

Biodiversity 2020 – the final push!

The 4th Annual Biodiversity Strategy Stakeholders' event

#SBS19



International Day for Biological Diversity

Wednesday 22 May 2019

Report – compiled by Dougie Pollok

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Executive summary

Background

This was the fourth Scottish Biodiversity Strategy stakeholder event bringing together those directly involved in delivering and supporting actions for biodiversity in Scotland.

The event was planned and organised by a working group consisting of SNH staff, Jackie Hyland (SNH Board member), Deborah Long (CEO LINK Scotland), and Matthew Bird and Sarah Mccutcheon (SG).

Aim

The aims of this event were:

1. To update delegates on the Route Map and Aichi reports and what they tell us about what still needs to be done over the next 18 months to the end of 2020.
2. To identify bottlenecks and tangible actions that delegates and their organisations can undertake to drive these forward.
3. To make a pledge or promise as to what action delegates or their organisations will do to address what still needs to be done.
4. To look ahead at opportunities and challenges post 2020 and the opportunities for partnership work and input to this process.

Presentations

The six speakers in the drivers for change sessions were asked to think creatively about their specific driver and to give the audience a real sense of the challenged and opportunities ahead and to stimulate discussion via questions for the World Café.

World Café.

The World Café session was framed around the six drivers for change and two questions posed by each speaker. Two key points from each station were fed back to the delegates and a full list of suggestions and pledges are collated in Annex A. There are more comments and issues aired than pledges of action but this does give us a list of the key issues to be tackled.



Next steps

Sally Thomas, Director of People and Nature, SNH outlined the timetable for development of the next set of international targets and laid out a programme approach and engagement process for all to contribute to the next set of international targets for biodiversity for 2030.

Presentations

All presentations excluding Pete Cairns are available to download from the website.

Francesca Osowska – Challenges and opportunities

Francesca set the scene for the day by setting out the challenges and opportunities over the next 18 months by reflecting on what has happened over the last few weeks. The Climate Change Committee's recommendation that Scotland's emission targets should be net –zero by 2045, the First Ministers announcement of a 'Climate Emergency' and the publishing of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) Global Assessment on Ecosystems and Biodiversity. - Arguably the single most significant and far-reaching environmental report ever published.

Francesca went on to talk about the need for nature based solutions to help reach net – zero by 2045 including peatland restoration and native woodland planting and that nature can be conserved and restored but to succeed we need transformative change for nature on a landscape scale across Scotland involving a wider range of stakeholders.

In conclusion, Francesca noted that the challenges were considerable and so were the opportunities and that the time for achieving all this was short (maybe 11 years). That we have a remarkable wealth of knowledge in Scotland about the state of nature and the climate and what we need to do. The transformative change that is needed will require us to speak with one voice, to have a clear ask – but also to offer many solutions.

Debbie Bassett – Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy: progress so far

Debbie gave an update on progress across the various biodiversity reports that contribute to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) and showed us the a snapshot of the types of individual indicators used for reporting illustrating that it's a very mixed picture in terms of outcomes for biodiversity and how people are engaged with nature.

The Route Map supports the delivery of the SBS through specific actions brigaded under targets. Debbie highlighted where we had exceeded some targets for example; our peatland restoration work and our designating of Marine Protected Areas but also looked at three targets where progress was slower than anticipated namely:

1. Increase in the amount of native woodland in good condition
2. Restore approximately 10,000 ha of native woodland
3. Improved connectivity between habitats and across ecosystems.

Finally, Debbie looked at the Aichi targets, which sit above the SBS and our progress on delivering these, noting that some were on track and that many were making progress but not at a sufficient rate. This was the challenge for today; to understand the issues, the barriers and bottlenecks that were preventing success and to identify the levers we need to pull to make a difference.

Pete Cairns keynote address A rewilding journey

A stunningly visual and inspirational presentation, Pete Cairns made us really think about what rewilding means and to really look and interpret what we are seeing. Pete presented iconic and familiar pictures of Scotland, images of landscapes which visitors and residents alike would instantly recognise as “Scottish”. Pete then demonstrated that these landscapes have great underused capacity to host much more biodiversity, introducing the concept of rewilding as a solution.

