

Scotland's National performance Indicators: biodiversity.

Link member bodies have assessed the current biodiversity indicators included within the government's National Performance Indicators. In our view, the current indicators do not measure progress with biodiversity delivery as part of Scotland's sustainable development. We would recommend some changes.

Current NPF biodiversity indicators

- Increase to 95% the proportion of protected nature sites in favourable condition
 - Increase the index of abundance of terrestrial breeding birds
 - Increase the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week
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Suggested biodiversity National Performance Indicators

National Performance Indicators for biodiversity should be measured under the three pillars of delivery: species, sites and the ecosystem approach. We propose one indicator per pillar plus an engagement indicator:

Species:

- Improvement in biological diversity as measured by: UKBAP species and habitats, terrestrial breeding birds, wintering waterbirds, breeding seabirds, vascular plant diversity, terrestrial insect abundance – butterflies and moths, otter status, freshwater macro invertebrates, marine plankton, estuarine fish diversity, marine stocks within safe limits and invasive non native species. (selected Scottish Biodiversity Indicators S1 – S17).

Sites:

- Increase to 95% the proportion of protected nature sites in favourable condition (no change)

Ecosystems:

- An increase in active ecological restoration work in Scotland, as measured through both the land and marine areas in ecological networks, and the resources dedicated to conservation management through SRDP, Management Agreements and grants

Engagement:

- Increase the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week (no change)
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This statement is supported by the following Link member organisations:

Plantlife Scotland

Mountaineering Council of Scotland

RSPB Scotland

Butterfly Conservation Scotland

Bumblebee Conservation Trust

John Muir Trust

Marine Conservation Society

Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society

Buglife