

HOW TO USE THIS WORKSHEET: Find out whether the statement claims contribution or attribution

Below are ten statements describing research and its influence on policy and practice. Some are taken from real REF impact case studies; some are constructed.

For each statement, explore:

(a) Which issue is this statement about? Choose relevant one(s):

- uncertainty
- impact awareness
- evidence use
- attribution vs contribution
- engagement and uptake

(b) In your opinion, is the statement strong (i.e. evidence-based) or weak (i.e. overclaiming instead of evidencing) — and why?

There is no single right answer. Listen for how each version lands, who it might convince, and what it makes possible to defend.

STATEMENTS

1. “Our findings changed policy.”

Issue: _____ *Strong / Weak:* _____

2. “The report contributed to ongoing discussions of integrated land-use trade-offs and helped identify where further evidence is still needed.”

Issue: _____ *Strong / Weak:* _____

3. “The evidence is clear: this is the optimal approach to integrated land-use management.”

Issue: _____ *Strong / Weak:* _____

4. “The RELU-funded research contributed to the announcement of a new catchment management approach by Defra and the Environment Agency.”

Issue: _____ *Strong / Weak:* _____

5. “Our recommendations are being taken up by policy teams across the four nations.”

Issue: _____ *Strong / Weak:* _____

6. “Policy participants described using the findings to inform ongoing discussions about peatland monitoring approaches.”

Issue: _____ *Strong / Weak:* _____

7. "The report was completed on time, disseminated widely, and well received."

Issue: _____ Strong / Weak: _____

8. "The evidence points to several plausible approaches, each shaped by different contexts and trade-offs."

Issue: _____ Strong / Weak: _____

9. "Our work delivered the evidence base for the new land-use policy."

Issue: _____ Strong / Weak: _____

10. "This research has justified significant funding for peatland restoration in intensively managed catchments."

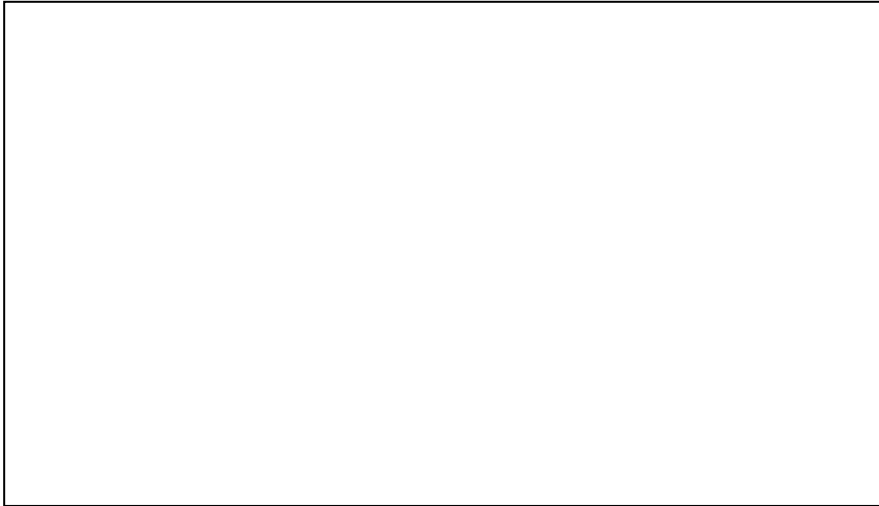
Issue: _____ Strong / Weak: _____

REFLECTION

- Which statements would you be most comfortable defending in writing? Why?

- Which statements would you be most comfortable saying in a meeting? Why are those answers sometimes different?

- Which patterns do you most recognise from your own writing?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a participant to write their response to the question above.

Final reflections:

- Which statement would you defend in writing?
- Which would you say in a meeting?
- Why are those sometimes different?