‘At its basic, rewilding is anything that counters de-wilding’.

Rewilding is already taking place on some estates. In the Cairngorm National Park tree regeneration is transforming the appearance of Glen Feshie. Pete made the point that whilst local action is good, to be truly effective it needs to be at a true landscape scale. Pete used Cairngorms Connect, a partnership of estates, as an example of land managers working together towards a 200 year vision of biodiversity enhancement.

View more of Pete’s and other collaborators work at; [SCOTLAND: The Big Picture](#)

Drivers of change session 1 ***Chaired by Jackie Hyland SNH Board member***

Claire Campbell – Air pollution in Scotland: nitrogen and nature.

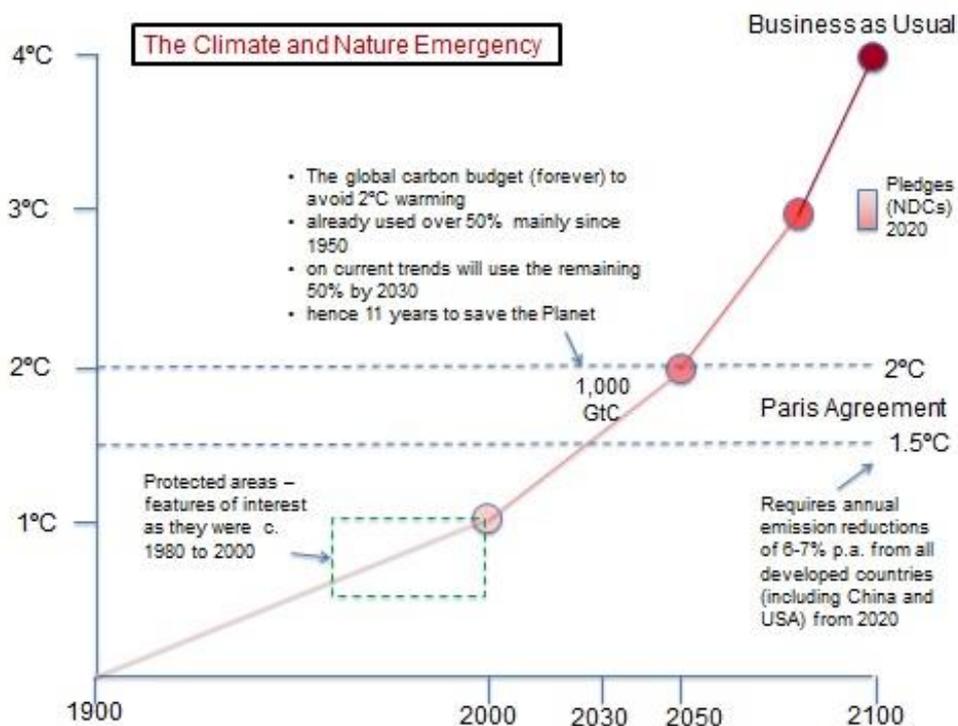
Set the scene by presenting a summary of current knowledge of air pollution and its myriad effects on biodiversity in Scotland. She outlined the original Cleaner Air for Scotland strategy, its current review, with broadening scope and ambition. Claire then went on to look at particular challenges posed by nitrogen pollution and opportunities to achieve significant economic, ecological and health benefits through reducing nitrogen levels in the wider environment.

Clive Mitchell: Climate and nature – the need for behavioural change

Clive’s presentation covered a brief history of climate and nature with future projections. The 1°C rise over the last 100 years could be up to 4°C this Century. Anthropogenic climate change and the state of nature share the same causes. Systemic change in land use is coming, either because we get onto a net

zero pathway from 2020, or because we don't. That will require changes in behaviours, from the stuff we buy, what we eat and drink and how we organise ourselves to address the challenge. The talk drew heavily on the UK CCC *Net Zero* and the IPBES *Global Assessment* reports.

The diagram below illustrates the critical temperature thresholds as given in Clive's presentation.



