

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2022

Response from the Landscape Institute

For Environment and Forestry Directorate

Date 12 September 2022

Background for members

The Scottish Government are seeking views for their Biodiversity Strategy, which is due for publication in 2022. The Strategy is the starting point in a process which will lead into the development of rolling delivery plans and, through the introduction of a Natural Environment Bill, statutory nature restoration targets. This consultation forms part of an engagement process with a wide range of stakeholders who have an interest in Scotland's biodiversity, including land managers, environmental organisations, local authorities and other partners. Scottish Government held a series of workshops to scope out the detail of the strategy, develop ideas and test concepts and now want to hear the views of a wider range of organisations and individuals to test and further develop ideas.

Landscape Institute response

The consultation comprises four broad chapters, as well as a section on next steps. It focuses on:

- *The Evidence of Biodiversity Loss* (Chapter 2)

- *Strategic Vision – Framing and Context (Chapter 3)*
- *How Will We Know When We've Succeeded? – Development of an Outcomes Framework (Chapter 4)*
 - *Rural environments (Farmland, woodlands / forestry, soils, uplands - including peatlands)*
 - *Marine environment*
 - *Fresh water environments – rivers, lochs and wetlands*
 - *Coastal environments*
 - *Urban environments – towns and cities*
 - *Across our land and seas – overall ecosystem health, resilience and connectivity*
- The Conditions of Success

We recognise the importance of the water-based environments in protecting and enhancing biodiversity; however, have chosen to focus our response on rural and urban outcomes, as well as across land and seas and the conditions of success, as these represent the key interests of the majority of Landscape Institute members.

Summary

- We welcome the broad range of objectives included in the biodiversity strategy but feel that more detail is needed on delivery mechanisms.
- We welcome the role that well designed green and blue infrastructure and retrofitting will play in the development of more biodiverse places.
- Ambitions could be strengthened using less subjective language and the inclusion of a SMART measurement system to set and manage biodiversity targets.
- A strong regulatory system will be necessary to ensure that biodiversity goals are measurable, monitored and enforced.
- To be successful, a framework of collaboration will be needed across the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as gaining the buy-in of local communities and citizens of Scotland.
- A stronger focus is needed on interactivity of different habitat types, and not relegating outcomes to certain areas. For instance: soil outcomes should not solely apply to rural areas, as at present.
- A natural capital accounting approach should be taken across all outcomes: ensuring that biodiversity enhancements can deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, including cultural outcomes.
- Funding and skills will be key in meeting biodiversity goals, with a need for investment in training and education, as well as working with professional bodies

on how to change existing practice in the built and natural environment industry. A natural capital accounting approach should apply to outcomes.

- Nature networks will play a key role however there must be more focus on connectivity and on ensuring that this approach is embedded in planning.

Chapter two: Evidence of Biodiversity Loss

1. Using your own knowledge and the evidence presented, to what extent do you agree that there is a nature crisis in Scotland? Why do you think that?

The Landscape Institute did not respond to this question.

2. What do you see as the key challenges and opportunities of tackling both the climate and biodiversity crises at the same time?

The EU Adaption Strategy published in February 2021¹ highlights the importance of tackling climate change and biodiversity together, and that it is impossible to take a siloed approach to addressing these twin crises. We strongly support Scottish Governments' approach to tackling both crises at the same time.

The Landscape Institute has likewise set out its response to both of these crises together, in our Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan.²

Halting biodiversity loss creates opportunities to mitigate and defend against the impact of climate change, and we want to support our industry to take creative approach to adapting our cities and urban areas to be more biodiverse.

People want to see greener places where they live. Increasing the amount of blue and green infrastructure in cities and taking a Natural Capital Accounting approach allows for innovative approaches to overcome issues such as limited space, competing commercial interests, etc. This also creates opportunities to mitigate the impact of climate change, for example by reducing urban heat islands and absorbing flood water.

¹ EU Adaptation Strategy (europa.eu)

² Landscape Institute, Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Plan (2020), <https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2020/05/12284-climate-biodiversity-action-plan.pdf>

Tackling both crises together also creates multiple opportunities in rural areas, as increased biodiversity and preservation of natural areas will again mitigate against climate change e.g., preserving and restoring peat bogs and wetlands will allow more absorption of carbon from the atmosphere, as will increased tree and forest cover.

