



# Integrative Approaches to Urban and Rural Participatory Forestry

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# Participative Forestry: *“It ain’t what you do, it’s the way that you do it..”*

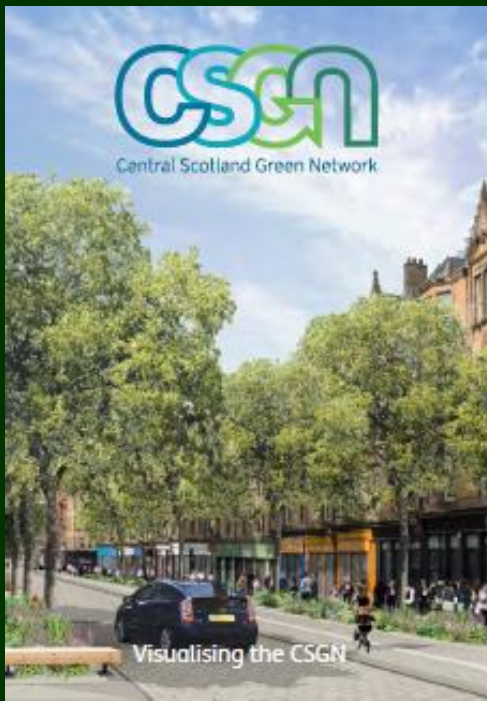
## Aims:

- To consider participative approaches to forestry governance through a broader perspective GI at a landscape scale
- To identify and share best practice GI governance across the rural /urban interface using examples from Germany and Scotland
- To consider citizen participation models “sans frontiers”
- To remove barriers and facilitate change: some recommendations for policy and best practice



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# GI: as a rural → urban continuum



The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is a national development in the Scottish Government's third National Planning Framework. With a wide-ranging remit, far beyond a 'green initiative', the CSGN is improving the vitality, health and well-being of central Scotland.

The overarching CSGN Vision is that by 2050, the area will be transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality. The CSGN is creating an environment which supports sustainable economic growth, good physical and mental well-being, and will help central Scotland to thrive in a changing climate and for nature to flourish.

This leaflet illustrates what will make up the CSGN and the outcomes it will deliver in line with our vision.

Bringing change to life



CSGN, 2015



#### Upland habitat management

- Carbon sequestration at a significant scale to combat climate change
- Water catchment management reducing flooding and improving water quality
- Characterful, high quality landscapes which add value to the region



#### Woodland creation and management

- Carbon sequestration and a source of materials and products for industry
- Biodiverse habitats supporting our wildlife to thrive
- Accessible quality greenspace where people enjoy better health and wellbeing



#### Permanent greening of vacant and derelict land

- Removal of blight supports economic competitiveness
- Communities derive benefits from the renewal process
- Greenspace connects communities with nature



#### Retrofitting green infrastructure in urban areas

- Attractive places to live and work which are adapted to climate change
- Walking and cycling encourage town centre use
- Less traffic results in noise reduction, safer streets and improved air quality



#### Community growing

- Increased levels of community participation and cohesiveness
- Empowered, knowledgeable communities
- Improved health and wellbeing



