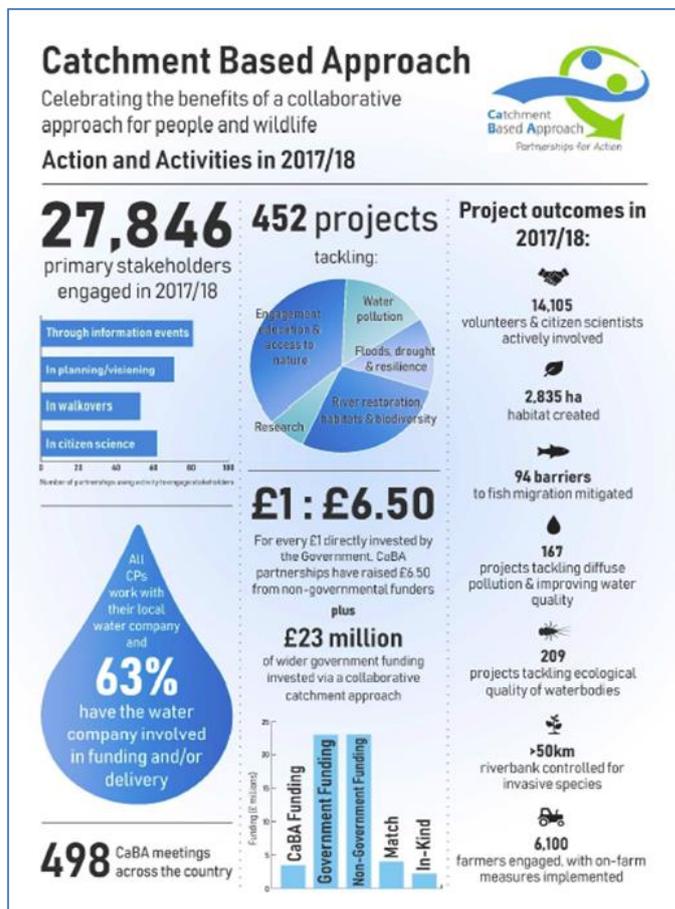


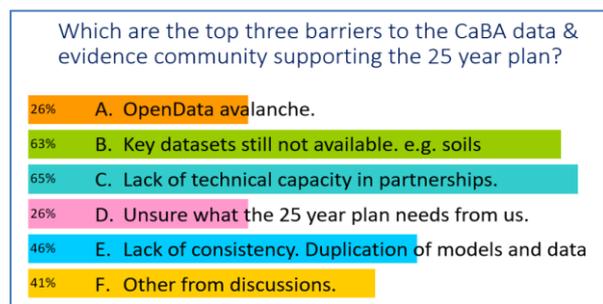
**Background:** The benefits of the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA), which was established by Defra policy in 2013, are summarised in **Figure 1**. For the past five years over 100 catchment partnerships, which cover the whole of England, have been delivering integrated catchment management. This delivery has been supported by a national support programme. The **Catchment Data User Group** (CDUG) is a cross-sectoral working group, which has planned and delivered key areas of this national work programme, to grow the technical capacity of the CaBA partnerships and ensure that catchment management work is underpinned by robust data and evidence.

The first **Catchment Data & Evidence Forum**, held on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018, was a natural extension of the work that CDUG has been doing and had three main aims:

1. Identify the **barriers and opportunities** for the wider CaBA data & evidence community to support the delivery of the **25 Year Environment Plan**.
2. Provide a totally inclusive national forum for the catchment data & evidence community to **exchange knowledge and expertise**, and increase the **network** of technical experts available to CaBA partnerships.
3. Incorporate the ideas and expertise of the wider community in the **co-design** of key evidence sharing **infrastructure** planned by government agencies to support the **25 Year Environment Plan**.



