



# Policy Coherence for Land Use Transformations: What, why & where have we got to?



Kirsty Blackstock, Jean Boucher, James Glendinning, Alexa Green, Alba Juarez-Bourke, Stan Martinat, Keith Matthews, Ian Merrell, Hebe Nicholson, Steven Thompson.



The James  
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Institute

Presentation to Policy Day, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, Online.

# Research Purpose & Stage

- Research questions:
  - **Are there synergies, gaps or conflicts in the way current LU policies are supporting LU transformations?**
  - Are there problems of vertical, diagonal and/or **horizontal coherence** within existing LU policies?
  - Can improving coherence support LU Transformations?
  - What are the opportunities to improve or sustain coherence?
  - How can coherence be monitored more effectively in the future?
- Initial screening & interviews September 2022 – March 2023
- More in-depth analysis to understand patterns April 23 – Feb 24
- Work in progress – **your steer** to make it useful and timely



# Rural Land Use Transformations

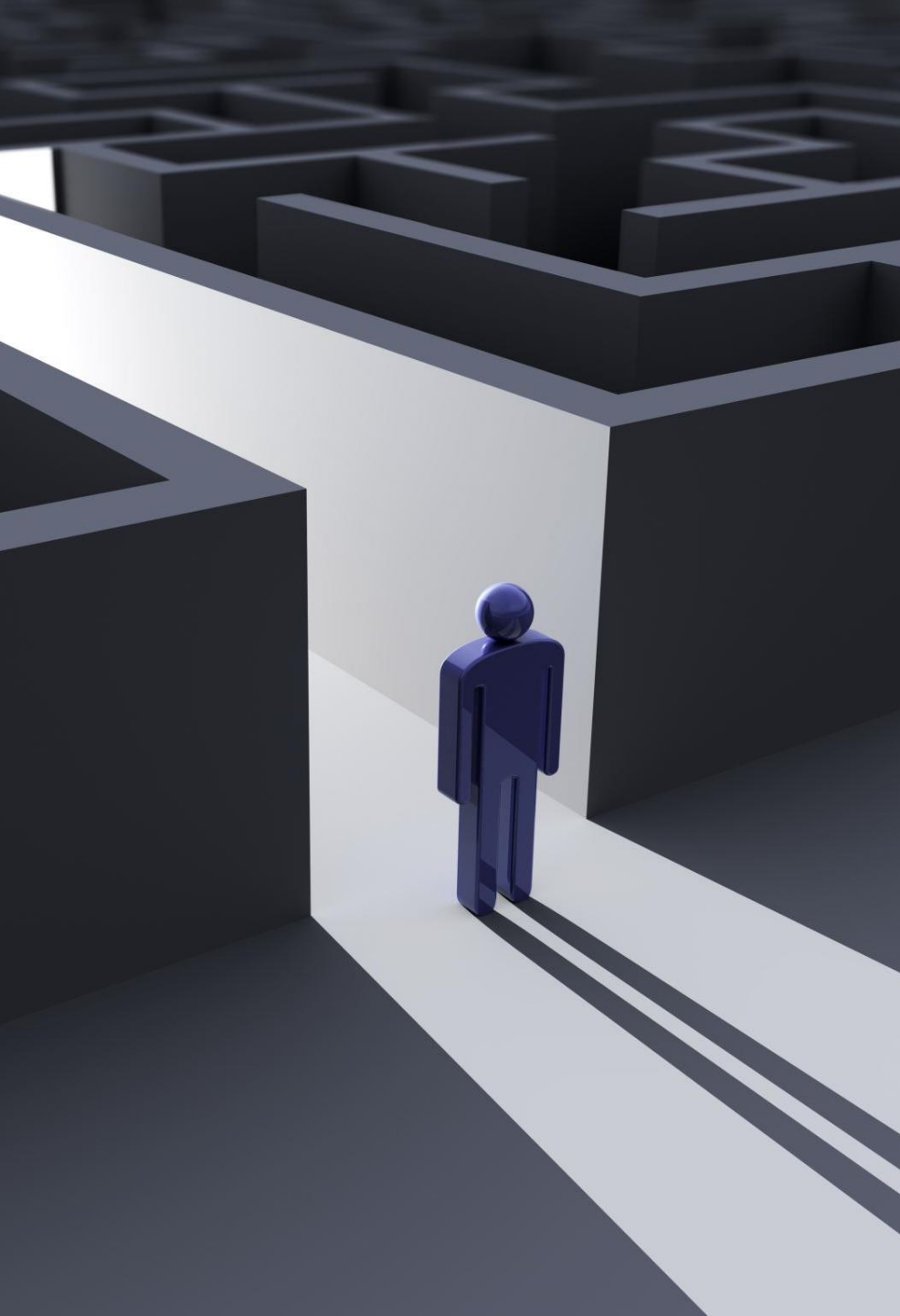
- Governance lens on how to deliver GHG reduction and other environmental goals
  - Biodiversity (terrestrial and aquatic)
  - Climate resilience
  - **Socio-Economic (prosperity, inclusion)**
- Broad approach to ‘land use’
  - Rural land-based sectors (agriculture, forestry, sporting, energy, conservation, recreation and tourism)

