

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

By e-mail to: [netzero.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:netzero.committee@parliament.scot)

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Dear Edward

I am writing to advise that today we are publishing a consultation on Scotland's Strategic Framework for Biodiversity. The Consultation includes:

- The final draft of the Biodiversity Strategy, which sets out our goals of halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and reversing declines by 2045.
- The first underpinning 5 year Delivery Plan which includes a comprehensive set of cross sectoral actions.
- A set of principles to guide the delivery of key commitments including 30 by 30 and nature networks which have been developed through an extensive codesign process involving individuals from over 100 different organisations.
- Proposals for the upcoming Natural Environment Bill, including the introduction of statutory nature recovery targets and changes to our National Parks legislation to strengthen the leadership role of National Parks in tackling the climate and biodiversity crises whilst also welcoming visitors and supporting local communities and businesses.

I have asked that the usual 12 week consultation period be extended to 14 weeks, to reflect the fact there is a lot of information within the Consultation document. I am also asking officials to develop a series of thematic workshops which will allow stakeholders and other interested parties to engage with the content of the consultation, ask questions and provide feedback.

As ever please do share any comments or questions which the Committee has on the Consultation. I have also written to the RAINE Committee to inform them of the Consultation.

Kind regards

## LORNA SLATER

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
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