



Ponderful

PONDS FOR CLIMATE

Policy briefing 4: New business opportunities

Providing resources for protecting, managing, restoring and creating ponds can be challenging because their importance in the network of freshwater habitats and their role and value as nature-based solutions has been under-appreciated.

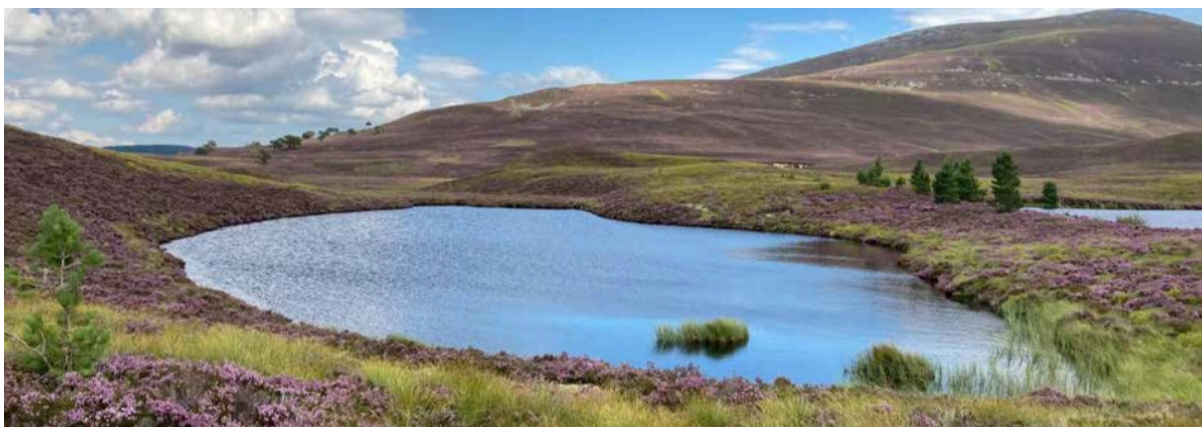
However, with growing understanding of the importance of ponds and pondsapes we expect that this 'resource squeeze' may be gradually relaxed as funders of practical work recognise the great benefits to be obtained with ponds and pondsapes. Indeed, ponds as nature-based solutions can often provide the same benefits as grey infrastructure at a lower cost. Given the urgency of the freshwater and climate crises, an important benefit of ponds and pondsapes is the quick results they provide compared to other kinds of water management.

The PONDERFUL Sustainable Finance Inventory in the PONDERFUL technical handbook identifies 24 different "financing instruments" that pondscape managers can use to pay for ponds, including: revenue-generating measures for government or private landowners, public subsidies and grants, private donations, borrowing, investing, and contractual approaches.

WHAT IS A POND?

Ponds are small standing waters with a surface area from 1 m² to 5 ha that may be permanent or temporary, man-made or naturally created (Kelly-Quinn et al, 20171; Richardson et al, 2022).

This definition includes both semi-permanent and temporary ponds. In Europe, temporary ponds are common throughout the continent, in wet and dry climates, but are best known in drier Mediterranean regions. Temporary ponds usually dry up in summer whereas semi-permanent ponds dry up every five to 10 years. Both support specialised pond communities, including many rare and threatened species. This definition also include ponds with brackish waters. Ponds are usually shallow (up to 5 m deep) but occasionally deeper examples occur.



PONDERFUL has created standards for the design of climate mitigating ponds to provide standardised designs which can be rapidly and widely implemented to a set of common standards.

Designs have been created for:

- Ponds purely intended for biodiversity and engagement (including wellbeing and health) and related Nature's Contributions to People. Containing unpolluted water, greenhouse gas production should also be minimised
- Ponds intended for the delivery of a variety of Nature's Contributions to People in rural landscape including minimising greenhouse gas production, storing water, treating polluted sediment and runoff and providing biodiversity benefits
- Ponds intended to provide Nature's Contributions to People in urban areas where water storage, pollutant retention, health and wellbeing and biodiversity are all intended.

