

# Future Nature

OUR VISION







# What is the future for nature in our National Park?

**We face a global nature crisis and even in our most special landscapes, nature as a whole is in real trouble.**

If we do not halt and reverse this decline, then our world and all of us will have a poorer and more uncertain future.

Our Future Nature programme aims to deliver a positive, exciting vision of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park as an exemplar where people can understand, experience and contribute towards a shared vision for restoring nature.

## **Our Future Nature vision**

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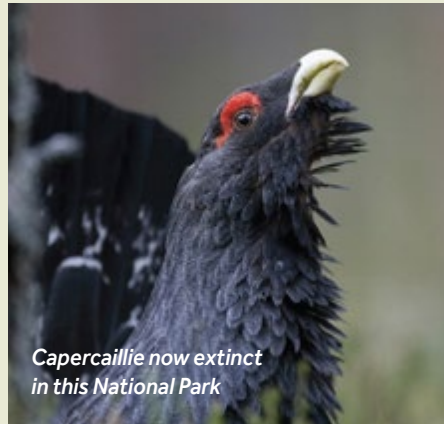
**A resilient nature-rich National Park, where abundant wildlife and a healthy natural environment provide a wealth of benefits through an extensive, well-connected living network.**

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# Why do we need Future Nature?



There is growing awareness, understanding and recognition that we face twin global crisis - we face a Nature Crisis as well as a Climate Emergency.



The nature crisis is as crucial as the climate emergency. The two are closely interlinked but the nature crisis is a distinct and crucial challenge in its own right which requires a specific and targeted response.



The causes of the global nature crisis are complex – they include issues ranging from an increasing loss of natural habitats due to agriculture and development, to over-exploitation of species, and multiple pressures from climate change, invasive non-native species and pollution.



The detail of these pressures vary from species to species and from country to country but the difficult truth we have to face is that nationally and internationally our collective efforts to protect nature are not enough and the scientific evidence shows us that the decline continues. In reality, we have struggled to protect the habitats and species we have left, let alone achieve the large-scale restoration of nature to which we aspire – and which we need.



## What do we mean by nature?

In Future Nature we are using the word **nature** to collectively describe biodiversity - all our species and living landscapes.

This includes the complex and crucial connections which exist between them all as a web of life and includes our own human species.

Our vision for nature is a rich, thriving biodiversity, connected not just in special nature reserves, but across the whole landscape of the National Park.



## Why nature is so important to us all

Nature is too often forgotten and undervalued – but it is absolutely critical to all human development, from health and wellbeing, to our economy and our climate. We identify four key reasons why we must address the nature crisis.

### For its intrinsic value

We believe that the world is a richer, more inspiring, better place if it is rich in nature

