



South Uist or Strichen?

- targetting agri-environment in the 2007-13 SRDP

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What I've already talked to you about

- The difficulties of getting equitable basic support to First Pillar claimants with common grazings shares (mostly crofters) and what might be done about it
- The worryingly inadequate uptake of Second Pillar agri-environment by common grazings (mostly crofters common grazings) and what might be done about it



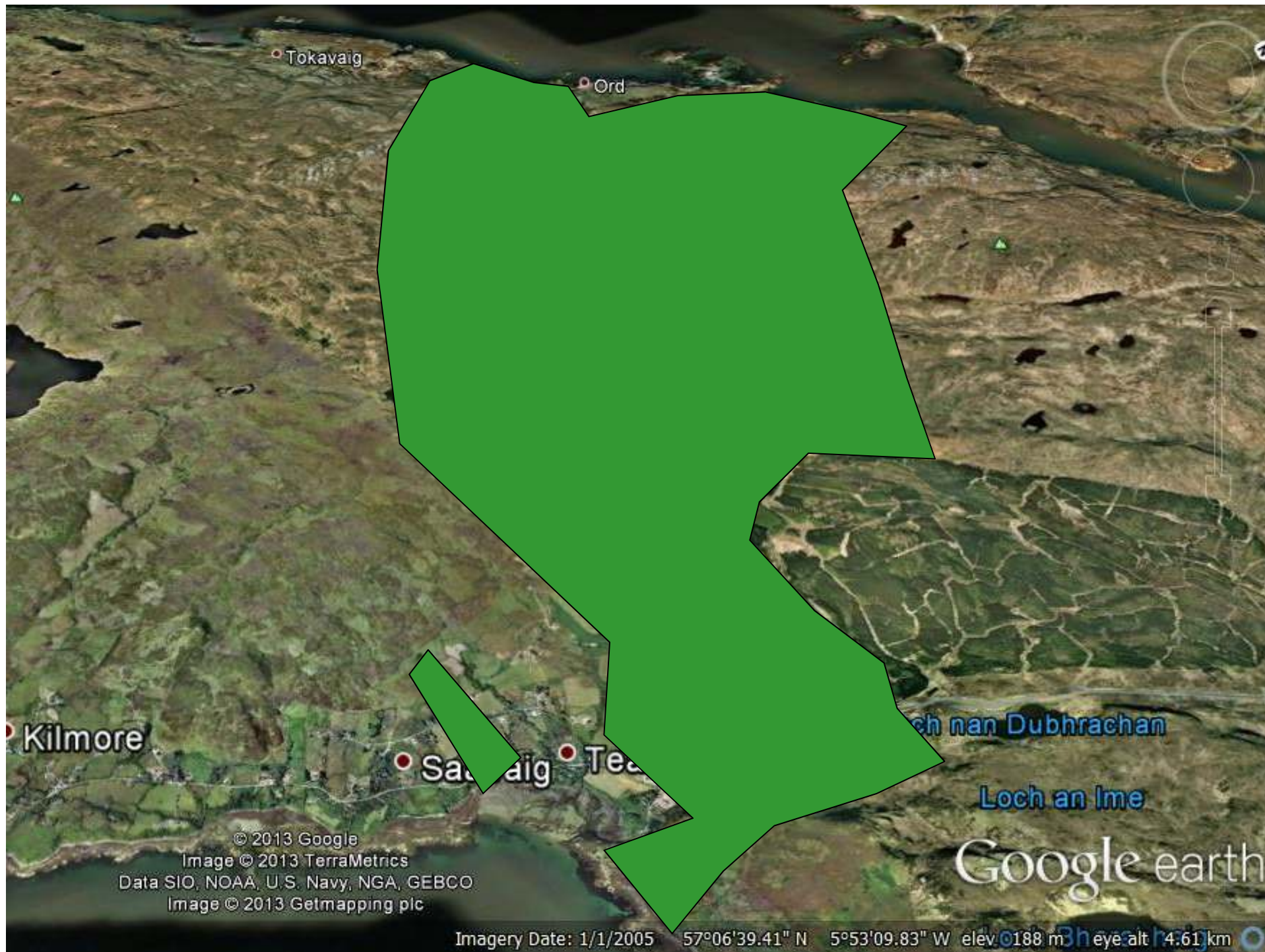
Uptake of agri-environment on crofts

- Widely accepted to be important for biodiversity
- SRDP says crofting is a 'strength' and it will *"address the fact that the average size of farm holdings is small. Crofting also needs to be recognised."*
- Should be monitoring how well we're doing, BUT...
- Crofts can't be separately identified in the data
 - CPH number e.g. 79/460/0222 – a croft or not??
 - Holdings with crofts (farm census data)

