

# Nature and Biodiversity

Simon Brooks & Cara Davidson

*“The Global Climate Emergency and the Nature Emergency are twin reinforcing crises: the actions we take to address each are fundamental to our wellbeing and survival as a species.”*

[Scottish Biodiversity Strategy]

**24%**

decline in average species' abundance.

Our indicator of average species' abundance of 352 terrestrial and freshwater species has fallen by 24% since 1994. There has been very little change in the rate of decline in the last 10 years.

**14%**

decline in average species' distribution.

Our indicator of average species' distribution, covering 2,970 terrestrial and freshwater species over a broad range of taxonomic groups, has fallen by 14% since 1970, and is 2% lower than in 2005.

**49%**

of species have decreased in abundance.

Of the species showing either strong or moderate changes in numbers, 49% have decreased and 28% have increased. Likewise more species have decreased in distribution (33%) than increased (20%) since 1970.

**62%**

of species show strong changes.

Our wildlife is undergoing rapid change, the proportion of species defined as showing strong changes in abundance, either increasing or decreasing, rose from 45% since 1994 to 62% over the last 10 years.

**11%**

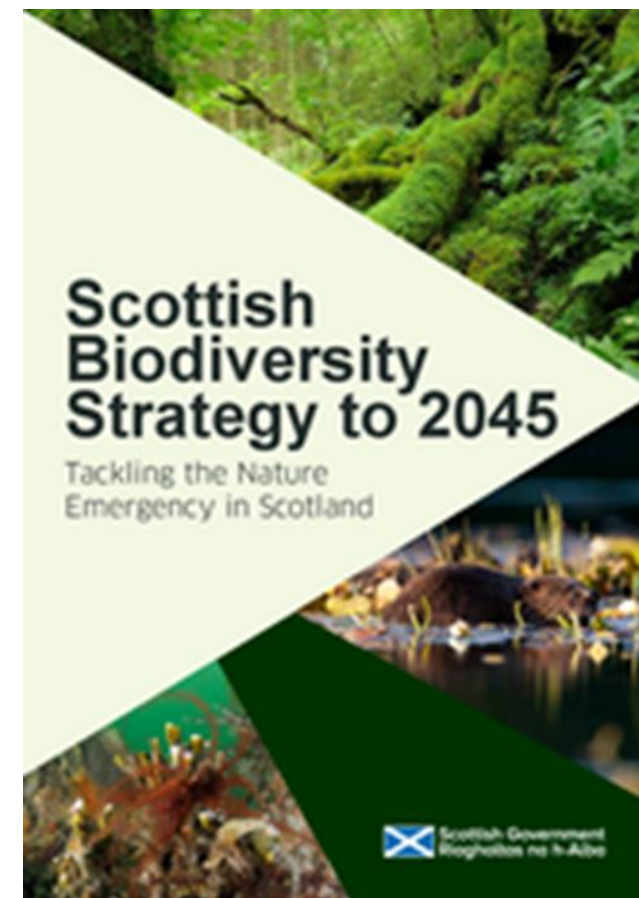
of species are threatened.

Of the 6,413 species found in Scotland that have been assessed using Regional Red List criteria, 11% have been classified as threatened with extinction from Great Britain.

**38%**

decline in the Scottish breeding seabird indicator between 1986 and 2016.