It will be crucial to take a balanced approach towards the production of green energy in rural areas, especially given the current political climate due to the energy crisis, and this will be a key challenge in addressing both crises at the same time. This can already be seen in areas such as the Kintyre Peninsula – where there have had to be trade-offs between reducing carbon and the existing natural woodland.³ The only way to navigate these trade-offs is through the use of holistic assessment frameworks (e.g., EIA, natural capital accounting) and the employment of skilled environmental professionals.

Chapter three: Strategic Vision – Framing and Context

3. Is the draft vision clear enough?

Vision Statement -

“By 2045 we will have substantially restored and regenerated biodiversity across our land, freshwater and seas. Our natural environment of plants, animals, insects, aquatic life and other species will be richly diverse, thriving, resilient and adapting to climate change. Everyone will understand the benefits from and importance of biodiversity and will play their role in the stewardship of nature in Scotland for future generations”.

While we welcome the ambition of the vision and recognise that any vision statement will necessarily be high level, we feel that the message could be stronger and bolder.

For example, the word “substantially” is very subjective in nature. Scotland has an opportunity to set a high bar for biodiversity restoration, to inspire both the buy-in of the people who live here, as well as setting a global example.

Additionally, there should be clarity on what is meant by “Everyone will understand the benefits from and importance of biodiversity and will play their role in the stewardship of nature in Scotland.” The statement should make it explicit that this includes not only

³ The Kintyre wind farm 'gold rush' - BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-62766251>

citizens of Scotland, but also businesses, industry, and professionals who must change their practice.

4. Is the draft vision ambitious enough?

As in the previous response, we welcome the ambition of the vision statement (and the broad range of objectives included in the outcomes framework) but feel that this could be heightened using less subjective language.

5. Do you have any suggestions for a short strategic vision which would form the title for the strategy?

The Landscape Institute did not respond to this question.

Chapter 4: how will we know we have succeeded? Development of an outcomes framework

Rural environment proposed outcomes

6. Do the 2045 outcome statements adequately capture the change we need to see?

Response – No

We welcome the broad range of objectives outlined in the rural outcome statements and the importance that has been given to rural areas in preserving and restoring biodiversity, however, feel that there is a lack of detail included in the statements and that while strong in ambition, it is unclear how this will be delivered.

We would strongly recommend that the milestones linked to this outcome are more clearly defined with the inclusion of SMART targets and an indication of how biodiversity will be quantitatively measured.

Legally-binding, quantitative Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) regulations will soon be applied in England, and we would welcome an indication of what comparable regulations could be possible for Scotland, or at least how biodiversity outcomes will be fully measured and enforced at a local level.

We recognise that the delivery of biodiversity outcomes is required in national policy through the new draft National Planning Framework (NPF4)⁴, however this is not supported by a robust assessment framework as in England, and it is therefore important to outline national requirements more specifically, and how local planning authorities will make enforcements. This is vital to resolve competing interests (commercial, development, agricultural, etc.) in favour of biodiversity goals.

It is essential to consider together the various frameworks used to set land management priorities across Scotland – from agricultural strategies to river basin management plans – ensure a holistic approach to achieving biodiversity goals. It is essential to ensure that biodiversity enhancements don't work against local landscape priorities, including those captured in the national Landscape Character Assessment.⁵ There is also scope to expand on the Scottish Borders pilot for Regional Land Use that is currently running as part of Scottish Governments' land use strategy to act as a tool to aid decision-making about land use choices.⁶ Sustainable management is needed across all land, not just in designated areas.

Further points:

Though we welcome the inclusion of soils in the rural outcomes, we would strongly emphasise that this should not just apply to rural areas as soil use is a universal consideration across all outcome areas in terms of erosion, carbon rich soil, water and wind erosion etc.

Forestry and farming practices have a significant impact on biodiversity and new approaches to outdated land management practices (e.g. chemical use, burning) need to be supported by Government. There are opportunities to move woodland into the high uplands of Scotland, recognising the role of peat soil for carbon storage and using this to increase woodland to barren landscapes. This must be done in partnership with landscape professionals.

7. Are the 2030 milestones ambitious enough? Are we missing any key elements?

Response - No

⁴ Scotland 2045 - fourth National Planning Framework - draft: consultation - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

⁵ <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions>

⁶ LUS Framework | Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)

We would refer to the previous question in terms of the need for SMART targets, more clarity on regulation, defined delivery plans, an appropriate management framework and a clear measurement tool. The use of subjective language undermines the ambition of the 2030 milestones, and it should be made clear what level of biodiversity we should be working towards and how we will know when success has been achieved.

