







# FOREWORD BY DIRECTOR OF WWF SCOTLAND, LANG BANKS

Right now, Scotland is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world and our climate is in disarray. If we let climate change and nature breakdown carry on unchecked, life will rapidly become even harder and less safe for all of us sharing this planet – humans and wildlife. That's why politicians elected to the Scottish Parliament need to step up and use their powers to take action to create a better, fairer future for people, nature and climate. It's in our nature to act.



Caring about the natural world and a stable climate is not at odds with caring about people and their future.

Better outcomes for people, nature and climate are all linked. Scotland's journey to a low carbon economy is well underway, and we're already benefitting. Over 95% of our electricity in Scotland is provided by renewables, separating our economic prosperity from reliance on fossil fuels. But our future is not decided for us. We still have major choices to make to ensure everyone benefits from this transition. No one should experience fuel poverty because of our reliance on fossil fuels to heat our poorly insulated homes.

#### FAIR ACTION IS URGENTLY NEEDED

We need to finish the job of fairly decarbonising our energy system. This means saying a clear no to any new oil and gas developments. We want to see lower energy bills for Scottish households, warmer homes, and fair transitions to new jobs for people working in our oil, gas and other high-emitting sectors.

We need to transform our agricultural system too – with more sustainable, low-carbon, organic and regenerative farming practices. And again, crucially, providing fair funding and support for farmers switching to sustainable food production.



# **OUR KEY ASKS:**



#### **URGENT CLIMATE ACTION:**

Get Scotland back on track to meet climate commitments in a way that's right for people and nature.



#### CLEAN ENERGY TRANSFORMATION:

Lower carbon emissions while reducing energy bills for Scotland's homes – with a fair deal for energy workers.



#### TRANSFORM AGRICULTURE:

Put climate and naturefriendly farming at the heart of agriculture and support our farmers to make the changes needed.



#### REPAIR AND PROTECT NATURE:

Urgently halt and reverse nature loss across land and water.

#### **Urgent climate action**

# GET SCOTLAND BACK ON TRACK TO MEET CLIMATE COMMITMENTS IN A WAY THAT'S RIGHT FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE.

The next Scottish Government can bring our emissions reductions back on track, but this demands unequivocal commitment to meeting our carbon budgets, backed up by credible plans to do so. It's vital that no workers or communities are disadvantaged or left behind, especially those who have relied on fossil fuel and other highemitting industries for their livelihoods for generations.



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Members of the public spending time outdoors amongst daffodils.

To make sure Scotland plays its part in the global climate fight, all parties should commit to:

# Bringing Scotland's climate emissions down to 43% of 1990 levels between 2026 and 2030

This needs to be done in a fair and nature-friendly way, backed by transformative long-term and multi-year financial packages for our transport, buildings, agriculture and land use sectors. The next Scottish Government must deliver the policies in the new 2026-2040 Climate Change Plan and increase investment to make sure we meet future carbon-cutting commitments advised by the UK Climate Change Committee.<sup>1</sup>

# Securing a fair transition for high-emitting industries

Develop and implement current and future plans for a just transition, across all regions and sectors, particularly for energy and farming workers. Our specific asks for the energy and agriculture sector are set out in the following sections.

#### Leading on international climate justice

Act in solidarity with the Global South, where climate impacts are being felt most severely, and in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. Scotland was the first developed nation to commit funding to address loss and damage overseas, showing strong leadership and igniting a wider debate on climate justice.

### THE IMPACT



Lower carbon emissions getting us back on track to net zero by 2045



by avoiding current predictions that could see Scotland experiencing winters 19% wetter and 2.7 degrees warmer with hotter, drier summers<sup>2</sup>



The hidden costs
of ill health and
environmental
degradation in the
current food system
represents 12% of global
GDP in 2020<sup>3</sup>

#### Clean energy transformation

# LOWER CARBON EMISSIONS WHILE REDUCING ENERGY BILLS FOR SCOTLAND'S HOMES - WITH A FAIR DEAL FOR ENERGY WORKERS.

We don't need to rely on dirty fossil fuels like gas and oil, which are driving up damaging emissions, energy bills and the cost-of-living. In Scotland we can play to our strengths by harnessing our abundant renewable energy, to power and heat more of our homes with heat pumps and other clean technologies, while providing thousands of new jobs.

#### That means:

# Securing a fair and rapid transition to clean energy generation

The next government must clearly and firmly say no to all new oil and gas production and increase investment in domestic renewables. Crucially, it also has to create a coherent transition plan for the North Sea.

#### Delivering clean, affordable warmth

Put in place the mechanisms within this next parliamentary session to enable 40% of Scottish homes to be fitted with clean heating solutions by 2035.

