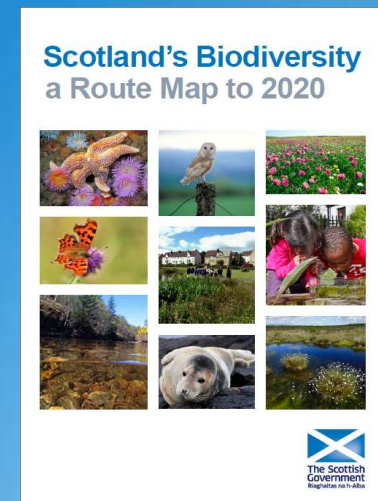
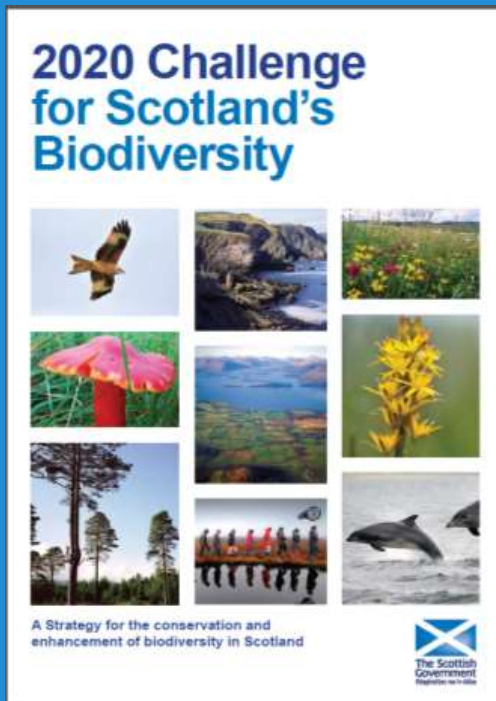


Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy and the role of Local Authorities

Lorraine Gormley
Biodiversity Policy Manager
Scottish Government



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Content

- 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity
- Scotland's Biodiversity: a Route Map to 2020
- Restoration and investment in natural capital
- Developing Scotland's natural health service
- Potential for funding



2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity



A Strategy for the conservation and
enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland



The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity is Scotland's response to the Aichi Targets set by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2020.

It is a supplement to the Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands (2004). The two documents together comprise the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

The 2020 Challenge document provides greater detail in some areas, responds to the new international targets, and updates some elements of the 2004 document.



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Scotland's Biodiversity a Route Map to 2020



The Route Map sets out the priority work over the next five years to help us deliver the '2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity' to meet the international Aichi Targets for biodiversity.

Action is co-ordinated into six 'Big Steps for Nature', under which priority projects are identified which focus on delivering benefits for biodiversity.



Six Big Steps for Nature

1. **Ecosystem restoration** – to reverse historical losses of habitats and ecosystems, to meet the Aichi target of restoring 15% of degraded ecosystems;
2. **Investment in natural capital** – to ensure the benefits which nature provides are better understood and appreciated, leading to better management of our renewable and non-renewable natural assets;
3. **Quality greenspace for health and education benefits** – to ensure that the majority of people derive increased benefits from contact with nature where they live and work;
4. **Conserving wildlife in Scotland** – to secure the future of priority habitats and species;
5. **Sustainable management of land and freshwater** – to ensure that environmental, social and economic elements are well balanced; and
6. **Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems** – to secure a healthy balance between environmental, social and economic elements.



Big Step 2: Investment in natural capital

What is natural capital?

- Natural Capital can be defined as the world's stocks of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things.

It is from this Natural Capital that humans derive a wide range of services, often called *ecosystem services*, which make human life possible.



Ecosystem services include:

- the food we eat,
- the water we drink and
- the plant materials we use for fuel, building materials and medicines.

