

Institution: University of Dundee

Unit of Assessment: 17 Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology

a. Context

UoA17 staff have a demonstrable commitment to, and history of, research impact beyond the academy including with Local, National and International Governments, specific industry sectors (e.g. water utilities, insurance, policing), non-government organisations (including International Development Organisations), charities, schools and the general public. Our impacts are achieved through a number of mechanisms including direct research for clients, dissemination activities, enhancing public understanding of our research and through professional/practitioner engagement. This has led to policy development and improved regulatory practice across our environmental and societal interests; contributed to the understanding of policy issues by promoting public participation through outreach programmes and capacity building through knowledge exchange and wider engagement with civil society.

b. Approach to impact

Our strategic approach to achieving impact from our research follows two specific actions:

- (a) Outreach and media activities leading to wider dissemination of our research, and
- (b) **Collaboration, co-production and engagement**, including advisory roles with stakeholders and users of our research.
- Outreach and media: Utilising active dissemination processes engaging beneficiaries with research findings through workshops, exhibitions, debates and discussions as well as printed materials and other communication strategies, our research has had wide appeal. This is demonstrated by the following examples where exhibitions, presentations and media work has results in significant impact: S Dawson's project 'Europe's Lost World' the drowned landscapes of the North Sea, which was exhibited at the Royal Society Summer Exhibition, July 2012 receiving 14,000 visitors (school groups, academics, general public, media); **T Dawson** was Invited Keynote Speaker, Green Party Annual Spring Conference, Feb 2012; Cutler was an Invited speaker at the IPCC Expert Meeting: Role of Remote Sensing in Forest and National GHG Inventories, Japan, Oct 2012 (report produced for IPCC and national governments); Ball was academic lead in the Channel 4 documentary 'The Year Britain Flooded' (Feb 2013), discussing flood risk and practical management solutions; whilst O'Neill presented research on Police Community Support Officers in England to practitioners at the Home Office, which brought about a change in management practice in Surrey Police: Mains was Invited Speaker as part of a Special Fora, Caribbean Impact: Global Reach, contributing to public awareness and government policy debates on Jamaican Diaspora outreach (Kingston), 2008; van Blerk was Invited Expert: Expert Consultation Forum for United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva Nov 2011 leading to Council resolution 16/12 (2011). van Blerk is also an invited member of the ODI (London) Expert-led Group on Child Protection-Child Poverty Linkages, and was the discussant on a public event broadcast online, July 2012: **Geddes** was invited speaker on research on forced labour (funded by Joseph Rowntree Foundation) at the Scottish Migrants Network conference (Oct 2011), the Scottish Parliament (June 2012) and at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation London office (June 2013) and gave evidence to the House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee inquiry into Blacklisting in Employment (July 2012). Published dissemination has also led to impact including **Fyfe's** work on police reform in Scotland which was published in Policing UK 2013 (disseminated to all UK politicians and chief police officers); UoA17 staff have utilised Dundee University Press to publish books aimed at the general public - Duck, 2011: This Shrinking Land: Climate Change and Britain's Coast, ISBN: 9781845861186, featured in The Guardian; and Irving and T Dawson, 2012: The Marine Environment of the Pitcairn Islands, ISBN: 9781845861612, commissioned by the Pew Charitable Trust in support of establishing the Pitcairn Exclusive Economic Zone as the largest Marine Protected Area in the world.
- Collaboration, co-production, engagement and advisory: The approach we adopt involves beneficiaries throughout the research process, from developing research questions through to researching in partnership with 'users' and creating policy capacity building. Our commitment to collaborative engagement is demonstrated not least by staff actively researching and publishing on

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the knowledge exchange process and translation of impact. For example, **Fazey** has been undertaking ESRC funded research on transforming knowledge in uplands providing the empirical basis for the RCUK's *Living with Environmental Change* (LWEC) guidelines on knowledge exchange.

The Environment Research Group (Ball, Black, Bonell, S Dawson, Duck, Rowan & Werritty) has made a substantial impact, nationally and internationally, in the field of flood risk and sustainable catchment management through a sustained programme of cognate research spanning flood risk estimation, exposure and vulnerability. Further examples of staff collaborative engagement include: Black's role as President of the British Hydrological Society (2009-11) leading the promotion of interest and scholarship in both the scientific and the applied aspects of hydrology and fostering the involvement of its 1200 strong professional membership in international networks: Rowan's lead of the Adaptation Workstream in the Scottish Government's Centre of Expertise on Climate Change (ClimateXChange, 2011-16), shaping the national response to the UK's first Climate Change Risk Assessment Exercise (CCRA) and developing new 'adaptation indicators' required to monitor and evaluate the Scotland Climate Change Adaptation Programme, and he was an invited witness for the Parliamentary Rural Affairs Committee (2013); **Rowan** also collaborated with creative writing group 'Nethergate Writers', writing the foreword to their 2013 anthology A long way from Eden: ISBN 978-0-9555831-6-2. Bonell is contributing through the EU LiveDiverse project in terms of forests, water and people undertaking knowledge exchange with indigenous people living in the Wet Tropics of NE Queensland; Duck and Milne provided research to Halcrow Group in support of the 2013 Shoreline Management Plan for Angus. Reeves has been researching mechanisms to support institutional change when regulatory bodies (e.g. Environment Agency) need to implement new environmental legislation such as the EU Water Framework Directive. **T Dawson** was Trustee of the Galapagos Conservation Trust (2007-12).

