

Scottish  
Environment  
LINK

# Hitting the targets:

## Delivering Scotland's nature ambitions

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# Contents

Executive summary	3
Timeline for action	8
Understanding the delivery gap	9
Key policy actions	12
Conclusion	19



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# Executive Summary

**The passage of the Natural Environment Act means that, for the first time, the Scottish Government must set legal targets to restore the natural environment.**

A healthy natural environment is essential for human health and wellbeing. Nature underpins our whole economy and society and serves as critical national infrastructure. Despite this reliance, biodiversity globally is collapsing and, in Scotland, 1 in 9 species are threatened with national extinction.

The recognition by the Scottish Government that nature is in crisis, and the cross-party support for the Natural Environment Act, is welcome. Tackling that crisis is no easy task. It requires leadership, long-term commitment, and a determination to leave our planet in a better state for future generations, even when short-term political pressures might work against this.

The introduction of legal nature targets will be a significant milestone in the fight to reverse biodiversity loss.

However, Scotland's failure to meet climate targets shows that target setting itself is not sufficient. It is the action that follows that will really matter. And despite decades of strategy, policy, agency work, and dedicated conservation efforts, biodiversity collapse has continued. There has been a delivery gap between the intentions of government and the outcomes achieved, and this gap must be closed – rapidly.

This report outlines Scottish Environment LINK's view on how to improve delivery and on the priority actions required to meet Scotland's nature targets. In preparing this report, LINK interviewed cross-party politicians and spoke to leading figures across the public sector. This report is also informed by the ongoing work of the Climate Emergency Response Group on improved delivery.

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Biodiversity globally is collapsing and, in Scotland, 1 in 9 species are threatened with national extinction.

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# Key challenges and barriers to delivery

Across interviews with politicians and public sector leaders, consistent barriers to effective delivery emerged:

- **The need for strategic leadership** ensuring cross-portfolio delivery and a clear focus on outcomes.
- **A complex policy landscape** with overlapping strategies, siloed approaches, and a churn of policy documents and sometimes ineffective consultation distracting from delivery on the ground.
- **Unclear accountability and untested governance** of the Biodiversity Strategy.
- **Lack of resourcing and skills** with delivery bodies lacking sufficient staff, ecological skills, and delivery expertise to turn policy intention into visible outcomes.



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# Key recommendations:

## 1 Set targets that are achievable, but ambitious enough to drive action

Targets should be set without unnecessary delay and, by being informed by the science of both what is possible and what is necessary, they should be ambitious enough to drive improved delivery. LINK's proposals for effective targets are set out in our [2023 report](#).

## 2 Ensure strategic focus on the actions that will make a difference

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and first delivery plan are the key documents that outline how the current government intends to meet its legal duties to restore nature. This provides a strong policy foundation but requires a step change in how government operates, with the natural environment recognised as a core outcome across portfolios. Targets are not a silver bullet, and funding must reflect the level of ambition within the Biodiversity Strategy. Successful delivery will require coordination across public bodies and partnership with external actors, including landowners and eNGOs.

The responsible Minister should set a clear focus on the success of the strategy. We recommend that the Scottish Government:

- Embeds the outcomes of the Biodiversity Strategy and the achievement of nature targets into decision making across government, particularly in the policy areas with the greatest impact on the natural environment – notably agriculture, marine, forestry and land use, and planning.
- Sets early priorities for government and public bodies, aligned with the outcomes of the first delivery plan, for the length of the parliamentary term.
- Ensures explicit lines of accountability for the success of the delivery plan, with each part of the public sector clear on their expected role.
- Provides Ministerial leadership on the governance of the strategy, with clear expectations of levels of engagement from delivery bodies and a focus on outcomes.
- Ensures an effective action-planning cycle and treats the delivery plan as a living document with clarity on actions, responsible actors, and timescales developed iteratively over the lifetime of the plan, and annual progress updates published.

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## Key recommendations:

### 3 Develop an 'early warning system' for progress on targets and Biodiversity Strategy

Ecological recovery is a long-term process. The success or failure of policy interventions will not be immediately captured by the metrics attached to statutory targets, and in some cases the horizon for measuring success may be decades.