### Natural capital

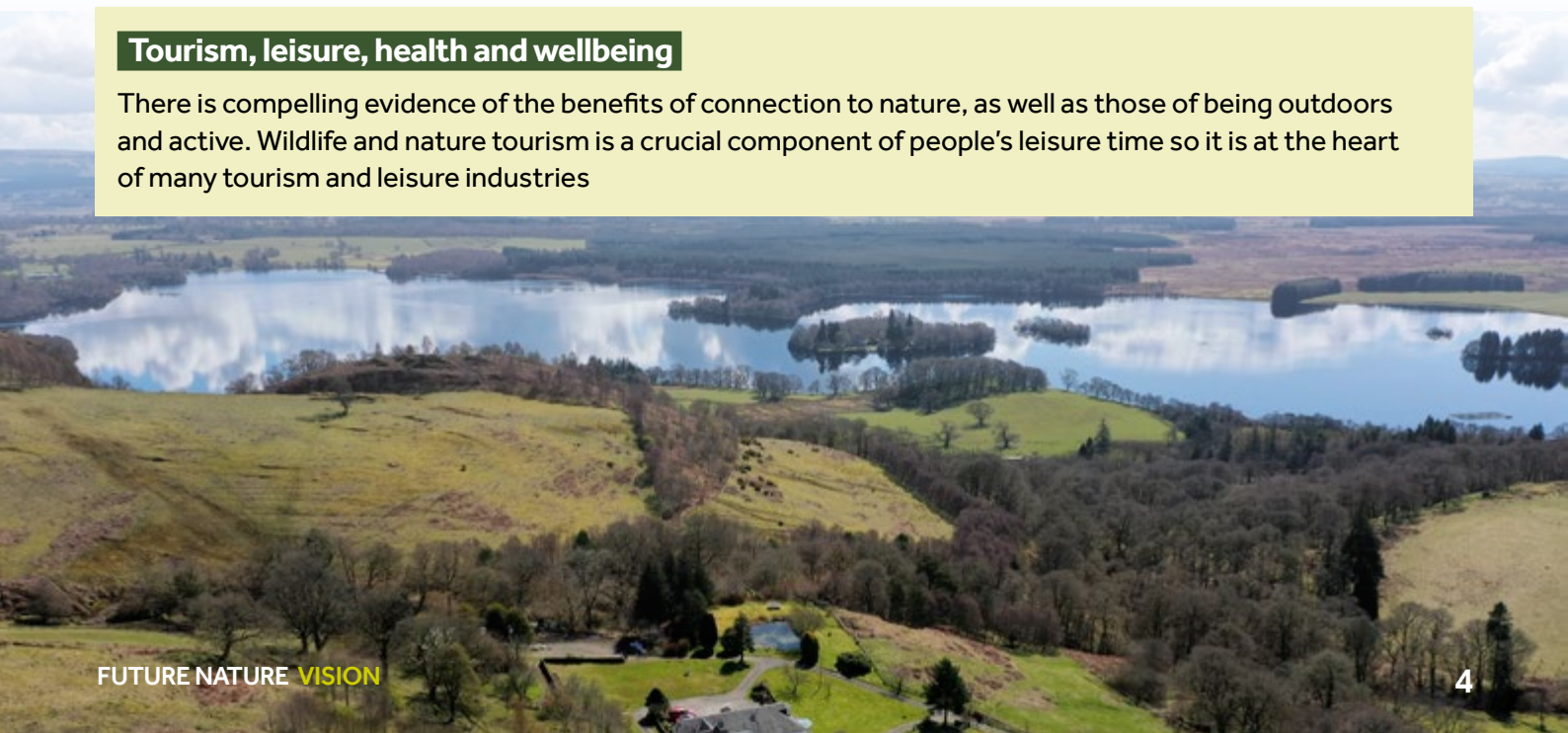
Nature is the bedrock of our economy and provides the critical resources on which our agriculture, forestry and many other industries rely. It is crucial to the fundamental services we need for clean air and water

### Net Zero

Both in terms of helping us to mitigate against the effects of climate change and adapting to it, nature-based solutions can help us capture carbon and mitigate flood risk

### Tourism, leisure, health and wellbeing

There is compelling evidence of the benefits of connection to nature, as well as those of being outdoors and active. Wildlife and nature tourism is a crucial component of people's leisure time so it is at the heart of many tourism and leisure industries





## Nature in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

National Parks are built upon the foundations of their nature and people. They play a crucial role in protecting these natural assets and supporting local communities whilst engaging and educating people in their dramatic landscapes and the wildlife that live there.

In Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park we are lucky to have a rich legacy of natural and cultural heritage left to us by environmental processes combined with the labour of previous generations.

The National Park encompasses around 720 sq miles (1,865 sq km) of some of the finest scenery in Scotland and many special qualities.

Perhaps most importantly and uniquely, 50% of Scotland's population lives within an hour's drive of the National Park. The National Park is on the doorstep for much of the Scottish population and is easily accessible for visitors from further afield. We therefore have a unique and vital opportunity to be an exemplar of what a nature-rich environment can be, looks like and the benefits it can deliver.



