

# Some Local, State and intergovernmental perspectives

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The European Commons,  
Territories of Life and  
OECMs conference, 2024



# Outline

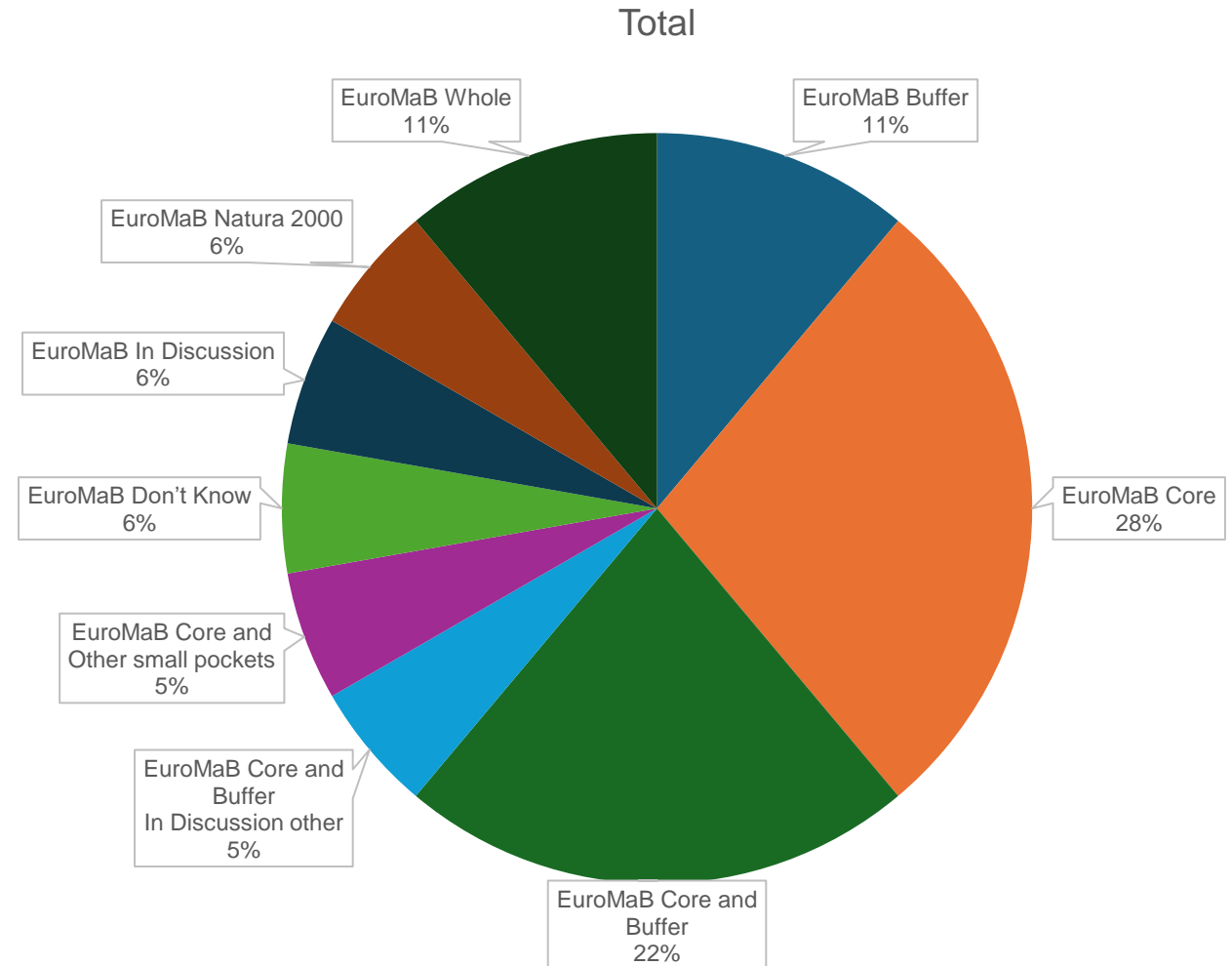
- A view from the UNESCO MaB Programme
- How the UK is responding
- An England perspective
- Opportunities for private and common rights holders