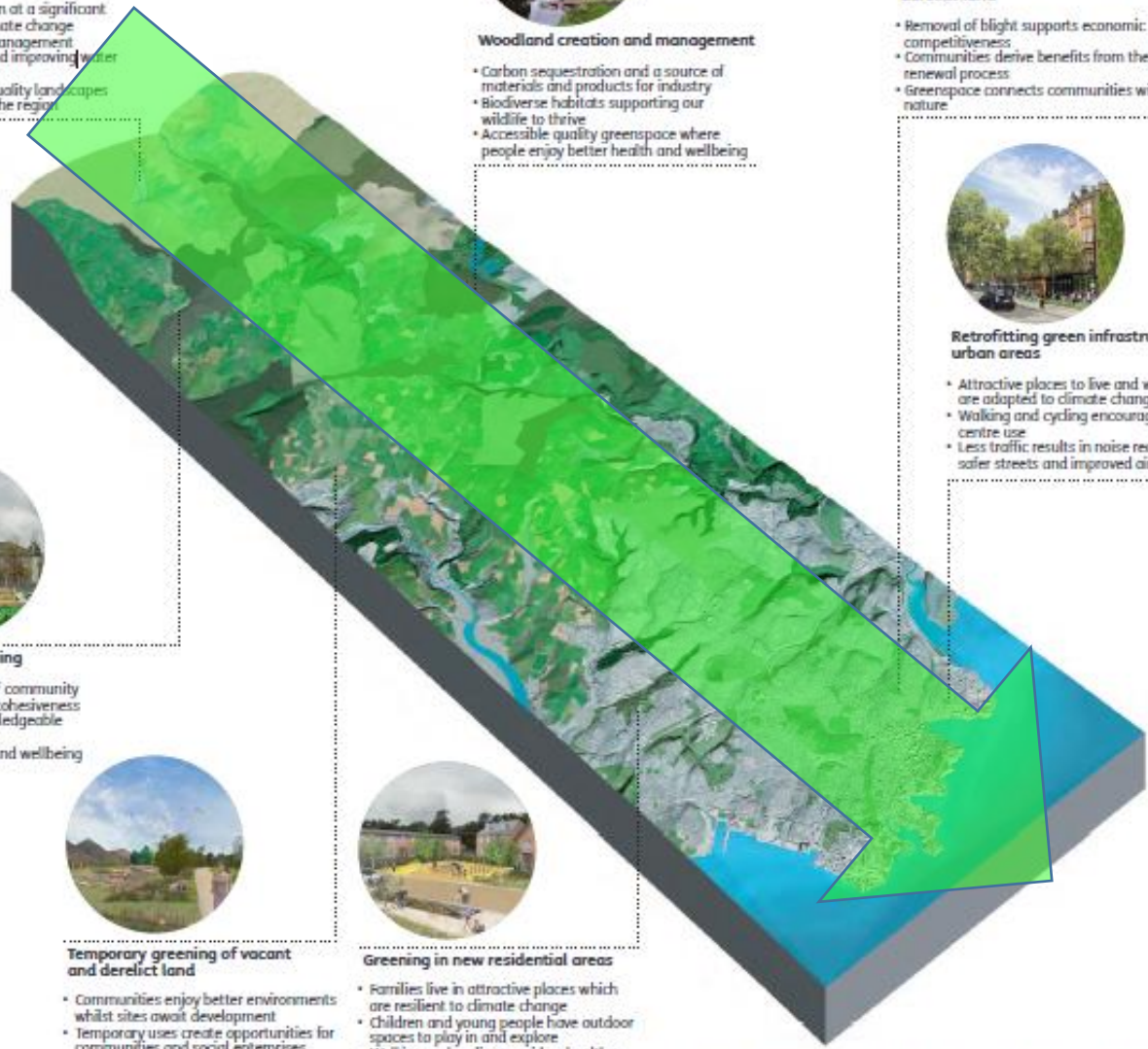
#### Temporary greening of vacant and derelict land

- Communities enjoy better environments whilst sites await development
- Temporary uses create opportunities for communities and social enterprises
- Interim uses make sites more attractive to developers



#### Greening in new residential areas

- Families live in attractive places which are resilient to climate change
- Children and young people have outdoor spaces to play in and explore
- Walking and cycling provide a healthy transport choice to local amenities