Additionally, we would stress the need for a strong public engagement strategy to increase public awareness and understanding, provide education and increase knowledge on the risks and opportunities of biodiversity, to improve equitable access to nature and to outline the direct benefits for all people and what their role will be in preserving and restoring biodiversity in Scotland.

8. What are the key drivers of biodiversity loss in this outcome area?

We support the findings of NatureScot in their “Key pressures on biodiversity” publication.⁷

Although some drivers for biodiversity loss in rural areas are the result of natural causes and the increased impact of climate change such as storms, fires, erosion and warming, the primary drivers are largely a result of unsustainable land and natural resource management.

Some of this can be addressed through clearer regulatory and planning frameworks, however a focus is needed on changing culture through education and on changing practice through professional skills.

9. What are the key opportunities for this outcome area?

There is an opportunity for better alignment and integration of public, private and third sector bodies with a remit or interest in biodiversity, to bring together knowledge and expertise, as well as aligning priorities and practice related to biodiversity. The Scottish Land Use Strategy 2021-2026⁸ states “We are committed to enabling Regional Land Use Partnerships (RLUPs) to emerge locally in 2021, and to develop Regional Land Use Frameworks by 2023” and there are opportunities for this to be supported by landscape professionals. Pilots such as the current Scottish Borders pilot regional land use framework could be extended nationally should the evidence support this. The

⁷ <https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity/key-pressures-biodiversity>

⁸ Land use - getting the best from our land: strategy 2021 to 2026 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

Landscape Institute would be keen to support member involvement in any regional land use partnerships and to bring together a network of landscape professionals with an interest in biodiversity.

There is also an opportunity to emphasise a natural capital accounting approach to rural outcomes. There is an opportunity to increase sustainable food production alongside improving biodiversity, building resilience and improving health and well-being, as well as conserving the distinct variations in landscape character. As the Character Areas Map of Scotland mainly records the results of farming, there is an opportunity to introduce Strategic Management Plans for each Area that articulate the joined-up agenda at a scale the farming community can relate to.

Finally, there are opportunities to move and store water upland and to develop an upland rural landscape with restored alpine environments that are rich in biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

10. What are the key challenges for this outcome area?

The diverse nature of rural landscapes and the competing priorities for land use (e.g. using land for carbon sequestration, energy infrastructure, wild landscapes, food production) will be a key challenge for this outcome area. It will be very difficult to achieve biodiversity goals without ensuring there is a holistic framework that brings together the public, private and voluntary sectors to work towards a common interest. The use of an assessment framework, such as natural capital accounting will be key to meeting biodiversity goals, however, this is a new and emerging approach not yet embedded in regulatory processes and as such will require considerable investment, training and promotion.

Additionally, resource constraints will be a key challenge, both in terms of ensuring adequate funding for change and in terms of skills. Ensuring that an understanding of biodiversity underlies land management practices will require investment in providing guidance and training for people and managers, as well as the employment of skilled landscape professionals who can guide the process.

Marine environment proposed outcomes

11. Do the 2045 outcome statements adequately capture the change we need to see?

No Response.

12. Are the 2030 milestones ambitious enough? Are we missing any key elements?

No Response.

13. What are the key drivers of biodiversity loss in this outcome area?

No Response.

14. What are the key opportunities for this outcome area?

No Response.

15. What are the key challenges for this outcome area?

No Response

Fresh Water environment proposed outcomes

16. Do the 2045 outcome statements adequately capture the change we need to see?

No response.

17. Are the 2030 milestones ambitious enough? Are we missing any key elements?

No Response.

18. What are the key drivers of biodiversity loss in this outcome area?

No Response.

19. What are the key opportunities for this outcome area?

No Response.

20. What are the key challenges for this outcome area?

No Response.

Coastal environment proposed outcomes

21. Do the 2045 outcome statements adequately capture the change we need to see?

No Response.

22. Are the 2030 milestones ambitious enough? Are we missing any key elements?

No Response.

23. What are the key drivers of biodiversity loss in this outcome area?

No Response.

24. What are the key opportunities for this outcome area?

No Response.

25. What are the key challenges for this outcome area?

No Response.