Colin Moffat - Times Six

The Scottish sea area from the coast to our Exclusive Economic Zone limits (462,263 km²) is around six times the size of the land area of Scotland. Our seas are deeper than Ben Nevis is high. Our climate is dictated by the ocean and the 50% of the oxygen not supplied by the trees comes from the phytoplankton in the sea. In addition, the seas have buffered the effects of increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide through its absorption into the sea, and have been a major source of protein as well as being used as a disposal site. Ultimately, humans have significantly impacted our seas - something about which we are now acutely aware. In recent times, the winds of change have resulted in a difference in our attitudes to the seas with efforts ramping up to reduce contaminant concentrations and to conserve the unimaginable marine biological diversity in our seas. Marine planning, the Scottish National Marine Plan and improved management of human

activities have all made a contribution. However, we need to continue our journey of investigation, interpretation and implementation if we are going to deliver the seas that we need.

Drivers of change session 2

Chaired by Jo Pike CEO Scottish Wildlife Trust.

Jeremy Wilson – Nature conservation challenges on the uplands: a landscape structure perspective

Scotland's uplands are a critical biodiversity refuge, and the landscape structure created by changing patterns of human land use has huge impacts on that biodiversity. Using examples from Scotland, Jeremy illustrated:

1. how the patterns of landscape composition and configuration created by land use and land management choices can cause these impacts;
2. the need to make the case for a more collective and strategic and less sectoral approach to land management for nature if we are to meet 21st century biodiversity and climate change challenges in the uplands, and
3. suggested the Land Use Strategy and its proposals for Regional Land Use Frameworks are used as foundations for this approach.

Paul Walton INNS: Borders and Biosecurity – Responding to an intensifying threat

The IPBES Report demonstrates that INNS constitute one of the five primary drivers of global biodiversity loss. Moreover, it highlights that INNS impacts on nature are intensifying, and working in negative synergy with other drivers, especially climate change. Scotland is demonstrably part of this global picture, with INNS impacts on Scottish biodiversity serious and increasing - despite significant and welcome recent improvements in legislation and policy in this critical area. As climate change proceeds, the globalisation of trade accelerates, and as new trading relationships open for all UK countries, we must find ways to better implement that legislation and develop that policy, to position Scotland as a genuine leader in INNS responses. The IPBES report offers real hope – this is a driver that we *can* effectively tackle, given will, investment in preventative measures and, critically, cooperation across borders.

Anna Lawrence – What works for a quality native woodland.

Anna focused on the three native woodland targets, in a talk that was based on examples of success. The positive trend in native woodland 'new' planting is good news; of more concern is a lack of progress for woodland restoration and for achieving good condition. Regeneration and understory growth is lacking in many, and so reduces their potential as "living" woodlands. The main threat is high levels of grazing through a lack of deer control. Stakeholders had commented on the challenges of controlling deer through Deer Management Plans, while the costs of deer control, deer fencing and protection may make many native woodland plans unviable. Volunteer effort to improve the situation remains undiminished against this challenging backdrop. A series of positive case studies, based on what stakeholders told Anna, indicated that success in achieving improved woodland condition tended to happen where:

1. deer (and other herbivore) control was very strong, and based on culling, not just on fences;
2. the land was owned by people or organisations with strong pro-woodland values;
3. neighbouring owners formed partnerships to achieve landscape scale restoration; and
4. organisations included volunteers who felt inspired and dedicated to a vision, and for whom ecological restoration provided a sense of purpose.

Anna concluded by questioning the current dichotomy between productive and native woodland, and suggested that the targets might continue to be hard to achieve in the current climate of 'binary forestry' with very high financial rewards for investment in commercial forestry, and poor enforcement of deer control.

Sally Thomas - Where next: to 2020 and beyond.

Sally finished off the event by explaining the next stages and key dates in the run up to Convention of Parties (CoP15) in Kunming, China in October 2020 where it is likely that a similar set of targets as the Aichi targets will be agreed for 2030. Sally was at the last CoP in Egypt as an a observer and noted that Scotland is doing very well in comparison with other countries and that the work we are currently doing will provide a solid foundation to build on for our ambition for 2030.