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Google earth

Imagery Date: 1/1/2005 57°06'39.41" N 5°53'09.83" W elev. 188 m eye alt 4.61 km



Tokavaig

Ord

Kilmore

Savaig

Teah

Loch nan Dubhrachan

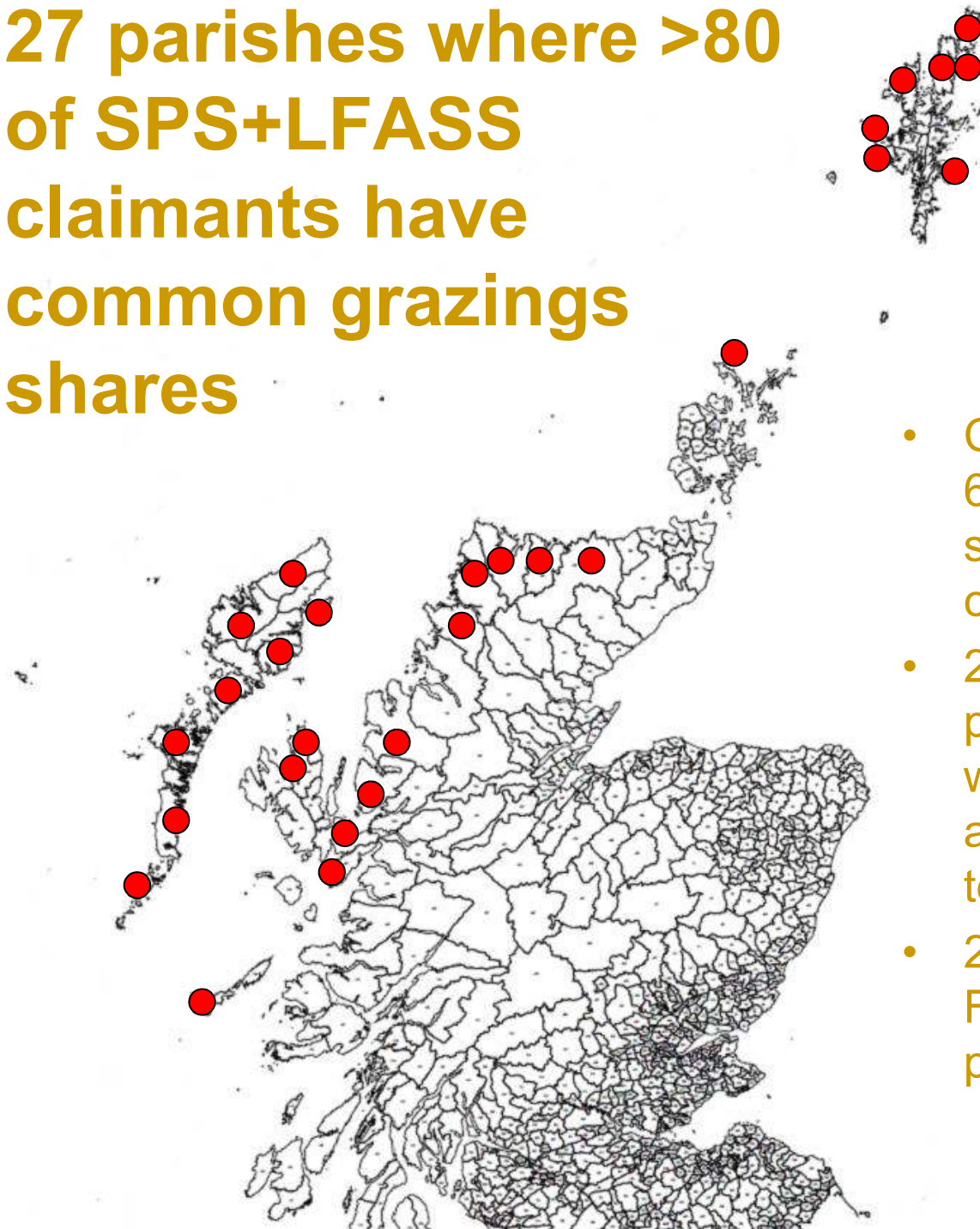
Loch an Ime

Google earth