The Scottish Government should therefore ensure that there are appropriate indicators identified for judging the success of actions we know are necessary to achieve longer-term outcomes. For example, we can measure both the level and success of interventions to reduce deer densities or tackle *Rhododendron ponticum* much earlier than we can measure the extent of native woodland recovery, and these can serve as useful proxies alongside measurement of outcomes themselves.

These additional indicators should serve as an 'early warning system' to demonstrate that interventions are on track. Environmental Standards Scotland should scrutinise these indicators and progress towards them.

### 4 Strengthen delivery capacity and improve engagement

External expertise could be better utilised by government in both policy development and implementation. Subject experts can play a valuable role in supporting the civil service but current methods of engagement have mixed success. As a priority, the Scottish Government should consider the potential of secondments to achieve this.

More broadly, the approach taken to wider stakeholder engagement is inconsistent and often ineffective. Stakeholders complain of being both under- and over-consulted: consultations can either be too high-level to allow meaningful insight, or are undertaken at such an advanced stage of policy development that only minor or linguistic changes are likely to be achieved. Both government and external partners would benefit from a more focused approach on strategic outcomes that can be achieved through early and open engagement and genuine co-development.

## Key recommendations:

### The Scottish Government should:

- Increase the role of subject experts in policy development and implementation, including through the use of secondments from delivery partners.
- Prioritise recruitment of subject expert and delivery focused staff in key agencies, and ensure that planning authorities have sufficient in-house ecological expertise.
- Embed genuine co-design with delivery partners early in policy development, with stakeholders able to inform and influence the principles and objectives of policy, and with a common understanding of barriers to change.

### Policy priorities for the 2026 – 31 parliament

- Introduce **statutory nature targets** and ensure the Biodiversity Strategy delivers against the objectives of halting nature loss by 2030 and making substantial recovery of biodiversity by 2045.
- Meet the **30 by 30** objective of protecting 30% of our land and sea by 2030 by expanding the protected area network, increasing the level of monitoring, and making targeted interventions to improve the ecological condition of protected sites.
- Deliver effective **Nature Networks** by supporting planning authorities to go beyond a “mapping” approach and to deliver change in communities across Scotland.
- Protect our seas with the early introduction of **inshore MPA fisheries management measures** and the roll out of **Regional Marine Plans**.
- **Reform agricultural funding** to support farmers and crofters to restore nature, reduce emissions, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Use new legal powers to **tackle deer overpopulation** and **reform forestry funding** to support biodiverse woodlands through increased support for natural regeneration and colonisation.
- Deliver **landscape scale nature restoration** through effective action on the drivers of biodiversity loss.



# Timeline for action

**2026**

Consultation launched on inshore MPA fisheries management measures

Independent working group on habitats regulations established, followed by consultation on group's outputs by early 2027

New licensing conditions for muirburn in place

**2027**

Nature targets in place and early warning indicators published

Protected area network expanded through new statutory designations

Roadmap and funding plan for roll out of Regional Marine Plans published alongside delivery of National Marine Plan 2

Increased investment in nature-friendly farming

Forestry funding provides greater support for natural regeneration and colonisation of native woodlands

New legal powers used to tackle deer overpopulation

Biodiversity metric finalised and in use

**2028**

Nature Networks mapped across Scotland and leading to changes in management, supported by investment

**By end of parliamentary term**

Key drivers of biodiversity loss are reversed, with nature loss halted or significantly slowed

Scotland on path to make substantial progress towards restoring nature by 2045

30 by 30 target achieved on land and at sea with effective interventions to improve conditions of protected sites

Human Rights Act, including human right to a healthy environment, in place and progress made towards establishment of Scottish Environmental Court.



# Understanding the delivery gap

Environmental policy is a complex area. The environment is impacted by, and in turn impacts, all policy areas. The reality of such an overarching issue does not fit neatly into government structured around single portfolio departments operating often in silos. There are a range of government strategies, policies and plans related to nature, and delivery of these are split across multiple agencies and Ministerial portfolios. Government acts variously as a regulator, funder, and landowner, and even within these roles the public sector can have multiple and sometimes competing objectives.

In preparing this report we interviewed Michael Matheson MSP (SNP; former Net Zero Secretary), Sarah Boyack MSP (Labour; former Environment Minister), and Maurice Golden MSP (Conservative). We also undertook background interviews with a number of senior figures within the public sector.