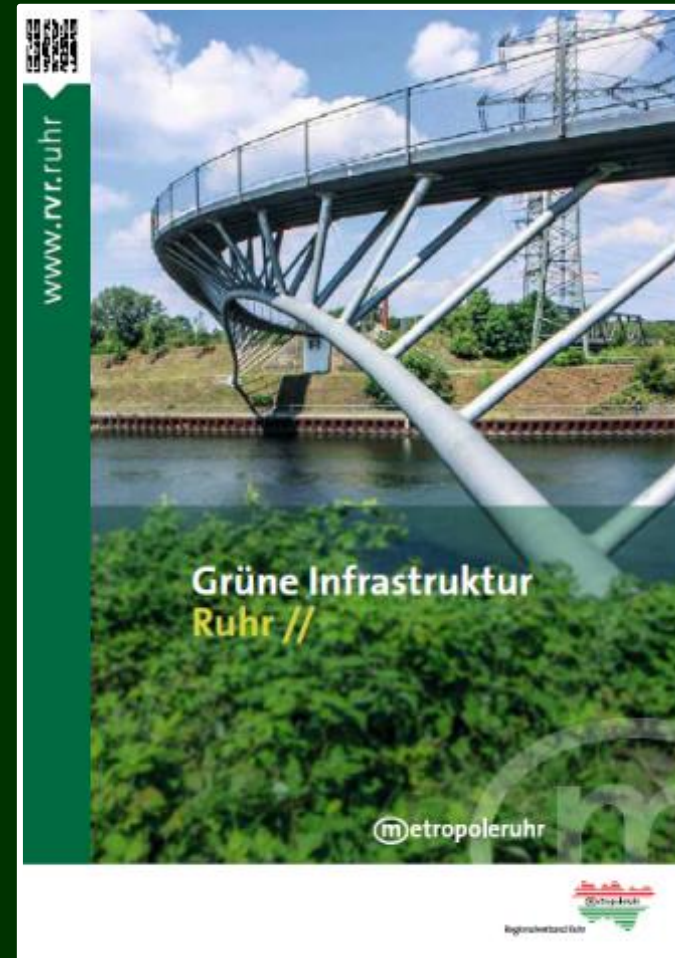
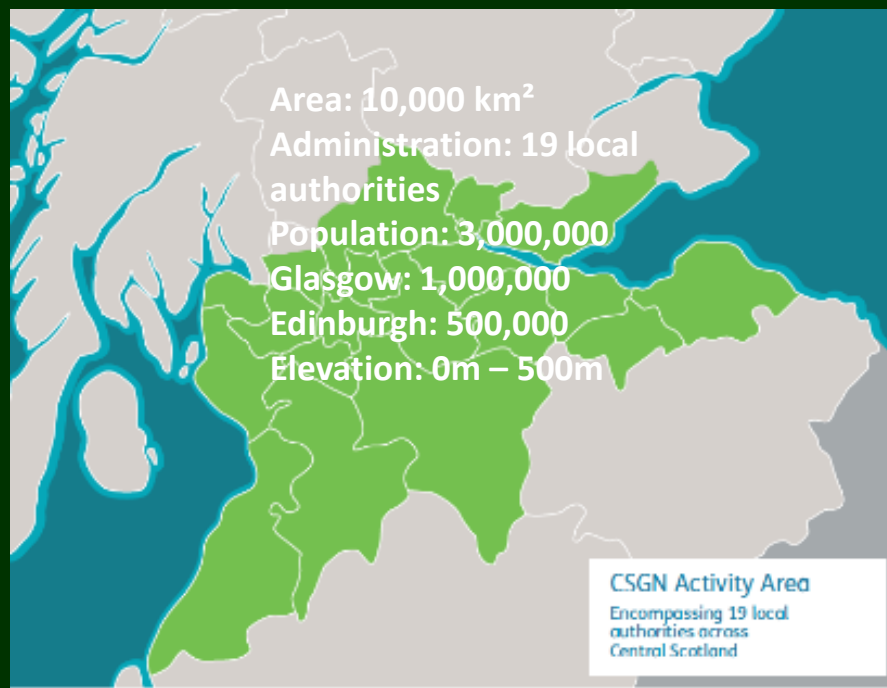
An illustrative transect highlighting the benefits of the Central Scotland Green Network



