

**Programme for Government asks:**

- 1. The Natural Environment Bill must be introduced in the 2024-25 parliamentary year.** The Bill should include legal targets for nature restoration, based on an overarching goal to halt declines by 2030 and make significant progress in restoring nature by 2045.
- The Natural Environment Bill should also be used to **modernise deer legislation** to tackle the nature and climate emergencies, in order to restore as much native woodland as possible at lower cost through natural processes.
- Ministers should commit to maintaining the **Nature Restoration Fund** for the duration of this parliament.
- The new system of agricultural funding must deliver for nature, climate, food production, and people. Following the passage of the Bill, the Programme for Government is an opportunity to set a clear direction of travel for industry. Ministers should commit to including the detail allowed for under section 2(3) of the Bill within the **Rural Support Plan**, making clear that the new funding system will support **reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, pesticide harm, and nitrogen loss and waste**, among other measures. The Rural Support Plan should be driven by evidence-based measures and outcomes and should be clear on the intervention logic and redistributive impacts of the scheme.

The Programme for Government is also an opportunity to make clear that the new system will include **redistributive measures to support smaller farmers and crofters**, and for **the funding split across the Tiers to change over time** to drive a transition to sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

- The **National Marine Plan 2** should be taken forward and demonstrate a credible, transformative pathway to ocean recovery by 2030. Consultations on **fisheries management measures** within the Marine Protected Area (MPA) network where measures are not currently in place, and for the protection of Priority Marine Features outside the network, must be brought forward without any further delay.

Effective spatial management for fishing is essential for allowing ecosystem recovery. The Programme for Government is an opportunity for Ministers to **recommit to evidence-based measures to protect the inshore seabed areas outwith the MPA network** and should bring forwarded the expected consultation without delay.

- Improved management of freshwater and water resources is vital, particularly in relation to climate adaptation and the ongoing issue of pollution. [LINK priorities](#) include reducing water leakages, reducing sewage spills from overflows, improved flood-risk management, and the

restoration of rivers and smaller freshwater bodies. We support the introduction of a **Water Bill** to take forward any necessary legislative changes in this area.

7. Following cuts to the woodland creation budget, the Programme for Government should recommit to **ambitious annual targets for woodland creation**. This should include a target of **at least 50% of new woodlands being native**, managed primarily for nature and with a minimum of 9000ha new native woodland to be created per year until 2045. Additionally, government must deliver on its commitment to a new National Register of Ancient Woodland and recommit to restoring Scotland's Rainforest.
8. The proposed **Human Rights Bill** should be introduced, **including a statutory Human Right to a Healthy Environment**
9. The final response to the consultation on environmental governance should be published, including a commitment to **appoint an independent working group to consider the potential for an environmental court or tribunal**.
10. The **Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill** should be introduced, including a statutory definition of Sustainable Development and strengthened duties relating to it.
11. Following on from the Circular Economy Bill, there should be **a consultation on statutory circular economy targets and a strategy**. Regulations putting a charge on single use items and banning the destruction of unsold goods should also be brought forward and consulted on. The final Circular Economy and Waste Route Map should be published, including a Product Stewardship Plan.
12. The outcome pathways for the **Environment Strategy** should be published.

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