Sally went on to give quick oversight of the key stages of development of the next Global Biodiversity Framework and the next iteration of international biodiversity targets. She explained that Scotland feeds into these events through the Four Countries Biodiversity Group - with Scottish Government and SNH representing Scotland. (see slide 2 of presentation for key stages and dates)

Sally pointed out that not only do we need to continue to work on the current international targets to 2020 but we need to influence the new global targets and

begin to develop how Scotland will respond. The IPBES report is clear that we need to do more for nature, do it faster, and engage many more stakeholders in the process. We will need to be adaptable and innovative in what we do as the climate space in which we have to work is going to change.

Sally highlighted that the IPBES drivers of change are likely to be the key Post 2020 targets. They are:

1. Changing use of the land and sea especially for agriculture, forestry and coastal infrastructure;
2. Direct exploitation of organisms via harvesting, logging, hunting and fishing;
3. Climate change;
4. Pollution;
5. Invasive non-native species.

There is a need to employ cross sectoral approaches in dealing with these including an 'Ecosystem Approach' offering to reconcile multiple interests values and forms of resource use.

Working with Scottish Government to develop a Programme Approach across government, we will be undertaking a series of workshops to help develop targets and actions around the pressures. We will hold a number of stakeholder events to provide opportunities for us to all work together helping us to develop shared goals and will keep all informed about these opportunities to contribute to the post 2020 work on the nature.scot website and emails.

World Café

The presenters had all provided a couple of questions they wished discussed in the World Café session. These questions were sent to all delegates before the event so that they were aware of the ask and to give them an opportunity to discuss with colleagues what they or their organisation could pledge to help overcome some of the blockages identified in the presentations.

A short feedback session highlighted a couple of key pledges / points from each group. The full set of issues and pledges is attached in Annex A.

In addition to the pledges relating to the topics covered in the presentations, a flip chart collated any additional pledges or issues and this is attached as Annex B.

Feedback- two points

Claire Campbell: Air pollution on Scotland. Nitrogen and Nature.

1. How can we inspire Scottish farmers to reduce nitrogen losses and increase nutrient use efficiency on their land?

Increase awareness amongst farmers of the contribution of livestock farming to air pollution from nitrogen especially ammonia and its impacts, and provide advice on systems/methods for reducing emissions including demonstrations of innovative practices by early adopters such as low input/pasture-fed/no tillage systems, illustrating the cost savings/efficiencies/business benefits of these; and signpost these from the Farm Advisory Service

2. What would encourage politicians to enable, and businesses to invest, innovate and take action to make step change reductions in air pollution effects on nature

Make better links to urban agendas such as air pollution and its effects in urban areas including impacts on health; demonstrate the multiple benefits of measures or systems that reduce nitrogen pollution including for climate change, biodiversity, health and economy, and seek to integrate these within systems that address multiple objectives. Raise awareness of nitrogen pollution, its sources and effects, and good practices amongst the public including young people, through education, and consumers.

Better regulation was also mentioned including linking standards like nutrient budgeting with subsidy payments.

Clive Mitchell: Climate and Nature: the need for behavioural change

1. How do we put dynamic conservation into practice?

For large conservation tasks we need to break down into manageable units.

We need to improve awareness of ecosystem services, to make conversations relevant to everyone.

2. What does conservation mean in a rapidly changing world?

We need to improve how we engage those people “missing from the room”, the ones carrying out active management, the ones who we need on-side if we are to really make a difference.

We need to future proof our designs when planning conservation projects.

Colin Moffat: Times Six

1. How do we ensure that marine biodiversity is mainstreamed?

Mainstreaming - There is ongoing discussion about how to mainstream biodiversity into discussions around wider land and sea use. However, the point was made that it would be good to continue to make efforts to mainstream the discussion of marine biodiversity into wider biodiversity discussions/work.

2. What do you feel is the biggest marine biodiversity challenge and what are your suggestions for tackling this?

Understanding – there were various suggestions relating to awareness raising, education and having sufficient data relating to marine biodiversity. Overall these relate to the need to continue to make progress in increasing understanding of Scotland’s seas.