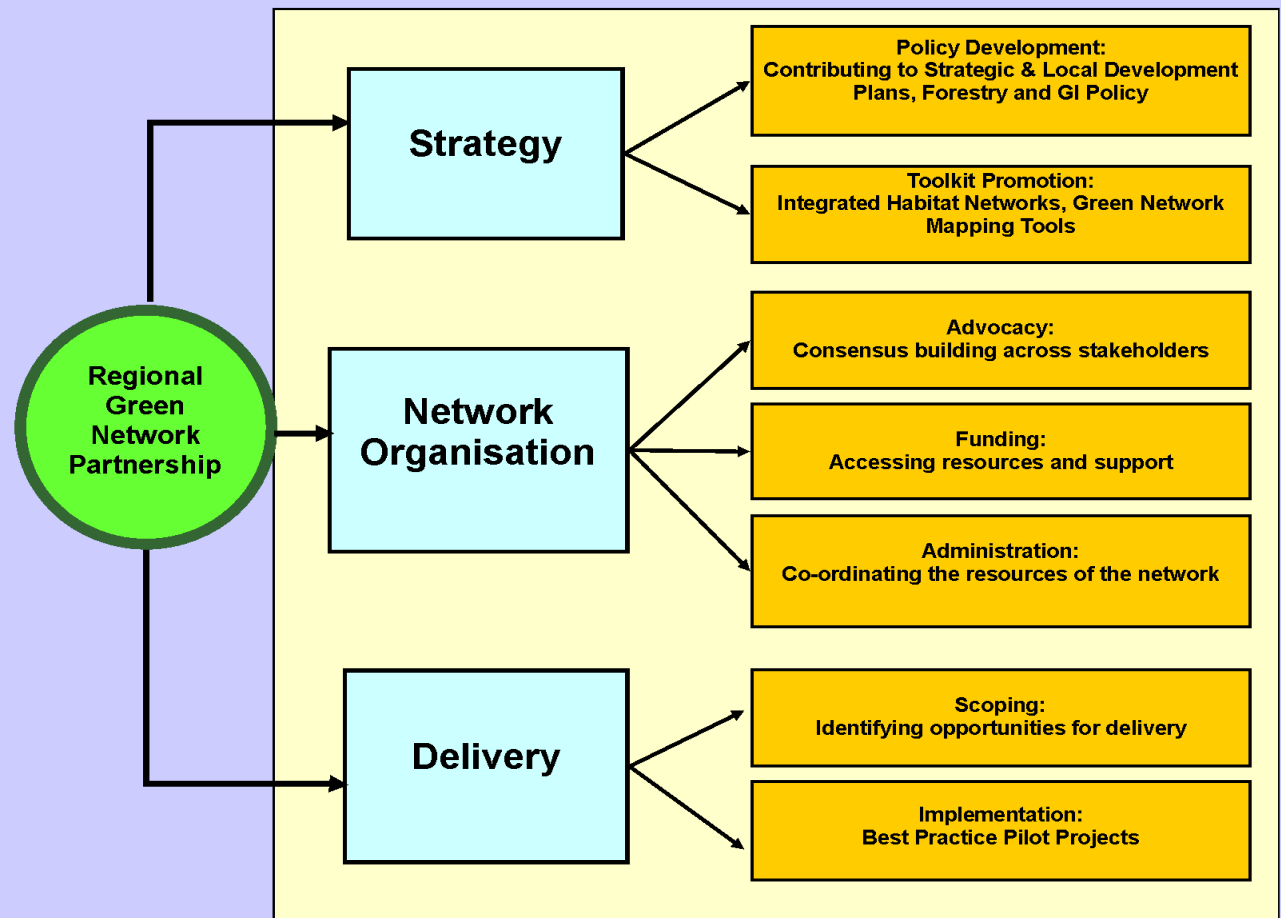


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# GI at regional & interregional partnership level:



### Conceptual Regional GI Partnership - Functions





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FIGURE 1.  
Urban forest stakeholders and actors

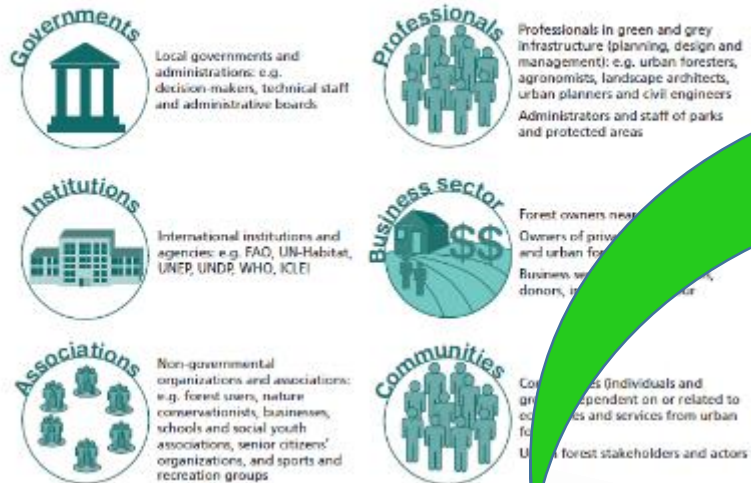


FIGURE 2.

