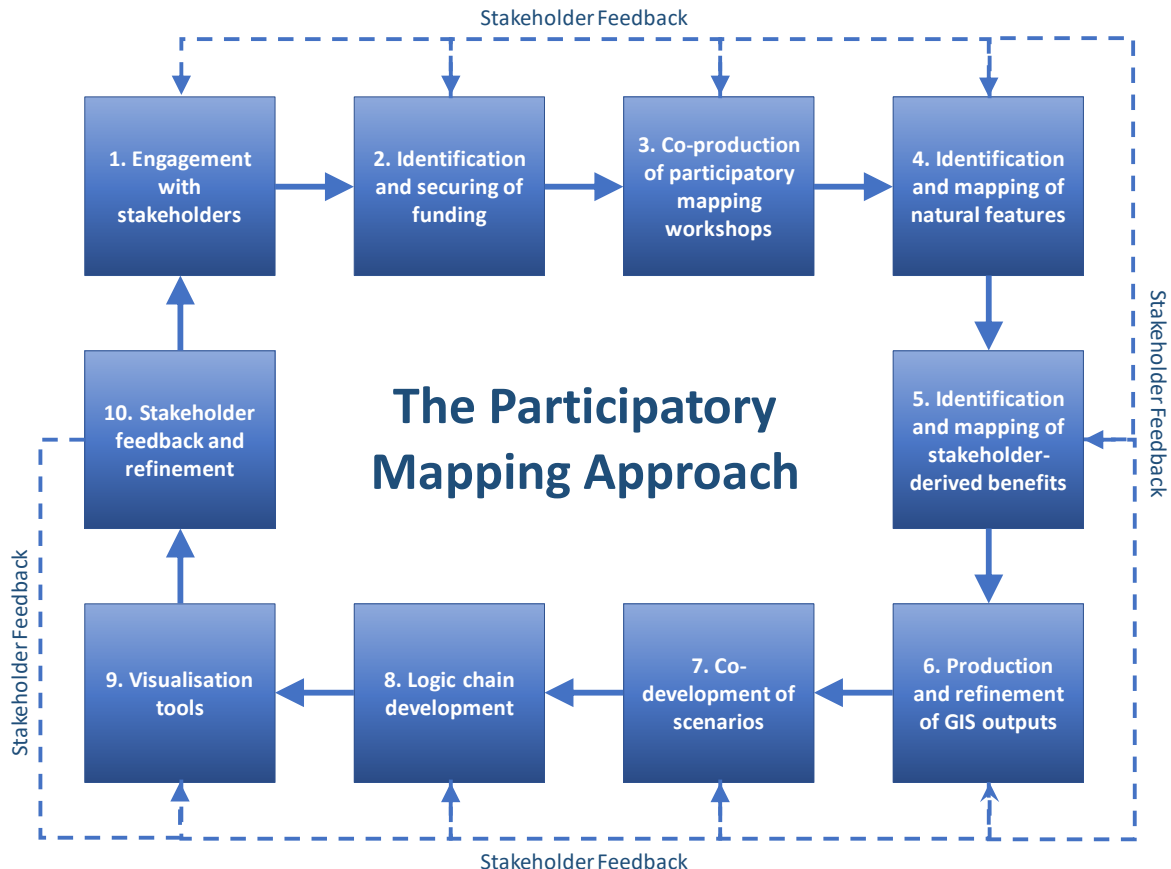


Participatory Mapping Policy Briefing



- The **UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan** highlights our need to understand the full value of the marine environment and incorporate that into decision-making which is key to applying the natural capital approach. Participatory mapping can make a significant contribution towards this.
- **Participatory mapping** is a direct means of co-producing knowledge with stakeholders and communities which facilitates local spatial mapping of features, benefits and values. It can provide rich data on the distribution of natural capital features, benefits, values and trade-offs.
- In the context of **ecosystem services valuation**, stakeholders provide local, spatially explicit information about ecosystem services and benefits, use and value (both monetary and non-monetary), negating the need to use proxy data derived from literature or modelling.
- There is currently an **evidence gap** as to how benefits are identified at the local scale, where benefits are provided and to whom, identifying trade-offs in development decisions, and understanding how natural capital and benefits support well-being. This supports a place-based approach to natural capital.

PARTICIPATORY MAPPING METHOD



APPLICATIONS TO DATE

Pilot Studies

- Four pilot studies (East Caithness, Aberdeen Bay, Humber Estuary, The Wash) were undertaken to test and refine the participatory mapping method following extensive stakeholder feedback.
- The pilot studies engaged over 60 local stakeholders who are actively engaged within one of the four local coastal partnerships (Moray Firth Coastal Partnership, East Grampian Coastal Partnership, Humber Nature Partnership and The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership).
- The workshop methods, results and discussion are presented in full in Burdon et al. (2019)¹.

Suffolk Marine Pioneer

- The Suffolk Marine Pioneer was established by Defra to test the application of a natural capital approach in practice and to inform the implementation and iteration of the 25YEP.
- The aim of a series of three participatory mapping workshops was to expand the role of this method for the enhancement of natural capital within the Deben Estuary.
- Outputs from the three workshops can be accessed via the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths website².

SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE PARTICIPATORY MAPPING APPROACH

- A critique of the Participatory Mapping Approach was undertaken by senior marine planners, policy-makers and nature conservation bodies using a SWOT analysis framework. A brief summary is provided below with further details provided in Burdon and Potts (2020)³.

<p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empowers local stakeholders.• Local detail scale of the approach.• Includes the full range of benefits.• Powerful communication tool.• Knowledge sharing and co-production.• Captures local knowledge.• Does not rely on existing data.	<p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT WEAKNESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scalability to regional or national level is challenging.• Workshops are subjective.• Small sample sizes may not reflect whole community so requires mitigation.• Stakeholder fatigue requires managing.• Current system low on time and staff.• Does not weigh up or value the benefits.
<p style="text-align: center;">FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide evidence to inform new national and place-based policy.• Designation and management of MPAs and HPMAs.• Application to the offshore environment e.g. offshore wind.• Provides spatial baseline information.• Raise awareness and communicate natural capital, climate change, net gain etc.	<p style="text-align: center;">FUTURE THREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current lack of spatial baseline data.• Investment in people's time if rolled out across the UK.• Challenge to inform regional and national policy from local scale.• Lack of join-up between jurisdiction and ecosystems.• Scepticism to transferring power/control to stakeholders.

For further information on the Participatory Mapping Approach please contact: Dr Daryl Burdon (darylburdon@gmail.com) and/or Dr Tavis Potts (Tavis.Potts@abdn.ac.uk).

¹ Burdon et al. (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2019.101009>.

² Suffolk Marine Pioneer Outputs. <https://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/managing/projects/marine-pioneer/>

³ Burdon & Potts, 2020. *Participatory mapping of natural capital and benefits: method guidance document*. Report to Marine Management Organisation and Suffolk Marine Pioneer by Daryl Burdon Ltd., Willerby UK.