

Minister for Environment and Land Reform
Mairi McAllan MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and
Biodiversity
Lorna Slater MSP

T: 0300 244 4000

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Good afternoon,

As you will be aware, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is currently developing a post-2020 framework for global biodiversity and new global targets to be agreed at the Conference of Parties meeting (COP15) in Kunming, China. The CBD and its parties are moving into the next decade with a stepped up ambition to deliver for nature, and there is increasing recognition of the important role that sub-state and local governments play in translating global targets into local actions for nature.

On behalf of the CBD, the Scottish Government has been leading the “Edinburgh Process” – global engagement and consultation for sub-state governments and local authorities – with the aim of securing the inclusion of all levels of government within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The Edinburgh Process aims to ensure a ‘whole of government’ approach is adopted globally, and the Edinburgh Declaration is a call to action – setting out the commitment of the subnational constituency in delivering for nature over the next decade, and calling upon Parties to step up their recognition of all levels of government in order to deliver the transformational change needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

We have reached a critical juncture for nature, with the hosting of COP26 in Glasgow, and COP15 in China in 2022. We recognise that more action is needed at all levels to halt the loss of biodiversity and Scotland is committed to taking bold action to restore and protect our natural environment through our own post-2020 Biodiversity strategy, to be published in October 2022. Local Authorities play an essential role in Scotland, delivering local action for biodiversity, integrating nature-based solutions into city and local planning, and delivering positive outcomes for biodiversity.

We strongly encourage your support of the commitments and calls to action set out in Edinburgh Declaration – <https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-biodiversity-framework/>, joining COSLA, and 14 Scottish Local Authorities, and over 220 global sub-state governments, cities and local authorities to date, which have signed the declaration.

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We hope that you will join our efforts to demonstrate to the Convention the global will for a dedicated Decision and renewed *Plan of Action for subnational governments, city and local authorities*, to be adopted alongside the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP15.

We look forward to receiving your support of the Edinburgh Process, and in working together over the coming decade and beyond, to bend the curve of biodiversity loss, restore Scotland's natural environment and that communities across Scotland live in harmony with nature.



Màiri McAllan



Lorna Slater

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