## Urban forest governance arrangement types

### Grassroots Initiatives

Relatively small-scale initiatives on public land, started and maintained autonomously by local residents

### Organization-Initiated grassroots

Social enterprises or non-governmental organizations mobilizing community action, located in focus and power between co-governance and grassroots initiatives

### Co-governance

Partnerships between municipalities and citizens or grassroots organizations, with power shared among actors

### Green hubs

Experimental creative coalitions connecting networks and knowledge to develop community-based and nature-based solutions

### Public-private partnerships for green services

Maintenance or development obligations for businesses in exchange for a formalized right to use green spaces (or the values thereof) for profit

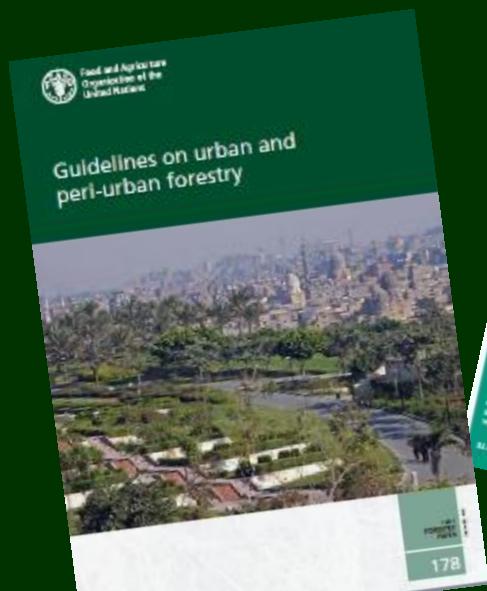
### Municipalities mobilizing social capital

Strategic planning instruments to invite grassroots organizations and individuals to participate in place-making and place-keeping, where trees are a key issue

Self-governance

Collaborative governance

Environmental regulation  
FAO (2016)







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# MY HOME TOWN



**Doune Community Woodland Group: locally initiated direct action for amenity, recreation and nature conservation**

# Differences between urban and rural GI governance approaches - need to look at a site scale.

- **Agency/ local authority led approaches** to forestry governance characteristic of urban / periurban areas: e.g. Scotland – WIAT, Dundee Urban Woods, Germany - Aachener Wald, Köln Green Belt.
- **Wider GI perspective bottom up citizen-led /co-managed** community greenspaces: examples e.g. CSGN Community Woodlands e.g. Doune, Stirling, Aachen - Soermond Community Garden.
- **How can we integrate and learn** from these small scale grass roots citizen participation initiatives ?





## Bottom up community development approaches characteristic of smaller communities with existing social capital:

Some examples of Citizen Participation approaches:

- Eicherscheid Cultural Landscape - Aachen , DE (rural)
- **Struffelt Nature Reserve, Aachen, DE (rural)**
- Soermond Community Garden – Aachen, DE (urban)
- **Wurmtal Habitat Corridor – Aachen, DE (peri-urban)**
- Worm Wildnis Community Space, Aachen, DE (peri-urban)
  
- **NW Mull Community Woodland Company, Argyll, Scotland (rural)**



**Area: 700 km<sup>2</sup>**  
**Administration: 10 Districts**  
**Population: 555,000**  
**Aachen City: 245,000**  
**Elevation: 150m – 600m**





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Eicherscheid, Simmerath: rural economy, green tourism, local identity & sustainability projects in a wooded cultural landscape







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**Soermond Park, Aachen: community cohesion & social inclusion, urban food production, multifunctional urban greenspace**