Urban environment proposed outcomes

26. Do the 2045 outcome statements adequately capture the change we need to see?

Response – No

We welcome the recognition of the role that well designed green and blue infrastructure will play in achieving biodiversity goals and that retrofitting will play a part in the development of more biodiverse places.

We would however apply many of the comments made in relation to rural outcomes to urban outcomes, specifically that: although we support the ambition and direction of change there is not enough detail included.

There is an opportunity to be more specific, to be bolder in ambitions, and to work to a faster pace, as many of the changes outlined do not need to wait until 2045. There is scope to outline a space and structure for innovation in urban spaces, with funding structures that will support local pilot projects that could potentially be rolled out at a national level, for example through innovative house building projects or using best practice from green and blue infrastructure developments and sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs). Overcoming the biodiversity crisis will require new and “out-of-the-box” solutions and the outcomes statement should recognise and support this.

Resourcing should be an important inclusion in outlining the 2045 ambitions, as building more biodiverse cities will require the knowledge and expertise of landscape professionals, and there should be a focus on ensuring targeted support around skills training and guidance. There are opportunities to use ecological and design skills to transform both private and public spaces, e.g. how public parks are managed to ensure more natural environments, by developing exemplars in schools,⁹ or by taking a natural capital approach to new commercial or housing developments. The Landscape Institute would be happy to work together with Scottish Government to develop this and to disseminate training to our network of landscape professionals.

⁹ Learn more about our outdoor learning charity | Learning through Landscapes (ltl.org.uk)

Local Place Plans (LPPs)¹⁰ could be adapted to support the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including biodiversity outcomes, and to deliver resilient, multi-functional spaces of the future.

A strong public engagement strategy should be included in the outcomes, as there is a need for communities to understand the direct impact of biodiversity loss on them and to understand what role they can take in contributing to biodiversity goals. Public perception may be an issue in terms of understanding the level of the crisis, and that not all green spaces are biodiverse. There is a role for individuals to play in what they grow in their private green spaces and in accepting a new normal through more natural environment in towns and cities.

27. Are the 2030 milestones ambitious enough? Are we missing any key elements?

We would again stress the need for SMART targets, more clarity on regulation, defined delivery plans, an appropriate management framework and a clear measurement tool. It should be made clear what level of biodiversity we should be working towards and how we will know when success has been achieved.

Additionally, we feel that some of the objectives outlined in the 2045 outcomes could be included in the goals for 2030 and there is in some cases no need to wait until 2045.

The 2045 outcome “Blue and green infrastructure is designed and managed to have high biodiversity value” is something which we feel, with the correct skills training and resourcing, could start sooner and form part of standard practice for built environment professionals by at least 2030. Biodiversity is already part of the Landscape Institute’s competency framework for its chartered professionals (as of 2021) and our members are required to undertake a minimum of 5-hours Continuing Professional Development (CPD) on this topic every year.

28. What are the key drivers of biodiversity loss in this outcome area?

As per Q8, the drivers of biodiversity loss are well established.

In urban areas, it is primarily a result of unsustainable development management, stemming from: a lack of professional knowledge and skills, a lack of regulation around

¹⁰ Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk))

urban greening standards, approaches to risk (e.g. highways authorities' approach to urban trees), and an incentives framework which does not currently reward authorities who take a more sustainable approach.

Post-development management and in-use changes are also a factor. An example is the increased trend towards using hard or artificial landscape materials in private green spaces.

29. What are the key opportunities for this outcome area?

There are opportunities to act now on increasing green and blue infrastructure in urban spaces, for example through supporting the development of sustainable urban drainage solutions (SuDS), by retrofitting green roofs (which in turn reduce surface temperatures on roofs)¹¹ and through investment in tree planting in urban areas. Additionally, there are opportunities to change how public parks and green spaces are managed, allowing for less landscaping and a diversity of wild plants. There are also opportunities to develop urban fringes to improve connectivity for nature and to ensure a joined-up ecosystem where nature can flourish.

Finally, there are key opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in urban areas, as access to green spaces has a positive impact on mental health, as well as encouraging physical activity. Therefore, by using blue and green infrastructure to increase biodiversity and minimise the climate change feedback loop, there is also the opportunity to make our cities, healthier and more vibrant places to live in.

30. What are the key challenges for this outcome area?

The main challenges for this outcome area will be linked to the scale of the change required and available funding / funding models.