## Ministerial Foreword



The Scottish Government is committed to realising our Vision for Agriculture and transforming how we support farming and food production in Scotland to become a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture.





# Why does coherence matter?

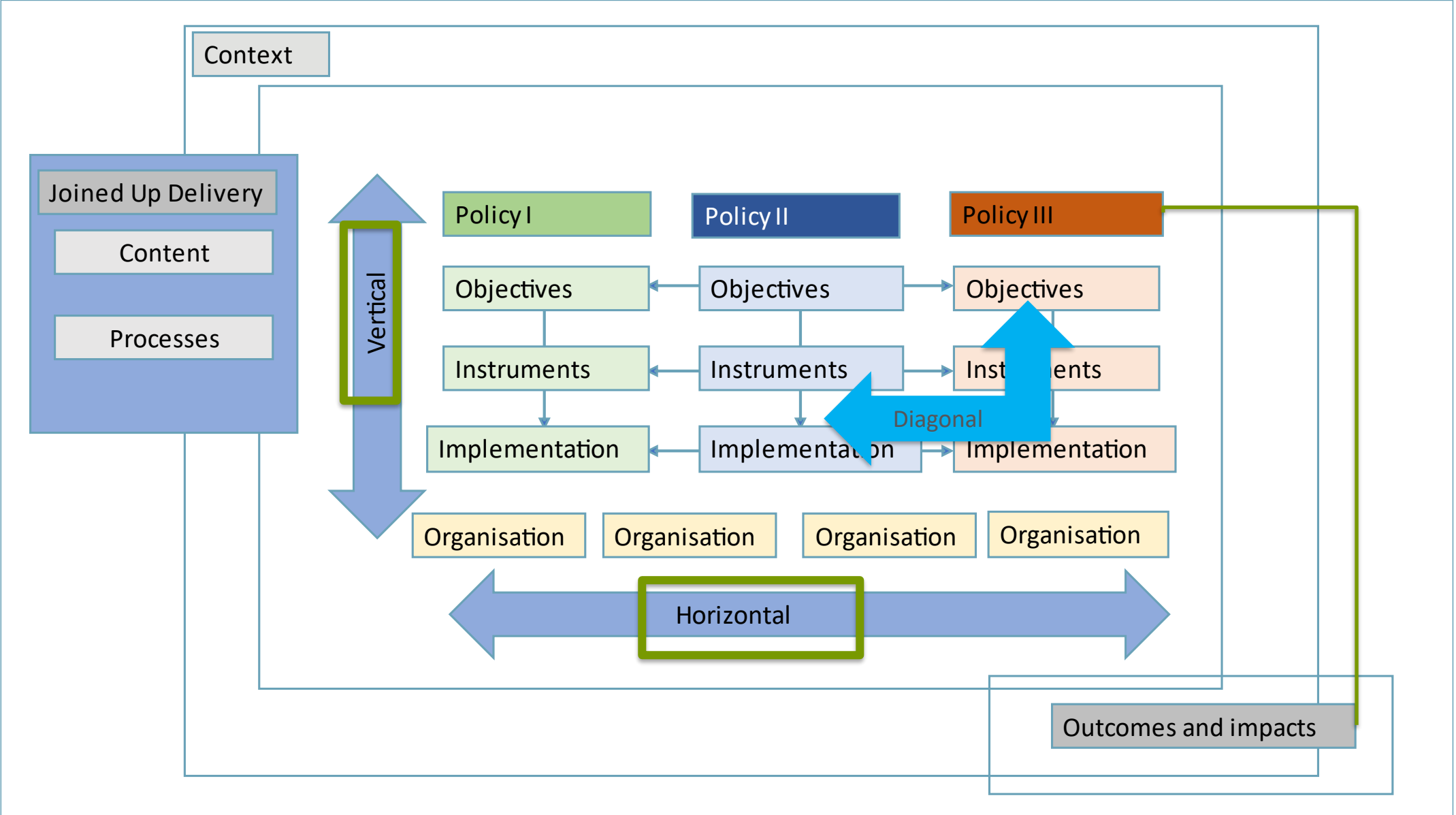
- Improved policy outcomes
  - Shared resources
  - Address trade-offs and conflicts

