

PEOPLE & NATURE

Problem

Development and urbanization are major pressures on biodiversity globally. The way we use and manage land is one of the biggest causes of habitat loss. Space for wildlife is continually squeezed into smaller and more disconnected pieces of land.

Importance

The way we plan and build places for people is preventing nature from thriving. Wildlife needs to be able to move around, find new homes, and access food and shelter. If the distance between natural spaces is too large, wildlife becomes more vulnerable to human disturbances, diseases, and predators.

Access to nature has huge benefits for people's physical and mental wellbeing/health and the way we plan for development affects how communities access and interact with nature in the places where they live and work.

Solution

Planning the development of our communities and places can create a future where development and nature work hand in hand, supporting the collective wellbeing of communities and nature by reducing climate emissions and restoring biodiversity.

Wherever people live and work they should have access to nature: this can have a direct influence on our quality of life and wellbeing but also helps us to forge more resilient communities and economies that are more likely to protect and restore nature.

A Scottish Nature Network can help benefit communities by expanding places where wildlife can thrive. Nature networks bring together the people who plan the way we use, restore and protect land. By involving everyone in the process, we are able to create natural spaces and link them together through things like pollinator highways and nature corridors. These connections allow wildlife to thrive and move through Scotland's landscapes.