# Enabling all homes to meet a minimum standard of energy efficiency by 2033

Roll out support for homeowners to install home insulation within the next parliamentary session. This goes hand-in-hand with the transition to clean heating and is vital for ending fuel poverty.

### THE IMPACT



The transition to clean heating has been estimated to create 16,400 additional jobs by 2030<sup>4</sup>



A significant increase in GDP by nearly £5 for every £1 invested in energy efficiency<sup>5</sup>



A reduction of around 15% in annual energy bills<sup>6</sup>



#### That means:

# Transforming the way Scottish agriculture is funded

We need to see 75% of the existing agriculture budget allocated to supporting climate and nature-friendly farming. And a £500m Agricultural Transformation Fund to cover the period up to 2030, with a further multi-year funding plan – using a blend of public and private finance – giving long-term security to our farmers and crofters.

# Increase investment in advice and skills services for agriculture

This will speed up the rate of Scotland's emissions reductions, deliver transformational change, help farmers to identify business opportunities, and create more green jobs in rural areas.

# Set targets to support emissions reductions and nature restoration on farms

This would include turning at least 10% of Scotland's agricultural area into high-diversity landscapes by 2030 and 10% of the country's farmland to be farmed organically. Our research<sup>7</sup> shows this is the best way to decrease agricultural emissions. Reducing nitrogen fertiliser use by at least 20%, and nutrient run-off losses by 50%, will also increase biodiversity and improve farm profits.

### THE IMPACT



With 40% uptake, organic farming has the potential to deliver emissions reduction of 730 kt CO2e<sup>7</sup>



Increased resilience to extreme weather, which in 2017 contributed to losses of up to £161 million for Scotland's farmers8



Making space for nature to help support

1 IN 9
Scottish species at risk of extinction



That means:

# Setting strong, clear targets to stop and reverse nature loss

We need to meet our international commitments to restore 30% of degraded ecosystems and conserve 30% of land and water by 2030. By using the framework of the Natural Environment Bill and protecting more natural habitats – like woodlands, peatlands and saltmarsh – both carbon sequestration and social wellbeing is improved, bringing benefits to people and planet.

# Increasing the Nature Restoration Fund to £500M and ending harmful subsidies

Vital parts of our economy – especially food production – depend on nature. We need to see a real-terms increase in spending on nature, including expanding the Nature Restoration Fund to £500m in the next parliament, to support delivery of Scotland's nature recovery commitments. Climate and nature harming subsidies must end.

# Developing a blueprint to improve management of land and water resources

We need an urgent, Scotland-wide expansion of well-resourced Regional Land Use Partnerships. These should be integrated with river and marine planning, and their scope expanded to meet the needs of people, nature and climate, serving as an example for the rest of the UK.

#### Legislating to stop sales of horticultural peat

Ending the large-scale extraction of Scotland's peat for garden compost will help meet our obligations on restoring biodiversity and reducing carbon emissions. Scotland's crofters' rights to harvest peat traditionally, by hand and for personal use, should be preserved.

## THE IMPACT



Nature contributes around £40 billion to our economy and supports over 260,000 jobs<sup>9</sup>



Increased natural carbon stores, like peatlands and woodlands



#### RESILIENCE

Making farmland more resilient to floods and draughts, preparing farmers for a changing climate<sup>10</sup>

# IT'S IN OUR NATURE TO ACT!

Scotland's next government should recognise the connection between people, nature and climate, and be willing to invest in a cleaner, fairer, better future for our country and our planet.

The next Scottish Government and Parliament could be the most important in our history. There are clear, decisive actions that need to be taken urgently, or the opportunities will be gone.

This manifesto is an action plan to build the best future for Scotland – securing the wellbeing of people, reversing nature loss and avoiding dangerous climate change.

The things that make people feel safe and secure – a decent job, affordable food, a comfortable home, a clean environment, protection from extreme weather, a better future for our children – are all fundamentally dependent on the health of our natural world and our climate.

So here's the way to restore and protect Scotland. Hit climate targets. Fix the damage done to nature. Restore our land, seas and waterways. Improve the way our food is produced. Make our homes easier to heat. And crucially provide the funding and support that our energy producers, farmers and households will need for these transitions.

We're not saying it's easy. We're saying it's essential. And it will only work if we all do everything we can to make these changes. A better future is in sight for Scotland. It's in our nature to act!

WE'RE NOT SAYING IT'S EASY. WE'RE SAYING IT'S ESSENTIAL.



#### NOTES

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- 7 WWF Scotland (2019) *Delivering on Net Zero: Scottish Agriculture*. Available via: <a href="https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-12/WWF%20Net%20Zero%20and%20Farming.pdf">https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-12/WWF%20Net%20Zero%20and%20Farming.pdf</a>
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