

**2020 /2030 Biodiversity Process****28 October 2020**

Purpose:	Information Paper; and the associated action required by the Board/SLT.
How does this link with our corporate priorities of improving biodiversity or delivering nature-based solutions to climate change	Simultaneously addressing biodiversity loss and climate change is a priority for Scottish Government (Programme for Government, 2020-21). This area of work links to National Outcomes (We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations) and six associated National Indicators (local greenspace; outdoors; protection of nature sites; breeding birds; natural capital; and state of marine environment - https://www2.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/indicator)
Summary:	The Cabinet Secretary has determined that a new Biodiversity Strategy for Scotland is required post 2020 which will consider the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the international biodiversity targets due to be agreed at the 15 th CBD Conference of Parties in spring 2021. There will be a gap between the conclusion of the current Biodiversity Strategy for Scotland and the publication of the new 2030 strategy. Hence a <i>Biodiversity Statement of Intent</i> will be published in December 2020 covering the period from then to May 2022. This paper provides an update on how the work under the Scottish Biodiversity Programme ensures continued biodiversity action in Scotland.
Actions	Scottish Government and NatureScot staff are drafting the Statement of Intent
Recommendations:	Note work underway.
Report Author(s): Sponsor:	Debbie Bassett, Des Thompson and Katie Gilham. Sponsored by Sally Thomas
Appendices:	None

Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on work under the Scottish Biodiversity Programme (SBP) including preparation of a *Biodiversity Statement of Intent* from the Scottish Government, and the timeline to the development of a new Biodiversity Strategy for Scotland to 2030.

Background

2. The Scottish Biodiversity Programme is co-chaired by Bridget Campbell (Director of Environment and Forestry, SG) and Francesca Osowska. The Board is supported by an Advisory Group and Stakeholder Engagement Group, and delivers action through seven projects. A review of the programme is currently underway to ensure effective delivery of programme outcomes.

Reporting on Biodiversity

3. Progress towards meeting the international biodiversity targets (Aichi targets) in 2019 has been reported to Scottish Government officials. Subject to final amendments the report will be published later this year. Development of a final 2020 report for Scotland on the Aichi targets, bringing together all that has been achieved between 2010 and 2020, is planned for publication early in 2021. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has recently published the [Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 Report](#) (summary paper provided to the Board on 24 September 2020), which brings together all country reports into a global assessment. On a global scale none of the 20 targets have been met in full, whereas in Scotland at least eight targets have been met.
4. NatureScot prepared the most recent Scottish Biodiversity Strategy progress report covering the period [2017-2019](#). This was laid in Parliament in June 2020 and will be considered by ECCLR.
5. Scotland's Marine Assessment 2020 is due to be published in November 2020. It will provide the most comprehensive assessment to date of the state of Scotland's seas and progress towards meeting Scotland's vision of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse marine and coastal environments, managed to meet the long-term needs of nature and people'. The results of the SMA, including lessons learned, will be presented to Board in December 2020.
6. *State of Nature Report*. We are already working with partners in the public and NGO sectors to develop a *State of Nature report for Scotland*, provisionally planned in 2022. In the interim, Scottish Government commissioned a Marine and Terrestrial Species Indicator, which will give an annual update on species abundance and ranges for terrestrial species, and abundance for a set of marine species. This indicator will form a centre piece of the next State of Nature report. The statistical model behind the indicator was developed by the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and RSPB, JHI and Sheffield University, with input from NatureScot and Scottish Government staff (RESAS and Marine Scotland Science).

Biodiversity Programme Board update

7. A review of the Programme Board governance and terms of reference has been initiated, to ensure effective and efficient outcome delivery. Recommendations will be presented to the next meeting of the Programme Board on 15 October.

8. There has been significant progress across all seven projects in the programme, with NatureScot leading much of this work. The Cabinet Secretary has agreed a timeline (see table below) for development of a new biodiversity strategy and transition period; including the publication in December of a '*Biodiversity Statement of Intent*'.