### SPECIAL NATURE QUALITIES IN LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK

**21**

21 Munros in the Park

**22**

22 large lochs

**50+**

More than 50 rivers

**2**

We have two Forest Parks

**166<sub>km<sup>2</sup></sub>**

One of the UK's largest NNRs – The Great Trossachs Forest

**30+**

Over 30 National Priority habitats

**300+**

Over 300 National Priority Species

**60+**

Over 60 Sites Designated for their special habitats and species.



## The state of nature in this National Park

Despite its inspiring landscapes, historic places and protected status, nature is still in trouble here. Pressures from over-grazing, pollution, invasive non-native species and a rapidly changing climate mean that many of our iconic habitats and species are in decline, and are in danger of becoming increasingly rare and therefore vulnerable.

### Despite our collective best efforts to date:

- We need to expand and regenerate our native woodlands
- Up to 56,600 hectares of peatlands may currently be degraded and contributing towards climate warming
- Invasive non-native species remain widespread
- Approximately 20% of Designated Sites are in an unfavourable condition
- Approximately 50% of water bodies may not be in good ecological condition

Efforts to date, have been best intentioned and have created good examples, but their effectiveness have been limited due to insufficient resources and considerable challenges. We are failing to achieve the necessary impact in nature restoration that we need.

**If we are to demonstrate real progress in reversing the decline in biodiversity in this National Park a systemic step change in action is required.**



Osprey chicks nesting - East Loch Lomond



## Our Commitment

It is no longer sufficient to just work to protect what is here now, we must proactively and vigorously rebuild and restore a richer nature that will continue to yield us and our world benefits for long into the future. It is time to pay nature back. This needs to be our legacy.

We firmly believe the demonstration of an exciting, inspiring vision for nature is a crucial part of our mission.

Our society, its wealth and its heritage is built largely upon the resources that our natural environment has provided us freely for hundreds of thousands of years.

We now know that the over exploitation of these resources by humanity has devastated biodiversity at a global scale and fundamentally shifted the planetary life-support systems that have allowed us to move from the stone-age to a technologically advanced civilisation.

Our duty as stewards of this special place has therefore changed in the face of this crisis.

Through nature-based solutions, we can achieve positive outcomes for both climate and biodiversity, such as restoring damaged peatlands that help capture carbon and other greenhouse gases, creating new woodlands and forests, and restoring rivers to allow natural flood management.



© Steven Gardner, Scottish Beaver Trial

**Future Nature is our commitment and call to action to work with partners to achieve an inspiring vision:**

A resilient nature-rich National Park, where abundant wildlife and a healthy natural environment provide a wealth of benefits through an extensive, well-connected living network.



Native woodland - Inchcailloch

## How will we deliver this commitment?

We are committing to our long-term Future Nature vision. We will begin work now to build on the success of existing projects such as The Great Trossachs Forest and develop new programmes, with an emphasis on upscaling efforts for nature which means working at a

landscape-scale, mainstreaming nature into decision making and providing clear calls to action.

We will collaborate with partners and stakeholders to publish a full Route Map which will describe in detail how the National Park

Authority will work in partnership with others to deliver our Future Nature vision. This will include working with partners to establish an Advisory Board and developing project ideas and a detailed workplan with other stakeholders.

### The Future Nature Route Map will be structured around the following key elements

#### Our Vision

**Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park is a resilient nature-rich National Park, where abundant wildlife and a healthy natural environment provide a wealth of benefits through an extensive, well-connected living network**

#### Objective 1

Reverse the decline in nature in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park by 2030 latest.

#### Objective 2

Ensure the widespread restoration of nature across the National Park by 2040.

