

Introduction - Alison Johnstone MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament

Hello, my name is Alison Johnstone and I am the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament.

I am delighted to welcome you to 'A Voice for Nature', an exhibition which marks ten years of the Nature Champions initiative.

Scotland is famous for its rich and diverse natural environment, which is home to an estimated 90,000 different species.

As we face the twin global challenges of nature loss and climate change, it is more important than ever that nature has a voice in the Scottish Parliament.

For the last ten years, the Nature Champions initiative has supported Members of the Scottish Parliament to learn more about and champion our threatened and iconic species and habitats.

The success of the initiative has inspired similar programmes in Wales, Northern Ireland, and England, as well as those amongst Scottish local authorities and within communities and schools across the country.

This exhibition looks back at some of the highlights of the past ten years, raising awareness of species and habitats that are being championed.

It also emphasises the ongoing need to protect and restore Scotland's precious natural environment for the future.