



Vhairi Tollan
vhairi@scotlink.org

Our Reference: 202000089924
Your Reference: A Global Goal for Nature's Recovery

30 September 2020

Dear Vhairi,

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 September, forwarding the letter of Dr Deborah Long to the First Minister, regarding A Global Goal for Nature's Recovery. I work in the Biodiversity Unit of the Natural Resources Division, with responsibility for International Biodiversity issues. The First Minister's office has asked me to respond.

The Scottish Government recognises the central importance of biodiversity, both for the planet and for all of us. We are adopting a clear international leadership role on the natural environment, as we have done on climate change, and I appreciate your welcoming the Edinburgh Declaration. We are taking an active role in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the targets that will be set for the next decade, and we want to ensure that we are able to move quickly to adopt the new framework and deliver further biodiversity improvements in Scotland.

The Edinburgh Declaration highlights the deep concern of the Edinburgh Process partners and other signatories about the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate and our shared ambition to take urgent action across society to help biodiversity to recover, for the benefit of the planet and of people. This will be presented to the Convention on Biological Diversity at COP15 next year.

In addition to working internationally, we also recognise that it is vitally important that we take action here in Scotland to protect our biodiversity. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are actively working to deliver a green recovery, recognising that we have the opportunity to address the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, and to build a greener, fairer and more equal society.

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Through the Four Countries Biodiversity Group we are working with governments across the UK to ensure the UK position for international biodiversity targets is included in the final post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be agreed at COP15, next year. Following the agreement of the post-2020 framework we will set out our Biodiversity Strategy for Scotland, and this will include consultation with stakeholders – including SE Link - through the Scottish Biodiversity Programme. Until then we are committed to continue to deliver upon priorities set out in the current Scotland Biodiversity Strategy.

We thank SE Link and their members for continued efforts and commitments in addressing biodiversity and climate issues in Scotland. We look forward to continuing in partnership across the coming decade, to protect and restore our important natural environment.

Yours sincerely



Susan Campbell
NATRES : Biodiversity and Land Quality

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