Jerry Wilson: Nature conservation challenges in the uplands – a landscape structure perspective

- 1. How can tree cover be increased in Scotland without further compromising open ground habitats of conservation importance?**
- 2. Could full implementation of Regional Land Use Frameworks under Scotland's Land Use Strategy be the mechanism to find these solutions and what data are required to facilitate their completion?**

The discussions focussed on the challenges of partnership working, the importance of incentives, and of filling data gaps.

Three key points arose:

- Spatial data for opportunity mapping are a constraint in the uplands, although landowner willingness is often the key constraint, and decision-support tools can only be indicative.
- It would be helpful to expand Regional Land Use Frameworks across Scotland, but establishing partnerships requires much time and effort and willing partners, it may be best to give them a statutory underpinning.
- Incentives such as tax and grants require transformative change, including the removal of perverse subsidies.

Paul Walton: INNS; Borders and Biosecurity – Responding to an intensifying threat.

Discussions focused on the need for greater understanding and knowledge across many sectors – particularly within Local Authorities to prevent inadvertent spread of INNS. Also the issue raised about when do we accept that a species is here to stay and the costs of removal/ eradication too high e.g. American signal crayfish.

- 1. What are the implications of EU exit for INNS threats and responses?**

There was concern regarding the capacity of border control staff to recognise and intercept INNS. Not all participants were convinced that Rapid Response protocols were implemented sufficiently quickly or in a consistent manner.

2. What habitats and environments are especially vulnerable to INNS, and how can they be restored and protected?

Woodlands, seas, sea lochs and freshwater habitats and islands were identified as habitats/ places particularly vulnerable to INNS. There was a need to clearly join up work in areas where INNS already are. A coordinated catchment by catchment approach was the underlying theme from all suggestions as well as increased training across 'grounds maintenance staff – Local Authorities, golf courses, industrial estate management – etc.

Participants were very concerned that INNS are now the most dominant adverse pressure on protected areas. There was a sense that this pressure is actually getting worse – not reducing!

Pledges – RSPB is leading a consortium of partners to bid for LIFE funding for restoration of some of our most important Atlantic Native Woodlands on the west coast of Scotland

Anna Lawrence: What works for a quality native woodland?

- 1. How do we get more genuine commitment to new native woodlands?**
- 2. What would make a step change difference in implementing deer management plans?**

Native woodlands – deer management

Much discussion revolved around the need to implement some form of statutory or incentive-driven deer culling regimes with penalties for non-compliance, not just voluntary plans. Along with that, it was felt important to convey to the public why culling is necessary especially in (sensitive) urban areas where public sentiment would be a barrier.

Native woodlands – more commitment

Wide ranging discussion agreed that we have lost the view of what a healthy native woodland looks like – we have so long been without examples. There is too great a divide between “commercial” and native woodland – it would be good to have a closer relationship in terms of land management practice and a land management strategy, even a National Ecological Network to guide that. The great contribution that native woodlands provide in terms of ecosystem services (along with benefits of other sustainable land use practices with high value biodiversity) should be incentivised.

Annex A – session 1

Claire Campbell

How can we inspire Scottish farmers to reduce nitrogen losses and increase nutrient use efficiency on their land?

- Pay a fair price for farm produce at the gate.
- Use fertilisation methods that have been proved effective i.e. no tillage with straw mulching and optimised fertilisation.
- Provide advice on growing low input cropping systems.
- Regulate and financial incentives 'carrot and stick' not 'inspire'.
- Tax meat production. (polluter pays)
- Remove subsidies. (i.e. it's all about financial incentives)
- Commit to raising awareness amongst members base of nitrogen pollution from livestock.
- Mandatory farm budgets NOT funded by taxpayer as it's in farmers economic interest
- Eat less meat.
- Need a statutory Nitrogen budget for Scotland.
- Use dedicated technology innovation budgets to improve management techniques.

What would encourage politicians and enable businesses to invest, innovate and take action to make step change reduction in air pollution effects on nature.

