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Environment  
LINK

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15 September 2020

Dear First Minister,

### **A Global Goal for Nature's Recovery.**

Today's publication of the UN's Global Biodiversity Outlook report confirms what many of us feared: that the international community has failed to halt the destruction of nature over the past ten years. At this critical moment, ahead of the global biodiversity summit in China next year, bold leadership is needed to negotiate new targets that will put us on a path to nature recovery by 2030 and lead to a society that flourishes alongside nature by 2050.

The Scottish Government can play a crucial role in this by pushing the UK Government, as signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to announce support for a global goal for restoring nature where action is directed at the recovery of species and habitats by 2050<sup>1</sup> and by reflecting that commitment in Scottish domestic legislation going forward. Restoring nature and avoiding deepening the climate and nature crisis is essential for human prosperity and equity. Maintaining a healthy planet for future generations is *the* crucial challenge for the next decade.

A new international deal for nature must be matched by domestic ambition to deliver commitments made under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Scottish Environment LINK has welcomed the recent Edinburgh Declaration which has called for a collective commitment to raise ambition for nature's recovery and has recognised the need for transformative action across land and sea to do so, with NGOs having a key role in this. Scotland, along with other UK nations, must put in place robust domestic legislation to tackle growing threats to our natural world and secure the recovery of nature. We stand ready to engage with your government on the strategic development of the next Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to do that.

With our sister environment LINKS across the UK, we are writing to all four administrations to propose that the UK takes a lead in sounding a wake-up call. It is time for the global community and individual countries to act decisively, or our efforts to tackle climate change and drive a green recovery will be in vain. With Glasgow due to host the COP 26 climate talks next year, it must be recognised that it will be impossible to meet climate change targets without restoring ecosystems.

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<sup>1</sup> Recovery of species and habitats against a baseline of circa 1970.



Scottish Environment LINK the voice for Scotland's environment



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The last decade has been characterised by international inaction on biodiversity. The next decade must be characterised by success, if we are to retain our amazing, beautiful and life-giving natural environment. We hope you take up that call by supporting a clear global goal to restore nature, with legally-binding targets in Scotland to ensure that nature's recovery begins at home. We are here to help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah J. Long". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Deborah Long

Chief Officer