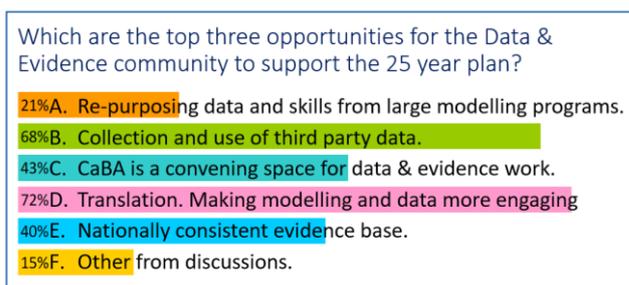
**Figure 1. 2017-18 CaBA Benefits Assessment**



**Figure 2. Barriers Voting Results**

**Figure 3** highlights the potential to use the interpretation and translation skills developed within the community and the collection of data by civil society to engage a much wider audience in the improvement of the environment. The availability of an inclusive nationally consistent convening space, CaBA, was also identified as a key opportunity for the 25 year environment plan to build on and use.

**Barriers and Opportunities:** **Figure 2** summarises the votes of the 55 attendees. It highlights the success of the OpenData revolution, and identifies the need for a continued focus on making data and evidence accessible and building the technical capacity of catchment partnerships to use this evidence. The need for greater consistency of approach highlights the need for national leadership and a planned approach to the development and use of data and modelling.



**Figure 3. Opportunities Voting Results**

**Knowledge Exchange:** There were a series of 20 talks by experts from across the catchment management community; from government, academia, consultancies and eNGOs. The talks and the networking sessions provided an excellent opportunity for cross-sectoral exchange of ideas and expertise, see Annex 1 for list of organisations and topics covered. Feedback at the end of the forum identified this section of the day as the most valuable for the attendees and several ideas were put forward to improve the impact of this session next time. CDUG members will explore collaborative opportunities in the group's regular web meetings.

**Co-Design:** The wider group fed back ideas and comments for three key areas of work within the Environment Agency; the strategic monitoring review; the catchment data explorer and public consultations (for river basin and flood risk plans etc). This session reflected the original role of CDUG as an end user community and highlighted the growing move by the Environment Agency to a more partnership based approach to it's strategic thinking as well as local delivery of environmental improvement.

**Feedback:** A short feedback session highlighted the appetite from the community to host similar forums in the future, and CDUG will continue to hold regular web meetings throughout the year.

The Forum was organised by CDUG which is co-chaired by the Environment Agency and The Rivers Trust. It was supported by funding from Natural Course (EU LIFE), the Environment Agency and a modest charge to the attendees.

**Annex 1:** List of flash talks and organisations contributing to the FORUM.

Organisation	Talk title	Contact
Ribble catchment partnership	Using data and evidence to facilitate effective catchment management	Ellie Brown
Devon and Cornwall catchment partnerships	Using data and evidence for a catchment based approach	Sarah Wigley / Simon Browning
Stirling & Durham Universities	A stakeholder-driven approach to manage diffuse microbial pollution risk: SCIMAP-FIO	David Oliver / Sim Reaney
Earthwatch Institute	Catch X Catchment Hydrology Explorer For Water Stewards	Luis Velasquez / Wim Clymans
Thames 21	Modular River Survey & MoRPh citizen science	Lucy Shuker
Cartographer Studios	Cartographer Platform	Dave Gurnell
ADAS	ADAS Data and Models	Richard Gooday
WRc	AARDVARK - User friendly statistical software for environmental data analysis	Andrew Davey
JBA	Making catchment science accessible	Alex Scott
Evenlode catchment partnership	Evenlode Catchment Laboratory - Field data collection to monitor the effects of our schemes	Dave Gasca-Tucker
Environment Agency	CSF evaluation and opportunities for sharing data	Chris Burgess
South Cumbria Rivers Trust	Cumbrian Flood Partnership Portal	Jayne Wilkinson
The Coal Authority	Risk Modelling & Opportunity Mapping	Peter Thorn
Environment Agency	Interpreting multiple and complex data	Neil Preedy
Stantec	Data overload - Examples of processing methods to assist catchment planning	Rosanna Griffiths
Independent	Random sampling - How useful is it?	Peter Lloyd
Environment Agency	Improving how environmental information is shared as part of updating our River Basin Management Plans	Antonia Scarr
Environment Agency	The Water Hub - Using data to drive effective engagement	George Gerring
The Rivers Trust	South East Rivers Trust Riverfly Monitoring Hub and CaBA Data Package v5	Anneka France