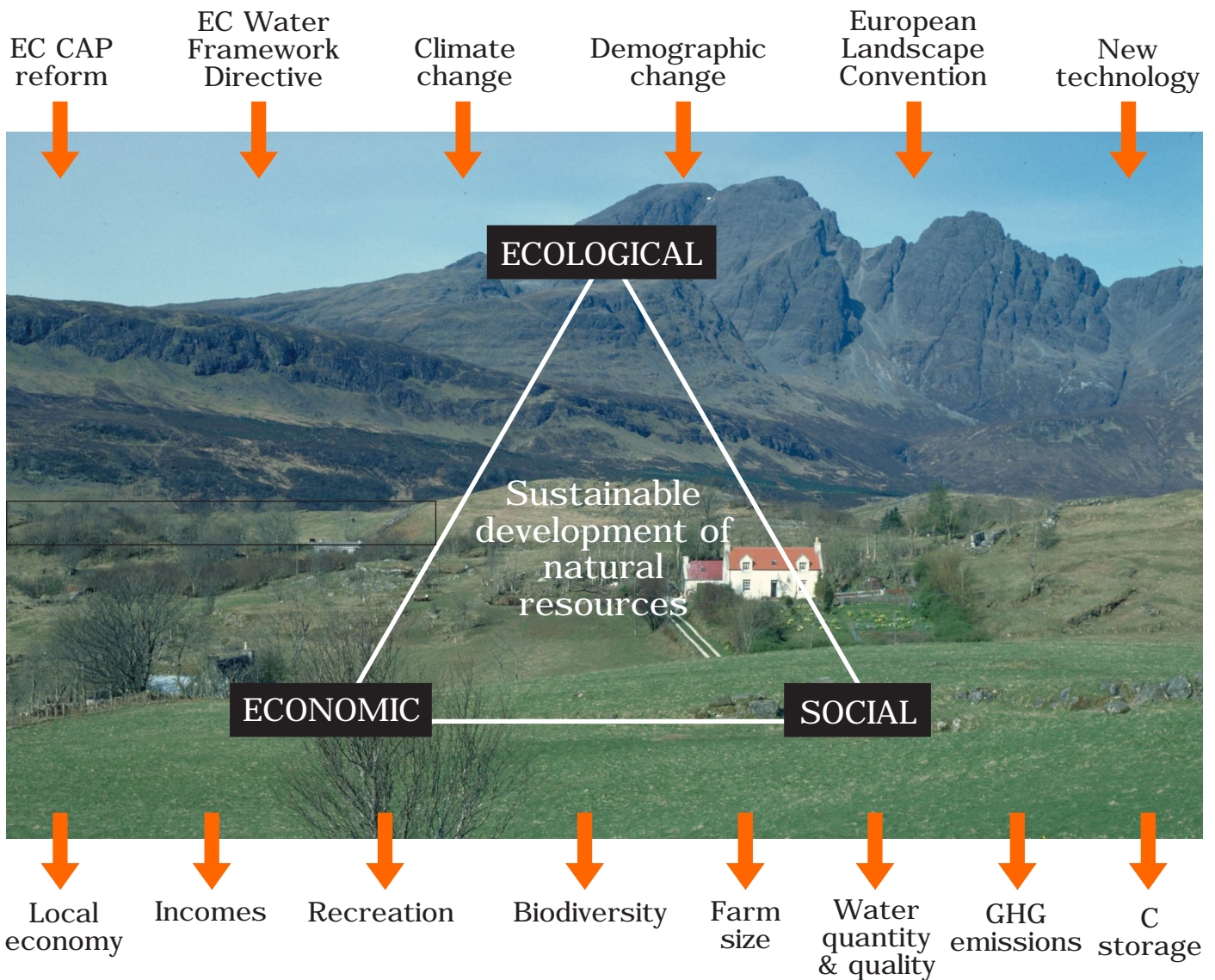


CHALLENGE

Reconciling global, national and local influences on Scotland, while ensuring economic growth, social justice, and protection of its natural and cultural heritage, represents a significant challenge over coming decades (Scottish Executive, 2000).



RESEARCH ISSUES

A new programme of research aims at an enhanced understanding of the main social, economic and biophysical processes involved in land-use change in Scotland, and how these interact with each other. The objectives are to evaluate:

- the interactions between climate change, landscapes and rural communities;
- key land management strategies that promote biodiversity and landscape conservation while maintaining economic, environmental and social sustainability.