**Worm Wildnis, Herzogenrath: social and events focus within a small protected woodland area, community regeneration**





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## Scotland: strong tradition of local participation, volunteering & Third Sector natural heritage and greening projects




  
WOODLAND  
TRUST SCOTLAND

  
Scottish  
Wildlife  
Trust

  
EDINBURGH  
& LOTHIAN'S  
GREENSPACE  
TRUST

lothians and fife  
green network  
partnership  


  
New  
Caledonian  
Woodlands





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**Land Reform Scotland Act (2003):**  
mainstreaming community land management and access rights

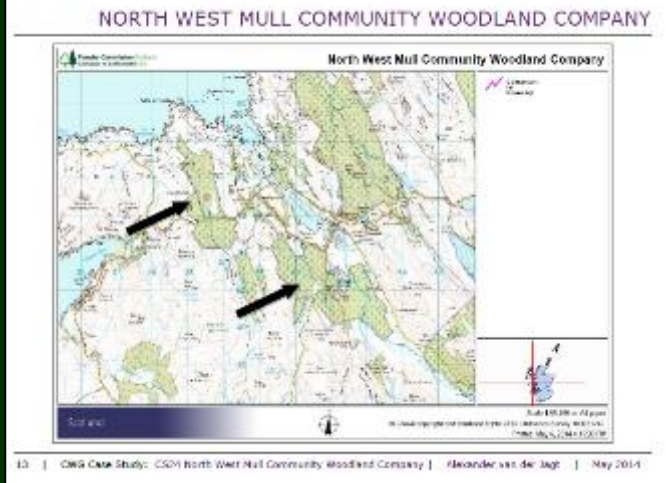




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**North West Mull Community  
Woodland Company:**  
**Sustainable Forestry, Income  
generation, economic and social  
regeneration**





Case Study	Eicherscheid Heckenlandschaft, Simmerath	Rott Struffelt, Roetgen	Soermond Garden, Aachen	A.G. Wurmtal e.V.	Heimatverein Wormwildnis e.V.	NW Mull Community Forest Company (Scotland, UK)
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Type	<p><b>Framework for Comparison of GI Case Studies: based upon Lawrence., A et.al., Urban Forest Governance: Towards a Framework for comparing approaches. Urban forestry and Urban Greening (2013)*</b></p> <p>*Incorporating additional fields: Initial catalyst for Action, GI General Benefits, GI Deliverables, Promotion and outreach</p>
Description	
Scale	
Context	
GI	
Catchment population (inhabitants)	





## Eicherscheid – Example Key Learning Points:

### Key learning point (+ive)

Involvement of a diverse range of local stakeholders and interest groups for defined common objectives. Capitalises successfully on existing organisational structures and local networks within the community.

**Closely integrated with local political leadership and administration systems.**

Delivers multiple social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Illustrates the role of external, independent facilitators and mentors in bringing together key interest groups and identifying and defining objectives.

Highlights the importance of recognition amongst peers and accreditation/awards as primary motivations for action.

Helps to develop and reinforce local distinctiveness thus strengthening the role of GI.

Shows clear economic benefits to local business arising from the promotion of GI assets.

### Key learning point (-ive)

There is no direct control over landowners to protect and manage the structural elements of the “Heckenlandschaft”

The leadership of the project are generally comprised of older people which might create issues regarding future, longer term sustainability.

Some localised land management issues have resulted in degradation of the habitat features

**There is suspicion of the red tape associated with nature protection and how this might impact negatively on land management operations through additional burdens**