Need for coherence between the different outcomes and considerations, including rural development, environment, and food production.

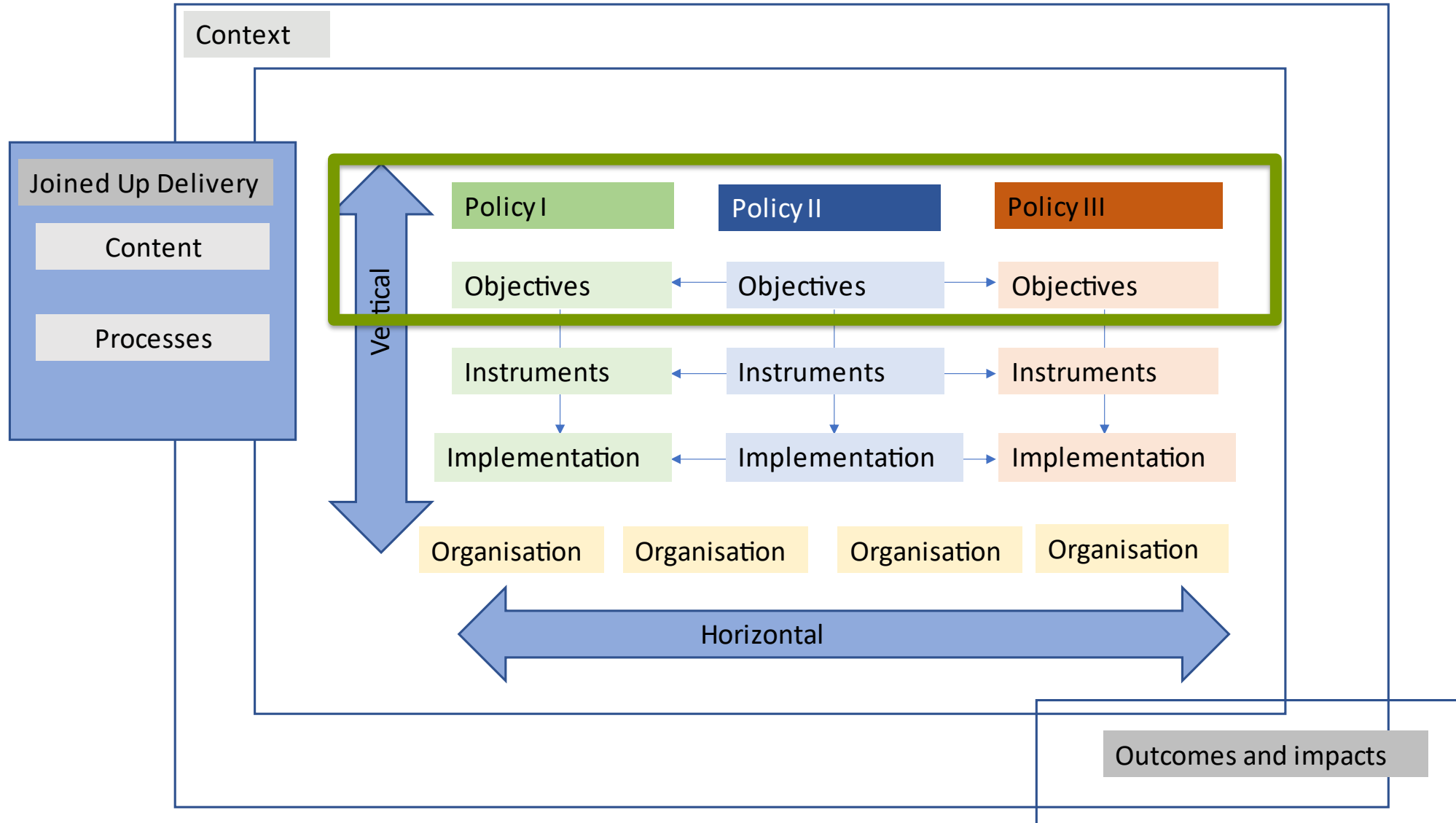
Future Agriculture policy roundtable paper 22/2/23