Without stronger regulation there will be a challenge in enforcing standards in the face of limited budgets, with biodiversity measures being “value engineered out to bring down costs”.¹²

¹¹ Integrating-green-and-blue-spaces-into-our-cities---Making-it-happen-.pdf (imperial.ac.uk)

¹² Integrating-green-and-blue-spaces-into-our-cities---Making-it-happen-.pdf (imperial.ac.uk)

There will be a need to improve the knowledge and skills in the planning sector and in local authorities to improve an understanding of the need for green and blue infrastructure and to ensure that it becomes central to plans. It will also be challenging to ensure that areas of deprivation, which are likely to have less access to green spaces and skills, have equitable investment in biodiverse spaces.

Across our land and at sea proposed outcomes

31. Do the 2045 outcome statements adequately capture the change we need to see?

Response – No

We welcome the focus on nature networks and the move to protect and increase the resilience and health of species and habitats, however, feel that the statements could be made clearer; The point regarding carbon sequestration in statement two does not coherently fit in with the health and resilience theme and suggests that this isn't an ecosystem service, we would suggest moving this to the second statement and potentially extending this to include themes such as managing flood water etc.

We would emphasise that the key point is connectivity across landscapes and are strongly in favour of the role that nature networks will play.

We would also make the point again of the need for SMART targets and a robust assessment framework in order to define and measure success more efficiently.

32. Are the 2030 milestones ambitious enough? Are we missing any key elements?

Response – No

The milestones are very driven by policy and we would argue that there is not enough focus on the skills and professional approach that will be needed to achieve these goals. There is a need for a holistic and joined-up approach to achieving biodiversity goals, and it is unclear what will be in place to ensure that nature networks will be embedded in practice, and how this will be supported through appropriate resourcing, training and knowledge sharing.

Additionally, we would again refer to the need for SMART targets and a regulatory framework in relation to 2030 milestones in order to strengthen the commitment and indicate how these will be achieved.

33. What are the key drivers of biodiversity loss in this outcome area?

A key driver of biodiversity loss in this outcome area is a lack of joined up governance, competing priorities and an appropriate framework which connects the planning decisions of planning authorities with key stakeholders. We recognise that the roll-out of NPF4 will to some extent address the issue of nature networks, however the current draft mainly focuses on a green network across the central belt, and it will be important to extend this to ensure that planning policy is cohesive across the country.

There is also a need to address the impacts from linear infrastructure such as roads and highways, and to put in mitigating actions such as the use of green bridges to reduce the level of fragmentation that this causes.

34. What are the key opportunities for this outcome area?

The key opportunities are to protect the intrinsic value of wildlife and biodiversity in Scotland and to prevent further declines in species and habitat condition, support nature recovery and to increase resilience to the climate crisis.

35. What are the key challenges for this outcome area?

The key challenge will be around the scale of the change that is needed and the availability of resources, both in terms of funding and skills. There will be a need to improve the knowledge and skills in the planning sector and in local authorities to improve an understanding of nature networks and to ensure that this becomes central to plans.

36. To what extent will these outcomes deliver the Vision? What might be missing?

In terms of the strategy overall, we are not convinced that the artificial separation of different land types in this way is clear. There are different governance priorities in (for instance) managing land which is susceptible to development to that which is likely to remain farmed, but a holistic approach is needed in addressing biodiversity change at the national level. Within rural land, it is also impractical to separate uplands from

woodland and forestry outcomes, as this does not easily translate into practice. A focus is needed on per-urban fringes and on how can this be managed for nature.

A stronger focus is needed on the connectivity of habitats, as without this there is the danger of creating pockets / designated areas that are rich in biodiversity with no links to the wider environment.

In summary we would make the following points with regards to the overall vision:

- We welcome the broad range of objectives included but feel more detail is needed on delivery mechanisms. We welcome the role that well designed green and blue infrastructure and retrofitting will play
- Ambitions could be strengthened through the inclusion of a SMART measurement system to set and manage targets.
- A strong regulatory system will be necessary to ensure goals are measurable, monitored and enforced.
- A framework of collaboration will be needed across the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as gaining the buy-in of local communities and citizens of Scotland.
- A stronger focus is needed on interactivity of different habitat types, and not relegating outcomes to certain areas. For instance: soil outcomes should not solely apply to rural areas, as at present.
- A natural capital accounting approach should be taken across all outcomes: ensuring that biodiversity enhancements can deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, including cultural outcomes.
- Funding and skills will be key in meeting biodiversity goals, with a need for investment in training and education, as well as working with professional bodies on how to change existing practice in the built and natural environment industry.
- Nature networks will play a key role however there must be more focus on connectivity and on ensuring that this approach is embedded in planning.

