



Future Nature – draft Route Map

Agenda Item 11

National Park Authority Board Meeting

14th June 2021

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1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this report is to share the Future Nature draft Route Map with Board members for discussion and support ahead of further development and discussion with relevant delivery partners and stakeholders across the Park.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. Board members are asked to (i) support the draft Route Map and (ii) discuss the content of the draft Route Map, specifically in relation to the following questions:

How should the Route Map link to Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plans, strategies, plans and aspirations for nature to ensure successful delivery?

How can we best engage and get buy-in from our local communities?

Are the levels of ambition high enough, or too high?

Where and what do you see as the main challenges to successful delivery and how can we tackle these?

3. Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan and/or Our 5-year Plan

3.1. The Future Nature Route Map makes a contribution towards delivering the following Outcomes and Priorities of the Partnership Plan and objectives of Our 5-year Plan:

National Park Partnership Plan

- Outcome 1: Natural Capital, Priority 1.1: Habitats & Priority 1.2: Species
- Outcome 2: Landscape Qualities, Priority 2.1: Landscape & Heritage
- Outcome 3: Climate Change, Priority 3.1: Climate Change
- Outcome 4: Land Partnerships, Priority 4.1: Integrated Land Management
- Outcome 9: Health & Learning, Priority 9.1: Health Improvement, Priority 9.2: Engagement & Learning
- Outcome 10: Placemaking, Priority 10.1: Improving Towns & Villages
- Outcome 11: Sustainable Growth, Priority 11.1: Low Carbon Economy, Priority 11.2: Rural Diversification
- Outcome 12: Sustainable Population, Priority 12.1: Skills & Training
- Outcome 13: Community Empowerment, Priority 13.1: Supporting Capacity of Community Organisations, Priority 13.2: Supporting Community-led Action, Priority 13.3: Supporting Partnership Working

Our 5-year Plan

- Priority 5: Placemaking and Sustainable Communities
- Priority 7: Policy-making

4. Background

- 4.1. Board members will recall agenda item 9 from the December 2020 meeting on the [Edinburgh Declaration and Future Nature](#), where Board agreed to sign up to the Edinburgh Declaration and support the creation of a Future Nature Route Map.
- 4.2 The Future Nature programme is an ambitious new concept which aims to build on the work of our Wild Park Biodiversity Programme, but significantly expand delivery of nature restoration initiatives across the Park in the face of a continuing decline in our biodiversity.
- 4.3 The appendix to this paper outlines the Future Nature draft Route Map approach further and includes key elements which we believe will give further clarity as to why we must do significantly more for nature, and how we can do 'bigger and better' across several 'pathways' including; (i) Action for Nature: Practical Delivery, (ii) Nature Friendly Processes & Practises and (iii) Raising Awareness and Inspiring Action for Nature.
- 4.4 The draft Route Map includes a vision for nature in 2030, offers a picture of how this nature-rich future **might** look and what benefits it **could** bring, along with a set of principles that we wish to use to focus everyone involved in realising how we can deliver a restored nature in the Park and beyond. It also lists an Outline Delivery Plan of key actions, some existing and some new that are ambitious and challenging to develop and deliver – but which are necessary if we are to restore our biodiversity. Simply trying to preserve the status quo of nature in the Park will be a failure on all our parts.
- 4.5 The Route Map does need significant input from delivery partners and stakeholders and importantly it needs support and buy-in from our land managing community if it is to develop further and ultimately be successfully delivered on the ground. This

community in particular have many of the skills, experience and passion for nature to manage ecosystems and we must support them to do this.

- 4.6 We believe that Future Nature will become an important element of our next National Park Partnership Plan and in part help guide its development. We will also engage with Scottish Government and NatureScot colleagues regarding how this new approach can influence and make a contribution to the forthcoming Scottish Biodiversity Action Plan.

5. Risks

- 5.1. Risks include a potential lack of partner and key stakeholder support and buy-in, along with the inevitable resourcing constraints of delivering such an ambitious long term programme. National level policy and process changes, particularly post Brexit-Common Agricultural Policy changes to subsidy and support systems will be key to influencing delivery, as well as being fundamental to shaping the landscape and farming in the Park in the coming years.
- 5.2. Emerging carbon markets, private investment schemes, land prices, new forestry targets and other socio-economic and political factors could also impact on development and delivery. However, there will be as many new opportunities from these changes as there are risks.

6. Next steps

- 6.1. Following Board discussion we will be engaging with delivery partners, particularly through the Wild Park Partnership as well as other key stakeholders across the Park to refine the draft Route Map and discuss outputs, timescales, milestones, targets and levels of support.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – FUTURE NATURE: A draft Route Map for restoring biodiversity in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

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