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Imagery Date: 1/1/2005 57°06'39.41" N 5°53'09.83" W elev. 188 m eye alt 4.61 km

27 parishes where >80 of SPS+LFASS claimants have common grazings shares



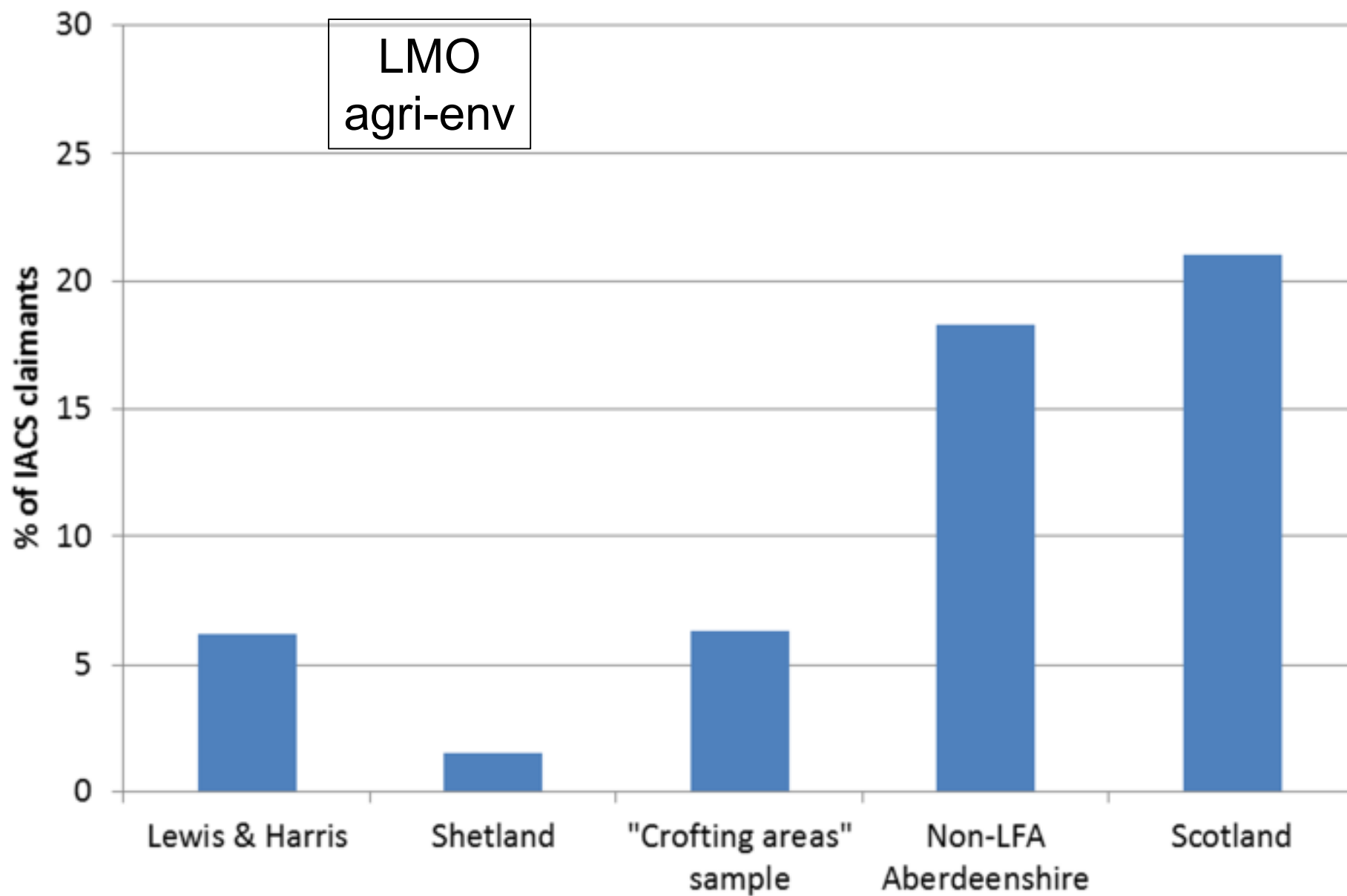
- Contain 67% of all such claimants
- 27 of the 30 parishes with most in absolute terms
- 21 of 61 HIE Fragile parishes

