Example NHMRC Impact Track Record

This is an example 6000 character hypothetical impact track record as part of an NHMRC proposal. You have 2000 characters each for each of the three fields below. In this example, I integrated my research on peat bogs and desertification using a land degradation narrative to create a single coherent case study across the three fields. As someone submitting an application to NHMRC, your own track record on impact should of course be more health focussed, and hence will fit more easily into one of the four types of impact NHMRC allows you to choose from (knowledge, health, economy and society). See my full guide on writing your impact track record for NHMRC. To find out more you can read a previous impact case study I submitted in 2014 about this work or see my current research on peatland tipping points. Good luck!

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Reach and significance of the research impact

This case study describes the social and economic impacts of research that developed Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) to restore damaged peat bogs. The publications cited can be found in the “publications” section of this track record.

National impact. Peatlands are the UK’s largest carbon store, containing more carbon than the forests of France and Germany combined. Prof Reed’s research contributed to the development and implementation of the Peatland Code, the first scheme of its kind in the UK and one of only two such schemes internationally. Approved Peatland Code projects will avoid the loss of at least 100,000 t/CO2e of peat stocks to the atmosphere (figures from IUCN UK Peatland Programme). According to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Deputy Director of Rural Evidence and Analysis, lessons from Prof Reed’s research have "*made a significant contribution*" towards Defra's PES agenda, "*provid[ing] us with valuable lessons for the development of PES schemes in the UK".*

International impact. Prof Reed is working closely with the UN Global Peatlands Initiative on the first ever Global Peatland Assessment, as lead author of the policy chapter. As the most comprehensive analysis to date of links between land degradation and climate change, Reed’s 2016 book (with Lindsay Stringer, commissioned by the UNCCD) has been instrumental in bringing together the political agendas of the UNCCD and UNFCCC. The work features in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Climate Change and Land Special Report (2019), the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Thematic Assessment on Land Degradation and Restoration (2018), and the UNCCD’s first Global Land Outlook (2017). The book’s recommendations were highlighted in decision 23/COP.9 in the Report of the 9th Conference of

the Parties to the UNCCD, leading to policy recommendations by the Committee of Science and Technology to COP10.

Research program's contribution to the research impact

Between 2005-2019, Prof Reed a series of research projects, that produced economic and environmental evidence to inform the development of the Code [1, 2, 3]. The Code informed the development of the UK Peatland Strategy and fed into the Global Peatland Initiative's Global Peatland Assessment and other reports by Rio Convention Science-Policy Interfaces.

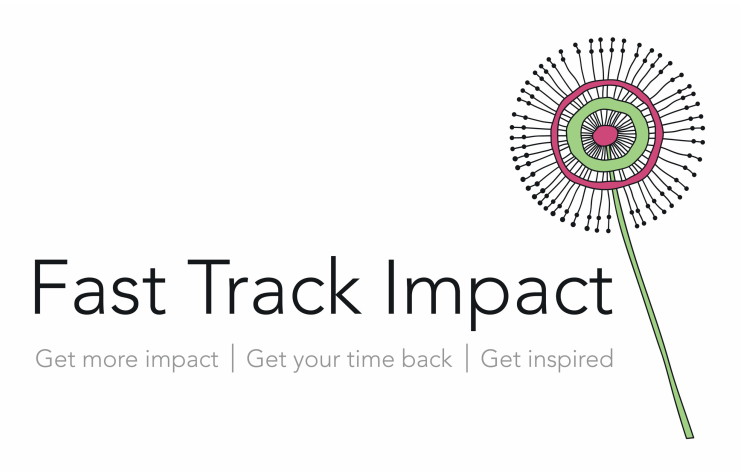
In parallel with this, he worked with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to provide the most comprehensive analysis to date of links between land degradation and climate change [4]. Following on from this, he co-authored a working paper for the UNCCD's first Global Land Outlook, considering methods for upscaling Sustainable Land Management, including the adoption of Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes, such as the Peatland Code [5]. Working with the UN Environment Programme-led Global Peatland Initiative and the UN Economics of Land Degradation Initiative, he provided new evidence of the economic costs and benefits of peatland restoration versus inaction, providing the basis for broader uptake of payments for ecosystem services schemes to support peatland restoration [1].

Applicant's contribution to the research program

Prof Reed led a series of six Research Council-funded projects worth over £2M between 2005-2019, as Project Manager (in the first two projects) and Principal Investigator (in the remaining four projects), leading to a series of lead-author international journal articles [1, 2, 3, 5] and a book published by Routledge with a foreword by the Executive Secretaries of the UNCCD and UNFCCC, based on an Impulse Report commisioned by UNCCD presented at its 1st Scientific Conference at COP9 [4].

Following Prof Reed's invited contribution to a side event organized by UN Environment at UNFCCC COP24 in 2018, Prof Reed brokered a collaboration between the Global Peatland Initative and IUCN to jointly publish Newcastle research on the implementation of IUCN Resolution 43, evaluating national policies around the world to restore, protect and sustainably manage peatlands, including via public-private partnerships to pay for ecosystem services. Based on this work, he was invited to lead the policy chapter of the UN Global Peatland Assessment.

In collaboration with the UNCCD and the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), Prof Reed helped co-ordinate research on upscaling restoration and sustainable land management, leading to an official Global Land Outlook working paper and journal article that helped shape the UNCCD's first Global Land Outlook [5].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