

A woman in a blue puffer jacket and a young child in a red t-shirt are wading in a shallow lake. The woman is leaning forward, looking at the child who is holding a long stick. The background is a dense forest of evergreen trees under a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with green grass and reeds.

Future Nature

Route Map

Future Nature – Route Map: Approach

The Route Map is the first step in a long-term strategy and commitment to restore Nature in the National Park.

It aims to:

- Define the problem and where we are now
- Define where we want to get to
- Map out a clear structure and initial actions by which we will get there
 - Future Nature does not have a specific statutory role
 - Instead it is a strategy and a delivery programme, developed in partnership with other stakeholders to guide our response to the Nature Crisis in our National Park.

Vision, Objectives and Principles

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

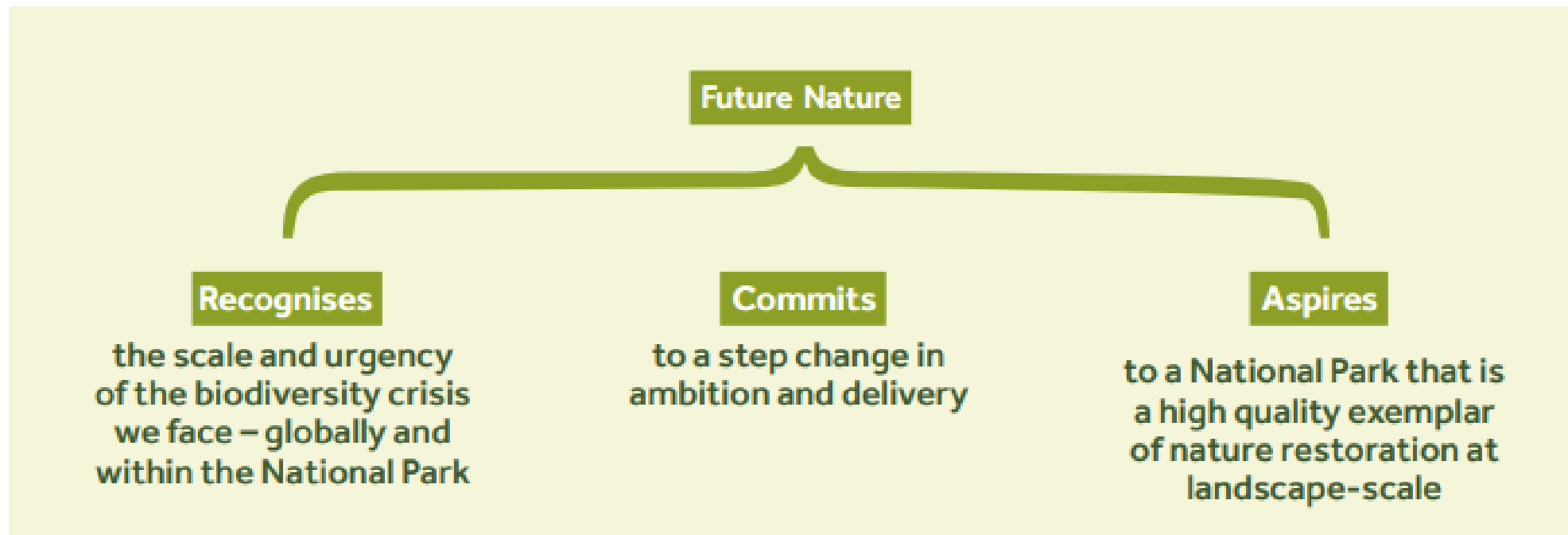
Objective 1

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.

Principles



Principles

- Work in partnership effectively across communities, agencies, NGOs and businesses.
- Tackle the key pressures on nature
- Discuss and address systemic issues with honesty and energy
- Be agile, innovative and evidence led
- Mainstream nature restoration thinking in our organisations and those of other stakeholders
- Deliver nature-based solutions which address the climate and biodiversity crisis
- Deliver nature restoration where people and livelihoods are integral
- Inform, involve and empower all to be involved
- Prioritise the protection and restoration of important existing habitats and designated sites Designated Sites
- Connect these sites through an integrated approach to land use at landscape-scale

Mapping – a landscape scale approach



Future Nature will work at landscape scale, embedding nature restoration all across the park to develop a well-connected living network.

It takes a Nature Network based approach:

- reviewing key elements of habitat network
- the threats facing that network
- And how we best build, improve and connect core areas and the links between them

Our Living Network will:

BUILD THREE KEY HABITAT NETWORKS:

- Woodland
- Peatland
- Water

Address FOUR KEY PRESSURES which weaken those networks

- Water Quality
- Invasive Non-Native Species
- Herbivore Pressure
- Climate Change

EMBED nature restoration across OUR CRUCIAL LAND USES

- **Agriculture** – delivering nature friendly farming to continue to support livelihoods and food production whilst supporting restoration of our soils, expansion of woodland and reduced grazing pressures
- **Forestry** – delivering timber production whilst expanding and improving our woodland network
- **Communities** – nature friendly approaches to our housing, energy, business and recreation activities