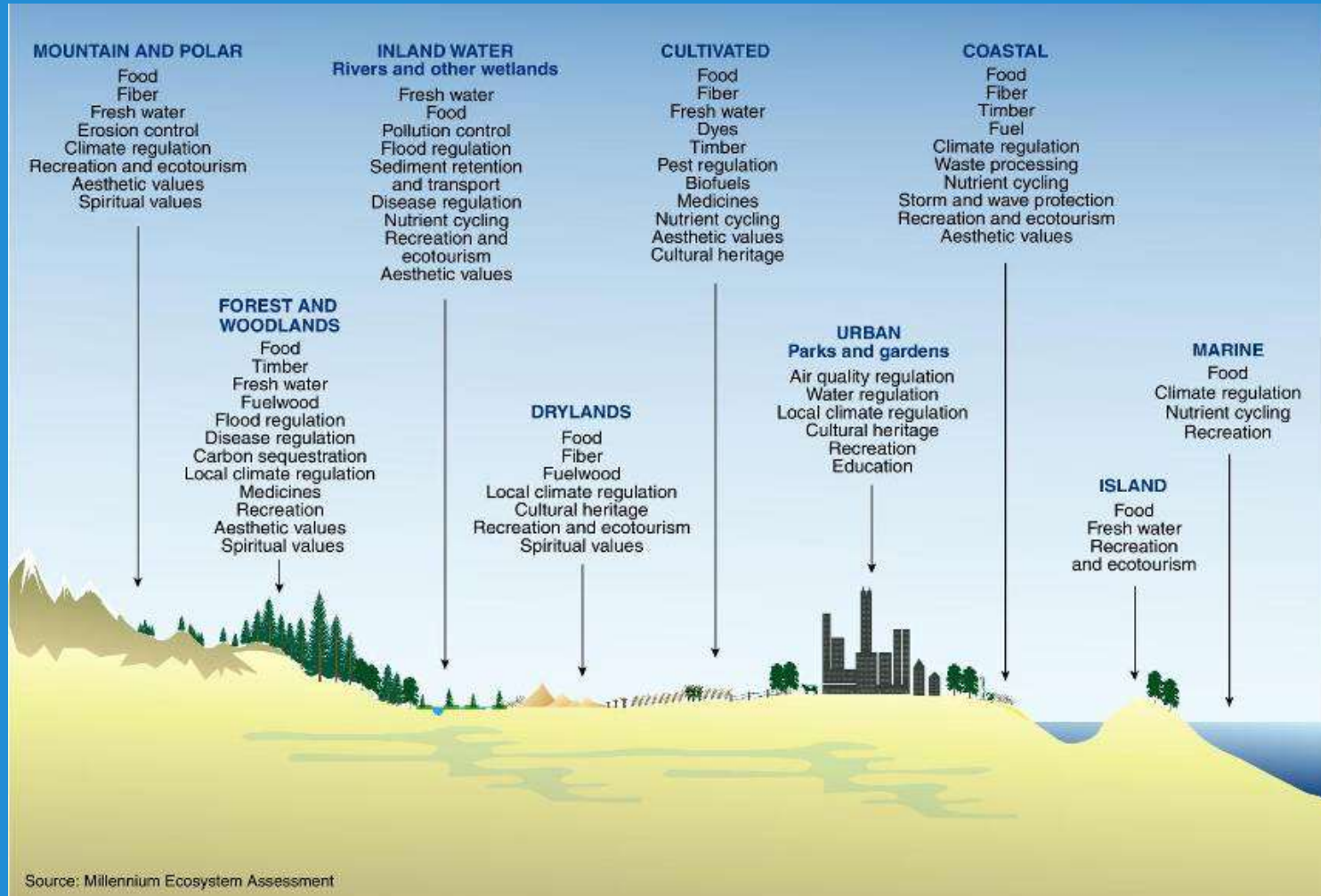
There are many less visible ecosystem services such as the climate regulation and natural flood defences provided by forests, the billions of tonnes of carbon stored by peatland, or the pollination of crops by insects.

