prey species in upland and lowland systems in Scotland.
- 1.3 What are the conservation-management goals you would like to see implemented in this context?
 - 1.3.1 On what timescale?
 - 1.3.2 On what spatial scale?

2 Efficacy of Conservation-Management Techniques For Predator-Prey Interactions (20 Minutes)

- 2.1 Which two techniques are considered to be most effective, and why?
- 2.2 How have they helped achieve the goals identified above?
- 2.3 What is preventing goals being reached using these techniques?
- 2.4 Which additional techniques, if any, could be used to achieve these goals?
- 2.5 Which two techniques are considered least effective, and why?
- 2.6 Is there any context in which these techniques might be considered useful?