Future Nature – Landscape Scale Projects

One important element of this approach is to build Landscape Scale Projects

- Identify areas where landscape scale projects are needed
- Where we have the right combination of partners to deliver them
- To match funding opportunities to support those project

Three initial focuses have been identified

- Existing Landscape Projects – in particular The Great Trossachs Forest
- Wild Strathfillan
- Loch Lomond Basin – a Rainforest Restoration Project

Delivery Plan



- A detailed, iterative delivery plan is already under development
- The Route map will provide the structure for the key work areas, aims and early actions

3 Delivery pathways:

Our Delivery Pathways

Action for Nature: Practical Delivery

Engaging and Inspiring Action for Nature

Mainstreaming Nature-Friendly Processes & Practices

Delivery Phases:

- STAGE 1: **INITIATION**: 2022- 2023
- STAGE 2: **INSTIGATION**: 2024-2025
- STAGE 3: **PROTECTION**: 2026-2030
OBJECTIVE 1: REVERSE DECLINE BY 2030
- STAGE 4: **RESTORATION**: 2030 -2040
OBJECTIVE 2: WIDESPREAD RESTORATION BY 2040

Pathway 1 – Action for Nature

	Key Areas	Workstream Aim
ADDRESS KEY THREATS	Herbivore Pressure	Support local activity and Scottish Government policy that ensures landscape-scale management of herbivore pressures in uplands and forests is low enough to allow the widespread natural recovery and expansion of native woodlands, and the protection of fragile peat soils
	INNS	Develop a strategic and well-resourced programme of Invasive Non Native Species control with surveillance and management to control Invasive species across the National Park
	Water Quality	Develop a strategic programme to address key water quality issues in the park – with specific focus on addressing diffuse pollution, discharge and run off
	Climate Change	Plan for a National Park resilient to the impacts of climate change and delivering solutions which contribute to our net zero approach .
MANAGE KEY HABITATS	Woodland Expansion	To support the expansion of our woodland network whilst increasing it's percentage of native species and enhancing it's condition, diversity and resilience .
	Peatland Restoration	Up scale Peatland ACTION and develop broader approach to create an extensive programme of well-resourced peatland restoration works to ensure that all peatland soils are in a healthy condition, providing a range of public benefits.
	River and wetland restoration	Develop a holistic programme for our water network which improves water quality , restores rivers and wetlands , restores natural flow conditions and benefits nature and downstream flood impacts.
PROTECT AND CONNECT	Protect and Restore existing nature	Deliver a programme to target improvements in the status of key designated sites and deliver effective and responsive influence to protect and enhance current nature and biodiversity Deliver action plans to protect and enhance key priority plant and animal species and their habitats .
	Deliver Landscape scale restoration	Develop a strategic ' National Park Nature Network ' which is supported as a major development and improves ecological connectivity and resilience at geographically focused areas, through targeted land (and water) management interventions including woodland expansion, wetland restoration and grassland management.

Pathway 1 – Action for Nature

Priority Stage 1 actions

- Develop INNS status reporting and criteria for main river catchments in the Park
- Develop National Park water network strategy and delivery plan
- Review woodland network expansion and restoration targets and delivery plans
- Produce National Park Herbivore Statement and accompanying monitoring framework
- Publish long term peatland strategy
- Identify priority designated sites for action
- Develop vision and funding for Wild Strathfillan Landscape project
- Expand capacity within The Great Trossachs Forest

Pathway 1 – Action for Nature

Priority Stage 2 actions

- Extend riparian INNS management coverage in West & South Loch Lomond
- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance in Fillan, Dochart, Earn, Teith, Forth, Endrick & East Loch Lomond.
- Develop landscape scale water network project and funding
- Restoration on priority Peatland Action sites
- Review of Peatland which falls outside Peatland Action programme
- Develop new landscape scale approach focused on Loch Lomond Basin

Pathway 2 – Mainstreaming Nature Friendly Processes & Governance



Key Areas	Workstream Aim
Strategy and Policy	Embed nature restoration principles and where appropriate projects into all new strategic development plans and policies that cover the National Park.
Nature Positive Development	Explore enhanced opportunities for the promotion and application of nature based solutions, natural infrastructure, nature networks and ‘nature positive development’ in new development through the preparation of our new Local Development Plan, ensuring the application of NPF4 reflects the role of the National Park.
Regional Land Use Partnership	Develop a pilot Regional Land Use Partnership and from it delivering a Regional Land Use Framework which creates the correct conditions for collaborative and impactful land use change resulting in greater multiple benefits; including nature restoration.
Agricultural and Forestry Grants and Subsidies	Through engagement with Scottish Government and key partners, use our experience and knowledge to support effective use of grants and subsidies to support land use change and provide leadership, support and input into post-Brexit agricultural subsidy scheme reform.
New Funding Models	Develop, support and pilot new public and private funding models that support large-scale nature restoration projects in the National Park, such as ‘Revere’ (i.e. Net Zero with Nature).
Jobs and Skills	Support the creation of new and innovative nature-based jobs and skills by engaging with land-based businesses, training providers and research institutions to map out capacity and skills shortages and provide opportunities.

