LEADER in Scotland: its implementation & future prospects

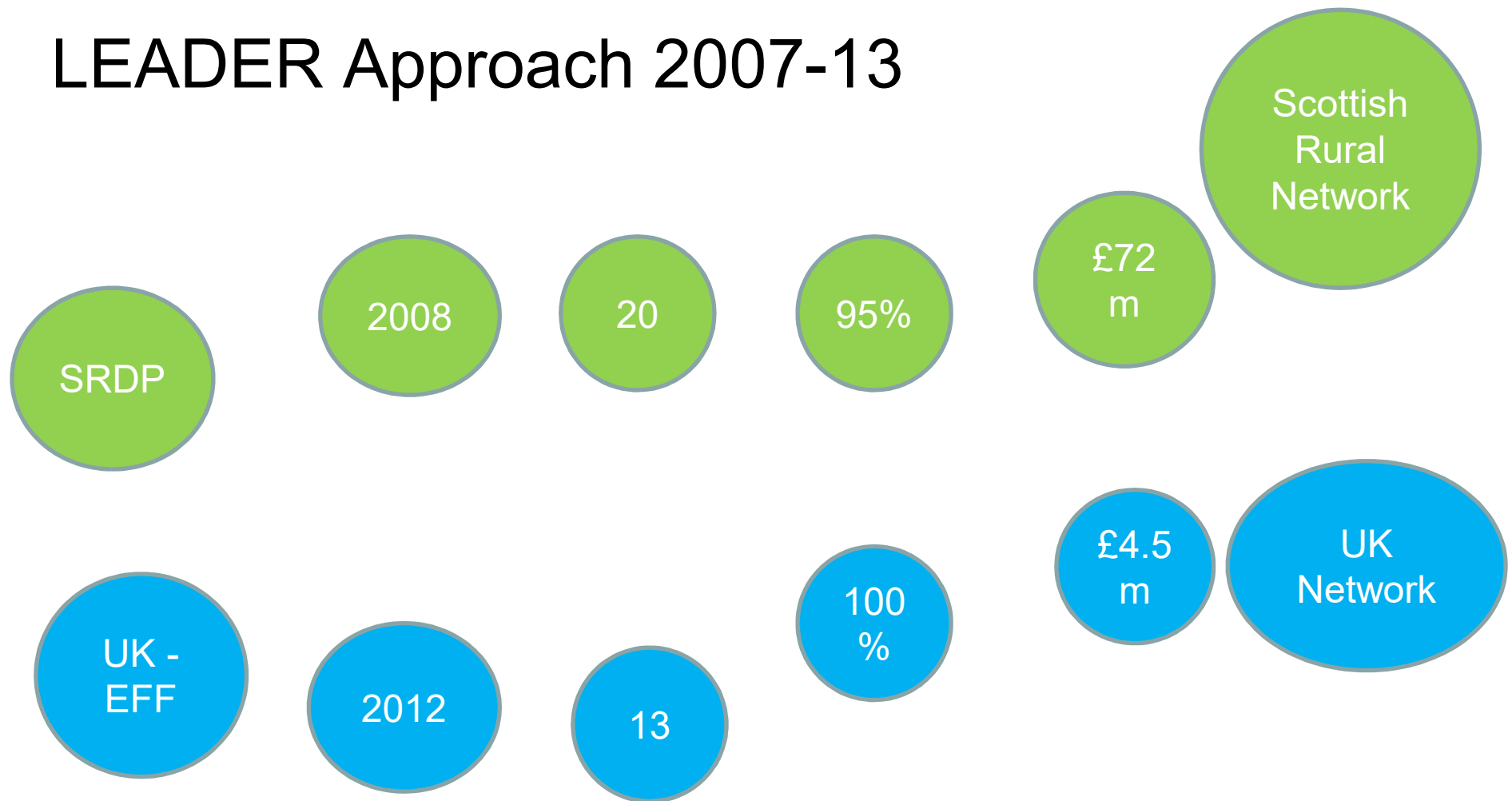## 22nd November 2018

Alistair Prior, Head of Scottish Rural Network Support Unit

LEADER in Scotland:
Reflections & Future Prospects

- LEADER 2007-13

- LEADER 2014-20

- The future...?