- Build limits into economic growth.
- Raise awareness of impacts of air pollution/ nitrogen.
- Free low carbon public transport.
- Specific AECS payments for planting to reduce ammonia from around farm buildings
- You need pilot studies - examples of what would/ could happen in financial terms as well as environmental. Otherwise too much risk.
- Politicians – better air quality = less health issues = cheaper in long run on NHS
- Businesses – better air quality= better place making = more investment (More green walls and living roofs)
- Meeting people where they are and connecting them to nature where they are.
- Involve the decision makers - town planners, MP, MSP, MEP, professional bodies.
- Strategic planning under a Land Use Strategy with opportunity mapping.
- Multi-functional greenspaces in urban areas- funding.
- Linking up urban green space or fingers into countryside.
- Politicians to lead by example and personally pay an annual £250 climate levy.
- Government must send clear signals to businesses.
- Air pollution in cities not just rural Scotland. Everything connected. Poor air = poor health.

- Promote multiple benefits of achieving that. In land management = pasture fed livestock, agroforestry, more efficient fertiliser use.
- Specific options, for whatever follows AECS, aimed at reducing ammonia/ N from farms.
- Shift away from current ways of doing things. New thinking / new funding. E.g. paludiculture.
- Payments for catchment benefits.
- Create a demand for greener energy and products and companies are more likely to respond in the desired way.
- Tighter controls in applications of fertiliser/ manure without soil testing / budgeting first.
- IED review & interpretation. Expansion to include smaller combustion sources in medium combustion plant. Extra AECS credit for reducing N loss. Less red tape around grants for mitigation measures. Funding to go towards smaller less intensive operations.
- Aberdeen CC doing training for planners, other staff and elected members on biodiversity and other nature conservation.

Clive Mitchell

What does conservation mean in a rapidly changing world?

- The services we need to survive.
- A unified vision of what Scotland should look like.
- Pledge to keep doing more. (RSPB)
- Endorse environmental principles polluter pays, source control, extended producers responsibility. (SW)
- Protecting nature = economic and social gain saving money for other valued things
- Consider evidence base more for green infrastructure.
- Look at whole sites/ wider countryside as ecosystems not just features.
- Engage the disengaged in conservation.
- Conservation is meaningless in a rapidly changing world. We cannot preserve the as is or as was need to let nature / society adapt to these new boundaries.
- Preventing extinction by creating outdoor spaces for communities to interact with nature i.e. wildlife gardens.
- Identify and legislate to protect values we want to conserve, as the details of species composition changes.

How do we put dynamic conservation into practice

- Work with others - all stakeholders direct and indirect.
- Continue to develop a shared understanding.

- Step by step frameworks looking at effective input types. Have a range of people with different experiences involved.
- Aim for biological outcomes and try new approaches to get there. Stop setting targets
- Accept more failure and move on.
- Work with SNH to continue around the table conversation on how to use artificial intelligence. (SWT)
- Greater focus on processes than fixed sites.
- Collaborate on place – based approaches – adopt the Place Principle.
- Biodiversity net gain should be part of planning policy
- To work towards more innovative and collective ways to improve biodiversity funding.
- Involve urban participation.
- Need to operate at a much wider scale – catchment/ landscapes.
- Advise SNH to stop using static measures for determining favourable condition.
- Change favourable site condition definition.
- Recognise the importance of the services we gain from the environment – build into decision making and support biodiversity.
- Create longer term funding opportunities to allow projects to last 5-10 years rather than 2-3.
- We need to acknowledge that land use and current practices will have to change. Needs conversation cf. regulation / designations/ funding and needs to be longer term not 5 years?

Colin Moffat

What do you feel is the biggest marine biodiversity challenge and what are your suggestions for tackling it.

- A spatial approach to management and being willing to stop inappropriate activity.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity into fisheries policy.
- Fishing industry – littering and not held to account.
- Engagement with a remote environment. Build on Scotland's maritime identity at an individual and social level Cultural Connections.
- Restoration of marine habitats – ending damaging fishing practices in sensitive areas.
- Increase plastic in marine areas – use chemicals to connect plastics into garbage islands which make easier to remove.
- Buglife do more in the marine environment.
- Plastic waste – breaking down solutions into easier steps which can be made to deal with the overwhelming problem.
- Make more of our MPA's as no – take over whole of area.
- Use a blue planet style approach to raise awareness of the rich diversity of Scotland marine biodiversity.