Even less visible are cultural ecosystem services such as the inspiration we take from wildlife and the natural environment

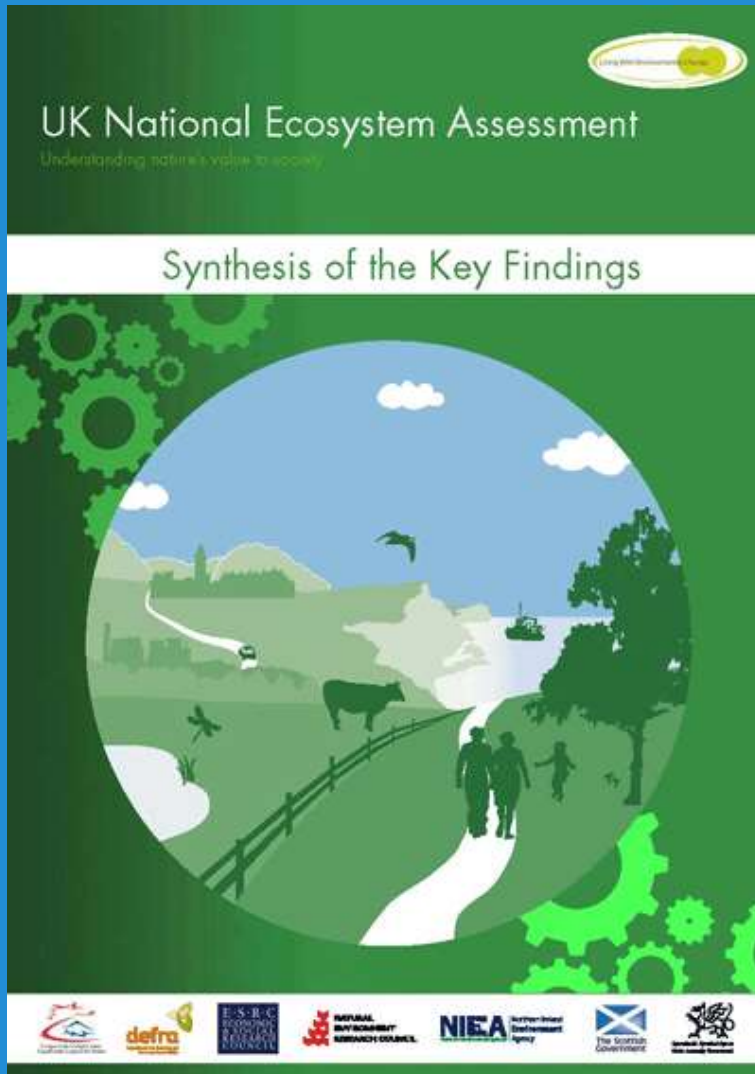


The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Ecosystem services



UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011)



- Nature is critically important to our wellbeing and economy.
- But it is consistently undervalued in decision-making
- Many of nature's services are in decline or in a degraded state



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Valuation of ecosystem services

- Ecosystem services contribute to economic welfare through contributions to the generation of income and wellbeing (e.g., provisioning of food and fibre),
- Valuation techniques are important to ensure that the true value of ecosystems and their services provided are taken into account and should use a combination of economic and non-economic valuation methods
- The report, 'Valuing our Environment' (SNH, 2008) shows that 11% of Scotland's total economic output depends on sustainable use of the environment. This is worth £17.2 billion a year, and supports 1 in 7 of all full time jobs.
- The Natural Capital Asset index (SNH) analyses the quality and quantity of terrestrial habitats, according to their potential to deliver ecosystem services now and into the future.



Restoration and investment in natural capital

Many projects underway both under Big Step 2 and within other Big Steps.

‘Big Step 1: Ecosystem restoration’ lists many projects which are restoring natural capital:

- restoration of peatland (Peatland Plan 2015),
- native woodland and
- freshwater



Developing Scotland's natural health service

- Big Step 3 Quality greenspace for health and education benefits

Green spaces can play a vital role in the health of the nation. Access to a park or green space can have wide-ranging benefits for our health and wellbeing. A safe, natural environment can be a break from our busy lives – a place to get some fresh air, to exercise or play – a place to go and relax.





“The potential benefits of physical activity to health are huge. If a medication existed which had a similar effect, it would be regarded as a ‘wonder drug’ or ‘miracle cure’”



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Benefits gained from outdoor visits (agree strongly)

Source: Scotland's People and Nature Survey
2013/4 (SNH)



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Building the evidence base

- ✓ Improved physical and mental health through green exercise
- ✓ Natural contribution to effective recovery
- ✓ Wider social health and well-being benefits
- ✓ Young people and sustained benefits

Professor Rich Mitchell of the University of Glasgow, and colleagues have found that green places are not only good for our health and well-being, but could also help close the gaps in health between people of different backgrounds and incomes (2008 and 2015).