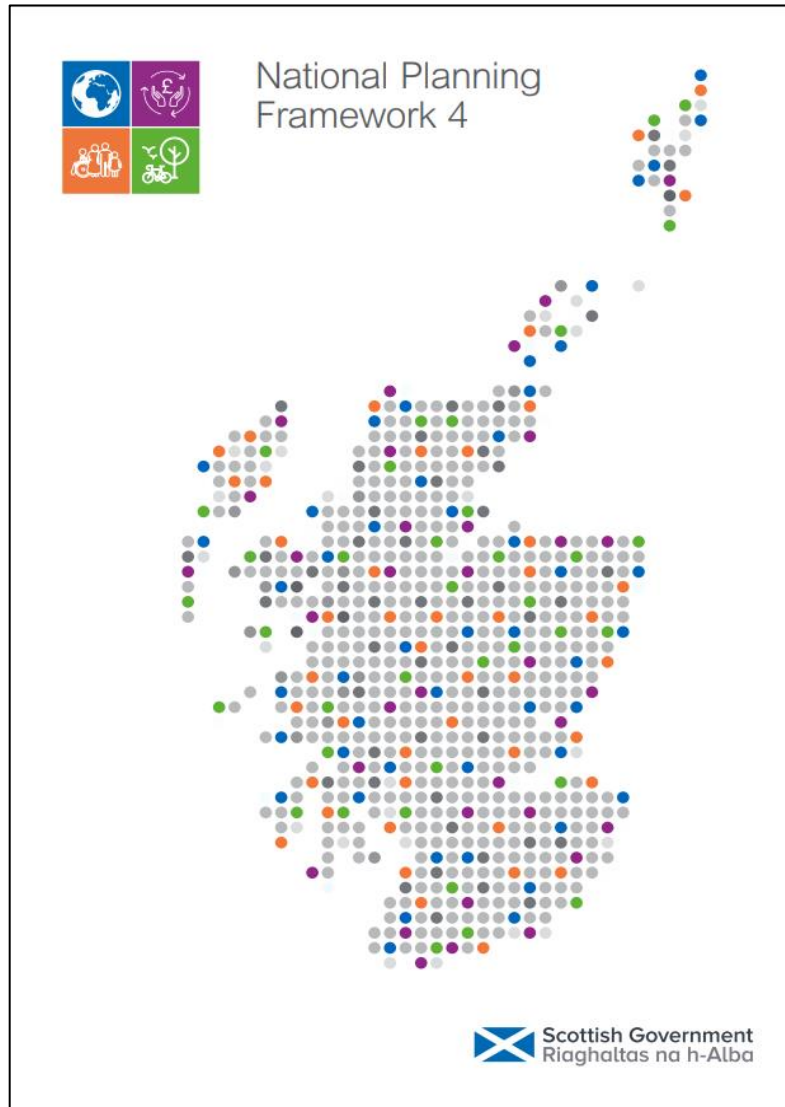
However, the abundance indicators for fish species, both pelagic and demersal, show some signs of recovery from deep historic lows in the Celtic and North Seas.



# Our vision for nature

- By 2045, Scotland will have restored and regenerated biodiversity across our land, freshwater and seas.
- Our natural environment, our habitats, ecosystems and species, will be diverse, thriving, resilient and adapting to climate change.
- Regenerated biodiversity will drive a sustainable economy and support thriving communities, and people will play their part in the stewardship of nature for future generations.





- The nature crisis, together with the global climate emergency, underpin the spatial strategy as a whole.
- NPF4 strategy and policies support development that helps to secure positive effects for biodiversity.

# NPF4 policies

## Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)



**Local Development Plans** should protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity in line with the mitigation hierarchy. They should also promote nature recovery and nature restoration across the development plan area, including by: facilitating the creation of nature networks and strengthening connections between them to support improved ecological connectivity; restoring degraded habitats or creating new habitats; and incorporating measures to increase biodiversity, including populations of priority species.

- Embeds the mitigation hierarchy into plan and decision making.
- Targets the most stringent policy requirements at National, Major and EIA Development
- Local developments to be ‘developed with Nature’

# Developing with Nature guidance

Guidance on securing positive effects for biodiversity from local development to support NPF4 policy 3(c)

You can print or save this page as a pdf, here: [Print](#) [PDF](#)

The following Guidance has been published in support of policy 3(c) of National Planning Framework 4. An illustrated version of this guidance is currently in preparation, and will be published on this page when finalised.

Note that a draft of this Guidance was consulted on from December 2021 to March 2022, which can be viewed on this website along with the submissions received and an analysis of responses.

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- **1. INTRODUCTION**
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  - Who is this Guidance for?
  - The application and scope of this Guidance
- **2. TAKING ACCOUNT OF NATURE IN PLANNING**
  - Ensuring a nature rich approach
    - Apply the mitigation hierarchy
    - Consider biodiversity from the outset
    - Provide synergies and connectivity for nature
    - Integrate nature to deliver multiple benefits
    - Prioritise on-site enhancement before off-site delivery
    - Take a placed-based and inclusive approach
    - Ensure long term enhancement is secured
    - Selecting the measures that are appropriate
    - Information to include in the Planning Application
    - Determining the scale of enhancement to be delivered by development
- **3. KEY SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**
  - General sources on enhancement for biodiversity
  - Organisations
- **ANNEX A: APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY**

## Policy 3c

Proposals for local development **will include appropriate measures** to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, in accordance with **national and local guidance**. Measures should be **proportionate to the nature and scale of development**. Applications for individual householder development, or which fall within scope of (b) above, are excluded from this requirement.



