

SCOPING AGREEMENT BETWEEN SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND THE SCOTTISH SCIENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

PLACE-BASED APPROACHES TO ADAPTATION

Project Title: An audit (or mapping) of place-based adaptation in Scotland and a synthesis of research findings exploring the processes adopted and identifying what has or has not resulted in change

Background

Place-based adaptation is considered critical for the delivery of a resilient nation. However, we do not have a comprehensive understanding of the extent of place-based initiatives that are addressing adaptation (as primary or secondary focus) in Scotland, the approaches that are being taken, or the research and learning that underpins these interventions. We are aware that there is considerable research directed at specific initiatives and places, but the research findings are not coordinated. There is a need to collate and synthesise the research findings.

We do not have a national view of the common successes, challenges and opportunities for place-based approaches in Scotland. The next SCCAP requires this evidence base to develop appropriate and feasible policy for future place-based adaptation.

Project Overview

A mapping exercise of:

- a) existing and past place-based adaptation projects.
- b) research that addresses place-based adaptation in Scotland.

Project Aims

The aim of the project is to “set the scene” of recent and current research and development projects on place-based adaptation across Scotland to provide an input into SG work in preparation for the next Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme, (SCCAP) both in terms of identifying individuals and groups working in this space and providing a summary of lessons learnt so far

Project Outputs:

- Define place-based adaptation in Scotland and mapping remit
- Mapping of key place-based adaptation research nationally and associate research experts,
- SWOT analysis,
- Briefing and final report.

Supporting Information

The Scottish Government's Domestic Climate Change Division, Policy and Implementation Unit will share information they have on ongoing work in this area.

Methodology

First the intern will work with SNIFFER to define place-based adaptation and the scope of the mapping exercises. Then using connections across various networks to identify key researchers and their nationally focussed projects. Create a spreadsheet of projects and key experts in the field that can be kept updated (would subsequently need an "owner" to maintain).

Synthesis, including categorising of projects according to the focus on work, and design a survey to explore the Strength: Weaknesses: Opportunities: Threats (SWOT) of these research findings. It would be of value to discuss outputs with key stakeholders via a roundtable event or similar. Final results would then be presented via briefing/report to SG.

Timeframe and Format

3-month programme of work between November 2022 – January 2023

Intern – MSc or PHD level, est. cost £10,000. Will require support through co-funding.

- November – define scope, mapping past and current small-large place-based research projects via networks such as SSN, SAGES, National Resilience Centre, and Sniffer. Design survey questions based on SWOT analysis of key findings and reflections,
- December – connect and interview/ survey key project owners,
- January - present and validate results via round table/workshop with research and policy communities.

Final report for SG due by January 2023, reviewed by SSAC for sign off by February 2023.