



Scottish Land Commission response to the Land Use, Agriculture and Just Transition Plan

The long-term future

Question 1

The draft vision provides me with an understanding of the ambition of a just transition for land use and agriculture.

- ☒ Strongly agree
- ☐ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

Question 2

The outcomes for jobs, skills and economy provide an accurate description of what will be needed to achieve a just transition.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☒ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

One of the Scottish Government's Land Rights and Responsibilities principles states that there should be a more diverse pattern of land ownership and tenure, with more opportunities for citizens to own, lease and have access to land. There is an opportunity for this section to refer to this by adding in 'access to land' under 'Barriers to the rural economy, including affordable accommodation, transport, digital infrastructure, and skills have been addressed'.

Question 3

The outcomes for environment and adaptation provide an accurate description of what will be needed to achieve a just transition.

- ☒ Strongly agree
- ☒ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

The SLC's commissioned the Centre for Local Economic Strategies to research the mechanisms and governance approaches to securing public value from natural resources. [Analysis of mechanisms and governance approaches to securing public value from natural resources](#)

This research alongside our work on collaborative governance models demonstrates the benefits of place-based, collaborative approaches in supporting multiple outcomes. Therefore, we suggest adding in '*Support for regional and landscape-scale collaboration*' to encourage these approaches:

[Land Governance - Governance & Ownership - Our work - Scottish Land Commission](#)

Question 4

The outcomes for communities and place provide an accurate description of what will be needed to achieve a just transition.

- ☒ Strongly agree
- ☐ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

Question 5

The outcomes for people and equity provide an accurate description of what will be needed to achieve a just transition.

- ☒ Strongly agree

- ☐ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

Beginning the journey

Question 6

Education is a priority area that needs to be addressed to begin a just transition for land use and agriculture.

- ☒ Strongly agree
- ☐ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

Question 7

Local focus is a priority area that needs to be addressed to begin a just transition for land use and agriculture.

- ☒ Strongly agree
- ☐ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

Question 8

Collaboration and innovation are priority areas that need to be addressed to begin a just transition for land use and agriculture.

- ☒ Strongly agree
- ☐ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

To assist with delivering this plan and the Land Use Strategy 4, regional partnerships and place-based collaborative approaches can effectively coordinate and link national priorities with regional/local level delivery. SG should enable this by resourcing these effectively.

Question 9

Equity, and value and respect are priority areas that need to be addressed to begin a just transition for land use and agriculture.

- ☒ Strongly agree
- ☐ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

Question 10

Communication is a priority area that needs to be addressed to begin a just transition for land use and agriculture.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☒ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

We agree that communication is important, but delivery of policy coherence and integration is vital for delivering a just transition in the agriculture and land use. This outcome should be changed to Communication & Integration, aligning with the vision of the Land Use Strategy's aims around delivering land use integration.

Question 11

Are there other short-term objectives that should be considered in order to begin a just transition for land use and agriculture?

☐ **Yes**

☒ **No**

If 'yes', please provide additional information.

Monitoring and evaluating a Just Transition

Question 12

The draft indicators provide a good basis to measure progress towards the jobs, skills and economy outcomes.

☐ **Strongly agree**

☒ **Mostly agree**

☐ **Mostly disagree**

☐ **Strongly disagree**

Please give reasons for your answer.

The indicators currently do not fully capture progress or impact of the actions linked to the outcome.

Question 13

Are you aware of other data that could be used to monitor progress towards the jobs, skills and economy outcomes?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If 'yes', please provide additional information.

Question 14

The draft indicators provide a good basis to measure progress towards the environment and adaptation outcomes.

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Mostly agree

☒ Mostly disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

The indicators currently do not measure progress in delivering the actions linked to the outcome. Focusing on the hectarage for example does not explain how a just transition is being achieved through these actions.

Question 15

Are you aware of other data that could be used to monitor progress towards the environment and adaptation outcomes?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If 'yes', please provide additional information.

Question 16

The draft indicators provide a good basis to measure progress towards the communities and place outcomes.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☒ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

The indicators currently do not fully capture progress or impact of the actions linked to the outcome.

Question 17

Are you aware of other data that could be used to monitor progress towards communities and place outcomes?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

If 'yes', please provide additional information.

Question 18

The draft indicators provide a good basis to measure progress towards the people and equity outcomes.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☒ Mostly agree
- ☐ Mostly disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

The indicators currently do not fully capture progress or impact of the actions linked to the outcome.

Question 19

Are you aware of other data that could be used to monitor progress towards the people and equity outcomes?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If 'yes', please provide additional information.

Question 20

Using a combination of indicators and anecdotal evidence could measure progress towards the plan objectives.

☒ Strongly agree

☐ Mostly agree

☐ Mostly disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Please give reasons for your answer.

Anecdotal and qualitative data is essential for making the connection between two outcomes e.g. hectares of nature restored alone does not describe to what extent this is also making progress to empower and support local communities. Focusing on outcome indicators alone is too narrow.

Question 21

Are you aware of indicators or alternative evidence sources that could be used to measure progress towards the plan objectives?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If 'yes', please provide additional information.

Assessing impact

Question 22

Are you aware of any ways in which the proposed outcomes and objectives need to take into account the different experiences, both positive and negative, current or future, of the following groups:

- island communities;
- young people, (children, pupils, and young adults up to the age of 26);
- those with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation); and/or
- groups or areas at socio-economic disadvantage (such as income, low wealth or area deprivation)?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If 'yes', please provide additional information.

Question 23

Are you aware of any potential costs and burdens that you think may arise as a result of the outcomes and objectives within this consultation?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If 'yes', please provide additional information.

Question 24

Are you involved in any organised groups, (for example a campaigning group, industry working group or public sector forum, which does not have to be climate-related), that considers how the land use and agriculture sectors are changing or could change in future?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If 'yes', how does the group consider and engage others on just transition issues?

Approaches to land use change and a just transition are important to our work. The Scottish Land Commission provides leadership, evidence and advice across three priority areas: reforming land rights, embedding responsible land ownership and use, and reforming land market. Our Strategic Plan 2023-26 sets a focus for our work on people, power and prosperity by 1) Enabling people to participate in and influence decisions about land 2) Diversifying the power and control in land ownership and governance 3) Using the value and benefits of land to create national economic prosperity. These aims and workstreams contribute to the delivery of just transition outcomes.

We engage a wide range of stakeholders across different sectors. We are involved in and convene several forums and groups including community land ownership, community benefits and tenant farming. The SLC is also a partner of the Natural Capital Communities Partnership – a collaboration between Community Land Scotland and the Cairngorms National Park- to help deliver wider benefits from land use change.

Question 25

Can you tell us of actions you or your organisation are taking, or plan to take, that will contribute to achieving any short-term objectives outlined in this draft plan?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If 'yes', please provide additional information.

While our aims and workstreams are relevant to all objectives, the following are especially relevant: Local Focus, Collaboration and Innovation, Equity, value and respect.

Question 26

Please provide any further comments on the proposals set out in this consultation

in the box below.

The LAJTP should consider the full range of mechanisms available to SG to deliver the objectives in this plan including:

- Taxation and fiscal mechanisms support a just transition.
- Investing in data to support decision-making at a local and regional level.
- Investing strategic planning and regional approaches to ensure joined-up planning and delivery of outcomes.