

Nature Positive in the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration Workshop



Scottish
Environment
LINK

Tuesday 12th July 2022

Purpose of the event

'Nature Positive' has been developed to drive global action for nature. Nature positive is now being used more frequently in Scotland as we all as globally. This workshop was organised for members to explore what Nature Positive is, what it means to different organisations and how we can build a LINK Nature Positive narrative that reflects a strong, robust goal for nature.

Event format

14.30 – 14.40	Welcome and introduction from Deborah Long (Chief Officer, Scottish Environment LINK)
14.40 – 15.00	Presentations: Kim Dunn (Senior Policy Officer, RSPB) - Introduction to Nature Positive with Menti Participation. Clive Mitchell (Outcome Manager for People and Nature, NatureScot) - How NatureScot uses Nature Positive with reference to their new Corporate Plan .
15.00 – 15.40	Breakout sessions using Jam Boards Q1 – What are the strengths and weaknesses of Nature Positive? Q2 – How can LINK drive Nature Positive into actions?
15.15– 15.55	Group discussion to share answers to inform LINK Nature Positive Narrative. <i>A LINK narrative briefing will be written up and published on the LINK Member's section of the website after the workshop.</i>
15.55 – 16.00	Closing remarks from Deborah Long

Welcome and introduction

Deborah Long, Scottish Environment LINK's Chief Officer, welcomed everyone to the event.

Nature Positive is a phrase being increasingly used, as a sector, we have the opportunity to ensure that nature positive becomes an actionable, tangible, positive goal for nature. We understand that nature positive has the potential to take on many different meanings, and we want to ensure that when we use it, we are using it to mean real, actionable and measurable positive impacts for nature.

Globally the definition being used for Nature Positive is: The objective of halting and reversing the decline in biodiversity by 2030 ('bending the curve') – ***This is from the Global Goal for Nature which is made up of a number of organisations that ask governments to adopt the goal at the international level.***

What we want to achieve in LINK:

We want to build a LINK Nature Positive narrative that is all about actions towards delivering ecologically effective outcomes from a strong, robust goal for nature.

The outcome of this workshop will be an agreed LINK narrative which aims to describe Nature Positive in the context of what nature targets, and the actions needed to deliver them, should aim to achieve. Just as the net zero target expresses the broad aim of the wider climate targets.

Halting the loss of nature and reversing its loss is complicated and we, at LINK, are not yet using a language that can cut through that complexity. Nature positive could help.

We believe in nature positive as a strong, robust goal for nature. It builds on many of the initiatives already in place. We don't have time to wait for the perfect definition and the perfect metric. Everything we all do is to make the case for nature and bring about benefits, so we are all working to the common goal.

Let's take ownership, rally behind and drive it together – yes we know that the definition of nature positive is up in the air and does have some controversy around it, but it is still an opportunity to ensure we are all moving in the same direction to hold the government and businesses to account.

Presentations:

You can find the speaker's presentation slides [here](#).

Kim Dunn (Senior Policy Officer, RSPB) introduced the term Nature Positive and highlighted where it is currently being used already (for example, within the CBD).

Clive Mitchell (Outcome Manager for People and Nature, NatureScot) outlined how NatureScot uses Nature Positive with reference to their new [Corporate Plan](#).

Breakout Room Sessions

Attendees were split up into breakout rooms to explore three key questions. Below are the common themes between the four breakout rooms.

1. What are the strengths of Nature Positive?

- Brings us all together – collaboration and partnership working.
- Simple and easy to understand.
- It describes what an economy looks like embedded in nature.
- Nature Positive can help to put nature on the same footing as Net Zero and legally binding targets.
- Nature Positive is actively being used by Scottish Government, NatureScot and businesses so it already has a platform.

2. What are the weaknesses of Nature Positive?

- Nature metrics are not developed enough yet for use.
- Challenging to define scale and timescales (i.e. an end point).
- There is a potential for greenwashing with regards to businesses and corporations.

- Confusion over how Nature Positive fits in with other initiatives such as net zero, nature based solutions etc.
- Risk of adding to the mountain of jargon.

3. How can LINK drive Nature Positive into actions?

- Clearly framed asks on Nature Positive and how they can be embedded in current and future consultations. This helps with consistency and to ensure a strong voice.
- A toolkit to help members illustrate which actions deliver of Nature Positive and how people can get involved with sign posting.
- By defining nature metrics more clearly. For example, via the State of Nature report.
- Use NatureScot mapping capability to inform developing metrics and nature networks: joint project on data management and accessibility.
- Integrate Nature Positive language into LINK initiatives and campaigns such as Nature Champions and Farm for Scotland's Future.
- Comprehensively clarifying the term and give examples of what IS Nature Positive and what ISN'T Nature Positive.
- Integrate the term into land reform and planning policy (NPF4).
- Map out all terms to see how they are interlinked and relate to each other.

Deborah to ask each facilitator to give a two minute update outlining the top three strengths, weaknesses and three actions from the breakout session.

Closing remarks

It has been helpful to bring Nature Positive down to the LINK level and what we can achieve within the network.

We have all recognised that Nature Positive is simple, easy to understand it helps us reach across silos. It enables us to work more collaboratively and productively together.

With regards to weaknesses, Nature Positive is moving very fast and we are struggling to keep up particularly with regards to metric and data collection. It is still easy to co-opt out of using Nature Positive until we have an agreed and realistic definition.

In terms of actions, resources was the main suggestion. For examples, workshops, provide advice, briefings for consultations and party conferences. LINK can help to develop metrics more clearly and get them out there and used. In relation to the Scottish Government policy work, once we have a definition that we are using actively to inspire others, we can use it to challenge socio-economic issues such as land reform.

Sources:

[A Global Goal for Nature](#)

[Nature Positive 2030](#) – JNCC, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency

[Leaders Pledge for Nature](#)

[Science Based Targets](#)

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