

Scotland’s Challenge 2020 - a benchmark

Scotland’s wildlife is amazing. We need to protect it for future generations and act now to halt its decline. For the 2020 Challenge to work, Scotland’s people need to see effective action on the ground, guided by this strategy and resulting in real positive biological change.

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.

LINK has come up with 14 targets for the next seven years. If we meet these targets, we will have made significant steps towards halting the loss of biodiversity and we will have demonstrated our commitment to Scotland’s outstanding biodiversity.

- 1. Restore more than 80% of peatland on designated sites to favourable condition, using a range of funding mechanisms to support ecosystem services, including water sector and business carbon payments where appropriate.**

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
61.7 % of Blanket bog 57.7% of lowland raised bog are in favourable condition on designated sites	> 80% of blanket bog > 80% lowland raised bog on designated sites restored or under restoration management

Baseline source: Condition of Designated Sites, Scottish Natural Heritage (2010)
<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B686627.pdf>

- 2. Achieve favourable condition of all protected sites for all priority species and habitats that occur there.**

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
Habitats 73.5%	100% features in favourable condition
Species 75.3%	

Baseline source:
 The Proportion of Scotland's Protected Sites in Favourable Condition 2012 - an Official Statistics Publication for Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage. <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A714847.pdf>

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3. Eradicate rhododendron from strategically important sites and prevent invasion by known damaging non native invasive species into any uninhabited catchments

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
74 protected sites in unfavourable condition because of Rhododendron	No protected sites in unfavourable condition

Baseline source: Scottish Natural Heritage

4. Reverse the decline in vascular plant diversity in all broad habitats assessed in the UK Countryside Survey.

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
2007 declines in plants in targeted plots & wider countryside	2014 decline has been reversed & progress being made for 2021 survey
Fen, marsh and swamp -23%	Fen, marsh and swamp <-23%
Broadleaved woodland -18%	Broadleaved woodland <-18%
Neutral grassland -17%	Neutral grassland <-17%
Acid grassland -13%	Acid grassland <-13%
Coniferous woodland -12%	Coniferous woodland <-12%
Improved grassland -8%	Improved grassland <-8%
Bog -6%	Bog <-6%

Baseline source: Scottish Biodiversity Indicator – Vascular Plant Diversity
<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B424915.pdf>

5. Halt the decline in wild pollinators and establish a monitoring programme and wild pollinator indicator, which includes the butterfly biodiversity indicator, to track progress

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
38% of Butterfly species declining in Scotland ¹ 58% of specialist butterflies in decline ² No wild pollinator monitoring programme and indicator in place	<38% of Butterfly species declining in Scotland < 58% of specialist butterflies in decline Scottish wild pollinator monitoring programme and indicator measures status of hoverflies, butterflies, bees and other wild pollinators.

Baseline source:

¹UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme Annual Report 2011

²Scottish Biodiversity Indicator – Terrestrial Insect Abundance (Butterflies)

<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B424909.pdf>

6. Phase out peat use by public bodies completely by 2015

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
Current peat use by public bodies	No public bodies using peat

Baseline source: freedom of information request submitted



7. Annul all extant commercial peat extraction rights by 2020 (either by revocation, management agreement or outright purchase)

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
23 active commercial peat extraction sites 21 dormant commercial peat extraction rights	No commercial peat extraction sites No commercial peat extraction rights

Baseline source: Scottish Natural Heritage

8. Restore 500 km of treeline and 1,000 ha of montane scrub

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
Current area of montane scrub and length of treeline in restoration schemes	Current + 500 km and current + 1000 hectares in restoration schemes

Baseline source: Montane Scrub Action Group and Cairngorms Nature Action Plan

9. Reverse decline in extent and quality of upland heath

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
37.5% of protected upland sites in favourable condition	>37.5% of protected upland sites in favourable condition

Baseline source: Condition of Designated Sites, Scottish Natural Heritage (2010)
<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B686627.pdf>

10. Restore 100% of machair on designated sites to favourable condition

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
82.2% of machair is in favourable condition on designated sites	100% of machair on designated sites is in favourable condition

Baseline source: Condition of Designated Sites, Scottish Natural Heritage (2010)
<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B686627.pdf>

11. Develop the National Ecological Network on land and at sea to restore health and connectivity to Scotland's ecosystems

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
No NEN yet in place	Full implementation of LUS with NENs in place for all key habitats across Scotland

Baseline source: Not applicable



12. 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

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
40% (2011)	40%

Baseline source: Developing High Nature Value Farming and Forestry Indicators for the Scotland Rural Development Programme, Scottish Government.
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/08/10135254/0>

13. Increase the number of urban greenspaces, school grounds and hospital grounds managed for wildlife

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
58 green spaces with Green Flag awards 1,650 schools with Green Flag Awards	120 green spaces with Green Flag awards 3,000 schools with Green Flag Awards

Baseline source: Keep Scotland Beautiful

14. Reduce the amount of diffuse nitrogen pollution to begin to reverse the negative impact on species and habitats across Scotland

2013 Baseline	2020 Target
Current diffuse nitrogen levels 39.22 (2010)	Lower levels of nitrogen pollution <39.22

Baseline source: Index of Scottish air pollutant emissions

This document is supported by the following Scottish Environment Link members:

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