#### Our Delivery Pathways

Action for Nature: Practical Delivery

Engaging and Inspiring Action for Nature

Mainstreaming Nature-Friendly Processes & Practices

#### Outcome 1

**A resilient, nature-rich National Park with abundant wildlife and a healthy natural environment**

The status of habitats is improved and the abundance of the species that live there is increased

#### Outcome 2

**Providing a wealth of benefits**

Economic and social conditions are developed that reward the valuation and active restoration of nature and deliver benefits for local communities, businesses (particularly land-use businesses) and visitors

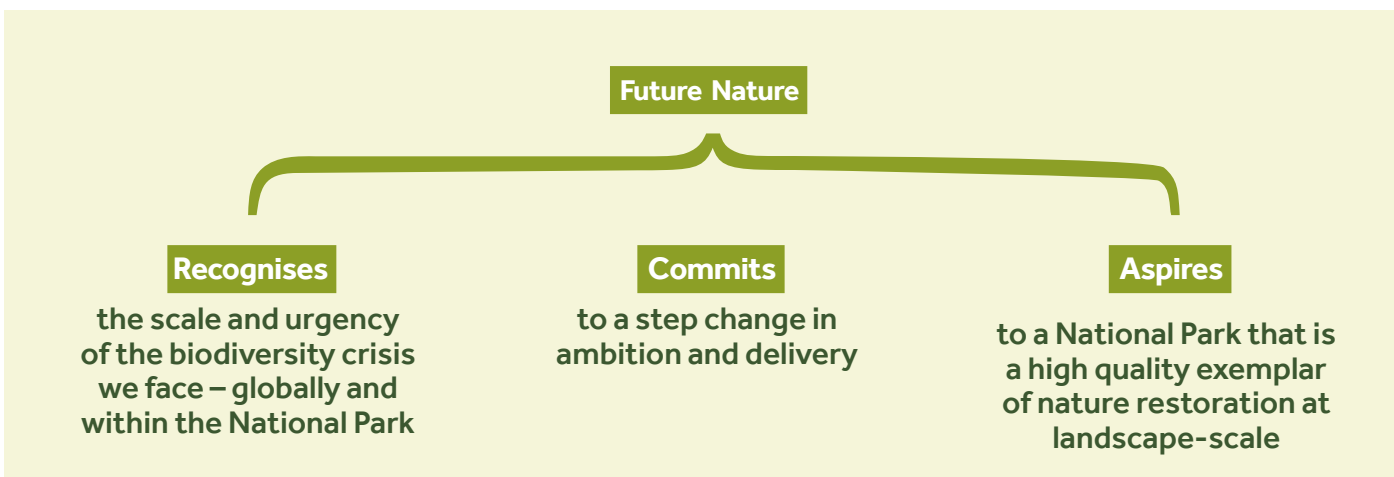
#### Outcome 3

**An extensive well-connected living network**

Habitats and species are connected on a landscape-scale. People and communities feel connected to nature and empowered as part of a resilient, sustainable network



## Future Nature principles



**Our Future Nature principles will guide all of our work. We will:**

### **Principle 1**

Work in partnership

### **Principle 2**

Tackle the key pressures on nature

### **Principle 3**

Discuss and address systemic issues with honesty and energy

### **Principle 4**

Be agile, innovative and evidence-led

### **Principle 5**

Mainstream nature restoration thinking in our organisations

### **Principle 6**

Deliver nature-based solutions which address the climate and biodiversity crisis

### **Principle 7**

Deliver nature restoration where people and livelihoods are integral

### **Principle 8**

Inform, involve and empower all to be involved

### **Principle 9**

Prioritise the protection and restoration of Designated Sites

### **Principle 10**

Connect these sites through an integrated approach to land use at landscape-scale





## How can I get involved?

We cannot deliver the vision and ambition of Future Nature alone – in the coming weeks and months we will be setting up an Advisory Group and a number of steering and working groups. We're also keen to support other organisations, stakeholders and communities to develop and deliver projects which work towards the Future Nature vision.

If your organisation would like to be involved or have an idea you would like to discuss, please contact:

**Dom Hall** Future Nature Development Manager

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## Where can I find out more?

For further information on Future Nature please read the following papers presented to the National Park Authority.

- [Future Nature Update \(March 2022\)](#)
- [Draft Future Nature Route Map \(June 2021\)](#)

**Published by:**  
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