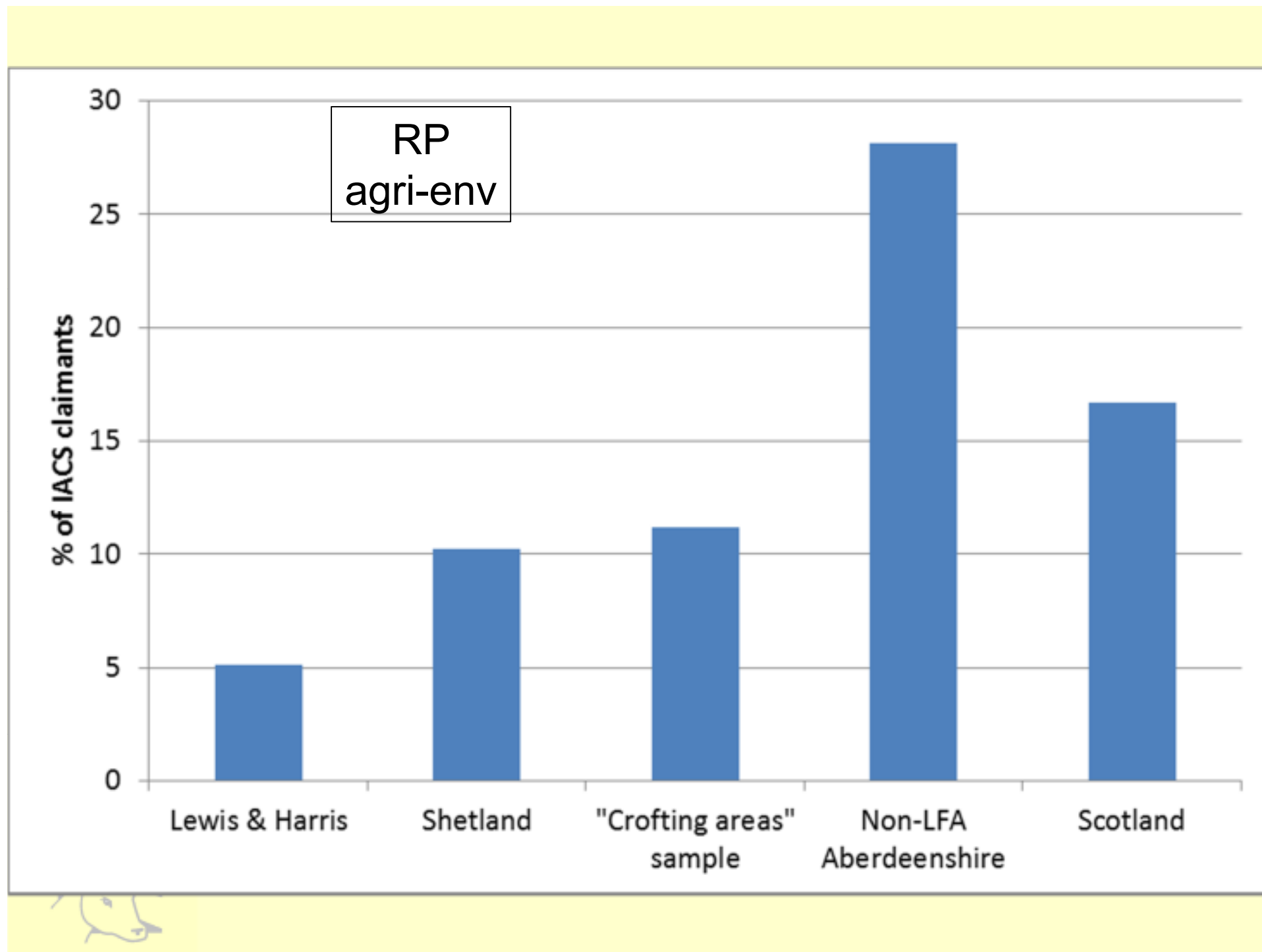
The samples

- 'Crofting-dominated' – 3245 claimants of whom at least 2956 (91%) are crofters
- Lewis & Harris - 1279 claimants of whom at least 1209 are crofters
- Shetland – 1046 claimants of whom at least 724 are crofters
- 76 Non-LFA Aberdeenshire parishes – 2192 claimants of whom none are crofters