- Biggest challenge – moving away from dredging fishing practices to more sustainable ones. E.g. diving for scallops
- Scrappage scheme for scallop dredgers.
- Education individual / corporate responsibility.
- Lack of data e.g. species.
- Global warming which is increasing coral bleaching.
- SBS has too much of a terrestrial focus = SNH has too much a terrestrial focus.
- Marine litter – awareness that terrestrial litter becomes a marine problem.

How do we ensure that marine biodiversity is mainstreamed?

- Invest in 'seas' as nature – based climate solutions.
- Organise volunteer days for colleagues to pick up rubbish from beaches.
- An idea for a book like Flora Britannica – Marina Scotica.
- Help accelerate the transition towards including marine indicators in the Natural Capital Asset Index – through SFNC.
- Highlight the importance of marine species and habitats to ecosystem services – many are out of sight so not in front of people's minds.
- UK seas not boring need to show more of our marine species -not just dolphins and whales.
- Need to look at habitat and species recovery in the marine environment as well as terrestrial.
- Plastic's Tide campaign - sustaining it by follow up promotion.
- Making sure that the sea is clearly part of the nature based climate solutions conversation.
- Not just mentioning biodiversity but geodiversity.
- Ensure LA who have coastlines have marine environment experience.

Jeremy Wilson

How can tree cover be increased in Scotland without further compromising open ground habitats of conservation importance?

- Make it a duty of Forest Scotland as it was to deliver a strategic timber reserve after WW1.
- Spatial expression of an National Ecological Network.
- We need to accept that restoration of a health ecosystem function means a reduction in artificial open ground and the species that thrive on these habitats.
- The right tree in the right place.
- Better use of spatial data - sense checked.
- Implement good management plans from start - silvicultural techniques.

- Transforming derelict land in urban areas into woodlands, which also creates more green spaces.
- Ensure less deforestation and encourage planting within specific areas to avoid encroachment upon open - ground habitats.
- Opportunity mapping under an NEN.
- We need to take tough decisions about what are the priorities in different areas + express spatially.
- Regional strategic woodland creation projects will consider this as part of their remit – balance between open ground and woodland cover e.g. Scottish Borders.
- Use of data to focus woodland away from key areas. In the absence of (Curlew + other sp.) data collaborate with others to pool knowledge for woodland expansion opportunities.

Could full implementation of the Regional Land Use Frameworks under Scotland's Land Use Strategy be the mechanism to find these solutions and what Data are required to facilitate their completion?

- Take forward/ pilot a regional land use Partnership to develop approaches to integrated land use e.g. in Scottish Borders.
- Only if the right people are around the right table will progress happen. Must be linked to funding streams.
- Yes only if they are linked to decision making and funding. Not so much about the data as who and why.
- NO. Land use frameworks don't drive land owner decisions. Tax breaks and tax regimes do so change those instead.
- Absolutely – Need full ecosystem healthy indicators as well. SG must invest in LUS and NEN.
- May not be possible if Data is not available at the right scale for strategic planning.
- Data in LUS pilots largely open access – but required /ACS/ SRDP data. Mapping could be scaled up for all of Scotland.

Paul Walton

What are the implications of EU exit for INNS threats and responses?

- Loss of LIFE+ funding stream.
- Organise volunteer days for self and colleagues to help control INNS.
- Seek (social responsibility) funding from companies for long term / large scale INNS projects. (along lines of peatland code)
- Riparian INNS multiyear funding pots to ensure colony is eradicated + no re-invasion.
- RSPB & partners will develop a *rhododendron ponticum* removal and Atlantic woodland restoration project in Morvern.

What habitats and environments are especially vulnerable to INNS, and how can then be restored and protected?