**There's a huge disconnect in politics at the moment between people's lives and politicians... You need to make a link to the environment in people's everyday lives.** Sarah Boyack



## Reflections on environmental delivery

Environmental policy in recent decades has been dominated by concerns over climate, and Scotland has made substantial, though inadequate, progress in reducing emissions. Our interviewees acknowledged the progress in decarbonisation but expressed concern that the political consensus over climate is fracturing at the point when further emissions reductions become harder to achieve.

Our interviewees had different perspectives on the failure to meet climate targets. Michael Matheson argued that the 2019 Act had set targets that “there was no clear pathway to actually achieve”, and that there was a lack of recognition of the interplay between UK and Scottish Government responsibilities in achieving them. Sarah Boyack said that the government “didn't have actual plans in place” and that there had been failures due to lack of long-term investment or failure to prioritise achievable outcomes. Maurice Golden said that the government “didn't try to meet the climate targets” because “climate change doesn't make the headlines”.

At the same time, the biodiversity crisis has never achieved the same level of public profile or policy attention. Nature is routinely treated as expendable or as a ‘nice to have’. The reasons for this are understandable: ecological timescales are very much longer than political ones and ecosystems are elastic until they snap or tip, the timing of which is highly unpredictable. The increasingly high levels of risk attributed to biodiversity loss by economists and insurers reflect the increasing concern and unease about the lack of action at government level on these very significant global risks.

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## Creating effective strategies

The complexity of environmental policy, the scale and speed of negative impacts across land and sea and the range of responsible actors means that there is a wide range of relevant policies, plans and strategies, as well as reporting and monitoring on these documents.

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and its Delivery Plan are the key documents relevant to the ambitions of the Natural Environment Act. There is, however, considerable overlap with other policy areas, and documents frequently duplicate or refer to other existing publications. A non-exhaustive list of other relevant strategies and plans would include the Climate Change Plan, the National Adaptation Plan, and the Land Use Strategy. Other specific policy documents, such as the Rural Support Plan or the National Planning Framework, are hugely influential in shaping outcomes.

While these documents all serve a specific purpose, some of our interviewees raised concerns that the policy landscape is cluttered, does not fit together, and does not lead to action on the ground. Some within the public sector have raised concerns that the range of required strategies and associated reporting has led to a culture of perpetual planning and paper shuffling at the expense of focus on real world outcomes.

Maurice Golden gave the example of the Circular Economy Strategy and his frustrations at lack of progress after the publication of the *Making Things Last* strategy in 2016:

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**That’s where we started in 2016. Since then, I think it was first mooted we would have a Circular Economy Act in 2018... finally the Bill was introduced in 23 and became an Act in 24.**

**Worse than that, the Act was just a framework for the circular economy and one of those outputs of the Act was the Circular Economy Strategy, which is currently, as we sit here at the end of 2025, being consulted on. And the end result will be next year we will have a Circular Economy Strategy, which is where we started, in very circular fashion, a decade ago.**

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Michael Matheson said that government “probably does produce too many strategy documents” but added that the problem was strategies that are “way too big and complex” and should be leaner, more focused, and with clearer and more specific delivery plans. He added that “we feel at times that just about everything needs to have a strategy” and that this was often driven by stakeholder pressure which would be better directed at securing clear commitments to action.



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## How government works

Interviewees within the public sector had mixed perspectives on how prepared the government was to deliver against nature targets. There was agreement that biodiversity goals were increasingly mainstreamed across public bodies, with multiple interviewees highlighting Scottish Water as a positive example of an organisation that had embraced their role in nature restoration. Statutory nature targets are seen as a positive in further embedding biodiversity as a priority.

There were, however, concerns raised over a lack of public sector leadership on key issues and a lack of overall coherence in delivering environmental outcomes. Concerns were raised specifically around the governance of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, which was described as “untested” and as a “mixed bag” without full commitment from all partners.

From a political perspective, Michael Matheson’s experience in government was that cross-portfolio working “doesn’t really work that well” as “most Cab Secs are firefighting on a constant basis” and could give little attention to areas outside of their direct responsibility. He did note that “there’s been various iterations in government to try and stitch it together a bit better”.