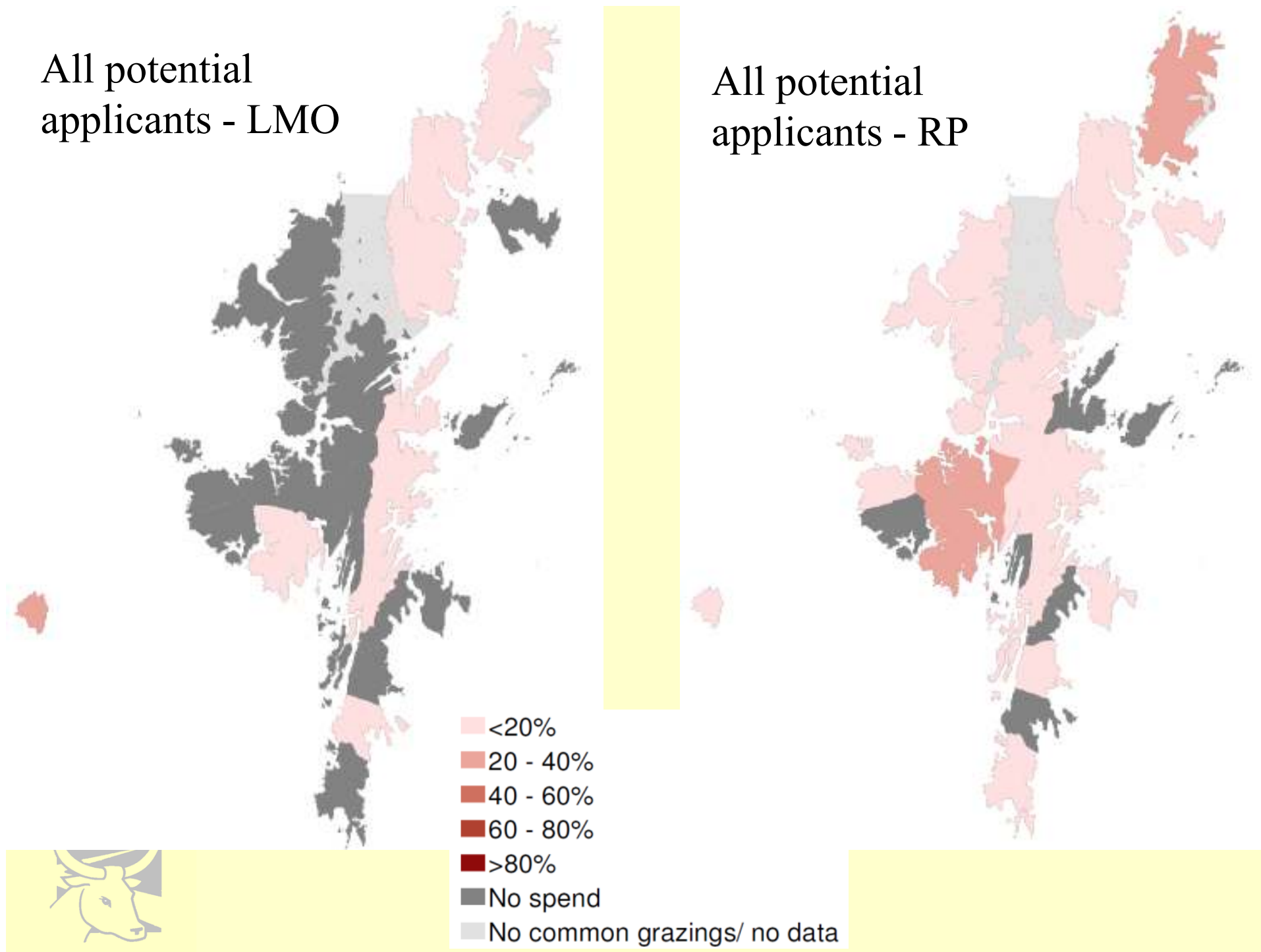
LMO
agri-env





All potential applicants - LMO

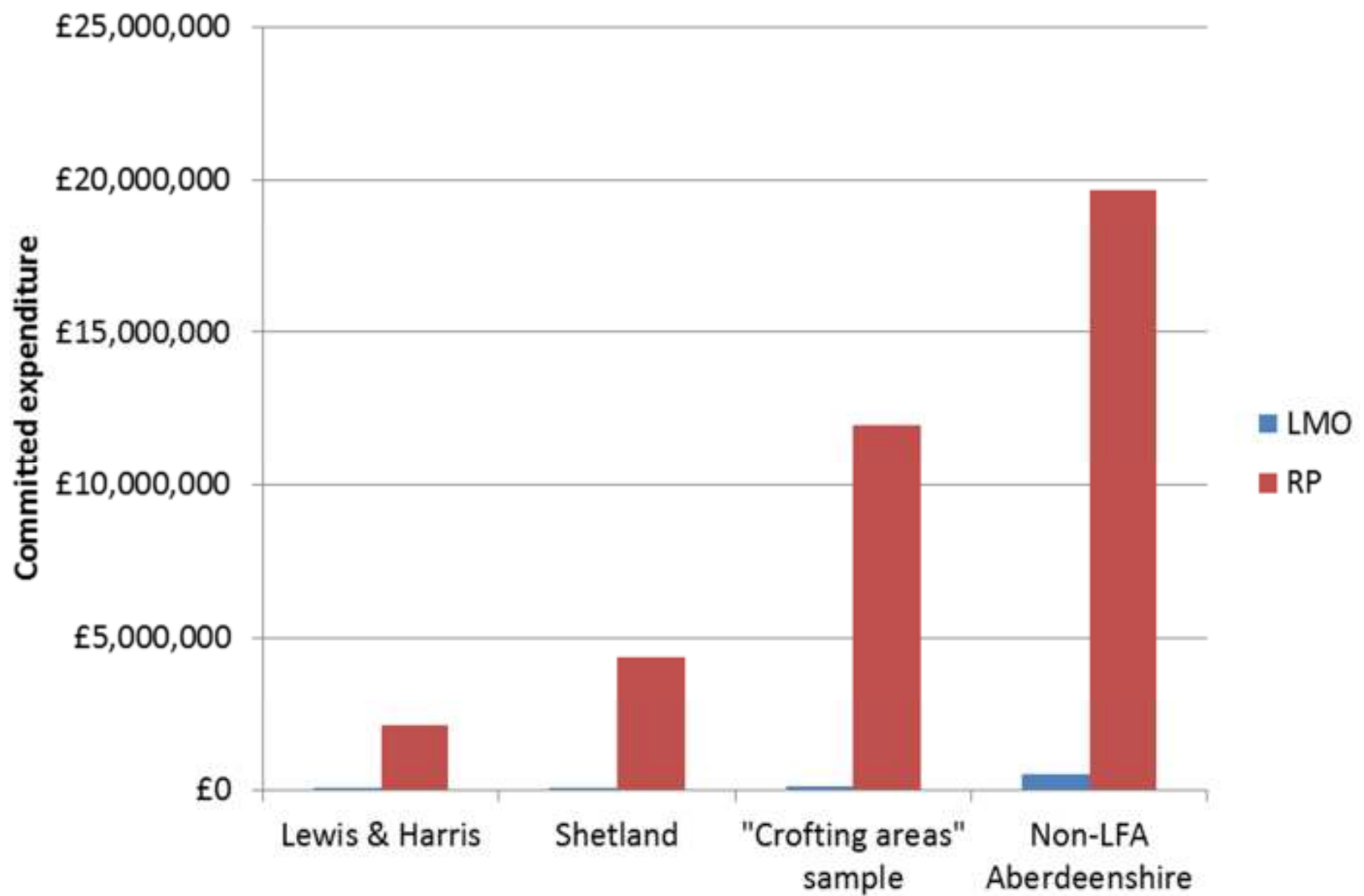
All potential applicants - RP



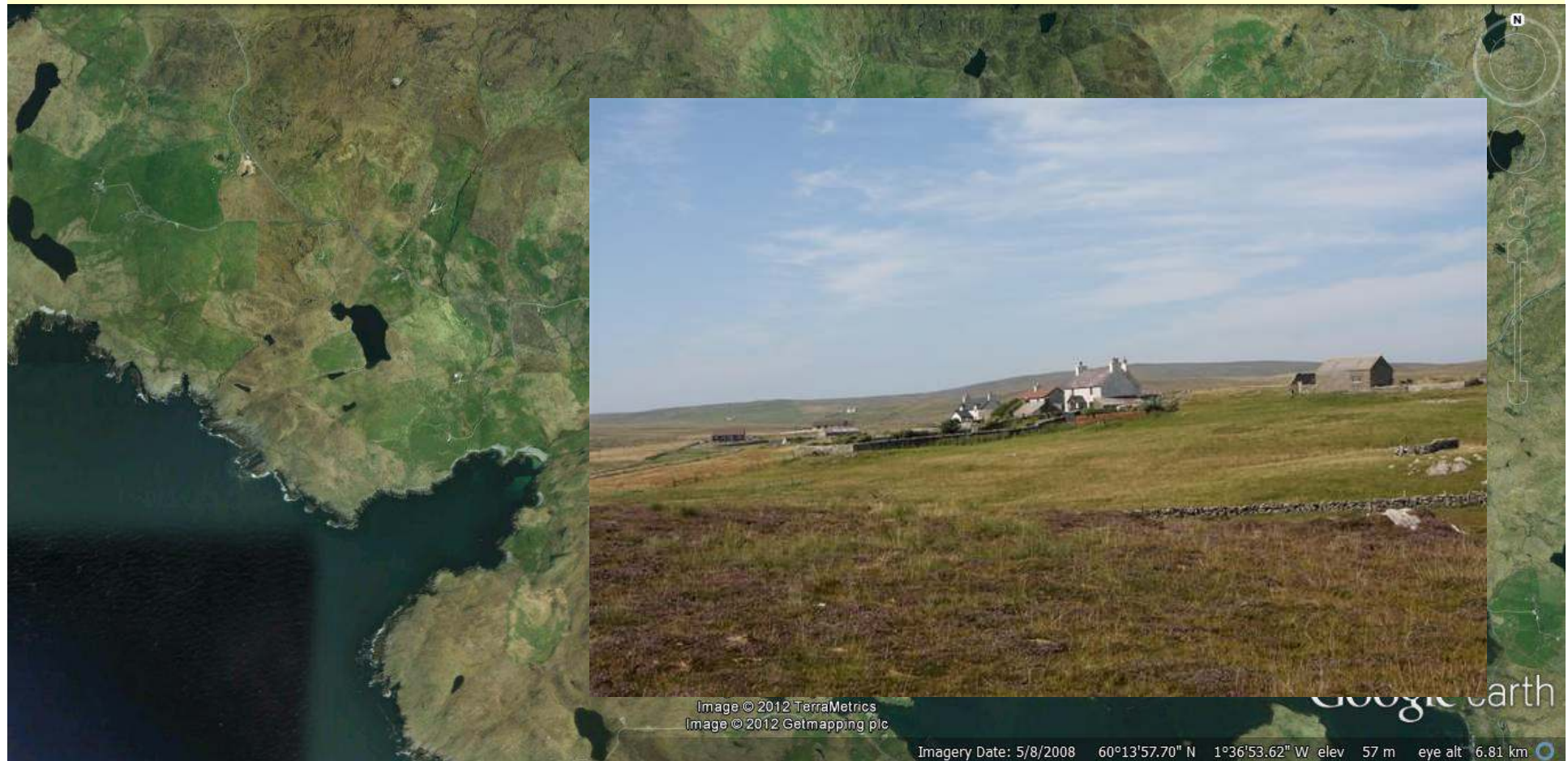
As a proportion of the Scottish totals

	"Crofting areas" sample	Non-LFA Aberdeenshire	Lewis & Harris	Shetland
Total IACS claimants	15.1	10.2	5.9	4.9
Total LMO AE claimants	4.4	8.8	1.7	0.4
Total LMO AE spend	2.1	8.8	0.8	0.1
Total RP AE claimants	7.9	13.3	1.4	2.3
Total RP AE spend	6.4	15.2	1.1	2.3
Total all RDP AE spend	6.2	15	1.1	2.2