The Scottish Government

LEADER Approach 2007-13

Scottish Rural Network

£72 m

2008

20

95%

SRDP

£4.5 m

UK Network

100 %

UK - EFF

2012

13

The Scottish Government

LEADER 2007-13

- Joined the team responsible for both LEADER and the National Rural Network.

- Concerns by LEADER Working Group on LEADER implementation compared to previous programme (Structural Funds)

- Clear that the Rural Network Support Unit was not fit for purpose

The Scottish Government

LEADER 2007-13

- Weaknesses in the governance and the frameworks supporting delivery
- Weaknesses in appraisal process carried out by LAGs
- Weaknesses in administration
- Compliance issues

LEADER 2007-13

No doubt about outputs and outcomes – numerous case studies produced.

2000+ projects funded across a broad range of issues investing heavily in both people and place across the socio-economic and environmental arena.

For example: Community Account Management, Capacity for Change (C4C), Ayrshire 21, Day of the Region, Cheviot Futures, Savour the Flavours

The Scottish Government

Overall reflections on 2007-13...

(in part borne out by audits by both CB & EC + by NRN evaluation)

- Lack of clarity in LDSs, lack of clear guidance/support for LDS implementation

- Confusion about what programmes can fund

- Same stakeholders involved...low fisheries participation.

- Local municipalities role...too strong ?

- Do we understand the value of the LEADER approach?

- Little or no capacity in NRN to support LEADER implementation
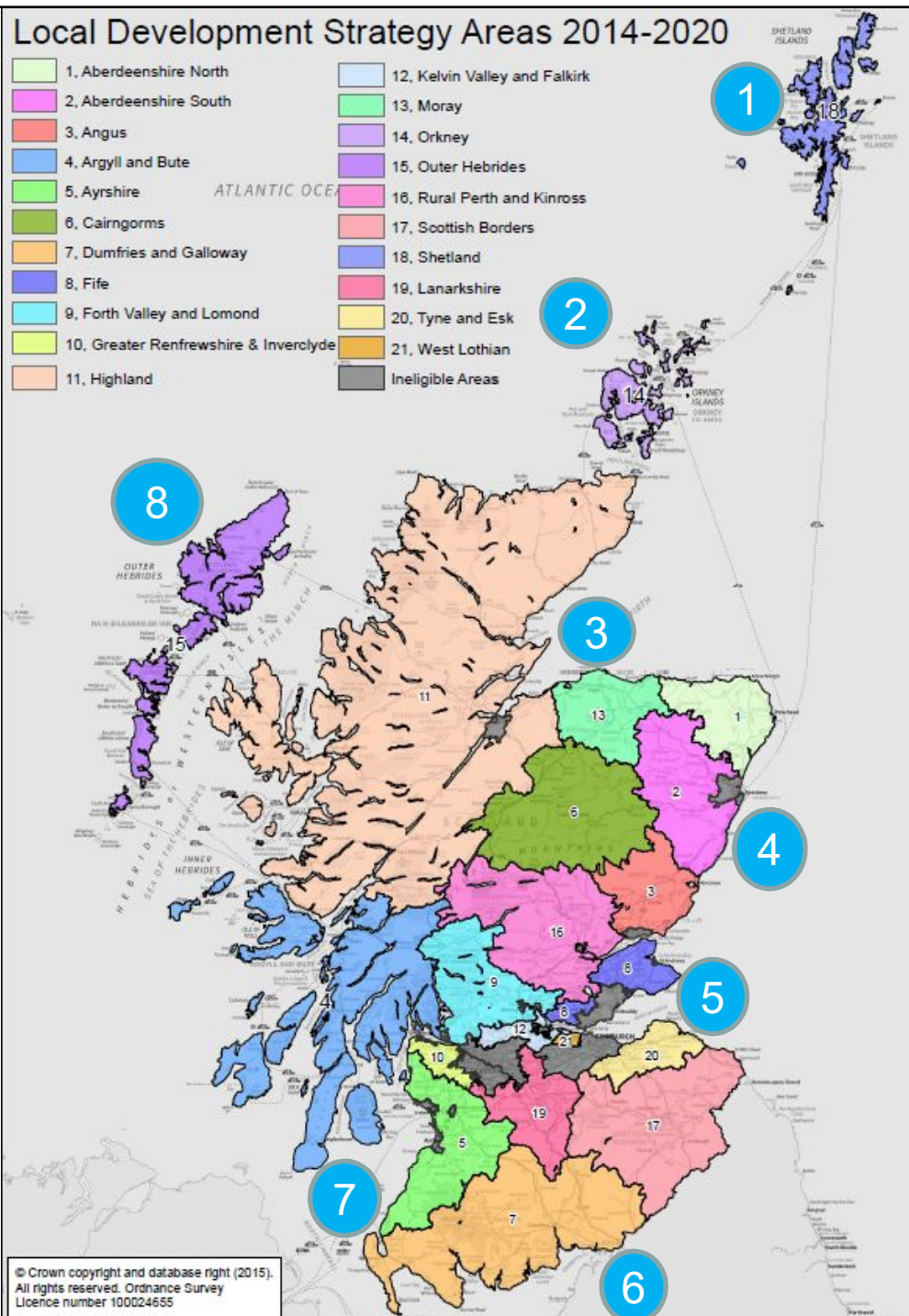
The Scottish Government

