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Statement from Plantlife Scotland: Scottish Government's biodiversity strategy may not be enough to restore nature

Alistair Whyte, Head of Plantlife Scotland, said: "We welcome the publication of the Scottish Government's new biodiversity strategy and delivery plan as a positive first step towards nature recovery.

As the strategy makes clear, there is a nature emergency in Scotland, and urgent action is required to tackle it. With one in nine species in Scotland at risk of extinction, it's encouraging to see a commitment to introduce statutory nature restoration targets and to put in place a framework through the forthcoming Natural Environment Bill which will enable delivery of these. We're also pleased to see proposed actions to recover threatened species that will build on current approach, particularly those to conserve lichens and bryophytes, and we look forward to working closely with the government on this.

The biodiversity crisis is not just isolated to Scotland, it's a global issue, so it is positive to see a commitment to publish the Scottish Plant Biodiversity Strategy in support of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

However, it's disappointing to see that the Framework has no actions for species-rich grassland management or restoration. This habitat is an immensely valuable natural solution to climate change and we need a targeted program of activity for this habitat to ensure they are given sufficient profile and resource.

Scotland's wildlife and habitats are facing threats on an unprecedented scale. This strategy is a welcome start, but we need to do more, and we need to do it at pace."