

September 2021

Dear Stakeholder,

EDINBURGH DECLARATION

I write to draw your attention to the Edinburgh Declaration. This is one of the key outputs from the global Edinburgh Process which we have worked on with the Scottish Government (who led the process).

Published in September 2020, the Edinburgh Declaration sets out the aspirations and commitments of subnational, including regional and local, governments in delivering for nature over the coming decade. In December 2020 the Scottish Government published the Scottish biodiversity strategy post – 2020: statement of intent which highlights the importance of the Edinburgh Declaration.

The Declaration calls on Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to take strong and bold action to halt biodiversity loss. It urges that greater prominence be given to the roles of subnational governments, cities, local authorities and indeed other organisations in delivering on a new global framework of targets, to be agreed later this year at the global summit for Biodiversity COP15 in Kunming, China. A lot of preparatory work is underway, and earlier in July the Scottish Government announced major new funding for local and national projects.

138 subnational and local governments, including 11 Scottish Local Authorities, and other organisations have so far signed up to this in the lead up to COP15. This shows their support for an ambitious post-2020 global agreement that reflects the important role of local governments in delivery, implementation and mainstreaming. While signing the declaration does not have legal or financial implications, it signals a strong commitment to tackling the twin challenges of climate and biodiversity crises.

Following endorsement by Council Leaders, COSLA has signed the Edinburgh Declaration. This recognises the benefits of integrating nature-based solutions into city and local planning, and the importance of placemaking and place-based approaches in doing so.

It would be excellent if you would sign up, and indeed publicise this.

Do let me know if you need further information on this.

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Yours sincerely,



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Chief Executive