



# Putting sustainability into practice

## What does the concept mean for Scotland's rural landowners?

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# Outline

1. Why consider sustainability and rural land ownership in Scotland?
2. Focussing on the uplands: current discourse
3. The importance of collaborative knowledge generation
4. A sustainability framework for landowners

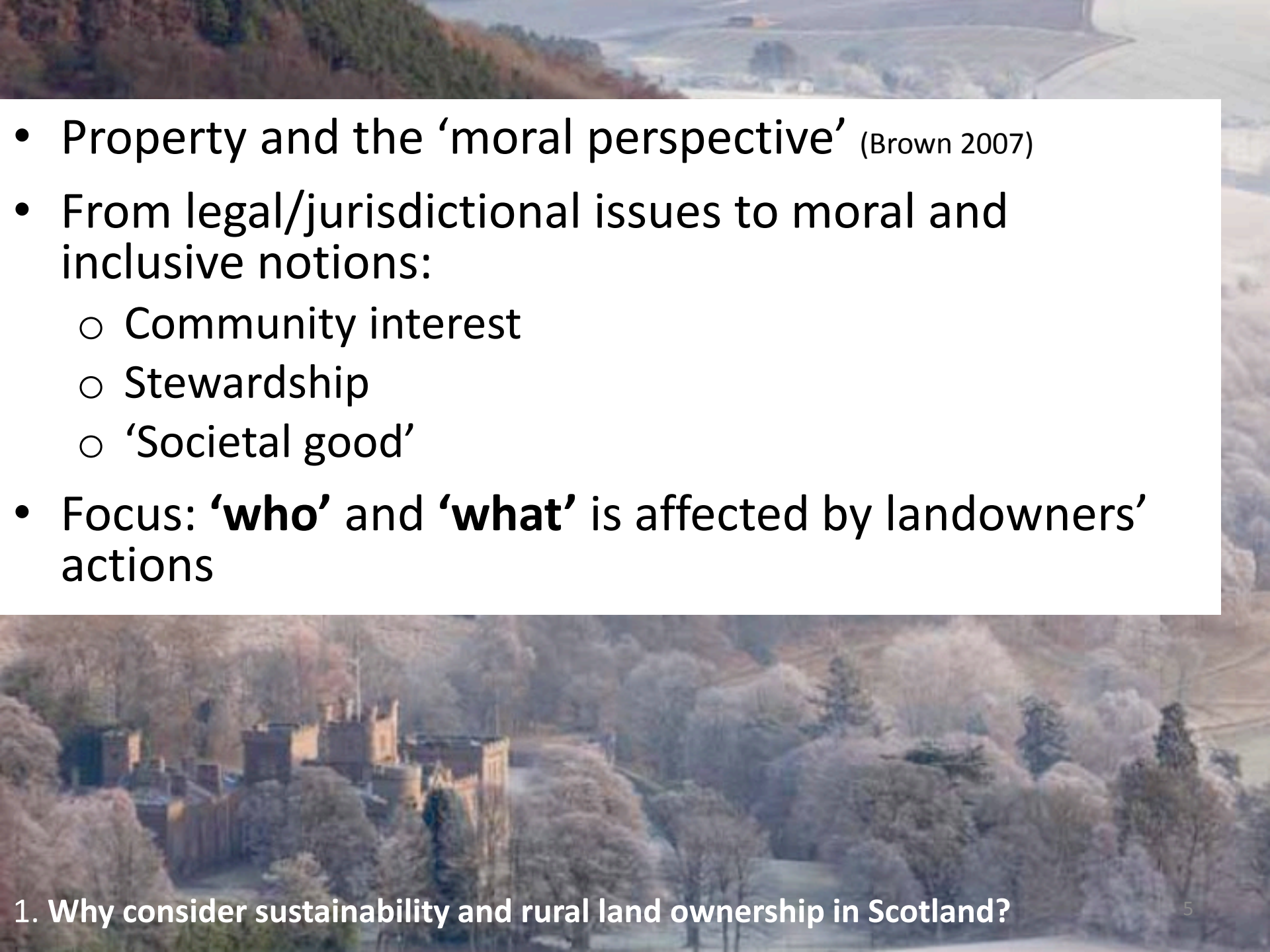


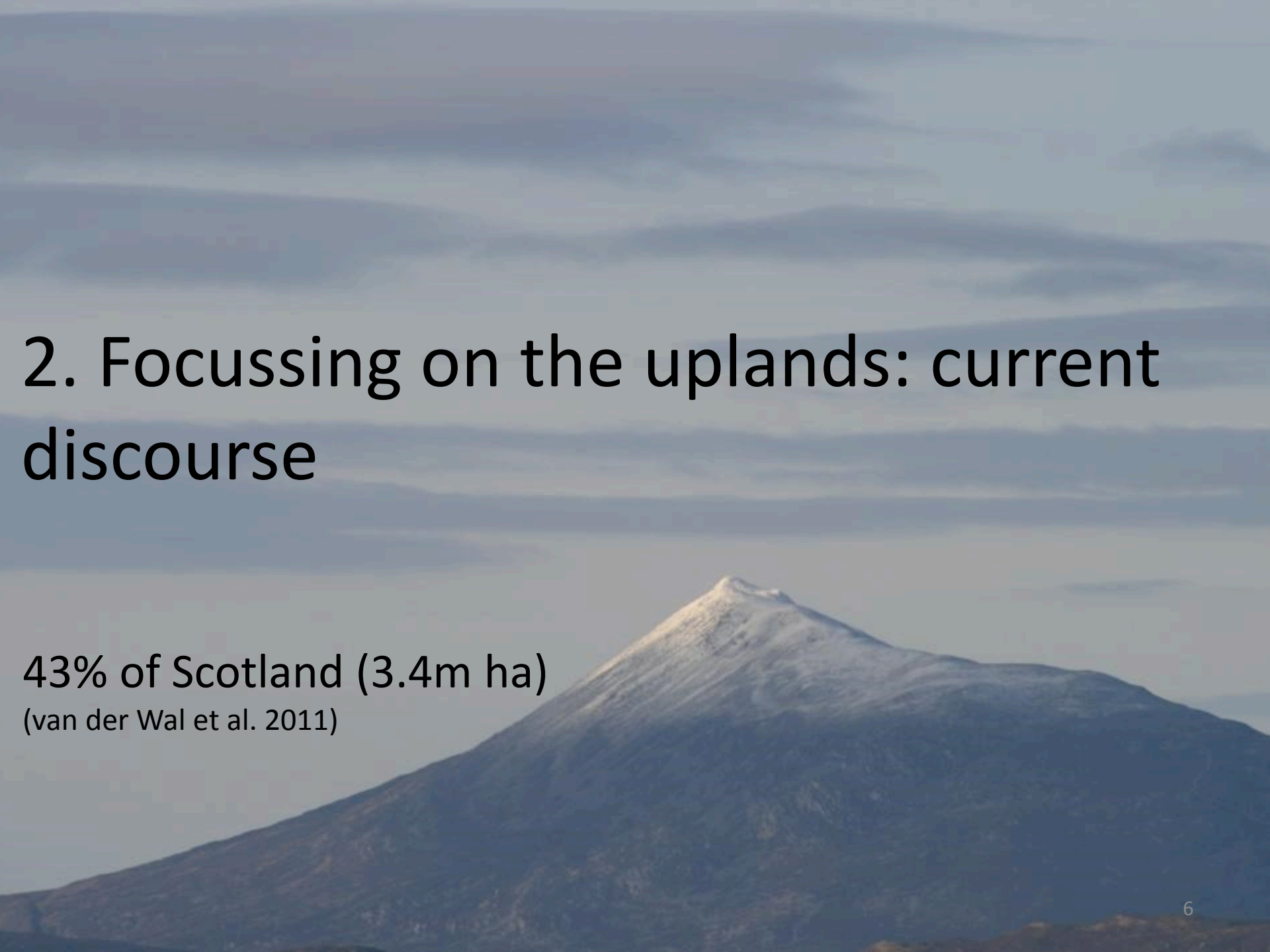


1. Why consider sustainability and rural land ownership in Scotland?

# Sustainability...

- A 'multi-dimensional bridging concept'? (Meadowcroft 2000)
- Inherent anthropocentrism and 'empty rhetoric'?  
(Maxwell and Cannell 2000; Paterson 2002)
- Meaning and relevance lost at regional and local scales? (Norton 2005)

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- Property and the ‘moral perspective’ (Brown 2007)