The Society Research Group has significant evidence of success through our approach to impact. Sustained research on student mobility from 2002-11 (Geddes & Smith) has resulted in recent major impact. Findings have been used by Scottish Government in their 'Developing Scotland's Global Citizens' policy, adopted by BIS and HEFCE, and utilised in a European Parliament report on ERASMUS participation (2010). Further examples of SRG impact include: O'Neill's revision of the Police Foundation on Police Community Support Officers guidelines, published online; Hall and S Dawson organised a Knowledge Exchange event, 2011 'Increasing the Resilience of Vulnerable Citizens to Natural Hazards and Disasters', comprising policy makers and practitioners (including emergency planners, emergency services, Scottish Government, NHS, and others); Hall led public engagement events in 2010 (funded by Nuffield Foundation) and 2013 (funded by ESRC) bringing together people with learning disabilities, their carers and personal assistants, social care managers, artists and Scottish Arts Council staff to examine art, social exclusion and inclusion; Smith is Co-I on a AHRC/SFC Knowledge Exchange Programme investigating potential health benefits through active engagement with greenspace around hospitals. The research has generated a follow-on bid to identify opportunities for implementation at other hospitals across the UK; Smith and van Blerk undertook an evaluation of PlusONE: Voluntary mentoring and early intervention in youth criminal justice (funded by Violence Reduction Unit/YMCA Scotland/ Association of the Directors of Social Work in Scotland). The report was used directly to argue for continued funding and a roll-out of this model as good practice across Scotland; Fazey is working with Adaptation Scotland to integrate adaptation and mitigation thinking within the private and public sector and with the Scottish resilience Development Service to co-produce research questions and evaluate key policies and initiatives to enhance implementation. Searle is contributing to the New Times New Business project in the co-production of knowledge on the challenges facing Housing Associations. **Searle** also works with Home Group, the 4th largest housing provider in the UK, on the feasibility of more flexible tenure options, and with Newcastle City's Emergency Planning Manager on ways of developing community resilience.

Staff also hold advisory positions as trustees of UK and international charities and have acted as advisors to Government influencing and shaping policy outcomes. For example, **T Dawson** is Member, UK Biodiversity Science Committee (2012-date) responsible for DIVERSITAS and IPBES International programmes on behalf of the UK Government; **T Dawson** was asked by the Pitcairn Government, Natural Resources Division to submit evidence to DEFRA to support UK membership of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) with respect to the UK Overseas Territories (Sep

Impact template (REF3a)



2011); **Fyfe** gave evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee and Local Government Committee on the Police and Fire Reform Bill in 2012.

c. Strategy and plans

With a focus on making evidence-based contributions to policy and practice, the impact strategy for UoA17 is strongly linked to its research strategy (see REF5, Section b). In order to realise this ambition of a close engagement with policy and practice, our strategy is informed by a commitment to strong collaboration between research 'providers' and research 'users', the co-production of knowledge with practitioners and the policy community, and a focus on knowledge integration and knowledge translation. We also work closely with the University Press Office to achieve a strong public profile for our research, including TV and radio interviews and newspaper articles. Major interdisciplinary initiatives which are being led by UoA17 include CECHR, SAGES and new programmes intended to promote industry-partnerships and engagement, such as the Scottish Food Security Alliance (Rowan, T Dawson), launched at the 2013 Royal Highland Show. Several UoA17 staff contribute to the knowledge exchange activities of SIPR including Fyfe, O'Neill and Geddes (crime analysis and policing), Smith (voluntary organisations in reducing re-offending) and Ball (emergency responses to flood events).

Our plans for future sustained impact include involvement in leading knowledge exchange initiatives within the public and private sectors. Since 2012 Mains has coordinated the V&A at Dundee Research Team, including Hall, Reeves, Smith, van Blerk, who together with Dundee City Council and Dundee Community Centres are developing an educational, research and community outreach strategy; **Mains** and **Hall** are also members of the V&A at Dundee Creative Learning Special Advisory Group (2012-present), responsible for educational arts activities for the V&A at Dundee gallery (opening 2015); van Blerk is a core member of the Consortium for Street Children Research Expert Forum, London (2012-16) which aims to increase practitioner research quality, foster user engagement and develop collaboration. Searle leads the INTEGRATE network (est. 2013), an interdisciplinary initiative researching generational transfers of wealth and poverty. Staff from UoA17 will continue to lead outreach programmes through CECHR developing further workshops on renewable energy, hazard and vulnerability and public lectures through the Global Futures Programme tackling important issues like food security, sustainability and climate change (Rowan, Hall, S Dawson, T Dawson, Fazey). Important connections with the public continue to be achieved through the Artist-in-Residence programme involving multiple outreach events such as the 'Living Field' (2011); the highly successful curated exhibition 'CECHR Conversations' (2012) and the 'Changing Coast' engaging local community and primary-schools, funded by Imagining Natural Scotland (2013). Impact plans are also in place for research that is on-going. Fyfe is engaged in a knowledge exchange programme through the ESRC Missing People project and van Blerk is developing a series of parliamentary meetings over 2014 for the Growing Up on the Streets (StreetInvest) project through the All Party Parliamentary Group on Street Children.

d. Relationship to case studies

The selection of two Impact Case-studies reflects the key *environment & society* research themes within UoA17, highlighting the advisory roles played by members of the team and by the adoption of methodologies and results developed by the research. ERG impacts have influenced national policy decisions and provided key statutory stakeholders, such as SEPA, SNH and the EA with evidence-based decision-support tools for flood risk assessment (inland and coastal) and regulatory applications for implementing the EC Water Framework Directive. The SRG have advanced a number of research projects in witness protection programmes (**Fyfe**) in the UK and Internationally. This work exemplifies a commitment to building long term relationships both with the policy community and practitioners in order to influence strategic change as well as operational delivery. In relation to witness protection, for example, **Fyfe** worked on research to shape UK legislation on witness protection arrangements but also has a continuing role within the Scottish Witness Protection Unit.