

Cliffs & Sea Lochs: Cliffs and Seabirds – Claire Baker MSP

Hello, my name is Claire Baker and I am a Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Mid Scotland and Fife region, and I am also the Nature Champion for the Atlantic puffin.

The Atlantic puffin is unmistakable. With its colourful beak and comical groan, it is one of the world's favourite birds.

Puffins spend most of their lives at sea, but during the spring and summer seasons, they gather on some of Scotland's islands to establish breeding colonies.

Scotland's coasts includes around 900 islands and stretches over an estimated 18,000km! Straightened out, the length of Scotland's coastline would stretch all the way to Australia!

Our coasts are internationally important for seabirds, with more than 5 million breeding seabirds from twenty-four different species visiting us each year. Majestic cliffs house these clamouring seabird colonies, where puffins, fulmars, kittiwakes, guillemots, razorbills, and gannets all cram together on rocky ledges.

Seabirds, however, are considered the most vulnerable group of birds and many of Scotland's seabird species are now on the red or amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern.

We must work together to protect these species from threats including human disturbance, climate change, unsustainable fishing and pollution.