

Scottish Election 2011 Briefing

Ecosystem Health and Climate Change



Healthy ecosystems provide goods and services that are the foundation for Scotland's **economic prosperity** and people's **quality of life**. Scotland must **care** for its ecosystems and **protect** them against the **threat of climate change** so they continue to deliver services for future generations.

Conserving biodiversity is the key to ensuring ecosystem health.

To reverse Scotland's biodiversity decline, **action is needed** not just in **protected areas for wildlife** but also throughout the **wider countryside at landscape scale**.

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The Scottish Wildlife Trust would like to see the next Scottish Parliament and Government:

- Develop a National Ecological Network opportunity map for the whole of Scotland and use this to help target agri-environment spend, new developments and large scale ecological restoration projects
- Develop a suite of high level Ecosystem Health Indicators at national and regional level which will provide an annual 'report card' on the health of Scotland's natural environment
- Support 'greening' of the Common Agricultural Policy so farmers who manage land sustainably and deliver public benefits in terms of clean water, productive soils, carbon storage and biodiversity are better rewarded
- Provide statutory guidance to public bodies and local authorities on how they should deliver and report on their Biodiversity Duty