

# Strategic Importance of Cooperation

An example from Northumberland  
Uplands LAG and Scottish Borders  
LAG















# Strategic Importance of Cooperation

- Leader Principles and LAG commitment to cooperation
- Role of the LAG
- Cheviot Futures and its link to our Local Development Strategy
- Leader and the LAG adding value





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# Background

*Cheviot Futures is an initiative committed to providing practical real-world solutions to the challenges our communities face due to the effects of climate change.*

*It is a cooperative formed from representatives of agencies and organisations who work with rural communities.*

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# Strategic Aims

- Northumberland Uplands LAG and Scottish Borders LAG
- Cheviot Futures aims to:
  - Develop innovative projects with land managers to adapt to climate change
  - Use these projects to share learning with land managers and policy makers
  - Create a broad steering group to encourage networking and cooperation between partners

# Transnational Partners

- *Northumberland National Park Authority*
- *Tweed Forum*
- *Environment Agency*
- *Land Managers*
- *Scottish Environment Protection Agency*
- *Natural England*
- *Catchment Sensitive Farming*
- *Forestry Commission*
- *Northumberland Community Flooding Partnership*
- *Newcastle University*
- *Northumberland County Council*
- *Scottish Borders Council*
- *Scottish Natural Heritage*
- *National Trust*
- *Northumberland Wildlife Trust*
- *Northumberland Wild Fire Group*

# Why Transnational Cooperation?

- Similar geographical features across border
- River catchments and landscapes do not always conform to administrative boundaries
- Similar climate change predictions across whole area
- Land management communities have links across the border

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# Cheviot Futures Outcomes

- A network of demonstration projects covering a wide range of climate change issues
  - Informing policy negotiations on agri-environment schemes
  - Initiating broader activity on flood management
- Private sector engagement is a core part of project delivery
- Model way of innovative partnership working

## Cheviot Futures Outcomes (2)

- Skills transfer by using land managers and local contractors
- Links to broader projects across the EU
  - Wildfire simulation exercise
- Community resilience
- Direct benefits to the local economy and local universities

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# Wildfire Training





# Riverbank Erosion



# Natural Flood Management



# Outcomes of Transnational Cooperation

- Lessons learned benefit both countries and their respective policy frameworks
- Broader perspective strengthens and improves local decisions
  - On farm
  - Local development e.g. LAGs
  - Within policy frameworks
- Steering group strengthens member organisations and provides new opportunities

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