Pathway 2 – Mainstreaming Nature Friendly Processes & Governance



Priority Stage 1 actions

- Embed Future Nature in new National Park Partnership Plan and Local Development Plan
- Deliver RLUP pilot report
- Engage in and influence national 30by30 and Nature Networks development
- Complete initial feasibility research for green finance for Wild Strathfillan through the Revere project

Priority Stage 2 actions

- Deliver initial green finance pilots
- Support roll out of new agricultural support scheme to deliver nature friendly farming in the Park
- Develop green finance opportunities for key landscape projects across the National Park

Pathway 3 – Raising Awareness and Inspiring Action for Nature.



Key Areas	Workstream Aim
Nature Literacy	Develop our nature literacy programme to effectively inspire action for nature, building understanding of the challenges, nature connections and opportunities for everyone to act .
Nature Based Visitor Experience	Provide high quality nature based visitor experiences which inspire and educate visitors.
Education and Outreach	Align and expand our education and outreach opportunities to ensure that everyone learning about the National Park is able to develop their nature literacy .
Community Empowerment	Develop support and empowerment of local communities to enable them to make a positive contribution to the protection and restoration of nature.
Volunteering for Nature	Further develop volunteering opportunities across the National Park to allow people to actively participate in nature restoration (and climate) action.

Pathway 3 – Raising Awareness and Inspiring Action for Nature.

Priority Stage 1 actions

- Development of Nature literacy and connection behaviour change model and programme
- Review and realign our educational and outreach resources and programme with FN priorities and key messages
- RLUP pilot "Lighting a Spark" in Loch Goil
- Develop Citizen Science programme for volunteers to assist with Future Nature Monitoring

Priority Stage 2 actions

- Review existing Nature Based Tourism and identify opportunities to support growth in funding and delivery
- National Park local schools 'Nature Network' scoped and delivered
- Review of community identified nature projects in Strathard

Outcomes and Indicators

Our Future Nature 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.

Working on 5 yearly basis we will review a series of indicators which assess if we are moving towards our vision in terms of these three outcomes

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 which live there is increased

Outcome 2

Providing a wealth of benefits

Economic and social conditions are developed which reward the valuation and active restoration of nature and deliver benefits for local communities, businesses (particularly land-use ones) 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 empower as part of a resilient, sustainable network

The following slides list the provisional structure for the outcomes and indicators we will monitor...

Outcome 1 – Sub-outcomes and indicators

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

SUBOUTCOMES	POSSIBLE INDICATORS
The condition, diversity and resilience of our woodland network is increased. Native woodland is expanding and regenerating.	%woodland cover
	%native woodland
	Area of new woodland created
	NFI Woodland Ecological Condition - Forest Research
Peatland condition is improved	Peatland condition map
	Hectares of peatland restored
The quality, health and resilience of our water network is improved	Water body status
	More specific water quality status of specific target lochs?
	National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland

NB: colour coding of indicators is to give idea (Green / Amber / Red) of the extent to which we already collect and have baselines for the indicator:

Outcome 1 – Sub-outcomes and indicators

SUBOUTCOMES	POSSIBLE INDICATORS
Herbivore pressure is reduced, allowing widespread natural recovery and expansion of native woodlands, and the protection of fragile peat soils	Number of sheep
	Average Deer Density
	Habitat impact assessments
Surveillance and management of Invasive species is increased	River catchments in green status for INNS surveillance and management
	Rhododendron mapping
Key species are thriving	10 indicator species?
	Marine and terrestrial biodiversity indicator (NatureScot)
	National Park Citizen Science
	eDNA survey
The condition of our key sites is improved	% SSSIs fav condition

Outcome 2 – Sub-outcomes and indicators

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

SUBOUTCOMES	POSSIBLE INDICATORS
Nature based land use funding is increased	££ spent on nature restoration
Nature based tourism is increased	££ nature based tourism Visitor feedback
New green jobs are created	Number of nature based jobs / apprenticeships
Natural Capital is increased	Value of Nat Cap
Ecosystem service delivery is increased	Tonnes CO2 seq Soil / Air quality?
Public policy support for nature restoration has increased	Number of policies?

Outcome 3 – Sub-outcomes and indicators

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

OUTCOMES	SUBOUTCOMES	POSSIBLE INDICATORS
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	The connection, reliance and quality of our Nature network is increasing	Habitat opportunity map?
		Nature Network map?
		Land cover?
		Biodiversity intactness (natural history museum)
	Communities within the Park and Visitors to feel an informed and empowered part of our living network	Visitor and Community Feedback
		Feedback from education programmes
		Volunteer numbers?
		Number of community projects supported
		Land owner attitude survey

In development – next steps

Completing the full draft text which will fully describe and explain the Route Map

Designing this into a final document

Incorporate further analysis:

In development:

StoryMap and GIS App

- To further analyse and communicate our Landscape Approach

Nature Network

- GIS analysis of how we effectively connect our Nature Network

Indicator Dashboard and ‘State of Nature’ Report

- We have commissioned a review of our draft indicators and the development of a reporting dashboard