37. What evidence and information should we use to assess whether we have delivered the Vision?

It will be essential for an appropriate assessment framework to be developed that allows for direct quantitative assessment of habitat and wildlife health and resilience. This should be supplemented by proxy assessments such as planning data, public perception surveys, citizen science projects and research.

It will also be necessary to benchmark progress against that of other countries, particularly across the United Kingdom, and we would strongly welcome a joined-up assessment process across the UK to promote coherence and shared goals.

Chapter 5: the conditions for success

38. Have we captured the key enabling factors which are essential in order for our strategy to be successful?

Yes

We welcome the general direction of the strategy and the inclusion of a broad range of objectives, as well as the focus given to the restoration of a nature-rich landscape and the intention to develop more blue and green infrastructure in our cities in town.

In order for the strategy to be successful, however, we would reiterate the need for more detail on how success will be measured and on how new measures will be enforced and regulated.

The existing regulators and agencies, including SEPA and Nature Scot will need to be appropriately resourced to ensure that this strategy can be a success.

Additionally, we would stress the need for highly skilled professionals to be central to any framework going forward, including landscape professionals. There will be a need for investment in training and education, as well as regulatory shifts by the professional bodies, to support changes in practice.

Finally, we would again emphasise the need for a strong public engagement strategy to gain the buy in of everyone in Scotland, including working closely with the press agencies to promote key messages and using less traditional platforms to get influencers on board in order to reach a wider audience.

39. Are there good examples of enabling conditions in other strategies we could learn from?

It would be useful to look at biodiversity projects such as Cairngorms Connect¹³ which “brings together a partnership of neighbouring land managers, committed to a bold and ambitious 200-year vision to enhance habitats, species and ecological processes across a vast area within the Cairngorms National Park.” The project aims to deliver ambitious habitat enhancement and ecological restoration using nature-based solutions, and includes resources for both scientists and schools, disseminating learning at all levels.

40. Can you set out how you think any of the proposals set out in the consultation might help to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?

Access to high quality green spaces in urban areas are varied, with disadvantaged communities generally having less access to these. A recent report by Groundwork UK¹⁴ highlighted that 2.69 million people do not live within 10 minutes of green space, with black and ethnic minority groups as well as low-income households less likely to have access. Evidence presented by Groundwork also suggests that disabled people and people with long-term conditions have additional barriers to accessing nature, including urban green and blue spaces which are often not accessible. The proposals lay to increase blue and green infrastructure in our urban areas present an opportunity to increase equality of access to natural spaces, which will also present public health benefits. A strong public engagement strategy, alongside a collaborative approach to development which works with local communities in the move to achieve biodiversity goals will support the elimination of discrimination with more equal access to nature for all.

There are opportunities to link existing Scottish Government policies and principles with the biodiversity strategy to ensure equal opportunity is embedded in the work going forward, for example embedding community wealth building principles and considering the If Not Now, When? Social Advisory Board Report (Chapter 3 to 5 and Annex C)¹⁵.

¹³ Cairngorms Connect | Who We Are

¹⁴ <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Out-of-Bounds-equity-in-access-to-urban-nature.pdf>

¹⁵ If not now, when? - Social Renewal Advisory Board report: January 2021 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

Additionally, a collaborative approach through working with the Just Transition Commission, will help put diversity at the heart of biodiversity goals.

About the Landscape Institute

The Landscape Institute (LI) is the chartered body for the landscape profession. We are an educational charity that promotes the art and science of landscape practice.

The LI's aim, through the work of our members, is to protect, conserve, and enhance the natural and built environment for the public benefit.

The LI provides a professional home for all landscape practitioners including landscape architects, landscape managers, landscape planners, landscape scientists, and urban designers.

About LI policy and research

The LI undertakes research, builds networks, and provides policy advice to local and national policymakers, regulators, and stakeholders. We seek to demonstrate how landscape and green infrastructure can deliver maximum benefits for society, the environment, and the economy.

The work of the LI policy team is overseen by the LI Policy and Communications Committee (PCC), one of three standing committees that report to the LI's Board of Trustees.

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