The image shows a screenshot of a BBC News website page from November 7, 2008. The page features the BBC logo at the top left, a search bar at the top right, and a red navigation bar with the word 'NEWS' and 'LIVE BBC NEWS CHANNEL'. A left-hand navigation menu lists various news categories, with 'Health' highlighted. The main article is titled 'Green spaces 'reduce health gap'' and includes a sub-headline: 'A bit of greenery near our homes can cut the "health gap" between rich and poor, say researchers from two Scottish universities.' The article text discusses how small parks can protect against strokes and heart disease by reducing stress and encouraging exercise. It references a study in The Lancet and suggests that councils should introduce more greenery to improve wellbeing. A quote from Dr. Terry Hartig of Uppsala University, Sweden, states: 'This study offers valuable evidence that green space does more than 'pretty up' the neighbourhood.' An image of a green leafy branch is also present.

BBC Search

NEWS **LIVE** BBC NEWS CHANNEL

Page last updated at 11:18 GMT, Friday, 7 November 2008

E-mail this to a friend [Printable version](#)

Green spaces 'reduce health gap'

A bit of greenery near our homes can cut the "health gap" between rich and poor, say researchers from two Scottish universities.

Even small parks in the heart of our cities can protect us from strokes and heart disease, perhaps by cutting stress or boosting exercise.



Nature may be good for health

Their study, in *The Lancet*, matched data about hundreds of thousands of deaths to green spaces in local areas.

Councils should introduce more greenery to improve wellbeing, they said.

Across the country, there are "health inequalities" related to income and social deprivation, which generally reflect differences in lifestyle, diet, and, to some extent, access to medical care.

This means that in general, people living in poorer areas are more likely to be unhealthy, and die earlier.

“ This study offers valuable evidence that green space does more than 'pretty up' the neighbourhood ”

Dr Terry Hartig
Uppsala University, Sweden

News Front Page
World
UK
England
Northern Ireland
Scotland
Wales
Business
Politics
Health
Medical notes
Education
Science & Environment
Technology
Entertainment
Also in the news
Video and Audio
Have Your Say
Magazine
In Pictures
Country Profiles
Special Reports
Related BBC sites
Sport
Weather
Radio 1 Newsbeat



Key messages

- **Green health** - Access to green, natural or semi-natural outdoor spaces is a significant dimension of good health.
- **Health inequalities** - Greenspace benefits the health of everyone and benefits the least well off the most.
- **Natural play and learning**- Children who play in natural and greenspaces develop a life long association with nature that continues into adulthood.
- **Cost effective** - Greenspace benefits the health of everyone and demonstrates cost effective health outcomes.
- **‘Our natural health service: an action plan’** - currently in preparation by SNH.
- **Green Exercise Partnership (GEP)** - In 2007, NHS Health Scotland, SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland established the GEP to promote better health and quality of life through greater use of the outdoors for physical activity and contact with nature.



The role of local authorities

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnerships – set up as a result of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992,
- Many Local Authorities and the National Parks host a Biodiversity Action Plan Officer,
- Huge range of work and projects carried out, for example:

Habitat management for Black Grouse and Rhododendron Clearance projects (Argyll and Bute),

Urban water voles conservation (Glasgow),

‘Fife’s Buzzing’ - creation of flower rich grassland in parks and greenspaces involving school children and community groups.



Potential for funding

- SRDP Agri-environment Climate and Forestry Grants (Environmental Cooperation Action Fund, Woodlands In and Around Towns),
- SEPA funding for river restoration projects,
- European funding streams for larger projects (e.g. EU LIFE funding, Scotland's 2014-2020 Structural Funds programme),
- Heritage Lottery Funding,
- Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) funding.



Thank You

lorraine.gormley@gov.scot



Copyright: Lorne Gill SNH

Many thanks to Pete Rawcliffe, SNH for some of the slides/photos



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba