



Scottish
Wildlife
Trust

**WE'VE
GOT AN
IDEA**



...ABOUT WHAT
SCOTLAND

**COULD LOOK LIKE OVER
THE NEXT 50 YEARS...**

**...IF ALL OF US WORK
TOGETHER TO SAVE WILDLIFE,
RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS AND
BOOST OUR PROSPERITY
AND WELL-BEING.**

50 for the Future

Fifty years ago, otters were on the brink of extinction in Scotland, there were no protected areas for our marine wildlife and beavers had been absent from the landscape for almost 350 years.

Fifty years on, this is not the case.

These examples are living proof of the progress that can be made when people work together for nature. Without the efforts of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, its members, friends and many partners, Scotland would be very different today.

However, our wildlife and wild places still face many threats and, with a changing climate, the biggest challenges may yet be ahead of us.

Here, we outline 50 things that we believe should happen in the next 50 years if we are to protect and restore Scotland's natural environment for future generations. As you read through the 50, I invite you to imagine what Scotland could look like in the months, years and decades to come.



Jonathan Hughes
Chief Executive
Scottish Wildlife Trust

SCOTLAND'S UPLANDS

Vibrant communities, regenerated forests, restored peatlands and an abundance of wildlife, from golden eagles and ospreys to wildcats and lynx, could be a reality in the uplands if we...



1 REDUCE WILD DEER DENSITIES

substantially to allow the widespread recovery of natural woodland and scrub.

2 RETURN LYNX

to Scotland's landscapes for the first time in over a thousand years.

3 Transform large conifer plantations so over half contain at least 25% native species and a diverse range of tree ages, from saplings to future veteran trees.

4 END THE ILLEGAL PERSECUTION OF BIRDS OF PREY

and other wildlife through better enforcement of the law and higher penalties.

5 Introduce a licensing system for driven grouse shooting to ensure the recovery of a mosaic of heathlands, peatlands, scrub and woodland.

9 Make sure ancient woodlands and ravines of high botanical interest are strictly off limits to hydro-electric and other development.

6 SAVE THE SCOTTISH WILDCAT

by bolstering the population and reducing key threats in target areas.

7 Avoid building energy infrastructure on sites of wildlife importance, including blanket bogs and protected areas.

8 RESTORE ALL PEATLAND BLANKET BOGS

to secure valuable carbon storage, water quality and biodiversity benefits.

10 ENABLE SOILS & BIODIVERSITY TO RECOVER

by providing generous government incentives to upland farmers to support mixed cattle and sheep grazing at low stocking densities.

TALKING POINT:
Which of these has the greatest potential to transform our uplands?

LOWLANDS

A mosaic of wildlife-rich farmlands and woodlands, meandering rivers and living wetlands could thrive in the lowlands if we...

11 BRING BACK BEAVERS

for good and allow their natural colonisation across Scotland.

12 CREATE NEW WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

and link these to road verges and existing meadows in every local authority in Scotland to form 'Nectar Networks' for pollinators.

13 Ensure every lowland raised bog in Scotland supports a rich variety of peatland wildlife.

14 REWILD & RESTORE

several thousand hectares of the flood plains along Scotland's major rivers by allowing the natural cycle of flooding in adjacent wetlands and marshes.

15 Bring at least 80% of farm woodlands into active management to improve habitat for wildlife whilst also providing income or wood-fuel to communities and woodland owners.

16 END NITROGEN AND OTHER DIFFUSE POLLUTION

from all sources in the lowlands to secure clean water and healthy soils in the long term.

17 More than quadruple the current area of lowland farming under certified organic status.

18 REDUCE PESTICIDE USE

by at least 80% by promoting natural pest and disease control, for example by attracting pest-eating insects.

19 RESTORE NATURAL MEANDERS

along rivers and burns and create connected corridors of riverbank woodland.

20 RADICALLY REFORM

government incentives to ensure an average of at least 12% of the land area of individual farms is devoted to wildlife habitat.

TALKING POINT:

Which species would you most like to see reintroduced to the lowlands?



REPAIR

High quality, well connected green spaces of all shapes and sizes, buzzing with wildlife, could transform our towns and cities, and the lives of people living in them if we...

21 RE-EXPOSE AND RESTORE ARTIFICIALLY-BURIED RIVERS AND BURNS

that run under Scotland's towns and cities.

24 ENSURE ALL COMMUNITIES HAVE ACCESS TO NATURE

within a few hundred metres of their homes and enjoy the benefits for health and well-being.

26 RE-NATURALISE 30% OF SCOTLAND'S URBAN GREEN SPACES

through a range of small measures including a shift to native tree planting and creation of wildflower meadows.

22 DESIGNATE SCOTLAND'S FIRST urban National Park.

23 ALLOW SOIL TO BREATHE AGAIN

by 'de-paving' unnecessary concrete, tarmac and other impermeable surfaces in every town and city.

25 Make the provision of habitat such as green roofs and walls mandatory in all new buildings and set ambitious targets for retrofitting green roofs to existing buildings in every local authority in Scotland.

27 ENSURE ALL URBAN SCHOOLS

regularly make use of high quality natural spaces in their local area for outdoor learning.

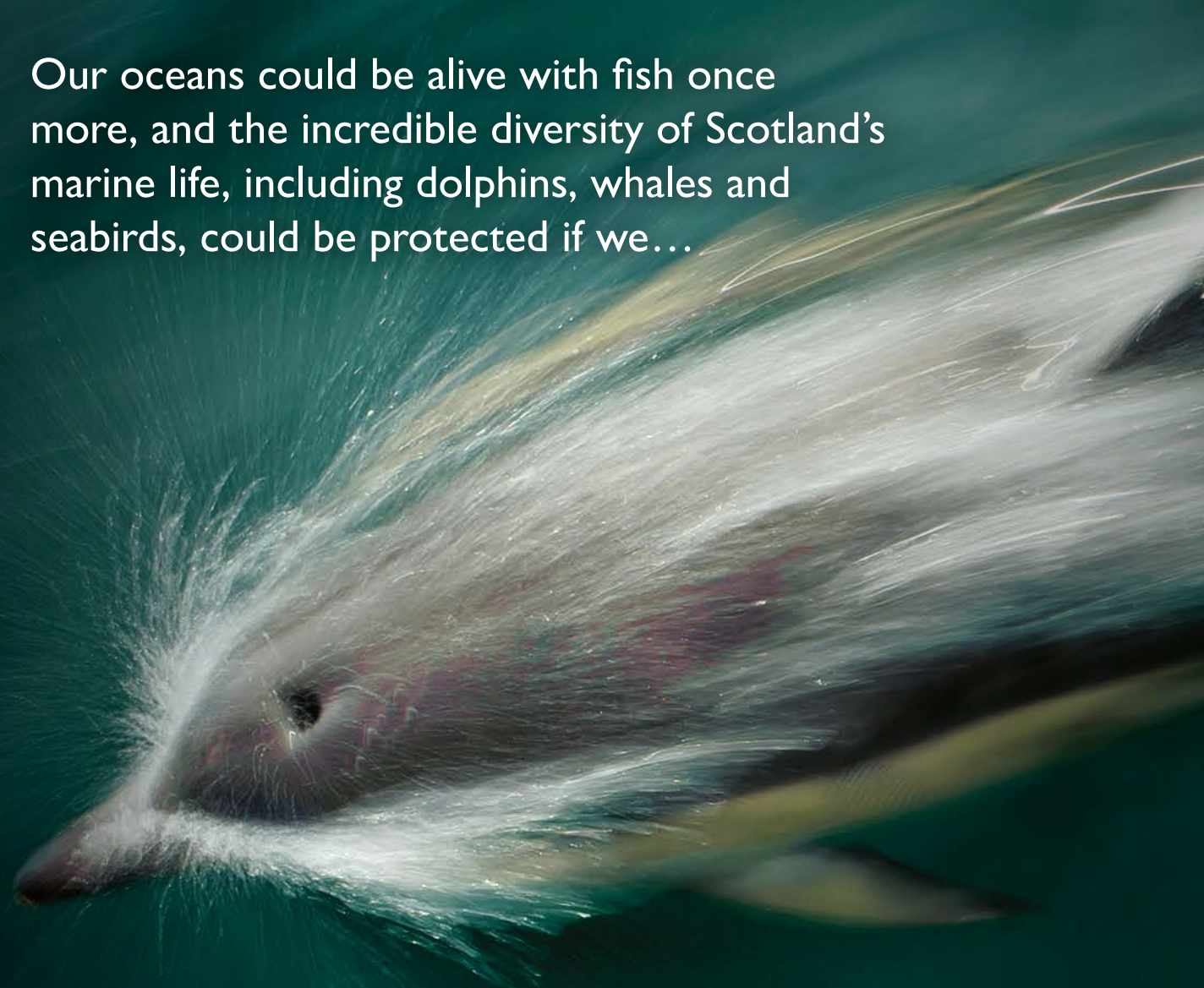
28 ADOPT PLANNING LAWS

which ensure that both new and existing urban developments include well designed natural features as standard.

TALKING POINT:

Where would you like to see Scotland's first urban National Park and why?

Our oceans could be alive with fish once more, and the incredible diversity of Scotland's marine life, including dolphins, whales and seabirds, could be protected if we...



29 **END OVERFISHING**
and halt all destructive fishing methods.

32 **SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE VOLUME OF CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS,** artificial nutrients and litter entering the ocean.

30 Inspire a step-change in consumer habits to **ELIMINATE DEMAND FOR UNSUSTAINABLY SOURCED SEAFOOD.**

31 Continue to develop an effective network of **MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

to provide a safe haven for our most important marine wildlife whilst improving the health and productivity of Scotland's seas.

33 **REMOVE ARTIFICIAL BARRIERS ALONG OUR COASTLINES** to ensure adequate space for wildlife habitats and to help tackle increased flood risk due to climate change.

34 Ensure all consented marine and coastal developments, including fish farms and energy infrastructure, are sited, operated and decommissioned with **MINIMAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.**

35 **PROTECT & ENHANCE NATURAL 'BLUE CARBON' STORES** in our seas to reduce the effects of climate change.

TALKING POINT:
What is the most effective way of changing consumer habits with regard to sustainable seafood?

SCOTLAND-WIDE

Scotland could lead the world in showing how caring for wildlife and the natural environment can help nations become more equal, healthier and more prosperous if we...

36 CREATE A NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL NETWORK

so that wildlife can move freely through the landscape.

37 SECURE THE FUTURE OF RED SQUIRRELS

by controlling grey squirrels and preventing them entering the Highlands.

38 EXPAND WOODLAND & WOOD PASTURE

cover to at least 30% of Scotland's land through widespread natural regeneration and planting of native Scottish trees.

39 End the use of horticultural peat by promoting the use of PEAT-FREE ALTERNATIVES.

40 Transform our understanding of waste and move to a true circular economy.

41 DESIGNATE NEW PROTECTED AREAS

where nature is allowed to thrive.

42 Restore all 'Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites' to at least 80% native trees.

43 ESTABLISH an environmental court or tribunal.

44 MANAGE LAND AND WATER TOGETHER

at the river catchment scale throughout Scotland to secure measurable improvements in ecosystem health.

45 STRATEGICALLY ERADICATE RHODODENDRON and other key invasive non-native species.

50 CHAMPION NATURE

so effectively that we no longer need the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

46 Put environmental education at the heart of the curriculum and INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION to become stewards of the natural world.

47 Ensure the value of Scotland's natural capital is properly accounted for in economic decision making.

48 Increase the number of EXPERT FIELD ECOLOGISTS by providing top quality training.

49 Establish over 20 LIVING LANDSCAPE projects where landowners and communities work together to improve ecosystem health, social value and economic prosperity.

TALKING POINT:

What is the most important concept to teach the next generation with regard to protecting Scotland's wildlife?

THE STORY OF 50 FOR THE FUTURE

At the end of the Scottish Wildlife Trust's 50th anniversary year, the idea for 50 for the Future was born: 50 things that our members think will turn around the fortunes of Scotland's wildlife in the coming 50 years.

The final list reflects ideas submitted by Trust members, partners, volunteers and staff. Together they make up a powerful call to action for the Scottish Government, land managers, policy-makers, local communities and nature conservation bodies alike.

50 for the Future is for everyone in Scotland - we need a collective effort for nature. If together we achieve all 50, we will transform our relationship with the natural world, bringing benefits not just for Scotland's wildlife but also for our own prosperity, health and well-being.

The story has already begun. The decisions you make, the discussions you have and the actions you take can help shape Scotland's future.

Where will you take the story next?

TALK TO US:

Email: thefuture@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

Website: scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

Twitter: [@ScotWildlife](https://twitter.com/ScotWildlife)

Facebook: [/scottishwildlifetrust](https://www.facebook.com/scottishwildlifetrust)

For more than 50 years, the Scottish Wildlife Trust has worked with its members, partners and supporters in pursuit of its vision of healthy, resilient ecosystems supporting wildlife across Scotland's land and seas.

The Trust successfully champions the cause of wildlife through policy and campaigning work, demonstrates best practice through practical conservation and innovative partnerships, and inspires people to take positive action through its education and engagement activities.

The Trust manages a network of 120 wildlife reserves across Scotland.

SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST

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The Scottish Wildlife Trust is affiliated to The Wildlife Trusts, a UK-wide network of 47 Trusts with more than 2,000 wildlife reserves.



The Scottish Wildlife Trust receives financial assistance and support from a range of organisations, funders and individuals including Scottish Natural Heritage and players of People's Postcode Lottery.

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We asked our partners and supporters...

“WHAT ONE THING WOULD MOST HELP SCOTLAND’S WILDLIFE IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS?”

“Designating **Scotland’s first Urban National Park** is an important step towards helping people from all walks of life and backgrounds to connect with and value nature wherever they are.”

- **Toby, Scottish Wildlife Trust member, Glasgow**

“At least 30% of **our seas protected from damaging activities** with a network of MPAs and ecosystem-based marine planning.”

- **Marine Conservation Society**

“More **wildlife education for children** - they are the future custodians.”

- **Cherry, Scottish Wildlife Trust member, Perth**

“A major cultural shift to a position where society values, **respects and lives alongside wild nature.**”

- **John Muir Trust**

“Widespread and diverse range of wildflower meadows... in order to **support our plants, insects and birds.** In particular, to support our pollinators.”

- **Shona, Scottish Wildlife Trust member, Glasgow**

“Inspire people to **create a world richer in nature** and boost support for positive political change for wildlife.”

- **RSPB Scotland**

“Acceptance of beavers and wild boar as a part of **Scotland’s natural heritage.** Re-introduction of lynx and if at all possible wolves.”

- **Roger, Scottish Wildlife Trust member, Helensburgh**

“More focus on, and **greater punishment for, the illegal hunting** of raptors.”

- **Karen, Scottish Wildlife Trust member, St. Andrews**