

# RestorYation Cairngorms: Enabling inclusivity in biodiversity narratives

## Information sheet for participants

### **What are the aims of this research project?**

This project aims to identify and make visible perspectives and narratives about biodiversity that are currently missing or marginalised in biodiversity research and management in the Cairngorms. We are interested in stories that are not usually told or heard in the context of biodiversity management and research. These include stories related to:

- People and social or cultural groups (related to for example, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability)
- Ecologies (such as species, habitats, biophysical processes). For example, less visible or charismatic species such as underground microorganisms.
- Diverse ways of knowing, such as embodied, sensory and emotional as well as scientific, knowing through languages (e.g. minority languages), visual languages, as well as non-human or more-than-human 'languages'.

Stories will mainly take the form of short videos, but can also be in the form of photos, audio, maps, and written accounts, or a combination. We will collect these stories, and include them in an online platform ('RestorYation Cairngorms', still in development), which will be a (moderated) publicly available space to enable people to encounter stories similar and different to their own. We will also use this platform as a discussion tool in workshops and meetings.

Find more information about the project, and video examples, here:

<https://www.hutton.ac.uk/research/projects/enabling-inclusivity-biodiversity-narratives>

### **Why are we interested in stories?**

Narratives and stories are central in how we understand ourselves and our relationship to each other and our environment. They also play an important role in the framing and practices of biodiversity policy, research and management. Research shows that biodiversity enhancement and conservation will be more effective and inclusive if we take narratives seriously, especially in identifying and addressing how they work to marginalise particular people, ecologies and ways of knowing.

### **Who is funding the project?**

RESAS (Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services Division of the Scottish Government)

### **Why am I invited to take part?**

You have been invited to take part because you have been identified as someone with experience, knowledge and/or a stake in the of biodiversity the Cairngorms. We are not just interested in people with specialised knowledge, but also knowledge that comes in wider range of forms including emotional, artistic, and experiential.

### **How to contribute?**

There are two important ways to contribute:

1. Share your own story or perspective.
2. Flag up stories, issues, places, perspectives, or groups that you feel are missing or marginalised. An easy way to do this will be on the platform. You can also encourage other people to contact us directly, if you think they might be interested in contributing their own story.

For sharing your own story or perspective:

We invite you to either record a short video sharing your experience, or have us help you with the filming. If you would like us to help with the filming, get in touch, and we can arrange a place and a time.

If you choose to record the video yourself, you can use your smartphone. Some tips:

- You may want to record your video in the context of specific places, practices, objects, species and/or issues that help you illustrate your expertise.
- Videos are often more engaging if those talking are in shot. We can provide selfie sticks to help.
- Please record your video in landscape (horizontally framed) if possible).

You are welcome to send us your video in a finalised form, or we can edit it for you. In this case we will show you the edited video for your approval before publishing on the platform.

You can also send us a story in a different form, for example, a written text, audio recording or an image.

We will ask you to sign a written consent form to allow us to use your contribution as part of this project.

### **What will happen to the video I contribute?**

If you send us unedited footage, we will edit the footage for you, and may add subtitles. You will have the opportunity to view a draft version of the video, give us feedback, and approve it before it is made publicly available.

The videos (or other form of contribution such as images or written text) will be embedded in the publicly-accessible online platform 'RestoYation Cairngorms' (still in development). The stories will be organised in such a way to enable people to encounter stories they are interested in and familiar with, as well as stories they are less familiar with. We will moderate the platform so that the public can contribute their own stories. We would like to keep the website live in perpetuity, to allow for continuous learning and discussion about biodiversity narratives. However, if you would like us to take down your contribution, you can email us at any time at [restoryation@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:restoryation@hutton.ac.uk).

We may also use the stories and the platform as a tool in discussion or decision-making settings such as workshops. With your consent, we may also use the stories in academic outputs such as conference presentations or academic journal publications.

The views expressed in the video (or other form of contribution such as images or written text) may also be used to identify key themes and narratives relevant for enabling more inclusive biodiversity research and management. These findings will be shared as a report to the funder, as an academic publication, and may also be included in publicly-facing publications. These may mention that one or more people from your sector or organisation participated in the research. Narratives quoted or points made will not be attributed to specific individuals. Nevertheless, it may be difficult to fully avoid attribution to a sector or organisation. Researchers will take note of any sensitive points made in the story that are not for quotation, and will offer to send draft report in order to give feedback on quotations being used in context.

### **Do I have to take part?**

No, participation is voluntary, and you can withdraw from the study without giving reasons and without any negative consequences.

### **How can I withdraw from the study if I wish to?**

You can ask us to withdraw your story from the platform at any time, by contacting [restoryation@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:restoryation@hutton.ac.uk). You can also ask us to not include the views expressed in your story in our reporting and publications, up until March 2026, by contacting the Principal Investigator at: [Katrina.brown@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:Katrina.brown@hutton.ac.uk). If you decide to withdraw, any data collected in relation to you will be removed from the data set and destroyed.

### **What are the benefits of taking part?**

While there may be no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, it is hoped that this research will lead to greater understanding and inclusion in relation to biodiversity research and management, including amongst land managers, policy and other decision makers.

### **Personal Risks**

We do not anticipate any personal risks of taking part in this research. You may wish to discuss personal information in your video (or other form of contribution such as images or written text), for example, related to your gender identification, ethnicity or sexual orientation. However, the content of your video is entirely up to you, and you will have opportunities to edit your contribution before it is published, or withdraw it altogether from the platform at any time.

If addressing this type of personal information in your contribution, we may ask you if you would be happy to have the video organised under a certain category, for example, 'ethnicity', 'gender', or 'sexual orientation'. This would help your story to be suggested to other people exploring the platform.

### **Ethical Review**

The project has been reviewed by the Research Ethics Committee of the James Hutton Institute.

### **Further Information**

For further project details, please contact:



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