

Role Description and Application Information

Scottish Forum on Natural Capital: Chair (and Deputy Chair) of the Steering Group

The Scottish Forum on Natural Capital is recruiting for new members to join its Steering Group (including the Chair and Deputy Chair roles), to advance our strategy and keep pace with changes in the field.

About Us

We are a uniquely broad network of collaborative communities of practice, bringing natural capital into mainstream decision-making.

The Scottish Forum on Natural Capital (the Forum) brings together public, private and voluntary sector organisations to protect, value and rebuild Scotland's natural capital. We enable businesses and policymakers to better understand our dependence and impact on nature, and to see that protection and enhancement of Scotland's natural wealth is a viable option, providing economic opportunities and benefits for the whole of society.

The Steering Group is made up of senior representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors. The Secretariat is provided by a small team at the Scottish Wildlife Trust. See the [list of current Steering Group members](#). The initiative is currently supported by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Government and its Agencies, foundation grants, and voluntary donations from members.

We aim to create impact by informing policy, fostering innovation and catalysing action. Our vision is for a Scotland in which all parts of society including businesses, NGOs, public bodies and communities recognise our reliance and impact on natural capital, and where leadership drives action to protect, value and rebuild our natural assets, both here and beyond Scotland's borders. Review our [Route to Impact, and Vision and Strategy](#).

Who We're Looking For

The successful candidates will ideally have one or more of the following:

- A sectoral and/or international perspective on sustainability/ nature and biodiversity/ climate change
- An awareness of or interest in the Scottish political and policy context
- Delivery experience of natural capital projects (in Scotland or applicable to a Scottish context)

We endeavour to represent a diverse range of perspectives, sectors and interests on the group. It would be beneficial if you have experience in one or more of the following areas, but we'd be interested to hear from you if you have expertise you think would be useful to our strategic direction:

Finance and Investment /Nature Finance
Rural Land Management
Local Authority Land Management
Marine and Coastal Management
Digital Tech/Nature Tech

Scottish Policy
Development
Business
Academia / Research
Environmental NGOs

Community Groups
Circular Economy
Wellbeing Economy
Funding Provision

Recruitment Timetable

June 2024	Expressions of interest and applications open
July/August 2024	Selection and interviews
September/October 2024	Recruitment and onboarding
7th November 2024	Steering group meeting

The Role

Strategic direction

The Chair can provide a horizon scanning perspective to inform the broader direction of travel, highlighting new issues for network members to be aware of and explore in relation to impact and responsibilities across sectors. The Steering Group can help to provide focus on key areas.

High-level representation

The Chair can provide an ambassadorial role, representing the network at high level, to raise the profile and support with validation and access to resilient funding streams.

Leadership oversight of the hubs

Our suite of subgroups ([the hubs](#)) model encourages self-forming groups to pursue ideas outwith our central control. An important role of the Steering Group is to retain oversight of independently developing activities and provide advice and judgement to ensure approaches continue to resonate with our vision and values.

Please review the group's Terms of Reference [here](#) for full details of the role requirement.

The Commitment

The commitment involves four, 2-hour meetings per year (UK time zone), plus the preparation and actions for these. At the discretion of the Steering Group member, other work can be pursued in your area of interest and expertise.

Remuneration

The position is without remuneration, although reasonable out of pocket expenses for travelling to meetings may be claimed.

Location

The role can be delivered solely by remote working, with in-person attendance at the Scottish Wildlife Trust main office is based in Leith, Edinburgh, welcomed and encouraged particularly for Steering Group hybrid meetings.

Appointment Process and How to Apply

The Chair will be appointed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust Secretariat, assisted by members of the Steering Group.

If you would like to apply, please send your CV accompanied by a short cover letter detailing your reasons for applying and what you can bring to the initiative to scottishforum@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk.

We welcome applications from as broad a spectrum of applicants as possible and are especially keen to attract applications from groups that tend to be under-represented on Steering Groups and Boards. Newly appointed members of the Steering Group will be invited to the next meeting and will be given a formal induction by senior staff prior to this. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, we look forward to hearing from you.

Chair of the Scottish Forum on Natural Capital role description

The Chair will play a particular role in providing in the ambassadorial function of the Steering Group, seeking opportunities to represent the initiative and its networks at high level to raise our profile and provide support with validation and access to resilient funding streams. In addition to the group member role requirements outlined above, the responsibilities of the Chair also include:

- Lead the initiative in providing sufficient strategic direction to realise the Forum's vision of a Scotland in which all parts of society including businesses, NGOs, public bodies and communities recognise our reliance and impact on natural capital, and where leadership drives action to protect, value and rebuild our natural assets, both here and beyond Scotland's borders.
- Chair meetings of the Steering Group (and ad hoc sub committees as required) effectively and efficiently, bringing impartiality and objectivity to the decision-making process and helping to ensure decisions taken are implemented.
- Ensure that Steering Group members are fully engaged, take collective ownership and that decisions taken are in the best, long-term interests of the Forum.
- Ensure that constructive relationships exist with and between the Steering Group members, secretariat and hub representatives.

The Deputy Chair will take on the additional responsibilities above in the Chair's absence.

Person Specification for Chair (and Deputy Chair)

The Chair must be able to demonstrate a range of skills and competencies for the post:

- Proven track record of success in a senior leadership role and desire to show leadership on environmental issues, particularly highlighting the need to act to the business community.
- Ability to react positively to challenging situations.

- Ability to balance conflicting or competing issues, with impartiality and objectivity.
- Experience of managing change successfully
- Ability to chair the Steering Group to ensure effective use of their time and expertise.
- Ability to build effective and trusted relationships with the Steering Group members, secretariat and hub representatives in order to optimise the Forum's ability to deliver its vision.
- A consultative, transparent and consensual style
- Experience of external representation, delivering presentations and managing stakeholders
- Strong communication and influencing skills at all levels and across a wide range of stakeholders

Person Specification for all Steering Group members

- Demonstrable understanding of Scottish political and policy context
- An ability to communicate a passion and commitment for natural capital approaches and nature-based solutions.
- Ability to provide a sectoral and/or international perspective on sustainability/ nature and biodiversity/ climate change.
and/or
- Ability to provide delivery experience of natural capital projects (in Scotland or applicable to a Scottish context)

Desirable

- Knowledge and understanding of nature finance and associated current issues
- Influence in a network (or networks) of industry experts, professional communities or relevant interest groups