  - From legal/jurisdictional issues to moral and inclusive notions:
    - Community interest
    - Stewardship
    - ‘Societal good’
  - Focus: **‘who’** and **‘what’** is affected by landowners’ actions



## 2. Focussing on the uplands: current discourse

43% of Scotland (3.4m ha)  
(van der Wal et al. 2011)

# Upland ecosystem services

Wind and water power  
provide renewable energy

Hills provide recreation and drinking water

Moorland contributes to water  
regulation, as well as carbon  
storage and carbon sequestration

Woodland provides a resource for  
recreation and education, as well  
as raw materials and carbon storage

Upland agriculture provides food and other products

# 'Sustainability' in Scotland's uplands...

<b>1990</b>	<b>Countryside Commission for Scotland</b>	'need to give new impetus to the care of Scotland's mountains and also to review the role that these areas play for a rapidly changing society'
<b>1996</b>	<b>Scottish Environment LINK</b>	Scottish agenda for sustainable mountain development
<b>2003</b>	<b>Land Reform (Scotland) Act</b>	'removal of land-based barriers to the sustainable development of rural communities'
<b>2008</b>	<b>Royal Society of Edinburgh - Hills and Islands Inquiry</b>	'delivering economic viability and employment opportunities, social benefits and the care and enhancement of the natural resource'
<b>2009</b>	<b>SNH Natural Heritage Futures (revision and updates)</b>	Vision of how the natural heritage of Scotland's hills and moors could look in 2025, based on sustainable use of natural resources
<b>2011</b>	<b>Scottish Government Land Use Strategy</b>	Land-based businesses working with nature; Responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources; Urban and rural communities better connected to the land and positively influencing land use.