- Riparian habitat +INNS - have to consider at catchment scale with multiple landowners – huge financial implications.
- Government – wide co-operation and communication in maintenance of quarantine zones and prevention.
- 5% of AECS payments to be diverted to LA etc to control fly tipping of garden waste.
- Take personal responsibility for action that would spread INNS i.e. clean your boots.
- Education – LA, Border officers, horticulture sector, open gardens.
- Look at New Zealand & Australia examples of border control.
- Control must be followed by restoration.
- Are some INNS now so established that we need to accept them?
- Increase in garden waste fly tipping – charges for garden waste collection by councils – might be route for INNS.
- Check, Clean, Dry. Embed more significantly in organisational cultures - Scottish Water, Scottish Canals, LA.
- Freshwater very vulnerable – critical path analysis.
- Rivers and wetlands – need whole catchment projects and funding. Needs to be long term with increased landowner responsibilities.
- Freshwater habitats and species are difficult to prevent, ID when already established - so straight to control.
- Regulate things entering the country to prevent INNS coming in.
- Better biosecurity measures implemented within LA.
- Continue to raise awareness cf. pot plants and invasives.
- Continue to raise awareness in INNS and encourage reporting with public /communities. Small scale where possible.
- Strong need for innovation to move away from herbicide treatments e.g. hot foam applications - real opportunity.

Anna Lawrence

What would make a step change difference in implementing deer management plans?

- Regulation
- Licencing sporting estates
- Proper use of existing legislation
- Accurate monitoring data
- LSC approach to DMP's
- Education and creating cultural understanding of why deer management is needed.

- Urban deer management issues very different. Culling unacceptable.
- Incentivise delivery of public benefits and outcomes not just targets.
- Introduce penalty of 50% cost of deer RTA's against DMG's to compensate the tax payer.
- Reintroduce wolves and let the natural ecosystem manage deer populations.
- Statutory deer control.
- Told management includes all options but only get grant to cull. Information disingenuous.

How do we get more genuine commitment to new native woodland?

- A spatial expression of a National Ecological Network to allow space for commercial and native woodland.
- Reduce financial disincentives. (e.g. loss of income for reduction of cultivable land)
- Integrate a commercial element in native woodland.
- Public benefits – make a stronger link between natural flood management and upland woodland.
- Focus on the cultural reasons (i.e. heritage) and ensure that people know what's going on rather than only focussing on those in the sector. More people may be interested but don't know/ understand.

Annex B

Other ideas not covered by speaker's questions

- Local Authority – Educate decision makers on issues and solutions (get Pete Cairns to speak to Councillors)
- Share information - (policy planning advice between LA) to stop wasted effort and time.
- Are we being heard effectively - the scale of today's event suggests not.
- Fundamental overhaul of planning and agric. support / regulation systems required
- I will write to the Chief planners to plead for greater integration of nature into built environment.
- Invite professional bodies (IEEM, RTPI) and explain No1 reason for biodiversity loss is land use change – where are the planners, MSP's Councillors today?
- Confiscation of mismanaged shooting estates.
- Removal of subsidies for sheep farming.
- Firearms ban on land where raptors 'disappear.'
- Payment for ecosystem services is a game – changer. We have a golden opportunity (post- Brexit) to introduce payments (beyond carbon) that will significantly incentivise responsible land management.
- Implement biodiversity net gain in planning. Can try and do this locally but national approach would be better and should be a Government target as in England.
- Will SNH be making pledges? i.e. better support for LBAPS which deliver more for £ than any AECS.
- Everyone needs to know the hard facts around the environmental costs we have been deferring 'payment' on.
- Create network of nature ambassadors to communicate the wonder of the natural world to communities and others about what is on their doorstep.
- No mention of invertebrates today! Needed as they are the small things that run the planet.
- Biodiversity net gain? Look at using this in planning or adopt for Scotland.
- Better communication with the private sector. = more incentives, education and upholding of legislation.
- A bit less on incentives- why are taxpayers funding farmers to do what is in their own economic interest.
- Financial penalties for land management practices that exacerbate flooding.
- Green infrastructure in addition to current greenspace. green roofs, walls, bridges.