# Stakeholder Mapping:

Eicherscheid Heckenlandschaft: Stakeholder Map



Rott Struffelt: Stakeholder Map



Soermond Community Garden: Stakeholder Map



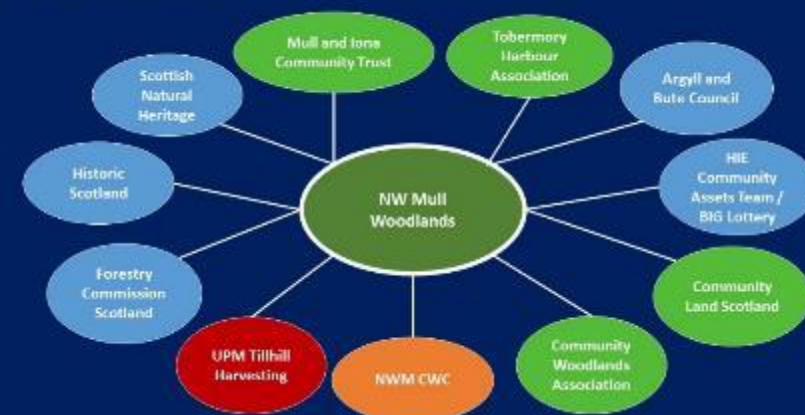
Worm Wildnis: Stakeholder Map



Würmtal NSG: Stakeholder Map



NW Mull Community Woodland Company: Stakeholder Map



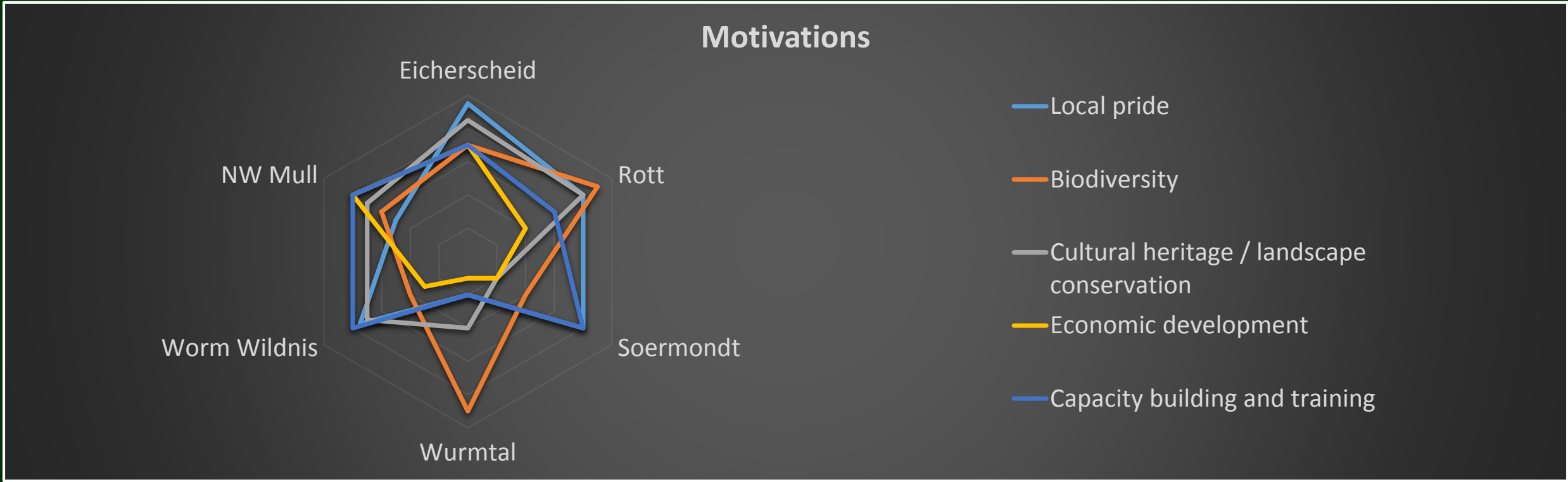
Governmental Agencies

Key Citizen's Group

Third sector & enabling bodies

Private Sector

# Drawing Comparisons - Motivations of participants:





## Motivations and the Role and approach of Supporting Agencies :

- Is the role *enabling or directive* ?
- Are agencies *supportive and receptive* to citizen initiatives?
- Do they actively promote *participation in partnerships* involving local stakeholders ?
- What *types of support* e.g. technical advice, funding, legal services ?
- What is the *organisational view* of such initiatives ? Are there conflicts at institutional or political level.
- Is *organisational culture evolving* ?