# UNESCO

- Biosphere Reserves have specific function for conservation in both the protected areas that are part of the structure and in the remainder of the zones
- Wish to have BRs in their entirety included in T3, subject to member state approval. E.g. Portugal
- Many are problematic with multi-use landscapes and urban areas
- Divergent views across member states about how this can be done. Pilots in various member states explore practices.
- Broad agreement that BRs can deliver a lot more of the Global Biodiversity Framework

# What parts of BRs are being counted in Target 3 in European Region Biosphere Reserves

Buffer	2
Core	5
Core and Buffer	4
Core and Buffer In Discussion other	1
Core and Other small pockets	1
Don't Know	1
In Discussion	1
Natura 2000	1
Whole	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18</b>

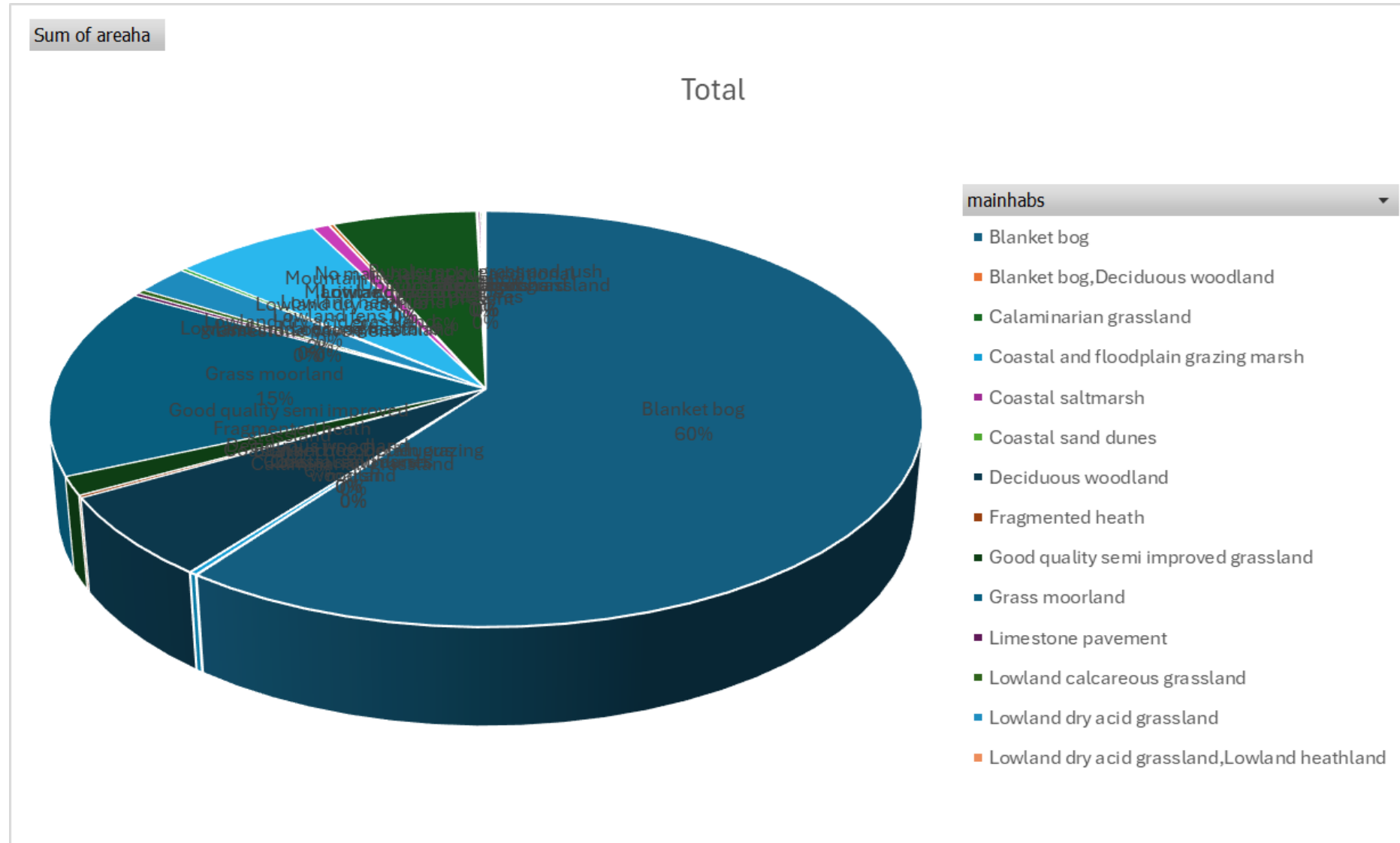


# How is the UK responding?

	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	England
Main protected areas	Ramsar, National Nature Reserves, SPA, SSSI and SAC	Ramsar, National Nature Reserves, SSSI and SAC	No information published	SSSI, SAC, SPA, NNR, Ramsar and using new powers in protected landscapes to add to the areas where condition is good. Modifying agri-environment schemes
OECM	Expert group appointed but not reported yet. Likely to be guided by IUCN screening tool	Expert group appointed but not reported yet. Likely to be guided by IUCN screening tool	No information published	Stakeholder consultation and tests ongoing. Excluded areas have been defined. Some ideas proposed where special habitats have policy protection. Seeking 20 Year commitment.