LEADER 2014-20

- Built on foundations laid by on outputs of Focus Group 4, LEADER Working Group, Peer to Peer exchanges.

- Agreed to a multi funded approach, EMFF & EAFRD

- Greater coherence, greater focus, stronger governance:

  - One area, one LDS

  - One area, one partnership

  - Independent Chair, separation from lead partner
  (responsible for hosting the LDS admin/amimation function)

  - Clear about when to use funds

- Approach - enabling, proportionate with clearer, and simpler guidance/systems to support implementation.

The Scottish Government

A Process…

- Expressions of Interest Summer 2013
- Invitation to prepare LDS December 2013
- Submission of 1st Draft Spring 2014
- Submission of final draft Sept 2014
- Independent Panel approval November 2014
- Sign off…during 2015/16

The Scottish Government

Local Development Strategy Areas 2014-2020

1, Aberdeenshire North
2, Aberdeenshire South
3, Angus
4, Argyll and Bute
5, Ayrshire
6, Cairngorms
7, Dumfries and Galloway
8, Fife
9, Forth Valley and Lomond
10, Greater Renfrewshire & Inverclyde
11, Highland
12, Kelvin Valley and Falkirk
13, Moray
14, Orkney
15, Outer Hebrides
16, Rural Perth and Kinross
17, Scottish Borders
18, Shetland
19, Lanarkshire
20, Tyne and Esk
21, West Lothian
Ineligible Areas

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LEADER 2014-20

21 LDS
14 EMFF + EAFRD
21 LAGs
8 FLAGs

£86 million
EAFRD/SG
(+ c£6million EMFF/SG)

The Scottish Government

Our approach…

- Transparent criteria for both funding allocations - based on Area, Socio-economic profile + population

- Each LDS a minimum of £2million to ensure they had capacity to animate/administer effectively

- Guidance – Slimmer and clearer on areas such as reasonableness of cost, state aid, eligibility.

- Regulations – limited to enforcement of EU rules around payments etc

- IT system – introduced to remove compliance/admin errors

- Support/training e.g. workshops

The Scottish Government

Clearer Governance & Communication

- A Local Development Strategy Chairs Group - outcomes focus.

- Accountable Body Board – financial, programme,audit issues.

- LAG Staff Network - sharing practices and developing ideas.

The Scottish Government

More robust M&E

- LDS process demanded an M&E plan
- 250+ different indicators across 21 LDS
- Scope to refine – series of discussions & workshop. 30 additional common indicators identified. *(many of which applied to EMFF funded elements of LDS)*
- Focus currently on evaluation – workshop to be held next month – building on recent ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk Workshop.

Stronger Rural Network role

- Supporting co-operation – EOI portal

- Communications toolkit

- M&E toolkit (+ workshops, 1-2-1 meetings)

- Co-operation toolkit

- Case study production – leaflets/videos

- Supporting Chairs and LDS Staff groups

- LEADER conference

- Facilitating LAG attendance at EU level events + LAG visits to Scotland

- Workshops – e.g. enterprise, farm diversification

The Scottish Government

Future?

- People and place core to future rural policy – inclusive growth an opportunity for LEADER approach? (urban, rural, coastal)

- Robust, easy to use IT systems?

- Reduced red tape, reducing budgets – impacting on capacity and to animate/admin effectively?

- An opportunity for deeper, broader collaboration

- Enhanced role for networking and brokerage?

The Scottish Government

Thank You for your attention!

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