

## Briefing Paper

### Proposed priorities for action for inclusion in the review of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and for completion by 2020.

For Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy to deliver to halt the loss of biodiversity and to achieve the 2020 Aichi targets, it needs to bring clear vision, leadership and clarity to delivery. A vital tool is to have a list of priority actions, to which all stakeholders can work to achieve by 2020. This list specifically should not include any priority action that should be achieved under other strategies or legislation, including for example, Scotland's Marine Act or the Water Framework Directive. Actions suggested below aim to achieve biological outcomes by 2020, which take us a significant step towards halting the loss of Scotland's biodiversity.

1. Restore 100,000 hectares of peatland to favourable condition, using carbon offsetting by public bodies as a funding mechanism where appropriate
2. Restore 5,000 hectares of coastal dune and heath.
3. Restore 500 km of natural treeline and 1,000 ha of montane scrub
4. Achieve favourable condition of all protected sites for all priority species and habitats that occur there.
5. Eradicate rhododendron from Natura sites and prevent invasion by known damaging non native invasive species into any uninvaded catchments.
6. Reverse the decline in vascular plant diversity in all broad habitats assessed in the UK Countryside Survey.
7. Reverse the decline in wild pollinators and establish a monitoring programme, which includes the butterfly biodiversity indicator, to track progress
8. Reduce peat use by public bodies by 100% by 2015
9. Annul all extant peat extraction rights by 2020 (either by revocation, management agreement or outright purchase)
10. Reverse decline in extent and quality of Arctostaphylos heath
11. Maintain the extent and biodiversity value of High Nature Value Farming and forestry, as measured by the status of Scottish indicator species, as required for reporting purposes to the European Commission

Scottish Environment LINK is a Scottish charity under Scottish Charity No SC000296 and a Scottish company limited by guarantee and without share capital under Company No SC250899.

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12. Develop the National Ecological Network on land and at sea to restore health and connectivity to Scotland's ecosystems
13. Improve 5,000 hectares of urban greenspace and hospital ground, through managing publically owned land for biodiversity
14. Reduce the amount of diffuse nitrogen pollution on Annex 1 habitats of the Habitats Directive
15. Restore 45,000 ha of PAWS using active management to secure and enhance Ancient Woodland ecological communities

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**Scottish Environment LINK** is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment organisations - 34 member bodies representing a spectrum of environmental and associated cultural heritage interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society. LINK provides a forum and network for its members; and assists communication between members, government and civic society. Further information on LINK is available at [www.scotlink.org](http://www.scotlink.org)

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