# Opportunities for Commons in England

- Commons cover 3% of land
- 55% of commons are SSSI
- Can the remaining 45% (1.3% of England) contribute as OECCM?



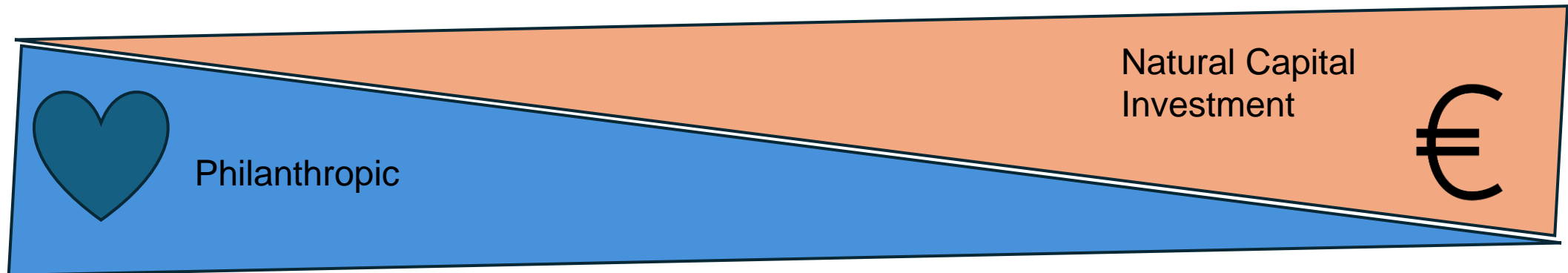


Commons habitats in England

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# Opportunities on Private land

- Conservation covenants for ecological restoration
- Environmental NGO stewardship
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Voluntary land-use land management change for >20 years (eg continuous cover forestry)
- Landscape Recovery programmes
- Community co-management?





# Conclusions



There are opportunities for BRs to play in the GBF and in Target 3 but it is not clear.



Commons outside the PA framework have a lot to offer and can be supported for changes that may be necessary



20 years is not enough!



Public finance should not crowd out private finance



Financing levels should not penalise upland commons



New metrics could be developed where data is good to demonstrate a more inclusive approach to OECMs

Thanks for listening

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# Key Questions

What are some examples of community decision making?

- Lundy NTZ and regional management
- Land reform and community buy out eg Badentarbat estate

Can you share any models or best practice of shared governance / shared power between state and local communities or private land owners?

- Tsa Tse BR Canada
- BR Communities Project
- Environment Farmers Group

How can the wants of the community be integrated into your own state institution?

- Designation and governance of BRs
- Bottom up approaches