

# COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORKS IN LAND MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY ON INTEGRATED DEER MANAGEMENT

Justin Irvine, Macaulay Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen AB15 8QH. Tel: 01224 498200 x2429 • j.irvine@macaulay.ac.uk

## AIM:

To produce a generic framework for the development of effective, informed and inclusive collaborative management to promote rural sustainability, using wild deer in the UK as a model system.

Central questions:

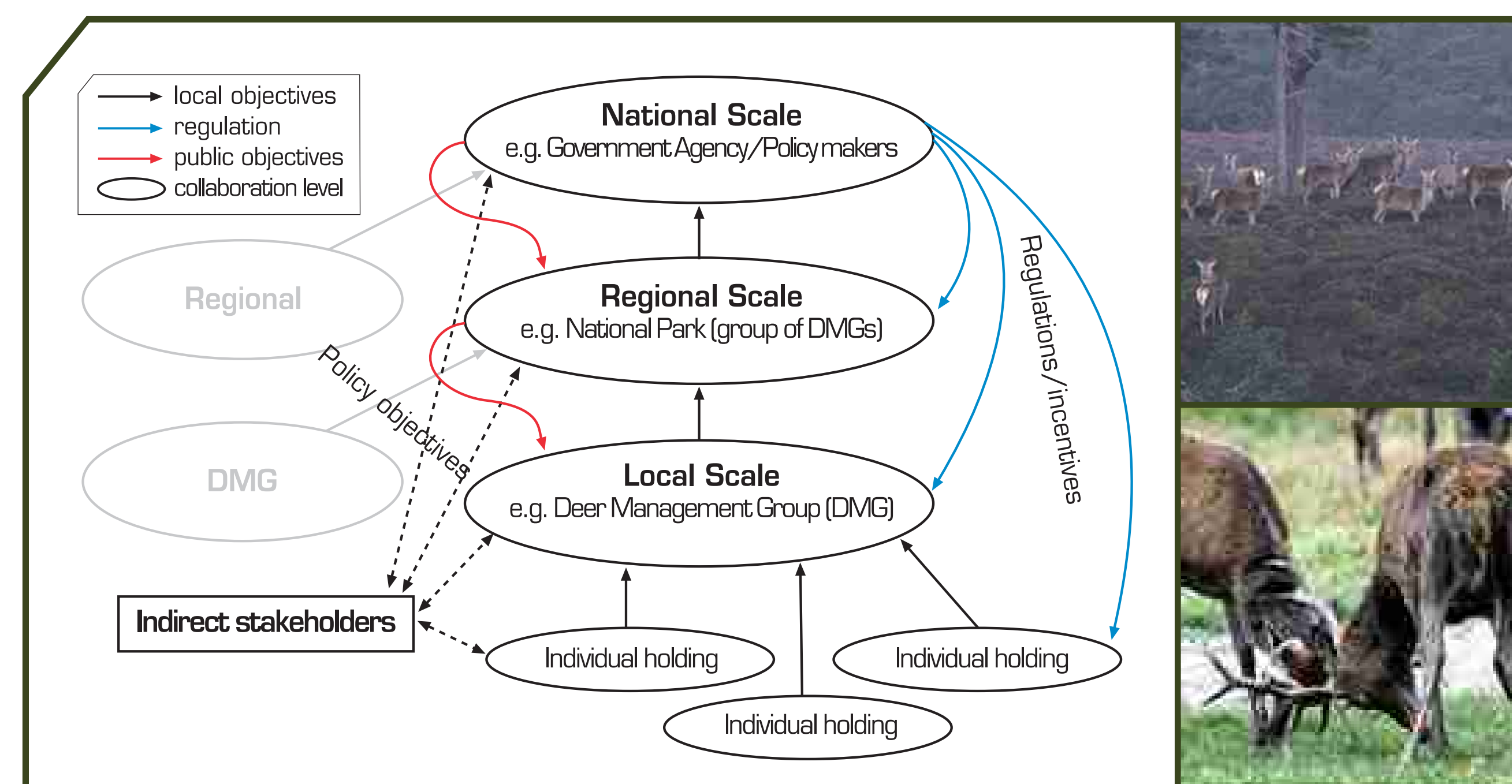
- Can stakeholder collaboration enhance the efficiency with which benefits of ecological resources are captured?
- What are the barriers that hinder collaborative resource management and how can they be overcome?

## OUTPUTS:

- An understanding of the goals and motivations of individuals and groups of stakeholders at different scales and in different case studies.
- An assessment of potential common goals and priorities around which to base management planning.
- A channel for communication, feedback and the interchange of knowledge between researchers from different disciplines and between all researchers, stakeholders and policy makers. This harnesses the expertise of all parties to develop, test and iterate policy options to increase the net benefits that accrue from the management of ecological resources in rural economies.
- A shared knowledge base accessible to practitioners, policy makers and scientists. The final output will bring together social, economic and ecological knowledge relevant to the case studies so that practitioner, academic and policy maker knowledge are integrated and incorporated into a holistic framework.
- A method for approaching consensus about resource management issues allowing optimal use of currently available knowledge and experience to create new knowledge and solutions to environmental conflicts in a transparent and robust way.
- A facilitation tool for stakeholders by promoting stakeholder engagement, dialogue between stakeholders, and capacity of stakeholders to develop novel solutions to improve value capture, promote collaborative management and reduce conflict.

## THE KEY OBJECTIVES ARE:

- Investigate stakeholder characteristics and goals in relation to deer management and assess current relationships, barriers to collaboration and gaps in knowledge.
- Investigate novel methods for integrating ecological, economic and social knowledge and feed this integrated information into the collaborative process.
- Develop a framework for collaborative management and integrated information flow across a range of scales and review its application in the management of other rural resources.



## Recent press coverage:

- Fears over deer boom 12-05-05
- Anger over flying squad deer cull 5-02-04
- Call to rein in deer population 23-09-03
- Deer culled to reduce accidents on road blackspot 14-09-05

## DEER MANAGEMENT AS A CASE STUDY SYSTEM

- Deer bring direct and indirect financial costs and benefits to a wide range of stakeholders across society.
- National variation in collaboration initiatives among stakeholders are readily found in current policy frameworks.
- Stakeholders are drawn from all sectors of society and display a wide range of values, concerns and perceptions.
- Deer management occurs in locations that are highly diversified in terms of habitat and socio-economic context and across a range of temporal-spatial scales.
- Current frameworks for deer are being reviewed and other land-use policies (e.g. CAP) impacting on deer management are under reform.

This provides a timely opportunity for assessing how these policies and reforms can influence value capture, commodity provision and sustainability within rural economies.



## Acknowledgements:

The authors wish to thank the RELU Programme and the Forestry Commission for its financial support and stakeholders for their contributions to the project consultations.