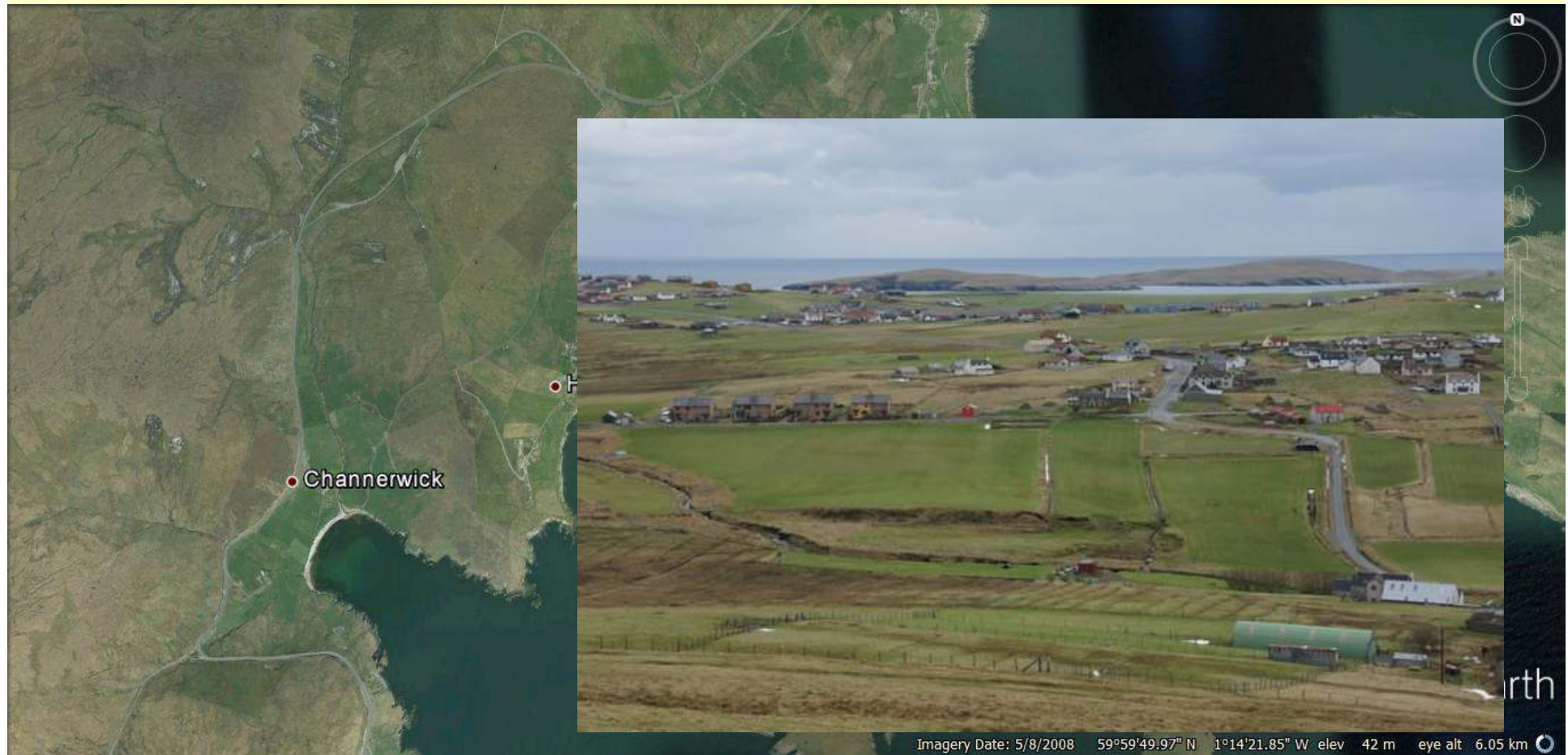




Walls – one of 6 Shetland parishes with no Rural Priority AE uptake



Sandwick - another Shetland parish with no Rural Priority AE uptake



Stornoway parish – 1.8% Rural Priority AE uptake



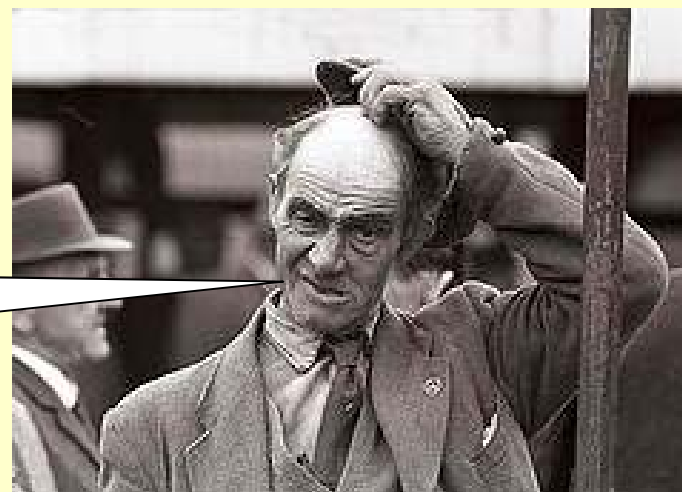
Strichen parish – 78% Rural Priority AE uptake



Strichen, Lewis and South Uist compared

	Strichen	Lewis	S Uist
Area of inbye	4,322	12,150	15,206
IACS claimants	41	1060	419
Total RP AE spend	£1,973,571	£2,041,234	£2,164,422
RP AE spend per ha	£457	£168	£142
RP AE spend per IACS claimant	£48,136	£1,926	£5,166

Why???



Recommendations - programming

- Crofting and small units should feature specifically and in a quantified way in all sections of the new RDP, and unlike the present RDP, it should contain clear and robust connections between the ex-ante evaluation, the design of measures and the monitoring plan, including specific crofting-related sub-indicators.
- Crofts should be specifically identified through the farm code in order to facilitate monitoring and evaluation.



Recommendations - advice

- Art.16. At least a doubling of advisory provision in Crofting Counties by a reinforcement of the Advisory Activity 411 mechanism. Advisors should be based preferentially in the areas currently short-staffed and income budgets for the relevant advisory offices should not rise accordingly
- Art. 16. Serious consideration should be given to whether the balance between general advisory funding, within-scheme funding and subsidised consultancy support is appropriate (and adjustment made where necessary)



Recommendations – agri-environment

- Art 29. Design access mechanisms which enable a significant proportion of HNV crofts and small units to avail themselves of meaningful and relevant AE options
- Art 29. Replacement of the current small unit management prescription with a better measure
- Art 29. Replacement of the current cattle retention prescription with a better measure. The extra costs for reintroductions should be recognised as with the current option.