### Developing with Nature guidance

- ❖ non-statutory
- ❖ non-expert audience
- ❖ non-specialist measures

# 24 Appropriate Measures

## PLANTING

- 1 Pollinator plants
- 2 Meadows
- 3 Orchards
- 4 Trees & scrub
- 5 Living roof
- 6 Green wall
- 7 Hedgerows

## HOMES

- 8 Log & leaf piles
- 9 Hibernacula
- 10 Bees
- 11 Bugs
- 12 Hedgehogs
- 13 Small birds
- 14 Owls
- 15 Bats
- 16 Wildlife wall
- 17 Wildlife tower
- 18 Lighting

## WATER

- 19 Rain garden
- 20 Swale & ditch
- 21 SuDS pond
- 22 Wildlife pond
- 23 Rivers & burns
- 24 Drain escape





# Appropriate measures format



- ❖ Description
- ❖ Nature benefitted
- ❖ Key requirements (to be successful)
- ❖ Future management needs
- ❖ Complementary measures
- ❖ Nature notes
- ❖ Sources for further information



# Selecting the right Measures



Ecological	Practical
Locally & ecologically relevant	People & nature together
Careful species choice	Long term retention & management
Connected & permeable for nature	Local community involvement
Space for adaption	Multiple benefits
Allow for synergies	
Scale of provision	



# How much enhancement?



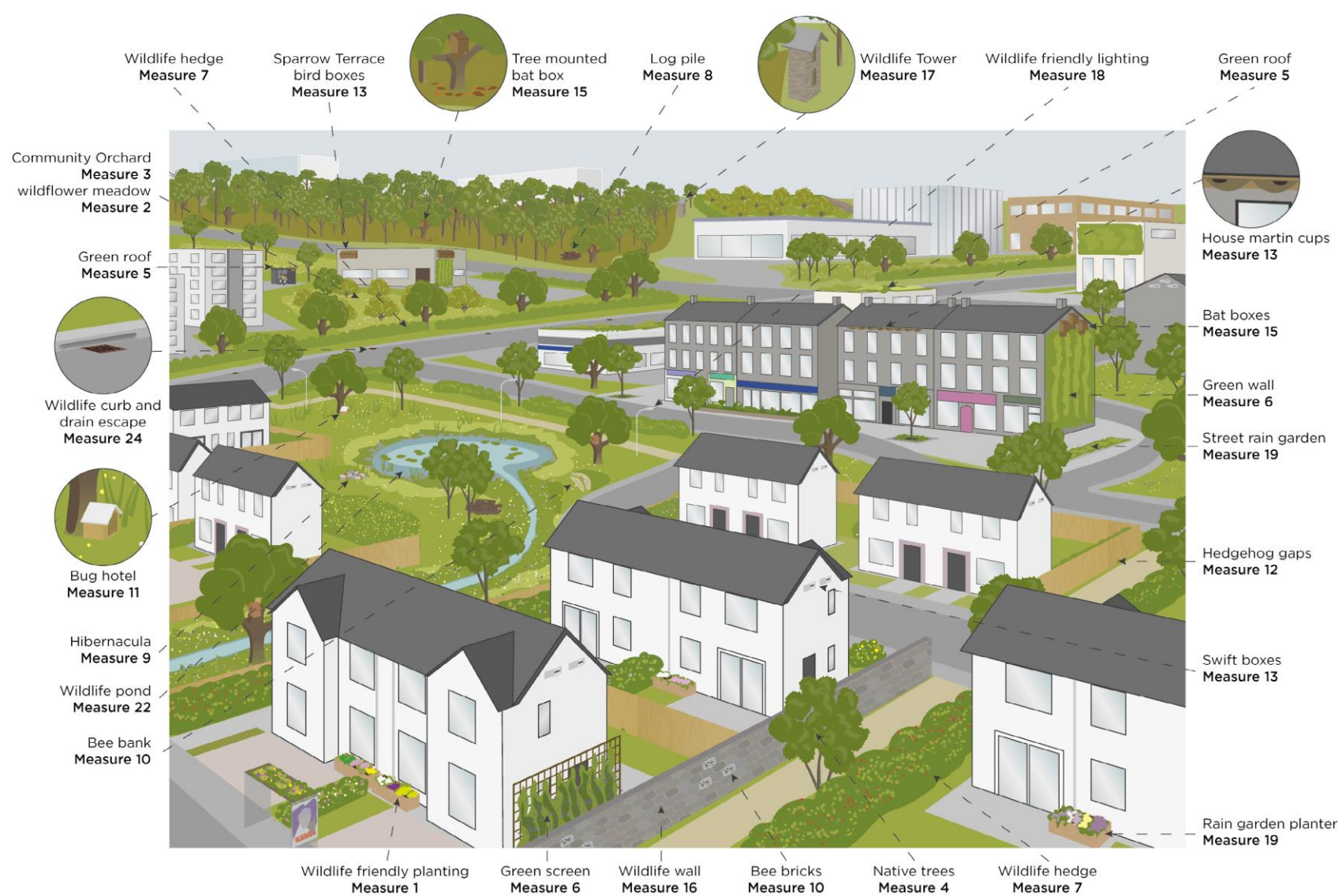
No set rules but consider:

- ❖ Location of development and opportunities it provides
- ❖ Character and scale of development
- ❖ Requirements and cost of future management
- ❖ Distinctiveness and scale of biodiversity lost
- ❖ Time and uncertainty in delivering benefits



## ANNEX C: EXAMPLE TEMPLATE FOR DEMONSTRATING DELIVERY OF POSITIVE EFFECTS

ACTIONS CONSIDERED	MITIGATION: Measures included as mitigation to avoid and minimise impacts	ENHANCEMENT: Measures included to enhance biodiversity (or explanation for not applying)
Protection and enhancement of existing habitats on or adjacent to the site		
Creation of new habitat on the site		
Protection and enhancement of connectivity through the site and with its surroundings		
Protection and enhancement of existing species on or adjacent to the site		
Avoidance, control and removal of invasive species from the site		
Protecting wildlife from negative interactions with people and / or infrastructure		
Promoting awareness and encouraging further actions for nature		
SUMMARY: Positive effects that will be delivered		



# What do we need to do to achieve our vision?

- View every plan and decision through a climate and nature lens.
- Deliver change in the long term public interest.
- Take a place based approach /develop 'with' nature
- Have a learning mindset, share skills, learning and expertise.
- Work collectively and collaboratively to drive change together.
- Be bold!



# Keep in touch

- [www.transformingplanning.scot](http://www.transformingplanning.scot)



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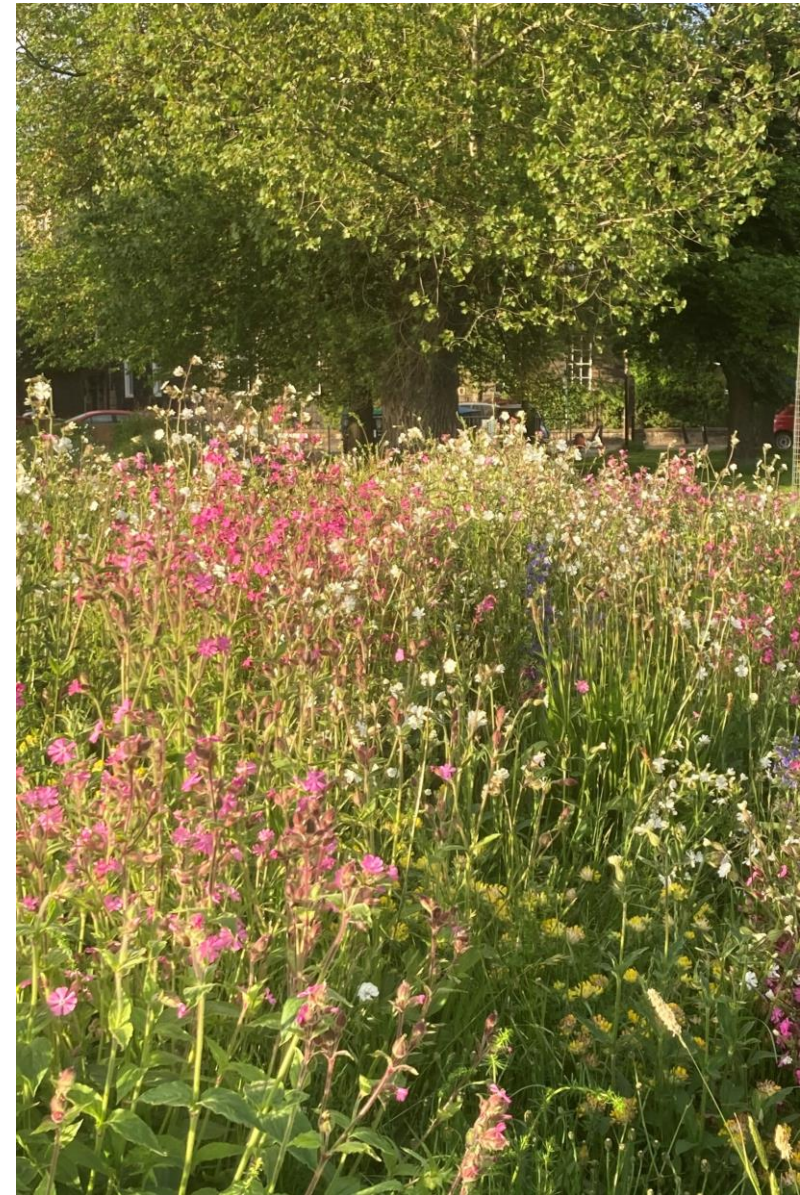
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