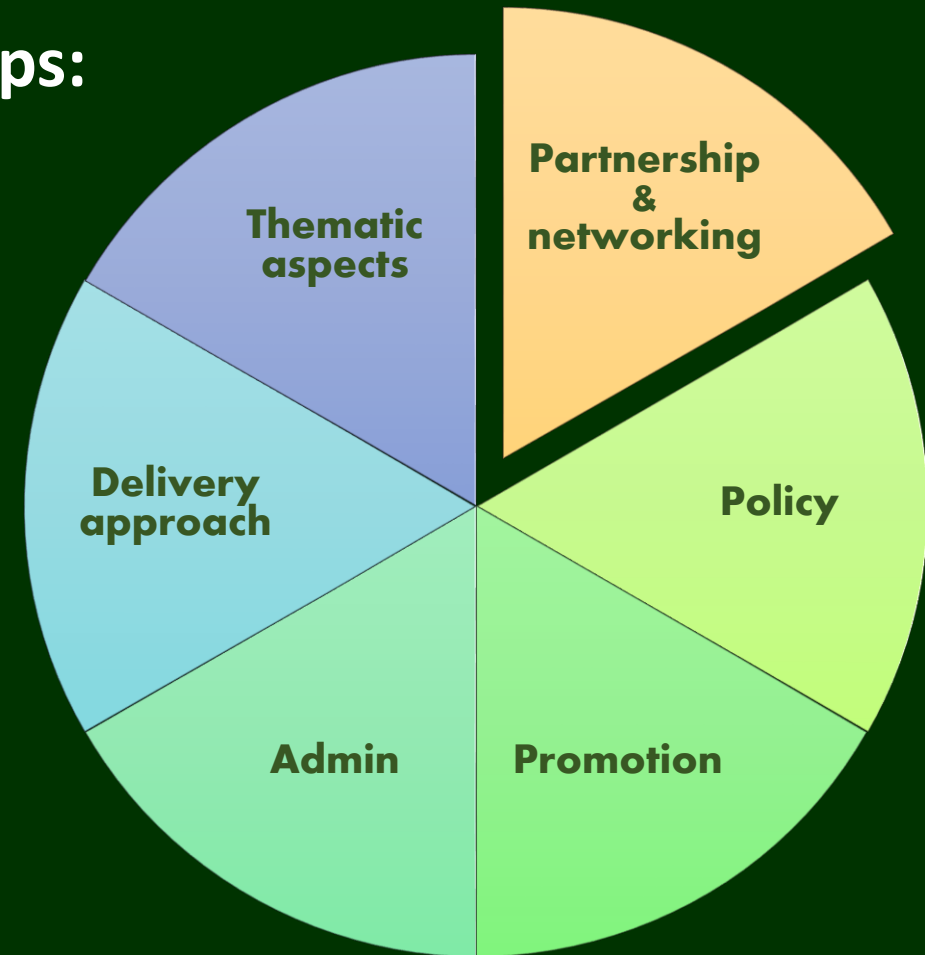


## Common elements and transferable / adaptable innovation and methodologies:

- **Delivering Multifunctionality** - Social Return on investment (SROI), sustainable development indicators and capacity building
- **Awards / accreditation** - „Unserer Dorf hat Zukunft“ model –
- **Alternative models** - Community Woodlands/ community land ownership – Scotland
- **Community gardens /urban gardens** – Germany and Scotland

## Contributing success factors: Topic areas suitable for stakeholder groups:

- Citizen's Groups
- Stautory Authorities
- Mentoring groups & enabling bodies





# Citizen participation - A formula for success:





## Removing the barriers – Summing up:

- **Reform of support structures:** favouring mosaic approaches, networking and partnerships
- **Improved enabling capacity:** within authorities with dedicated personnel, funding streams, expertise, incentives and accreditation
- **Guidelines:** for delivering effective multifunctional outcomes
- **Effective / neutral partnerships:** involving diverse stakeholders including NGOs, citizens groups, business and statutory authorities
- **New models:** including community ownership in both urban and rural environments - exporting models and best practice between rural and urban and across borders.
- **Strategic level integration:** of planning objectives to allow bottom up, citizen led initiatives to interface effectively with top down masterplanning approaches.

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