## 2. Focussing on the uplands: current discourse

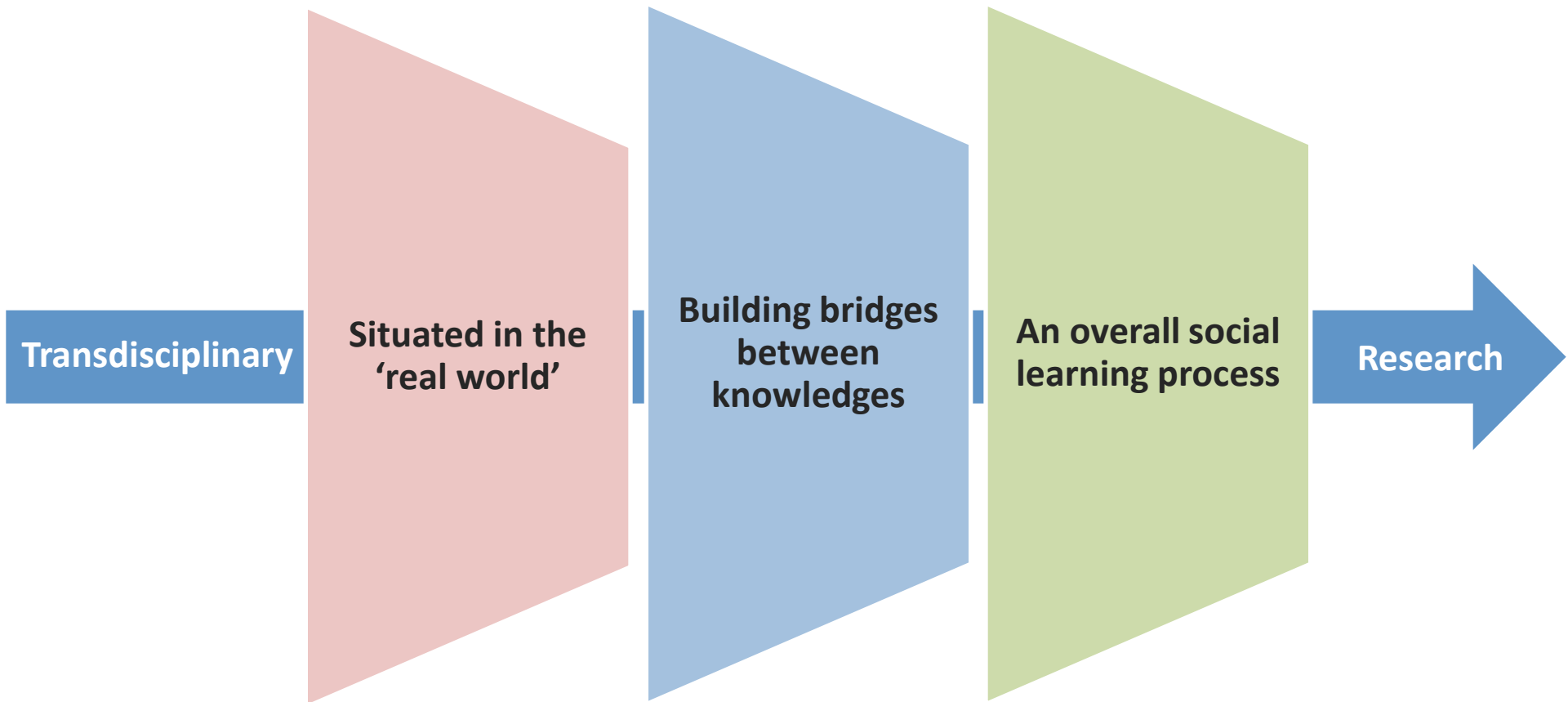


- Integration of management objectives and delivery of multiple benefits
- Greater public participation in setting goals (linking people with the land)
- Recognition of the value of outdoor recreation
- Enhanced protection of the natural heritage
- Mechanisms to ensure environmental restoration