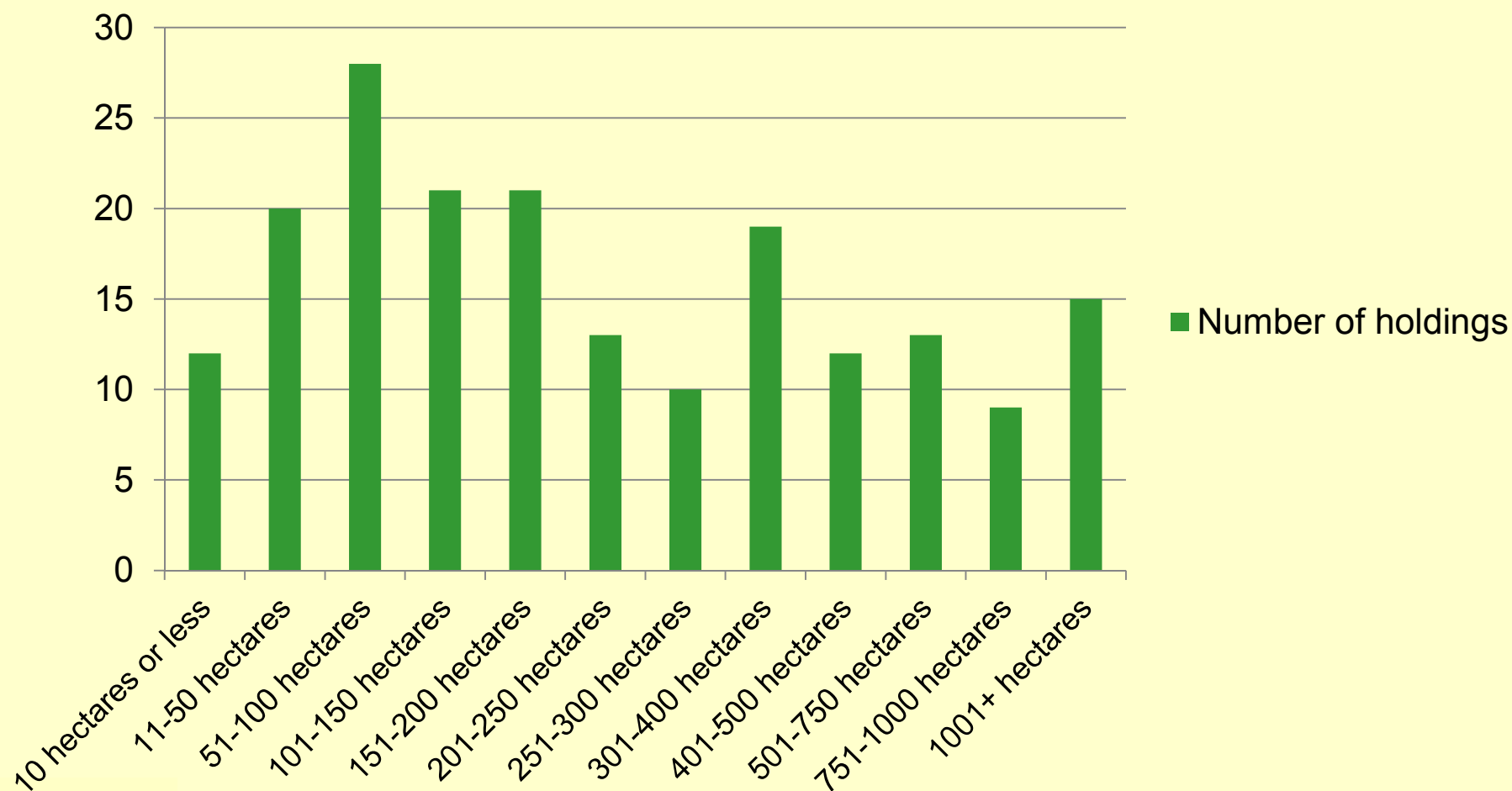


Recommendations – monitoring and revision

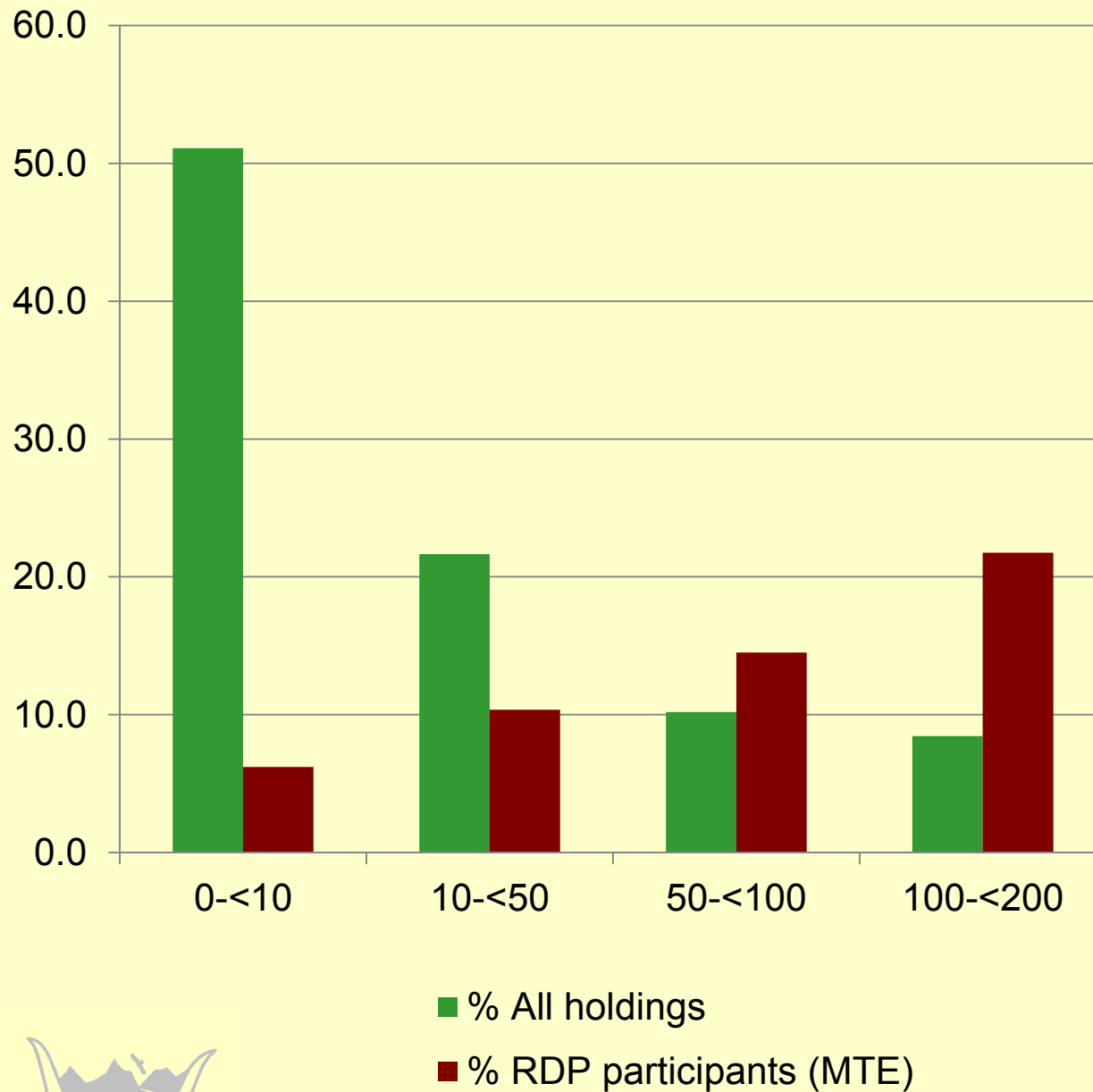
- Ask sensible, relevant questions
- Extract sensible lessons from the answers
- Act on them



Mid-Term Evaluation, current RDP – representative sample of participants



“The survey covered a wide range of holding sizes and there was no particular size of holding that was significantly more represented than others”



But in the real world, some holding sizes ARE significantly more represented than others!!!!

Data shows the exact OPPOSITE of what this taxpayer-funded report implies!

- Govt.: Plan and monitor meaningfully
- MSPs and NGOs:
Ask questions!