- Crowded policy landscape confusing for land managers
  - Multiple outcomes using different instruments and promoted via different organisations
  - Acts on same business – what does it mean for them?
- Help manage complexity and find opportunities
  - Proactive not reactive to the scale of change required

# Three dimensions of Policy coherence



# Screening focus to date



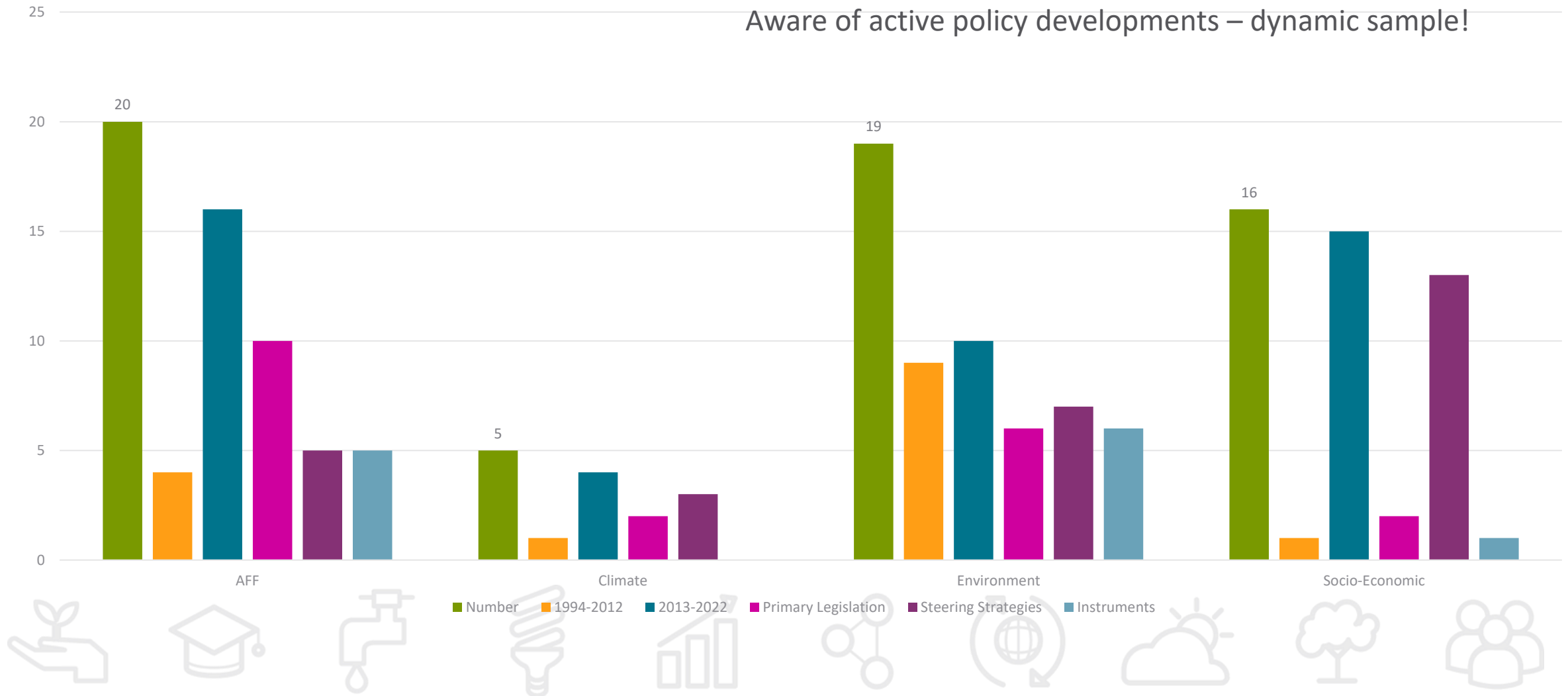
Screening focussed on horizontal coherence to see how policies collectively support LU Transformations

