

SPECIES on the EDGE

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Species on the Edge is a multi-partner species conservation programme led by NatureScot in partnership with the seven Rethink Nature charities. Launched in spring of 2023, we are working with communities across Scotland's coasts and islands to secure a future for 37 threatened and declining species.

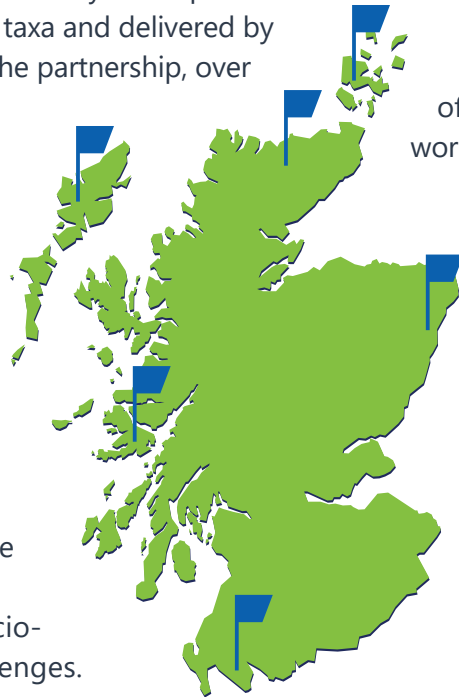
Species on the Edge is an innovative approach to tackling biodiversity decline, pooling resources and expertise from across the conservation sector in Scotland to deliver a programme of collaborative, multi-taxa conservation activity.

Throughout the duration of the four-and-a-half-year programme, Species on the Edge will work closely with communities across Scotland's coasts and islands to support them in safeguarding their local species. Through training and volunteering opportunities and a range of events and activities, Species on the Edge is helping people reconnect with their local wild places and wildlife, with the aim of creating a legacy of self-sustaining action, to benefit both people and nature.

Programme structure

Species on the Edge is delivering nine single-taxa Species Recovery Plans and seven Area Delivery Plans. Each Species Recovery Plan is led by the expert partner organisation for that taxa and delivered by project officers from across the partnership, over multiple project areas.

The programme covers seven landscape-scale areas in Scotland: Solway Coast; East Coast; North Coast; Argyll and the Inner Hebrides; Outer Hebrides; Orkney; and Shetland. For each area, a unique, multi-taxa Area Delivery Plan is in place reflecting the area's unique biodiversity, geography, socio-economy, and cultural challenges.



We have a team of Species on the Edge project officers working in each of the seven areas. Each project officer is employed by one of the seven partner charities, and most area teams consist of officers from more than one partner organisation working together to deliver their area plan.

This structure sees the whole Species on the Edge team pulling together to deliver coordinated, multi-species and multi-taxa conservation activity. This approach embodies the Rethink Nature ambitions of joint action, common focus, and collective strength. Given the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, there has never been a greater need for breaking intra-sectoral barriers to catalyse action and provide joint leadership.



Aims

1

Working together we will secure and improve the future of 37 threatened and often poorly understood coastal and island species in Scotland

2

We will empower island and coastal communities to connect with one another, their local wild places and the special wildlife within. We will embrace their diverse needs and interests to inspire action.

3

We will build on synergies, collaboration, and shared knowledge to maximise the benefits of a common agenda.

Funding



The National Lottery Heritage Fund has contributed over £4m of funding to the £6.5 million programme. In addition to the National Lottery players, thanks also go to all eight Species on the Edge partners, the Scottish Government, Esmee Fairbairn, the Dulverton Trust, the Banister Trust, SAC Consulting, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature for their funding and support.

Partners

The Species on the Edge partnership consists of:

- NatureScot
- Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
- Bat Conservation Trust
- Buglife
- Bumblebee Conservation Trust
- Butterfly Conservation
- Plantlife
- RSPB Scotland



Target species

- Arctic tern
- Bordered brown lacewing
- Brown long-eared bat
- Common pipistrelle bat
- Common tern
- Corncrake
- Curlew
- Dunlin
- Daubenton's bat
- Endemic hawkweed species
- Great yellow bumblebee
- Greenland white-fronted goose
- Irish lady's tresses
- Lapwing
- Leaf beetle
- Little tern
- Marsh fritillary
- Medicinal leech
- Moss carder bumble bee
- Natterjack toad
- New Forest burnet
- Northern brown argus
- Northern colletes mining bee
- Oysterplant
- Purple oxytropis
- Red-billed cough
- Red-necked phalarope
- Scottish primrose
- Shetland mouse-eared hawkweed
- Short-necked oil beetle
- Slender Scotch burnet
- Small blue butterfly
- Soprano pipistrelle
- Tadpole shrimp
- Talisker burnet
- Transparent burnet
- Twite

