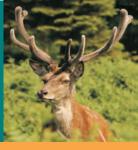# COLLABORATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:
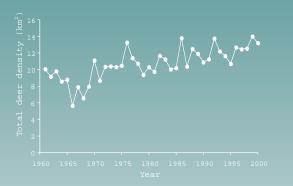## A CASE STUDY BASED ON WILD DEER IN THE UK

KEY ISSUES:

- Understanding the interaction between the ecological and socioeconomic value and its impact on sustainable management of natural resources such as deer
- Barriers such as the lack of integration among scientific disciplines and poor communication between researchers, policy makers and practitioners need to be overcome

DEER ARE AN IMPORTANT RURAL RESOURCE:

Income for landowners:
- Venison
- Jobs for stalkers
- Tourist attraction

BUT also a source of conflict because of increasing numbers:
- Damage to forest/farm crops
- Road traffic accidents
- Overgrazing priority habitats

KEY RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

- Investigate local and national stakeholder objectives for deer management.
- Identify possible barriers to collaboration and any gaps in knowledge.
- Develop methods to integrate ecological, economic and social knowledge.
- Involve stakeholders in the research process.
- Develop an adaptive framework for collaborative management and shared knowledge.

CORE ACTIVITIES:

Using a range of case study sites across the UK we investigated the following questions:

1. How to integrate local and scientific knowledge and develop trust between practitioners and scientists.
2. Collaboration and barriers in the deer world: public & private; national and local.
3. How does legislation influence collaboration?
4. Does venison price influence management?
5. Does information about deer impacts and biodiversity influences peoples' attitudes towards woodland landscape?
6. Can collaboration influence decision making over deer management?
7. What are there benefits to involving stakeholders in research?