**Do the policy objectives relate to five transformative goals for land use?**



# Sample n = 60 existing policies

Will add some missing documents & adjust some coding  
Aware of active policy developments – dynamic sample!



# Goals & Transformation definitions

## Goals

Climate Mitigation

Biodiversity Restoration

Climate Adaptation

Economic Prosperity

Procedural and Distributive Justice

Yes, No, Other

## Transformation

The degree of change to meet these goals is substantial, system wide, beyond incremental and is initiated rather than reacted to (contrasting with system collapse)

Advances, Neutral, Retards

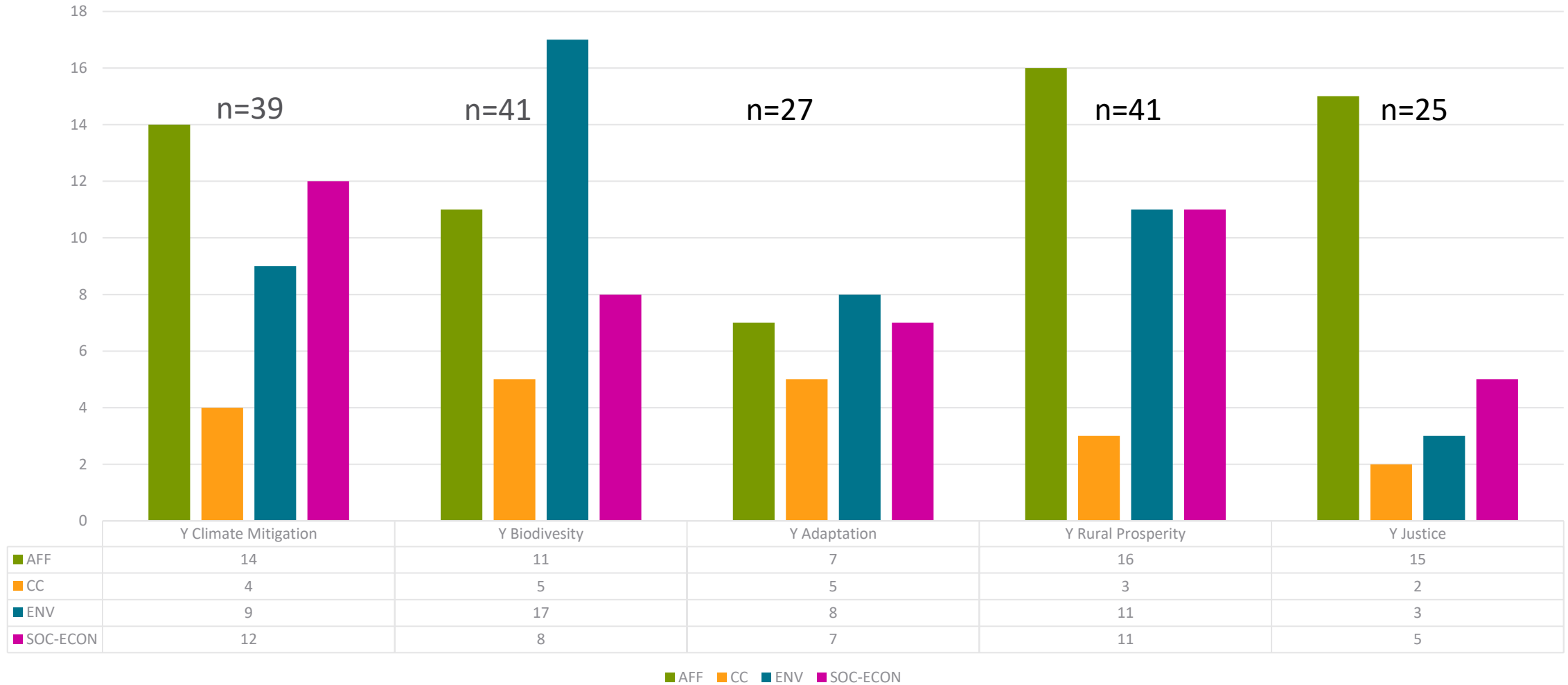
Documents taken at 'face value' and not tested to see if the outcomes being delivered  
Attention to food production & skills, how to define 'justice'