Date	Event	Comment
Dec 2020	Scottish Government publishes <i>Biodiversity Statement of Intent</i> , ahead of the updated Climate Change Plan	Setting out the ambition for biodiversity during the transition period between the end of 2020 <i>Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity</i> and the new biodiversity strategy. Scottish Government and NatureScot staff drafting.
May 2021	Scottish elections	New Cabinet Secretary appointed.
May 2021	CBD Conference of Parties (CoP15) Kunming, China	Agreement and publication of new international milestones and targets to 2030. NatureScot closely involved with events up to and including CoP15 and in developing UK position. Edinburgh Declaration will be considered.
Spring 2022	<i>2030 Biodiversity Strategy for Scotland</i>	Scottish Government and NatureScot will lead on preparation.
Late 2022/early 2023	<i>Biodiversity Action Delivery Plan</i>	Scottish Government and NatureScot will lead on preparation.

Scottish Biodiversity Programme – summary update

9. Delivery of the **Edinburgh Process** in conjunction with international partners has resulted in the publication of the [Edinburgh Declaration](#) which is open for endorsement across all sectors. NatureScot has signed the declaration and is actively encouraging other Scottish stakeholders to sign and support this declaration. Consultation on the Subnational Plan of Action is complete and, this document alongside the *Edinburgh Declaration* will form part of the formal submission to the Conference of Parties (CoP15) in Kunming, China in May 2021.
10. The Cabinet Secretary has directed that a **New Biodiversity Strategy** for Scotland should be developed post 2020. This will note the [EU Biodiversity Strategy: Bringing Nature back into our lives](#), the [UN Zero Draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) and the UN [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#). In preparation for this NatureScot has begun a '**policy fitness check**' to identify where current and planned policies, regulation and interventions match the ambition of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the draft CBD targets, and addresses the pressures identified in the [IPBES Global Assessment for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#). It will also consider the developing OSPAR North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy and the UK Marine Strategy (currently under revision). This work will of course interweave with the clear steer from Scottish Government towards a post Covid-19 green recovery, detailed plans for which will be incorporated in the Climate Change Plan update expected in December. The Green Recovery should simultaneously address the Climate Emergency and state of nature.

11. NatureScot are leading collation of **Evidence and data** to support reporting and monitoring across the Biodiversity Programme. We continue to work closely with Marine Scotland and others to ensure evidence relating to marine biodiversity in offshore waters (beyond NatureScot's responsibility) is reflected. Significant input to the forthcoming Scottish Government Strategic Research Fund - Rural and Environment (2022- 2026) has been drafting a biodiversity work-stream under this project, resulting in further incorporation of biodiversity research, monitoring and surveillance within this multi-million pound fund.
12. NatureScot are working with Scottish Government to develop a **terrestrial and a marine biodiversity indicator** that will show changes in abundance and distribution of species. It is anticipated that this will become part of the suite of National Performance Indicators for Scotland.
13. Communications under the Scottish Biodiversity Programme has been focused through the **Make Space for Nature Campaign**. Phase two, which took place over the summer months, targeting those who increased their outdoor visits during lockdown and were most likely to continue to increase their time outdoors after lockdown, namely women, families with children, and people under 35. This was supported through other media outlets including press, radio and paid for content on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat, followed up with content on NatureScot website. Phase 3 which covering the winter will start in the week beginning 12 October. Focused on increasing engagement with nature, raising awareness and participation in NatureScot's work, and encourage the positive lockdown outdoor behaviour to continue.
14. NatureScot is working with Scottish Government colleagues to strengthen the **reporting by Scottish public bodies on their biodiversity duty**; including a reminder letter from the Cabinet Secretary to all public body CEOs, improved guidance and reporting templates hosted on NatureScot website. Other aspects of mainstreaming biodiversity across other policy sectors include detailed advice to Scottish Government on the '**Positive effects for Biodiversity**' that can be realised through planned development. This forms a major contribution from NatureScot in the development of [National Planning Framework 4](#). Prioritisation of other potential policy linkages has been assessed and work is now underway to engage with other significant policy areas across Scottish Government.
15. Work focusing on future funding for biodiversity covers two aspects namely **green finance** and, the development of **Pipeline Projects**. On 15 October the Programme Board will consider which key areas of green financing require additional focus under the programme; pipeline projects' work. The [Biodiversity Challenge Fund](#) remains a major source of funding for projects to address biodiversity loss, tackle change and help Scotland meet the Aichi targets. Funding for a third round of the Biodiversity Challenge Fund was announced in the Programme for Government. We are working on agreeing the priorities and scope of that scheme.

Recommendations

16. The Board is asked to note progress in this significant area of work for NatureScot.