

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA STATEMENT

13 December 2022

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND WELCOMES DRAFT BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland has welcomed the publication of the Scottish Government's **Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045**: **Tackling the Nature Emergency in Scotland**.

The National Trust for Scotland cares for, shares and speaks up for Scotland's magnificent heritage. It is Scotland's largest membership organisation and is independent of government.

The conservation charity is responsible for the care of an <u>enormous variety of landscapes</u>, <u>habitats and wildlife</u> - from the mountains of <u>Torridon</u> and <u>Kintail</u> to the woodlands and peatland of <u>Mar Lodge Estate</u> and islands like <u>Fair</u> Isle and Iona.

Stuart Brooks, Director of Conservation and Policy said: "The National Trust for Scotland welcomes the recognition of the need to act at scale and with urgency to restore Scotland's biodiversity across its land and seas by 2045.

"This is a huge challenge facing our world, that will require vision, collaboration and redirection of resources and approaches to nature friendly food production. We welcome the commitment by Scotland to protect 30% of our land and sea for nature by 2030 including 10% of our seas as highly protected areas.

"The National Trust for Scotland looks forward to making a significant contribution to helping meet this ambition across its estate including at our eight National Nature Reserves. We are committing to restoring degraded peatland and forests, as part of our own 10 year strategy, building on the successful and ambitious projects at some of Scotland's most important and biodiverse sites such as Mar Lodge, Ben Lawers and St Kilda."

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Editor's Notes:

About the National Trust for Scotland

Established in 1931, the National Trust for Scotland is Scotland's largest conservation charity and cares for, shares and speaks up for Scotland's magnificent heritage.

Over the last 90 years the Trust has pioneered public access to and shared ownership of some of the most magnificent buildings, collections and landscapes in Scotland. It cares for more than 100 sites, from ancient houses to battlefields, castles, mills, gardens, coastlines, islands, mountain ranges and the plants and animals which depend upon them.

In March 2022 the National Trust for Scotland launched *Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone*, its ten-year strategy which sets out the ambitions of the charity over the coming decade. From speaking up for Scotland's heritage which doesn't have a voice, to improving the lives and wellbeing of people across the country, and responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis, the Trust will build on its work in recent years to grow its impact and conserve and restore more of Scotland's heritage, as it moves towards its centenary in 2031.

Scotland's largest membership organisation, the National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit www.nts.org.uk.

The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.