Maurice Golden argued that “at the heart of our policy development and implementation we’ve got a major structural problem”. He said that “particularly if your political class is deficient” it is an issue that “your civil service – generally very intelligent individuals – are not bringing outside experience”, a problem made worse by shuffling of both Ministers and officials between policy areas, leading to a lack of specialisation and developed expertise and experience.

Michael Matheson agreed that the movement of officials between portfolios can mean that “you lose some of that institutional memory” as well as relationships with stakeholders. He added that, while there were bureaucratic challenges, he supported the idea of seconding outside expertise into government to support policy development and delivery.

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**Sometimes that policy implementation has really got to come from folk who’re really at the coal face and can tell you how you can go about doing this, as opposed to trying to do it from just a policy page that’s been set out in a government policy document.**

**I had times where I raised with the Permanent Secretary, I’d like to second people in who’ve got policy expertise in an area to be able to support us in delivery, rather than relying on officials who don’t know enough about the policy who are having to advise Ministers on it and are then trying to work with stakeholders to find ways of getting it implemented.**

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## Key policy actions

The Scottish Government said that introducing nature targets “will ensure Scotland is on a bold and ambitious journey to be ‘nature positive’ by 2030 and has actively and substantially restored nature by 2045”.

The objective of substantially restoring nature within two decades is ambitious but achievable. This will require urgently tackling the drivers of biodiversity loss, improving protections for nature on land and at sea, and increasing the resilience and connectivity of our habitats through landscape-scale restoration.

**This report highlights key steps that must be taken over the forthcoming parliamentary term to put Scotland on the path to meeting our nature targets. These recommendations are not comprehensive, but highlight the essential building blocks for progress over coming years.**



## 30 by 30

Scotland, as well as the UK as a whole, has committed to reaching the international goal of “30 by 30” – protecting 30% of our land and sea by 2030.

The Scottish Government reports 18.2% of land as currently being protected, leaving a significant gap to be bridged in coming years. The 18.2% figure includes land in poor ecological condition. A more robust metric – looking at land with statutory designations and in Favourable or Recovering condition – shows that only 12.6% of Scotland’s land is effectively protected.

In the marine environment, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) cover 37% of Scottish seas but significant proportions of these MPAs lack fisheries management measures, with less than 10% of inshore MPAs prohibited to the most damaging forms of fishing, leaving them protected in name only.

### Priorities for delivery:

- The protected area network should be expanded by 2027 through new statutory designations. Priority should be given to habitats currently underrepresented (lowland and enclosed grasslands, ancient woodlands, and freshwater habitats).
- Monitoring of protected sites should be increased. A publicly accessible dashboard should be produced to track progress across all 30 by 30 sites, including Nature30 sites.
- The ecological condition of protected sites should be improved through targeted interventions to address overgrazing, invasive species, and other drivers of decline. Alongside interventions on the sites themselves, protected areas need surrounding habitat management and connectivity to work effectively, including through Nature Networks.
- An independent working group should be established in 2026 to advise Ministers on new guidance on the Habitats Regulations, leading to better implementation of the Regulations and better outcomes for nature across protected sites.
- Guidance and criteria for Nature30 sites should evolve to achieve greater alignment with IUCN criteria and ensure robust ecological standards. Nature30 sites can complement the protected area but should not replace new designations.
- Clear criteria for how 30 by 30 will be measured in a marine context should be published.

Read [Protecting 30% of Scotland’s land for nature \(2024\)](#)





Photo: Ross Macdonald, SNS Group

## Nature Networks

Nature Networks have the potential to play a key role in delivering nature recovery across Scotland and ensuring ecological connectivity across the landscape. The approach should identify opportunities for landscape-scale interventions to support species recovery and tackle habitat fragmentation. This opportunity-mapping should direct investment from multiple fronts: from public spending, from private and philanthropic spending, and from compliance with planning conditions for developments. Where Nature Networks succeed, communities will see first hand improvements and will see the benefits of nature restoration where they live.

Local authorities are at different stages of developing their network map, which should highlight the opportunities to create corridors and stepping stones for nature recovery. However, translating these maps into effective conservation action will require resourcing and ecological expertise, and the capacity of local authorities will be limited.

### Priorities for delivery:

- The Scottish Government should provide planning authorities with a greater degree of support and resourcing for the on-the-ground development of Nature Networks after the initial mapping stage, with clear guidance and support to contribute towards regional and national objectives.
- All planning authorities should have a sufficient level of ecological expertise to support the development and implementation of Nature Networks alongside wider planning responsibilities. The Scottish Government should review what additional resources may be required to support effective implementation.
- Nature Networks should function as both a delivery mechanism and an opportunity map – leading to publicly funded interventions, private and philanthropic investments, and as a home for required biodiversity enhancement from infrastructure developments.

Read LINK's briefing on [Nature Networks \(2020\)](#) and [report on the future of strategic land use planning \(2025\)](#).

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# Marine

Scotland's seas cover an area six times larger than our land. The marine environment is crucial for biodiversity, supports fisheries and coastal communities, and is home to some of our most iconic species such as puffins, whales and dolphins, and the Atlantic salmon.

Our seas are in poor ecological health, and continuing to decline, and progress to protect and recover them has been frustratingly slow. The Scottish government is required by law to design and implement fishing restrictions for each Marine Protected Area (MPA). But while the network of MPAs was designated in 2014, crucial protections from the most damaging pressures are still not in place.

## Priorities for delivery:

- The delayed consultation on inshore MPA fisheries management measures should be published within the first 100 days of the new parliament.
- Resources should be allocated to support the designation of Marine Planning Partnerships and roll out of Regional Marine Plans in the remaining 8 Scottish Marine Regions.
- A system of seabed leases should be introduced allowing community groups and charities to take on management of areas of the seabed for conservation purposes.
- The fishing fleet should be required to be fully documented through remote electronic monitoring with cameras.

Read [LINK's Ocean Recovery Plan](#) and [2024 review](#).

Photo: Charlie Phillips





Photo: Amy Millard

## Agriculture

A majority of Scotland's land is farmed, and our wider environmental ambitions cannot succeed without the support and participation of farmers and crofters. Nature recovery will in turn make agriculture more resilient to the impacts of climate change. However, the current farm funding system does too little to support nature-friendly farming and continues to disproportionately reward large landowners for little environmental benefit. Reform to the system can support smaller farmers and crofters as well as making the sector both ecologically and economically more resilient.

### Priorities for delivery:

- Farmers and crofters should be provided with free 1:1 advice to develop the audits required under the Whole Farm Plan to identify opportunities on each farm to save money through reduced inputs, reduce emissions through improved soil management, and enhance biodiversity.
- Funding for the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme should be increased, alongside a review of its operation to identify barriers to farmer and crofter engagement.
- 10 landscape-scale collaborative action projects should be identified and funded.
- The level of woodland creation on farms (including low density trees and hedge creation) should be increased. £10 million annually could double the area of land currently under agroforestry and farm woodland.
- LFASS should be replaced with a High Nature Value farming and crofting scheme.
- Area-based payments should be capped for the largest recipients to free up money to invest in nature- and climate-friendly farming.

Read [LINK's report \*\*Farm for Scotland's Future: the case for change\*\*](#)

Read [Unlocking the potential for trees and crofts in Scotland](#)

# Forestry

Woodland expansion is a key focus of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan. Creating ecologically rich woodlands requires a variety of approaches. Alongside tree planting, natural regeneration and colonisation of our native woodlands has enormous potential, and commercial forestry can become more diverse and more nature-friendly. Action to address high deer numbers and to tackle invasive species will be essential to creating healthy woodlands.

## Priorities for delivery:

- Ring-fence at least 50% of forestry grants to support native woodland restoration and expansion through natural regeneration and colonisation. This should include support for sustainable deer management.
- Improve the impact of productive forestry by ring-fencing a further 25% of forestry grants to initiate a sustained transition to more resilient, nature-friendly forestry design and management practices. Taking steps to increase the diversity of trees grown and the proportion of commercial forestry kept under continuous cover would make a significant contribution to the richness and resilience of biodiversity supported in Scotland's economically productive forests. These practices are also likely to offer more opportunities for small, community scale forest-based businesses to become viable, thus increasing total employment, particularly in rural areas.

Read LINK's report [Saving Scotland's Rainforest: managing the impact of deer](#)

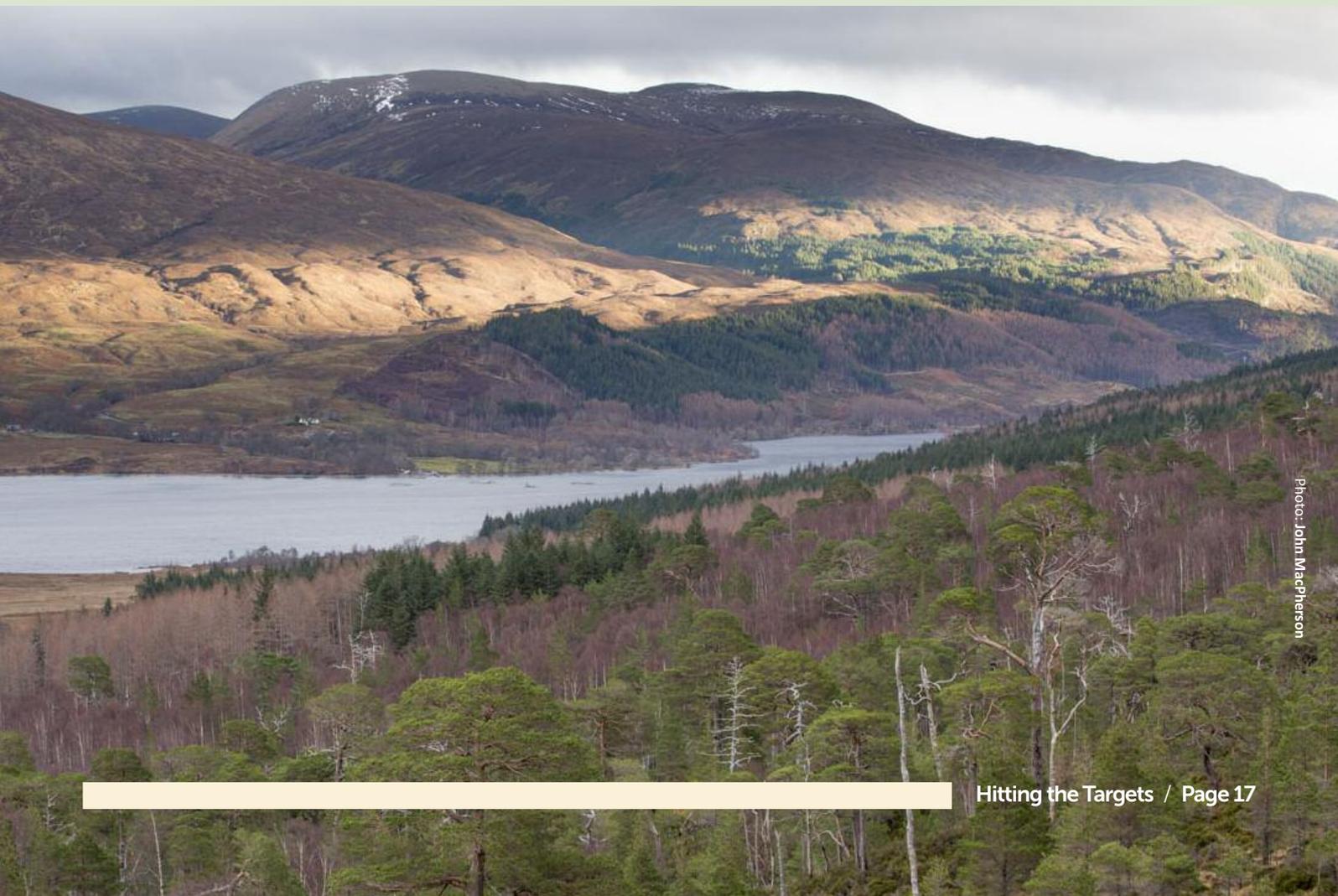


Photo: John MacPherson

# Landscape scale nature restoration

Nature cannot be resilient in isolation. Restoring nature requires action at a landscape scale to tackle the drivers of biodiversity loss including invasive non native species (INNS) and high deer numbers.

The pressure of INNS on biodiversity is intensifying across terrestrial, marine and freshwater environments, and this is likely to worsen as new species arrive, climate change proceeds and conditions for establishment and spread of species introduced by people become increasingly favourable.

Deer management in Scotland has received considerable attention from the Scottish Government, and the legislative changes brought in through the Natural Environment Act should, if implemented, help speed up delivery on required actions. However, deer numbers are at historic highs and continue to hinder delivery of biodiversity and climate change targets. While the regulatory regime is now in place, the will to deliver must now be expedited. Scottish Government support for deer management has to date relied heavily on deer fencing, an approach that is both expensive and often ineffective. Funding for collaborative management and support for community led initiatives around venison supply could result in effective deer management that enables woodland regeneration and recolonisation to happen, decrease pressure on other sensitive habitats and provide sustainable healthy meat choices in rural communities and beyond.

## Priorities for delivery:

- The Scottish INNS Action Plan must lead to an increased focus on tackling invasive non-native species. This should include a plan for managing invasive conifers and the impact of non-native gamebirds, including, if necessary, legislative change to managing these pressures.
- The Common Ground Forum approach to deer management should be embraced as a model to supporting collaborative action across land management and conservation sectors.
- NatureScot must demonstrate that they are willing to use the powers under the Natural Environment Act to tackle unsustainable deer densities, particularly where deer numbers are impacting protected sites and preventing the regeneration of native woodlands.
- The Wildlife Management Act 2024 muirburn provision must be implemented in full without further delay. Peatlands must be protected with only limited muirburn where NatureScot are happy that there is a solid wildfire prevention purpose.

Read LINK's reports [Invasive Non-native Species in Scotland: A Plan for Effective Action](#) and [Climate change and the natural environment: How Scotland should adapt](#)



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# Finance and governance

## Priorities for delivery:

- The Nature Restoration Fund should be maintained permanently. Investment in nature restoration must increase in real terms over time, and public bodies must be adequately resourced to perform their functions.
- The biodiversity metric for planning purposes must be published without delay, with the metric tailored to Scotland's habitats and priorities including clear treatment of peatlands and irreplaceable habitats and stronger incentives for priority habitat creation and restoration.
- The Human Rights Bill, including the right to a healthy environment, should be introduced early in the new parliament.
- The Scottish Government should establish an Expert Working Group to revisit the evidence for a dedicated Scottish Environment Court

Outside of government itself, there is an urgent need for increased post-legislative scrutiny and scrutiny of individual programmes and agencies by Parliament. The role of Environmental Standards Scotland as an oversight body is a welcome innovation and response to Brexit, but ESS needs to be stronger in providing oversight and holding public bodies publicly accountable when delivery is lacking.



Photo: Ross MacDonald, SNS Group

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# Conclusion



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In a crisis, setting targets and goals is important. Targets provide a clear direction of travel and can inspire action.

## **We face a crisis in our natural world.**

The mismatch between ecological timescales and political timetables has to date led to an inadequate response to the collapse of biodiversity. Scotland is far from unique in this regard. We are however one of the most nature-depleted countries on the planet, and – with our globally important peatlands, temperate rainforest, and seabirds – we have a responsibility not only to act, but to lead.

The Natural Environment Act, alongside a range of supporting policy and strategy, shows that there is a political desire, on a cross-party basis, for the protection and recovery of our natural environment. The challenge is translating this support for nature – often high-level, or ‘in principle’ – into ecological recovery. Good intentions must survive short-term political pressures, funding squeezes, and the moderating instincts of the policymaking process.

This report has addressed both how government functions and LINK’s immediate policy priorities. The complexity of the actions required is obvious, and a business-as-usual approach will not deliver. In some portfolios, policy to date is inadequate, counter-productive and unambitious. In other areas, policy intention is strong but faces challenges of funding, capacity, ecological knowledge, and the overriding difficulty in acting quickly enough, before the cost of action increases even further.

The mixed success of Scotland’s climate targets provides us with lessons for the introduction of biodiversity targets. The tools are available: 30x30 commitments, fisheries management measures and marine planning, reformed agricultural and forestry support, landscape scale approaches to INNS control and deer management, private nature finance alongside public nature restoration funding and the right to a healthy environment and access to justice.

**This report presents a clear case for immediate action that could, if implemented, halt the loss of biodiversity and restore nature. With political will and leadership, the remainder of this decade could be the turning point for biodiversity, ecosystem health and Scotland’s future resilience.**

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