# 3. The importance of collaborative knowledge generation



# Transdisciplinary research

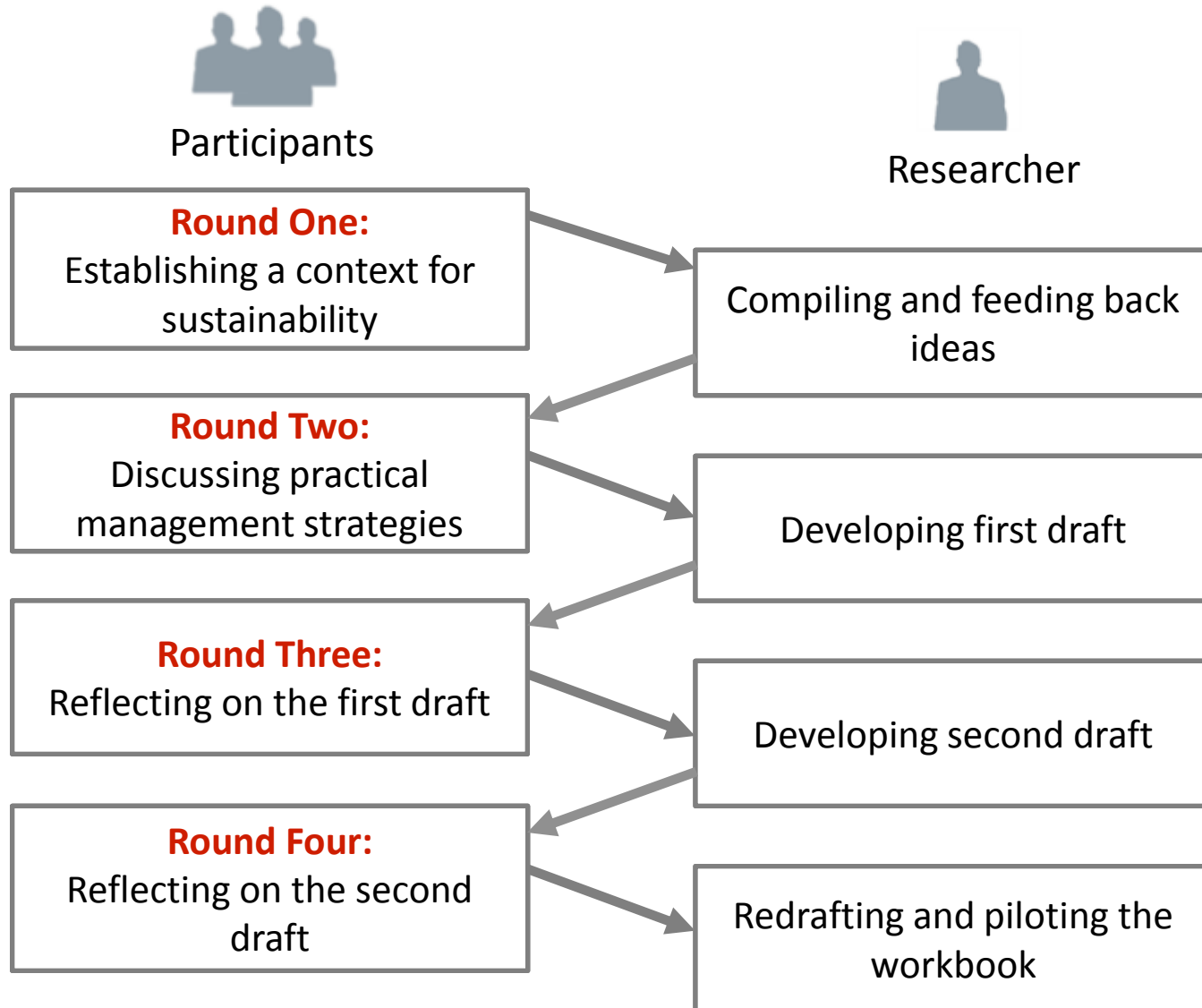


Based on Mobjörk (2010); Rist et al. (2007)