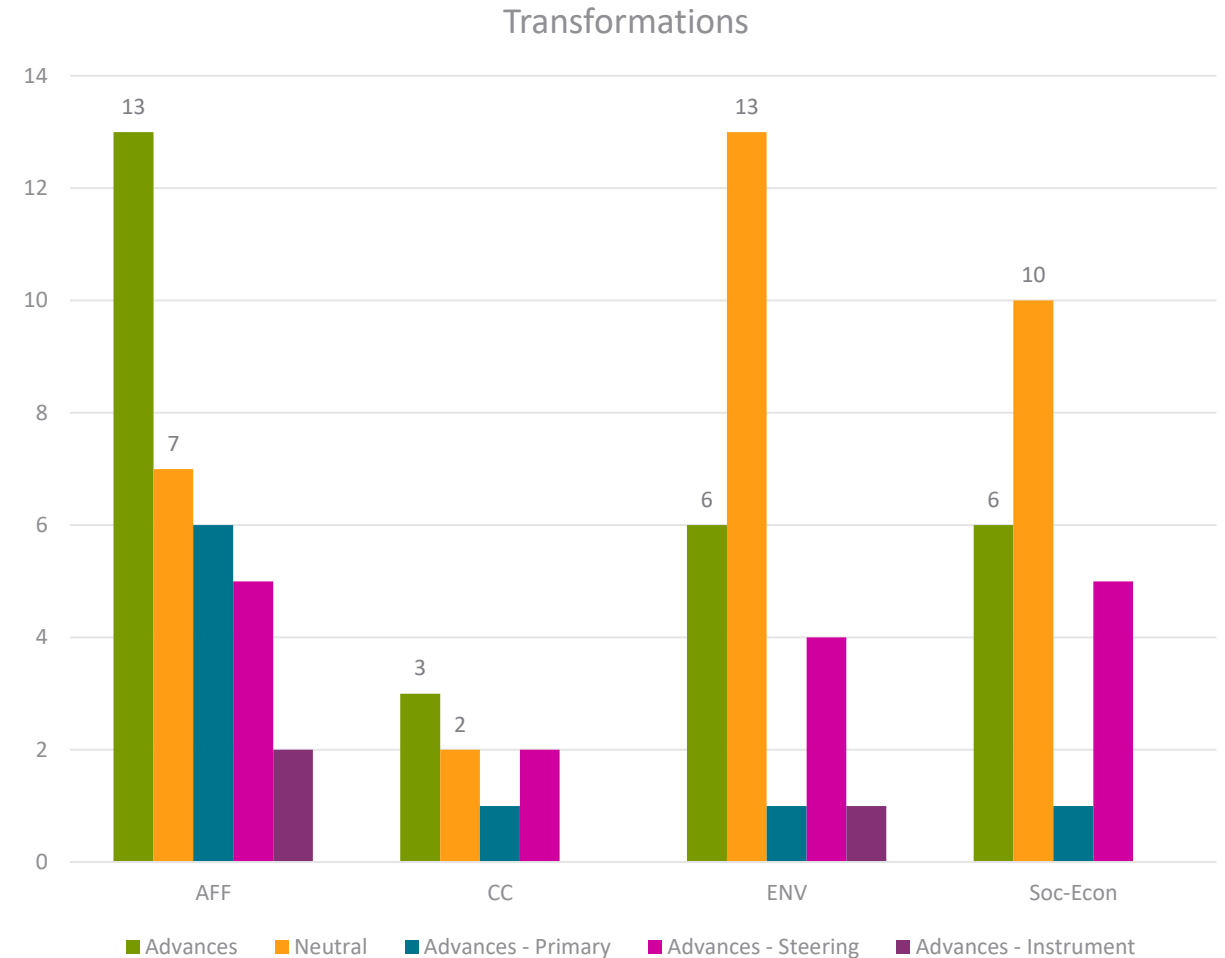
# Comparison of Goals

Counts are indicative to suggest areas to explore  
 Counts are per document  
 Relationships between documents not addressed



# Overall Transformation Findings

- More neutral (32) than transformational (28)
- 8 transformational policies meet all 5 goals
  - 4 policies do not meet Goal 1 (Climate Mitigation)
  - 5 policies do not meet Goal 2 (Biodiversity)
  - 10 of the policies do not meet Goal 3 (Adaptation)
  - 4 of the policies do not meet Goal 4 (Prosperity)
  - 9 of the policies do not meet Goal 5 (Justice)