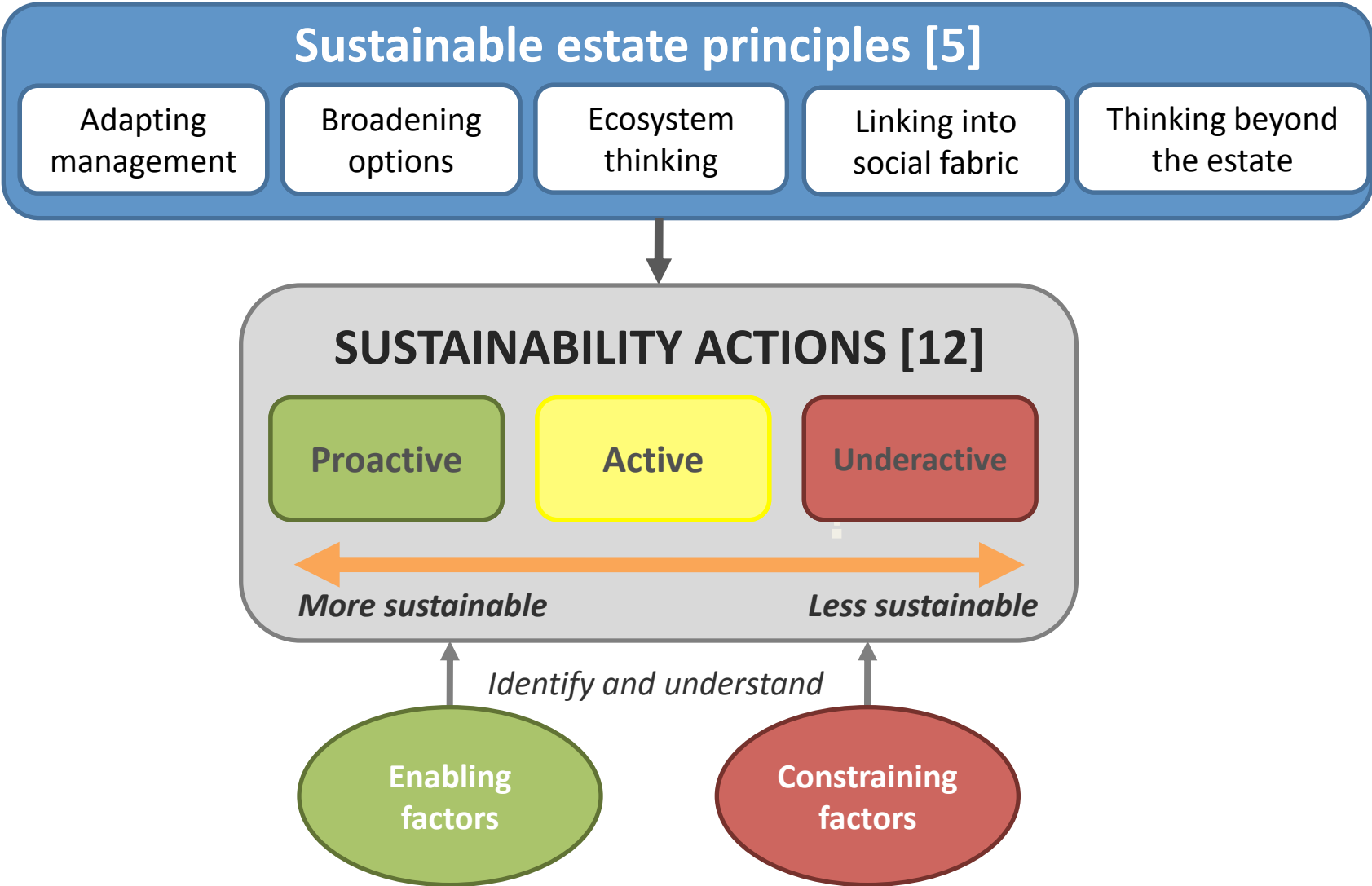


## 4. A sustainability framework for landowners

# A deliberative process



# Defining sustainability



<b>Sustainable estate principle</b>	<b>Sustainability <i>action</i></b>
<i>Adapting management</i>	Long-term, integrated management planning
	Integrating monitoring into estate planning and management
<i>Broadening options</i>	Adding value to estate business(es), services and experiences
<i>Ecosystem thinking</i>	Maintaining, enhancing and expanding natural and semi-natural habitats and species
	Maximising carbon storage potential
	Maintaining and improving catchments
	Maintaining and conserving the estate's cultural heritage
<i>Linking into social fabric</i>	Engaging communities in estate decision-making and management
	Playing a role in delivering community needs and projects
	Facilitating employment and people development opportunities
<i>Thinking beyond the estate</i>	Reducing carbon-focussed impacts of estate business(es) and other activities
	Engaging in planning and delivery beyond the estate scale

# In conclusion

- Scotland's uplands encompass important **challenges and opportunities** for sustainability
- Sustainability presents an opportunity for **changing the current culture and practice** of policy and decision-making related to property in upland Scotland
- Research that **stimulates collaborative knowledge generation** can deliver practical solutions for sustainability, as well as dialogue between stakeholders



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