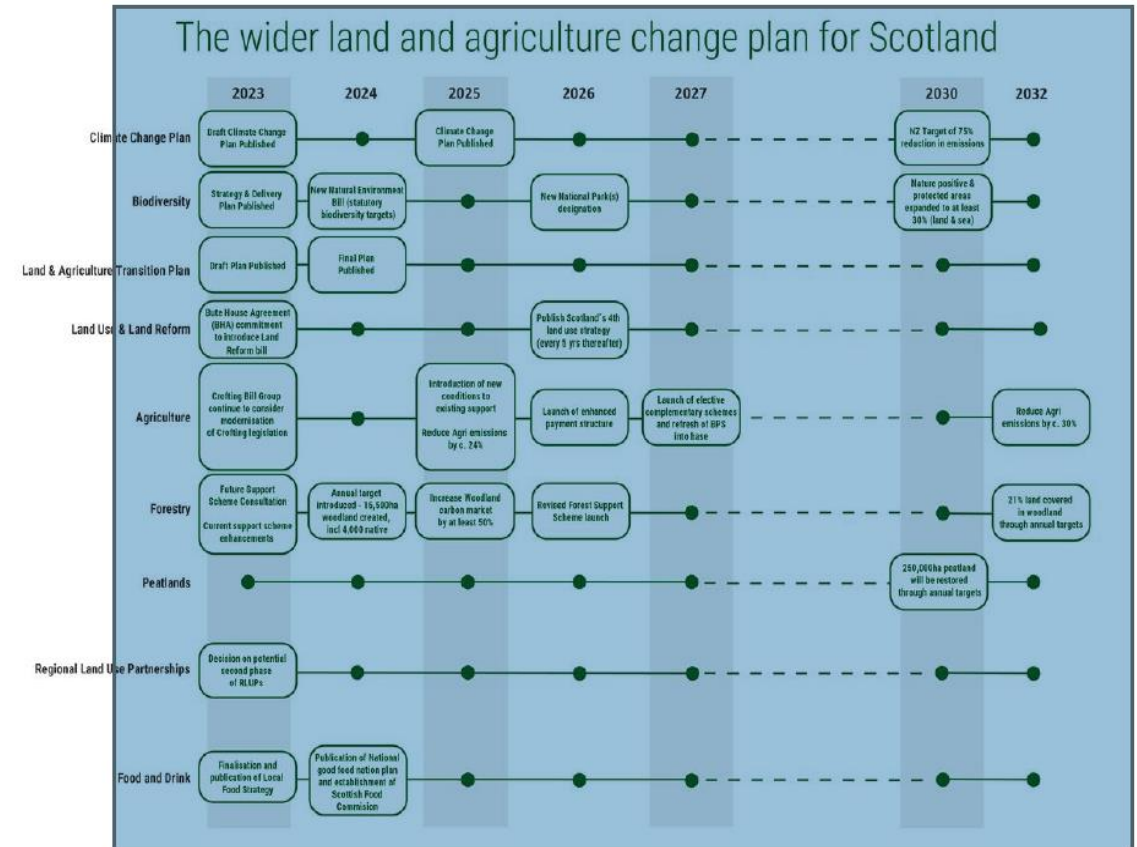
# Preliminary discussion

- Not many policies are transformational and coherent across the 5 goals for Land Use transformation
  - Yet ... focus on trajectory?
- Attention to climate action (mitigation **and** adaptation) with nature; whilst leaving no one behind...
  - Clearer pathway for Just Transition for multiple objectives
- Actor orientation
  - Who ensure policy coherence? Resourcing, authority, responsibilities
  - Coherent implementation on the ground by design not accident
- Potentially a reliance on ‘steering strategies’ which might be problematic if there are no associated instruments, budgets, indicators or targets
  - Will explore in vertical coherence analysis



# Next Steps

- Deeper analysis
  - Horizontal, vertical and diagonal coherence
    - Importance of implementation
    - M&E (targets, indicators)
    - Results due Feb 2024
- Share insights with next cycle of QST
  - Just Transitions Commission
- How to help with future policy development?



Source: Routemap Stakeholder Toolkit, Feb 2023



**Prior research on policy coherence can be found here:**

<https://www.hutton.ac.uk/research/projects/balancing-multiple-goals-natural-resource-management>

<https://www.hutton.ac.uk/research/projects/water-integration>

**Contact** – Kirsty Blackstock, The James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, AB15 8QH,

Tel - +44 (0)1224 395271, Email – [Kirsty.blackstock@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:Kirsty.blackstock@hutton.ac.uk)

**Further research in the RESAS Strategic Research Programme 2022-27** in the Land Use Transformations\_(C3-JHI-1) project

<https://landusetransformations.hutton.ac.uk/>

SRUC-c3-2 Modelling The Socio-economic, Greenhouse Gas And Natural Capital Impacts Of Land Use Policy And

Opportunities? <https://pure.sruc.ac.uk/en/projects/resas-22-27-sruc-c3-2-modelling-the-socio-economic-greenhouse-gas>

SRUC-c3-1 Impacts Of Land-based Financial Support Mechanisms On Land Values, Landownership Diversification And Land

Use Outcomes <https://pure.sruc.ac.uk/en/projects/resas-22-27-sruc-c3-1-impacts-of-land-based-financial-support-mec>

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