

# Highlands Rewilding Ltd.



## Our Mission and Purpose

Our purpose is to enable nature recovery and community prosperity through rewilding taken to scale in the Highlands of Scotland.

By doing this, we aim to become one of the most impactful accelerators of nature recovery in the world by 2026.





## Our Values

**Seeking to lead by example** - we are innovative and forward thinking, leading with new best practice land management models for a sustainable future

**Courage** - we take calculated risks to achieve the biggest results we believe feasible in the shortest timeframes

**Impact-focus** - we exist to create as large a positive impact on the natural world as possible

# We seek to lead by example in five key areas:

1. **Natural capital verification science** - In house Chief Scientists working with the best academics in the space, including a leading partnership with Oxford University
2. **Community involvement in rewilding** - contributing to making the green new deal work in rural settings.
3. **Ethically profitable land management** - we aim to encourage other landowners to change course by embracing nature recovery models.
4. **Innovative financing** - ensuring that people earn income from investing in our efforts, communities are encouraged to follow our model of land ownership, and financial institutions - especially governmental - are encouraged to make this easier via the provision of low-interest debt.
5. **Land reform in the Highlands** - rewilding estates that we own, or co-own, ultimately pass back into the hands of local and regional residents wanting to perpetuate our community-centric nature-recovery rewilding mission for the hundreds of years that full nature recovery and protection will require.

## Our Goals

**Meaningful increase carbon sequestration** – within our expanding peatlands, grasslands and woodland areas

**Meaningfully increase biodiversity** – through the ongoing creation and enhancement of native, biodiverse habitats

**Increase local, natural capital employment** – via creation of direct jobs on the estate and engagement of local specialist contractors, volunteers and interns

**Become sustainably profitably** – developing natural capital and other income streams to create profitable models that enable us to provide 10% of profits back into our communities



# A Sisterhood of Leading Nature Restoration Organisations

HIGHLANDS™  
REWILDING



HIGHLANDS™  
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# Natural Capital Report - Carbon

- Carbon baseline - 845,472 and 1,234,334 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (89% in Peatlands)
- Existing woodlands and grasslands of the estate are 86.3% land area and sequester **866 tCO<sub>2</sub>e / year**
- However, Peatlands (13.7% of the land area) show an average loss of **1,106 tCO<sub>2</sub>e / year**.

The estate is **currently a net source of carbon** emissions – releasing an average **net loss of 240 tCO<sub>2</sub>e / year**

We will save an estimated **net 60,747 tCO<sub>2</sub>e** over 100 years from:

- Felling non-natives
- Restoring Peatlands

<https://www.highlandsrewilding.co.uk/blog/natural-capital-report-2021>





# Natural Capital Report – Biodiversity

- The Bunloit estate is of **international importance** in terms of lichen communities and of regional importance in terms of unimproved grasslands
- We have several **rare and threatened fungi** species
- We have **exceptional rainforest plant communities** in our oceanic hazelwood ravines, of great conservation importance
- We have **high grazing pressure** from large numbers of deer
- **6 out of 10** bat species present in Scotland recorded
- **12 out of 19** Scottish dragonfly species, with special sightings of the Brilliant Emerald – one of the rarest dragonflies in the Highlands



# Plans for Monetising Natural Capital

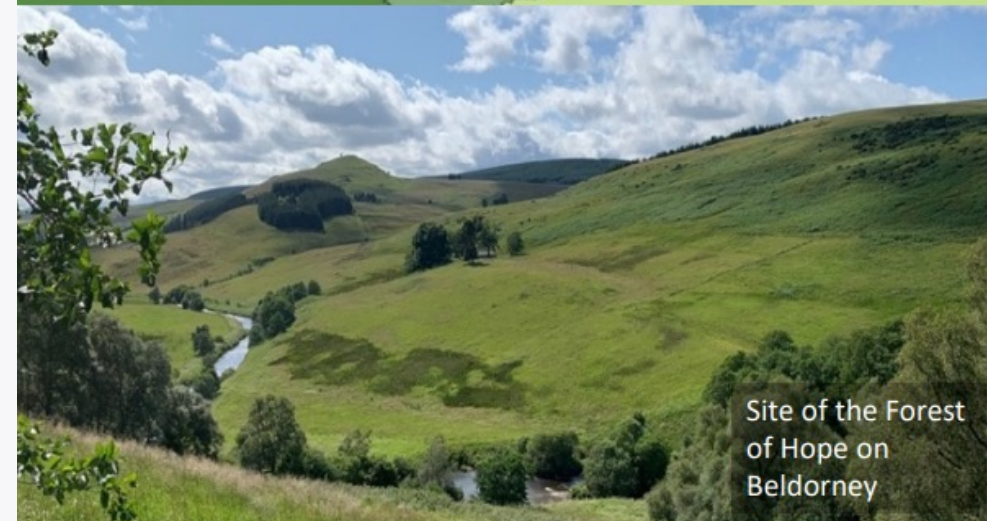
We are exploring options for 4 x key income streams:

- Ecotourism and Corporate Rewilding Retreats
- Carbon Credits
- Biodiversity Credits
- Government support schemes (replacements for BPS)



# Challenges

- Key **income streams not yet clear** e.g.
  - Scottish government policy on nature support, biodiversity credits do not exist yet
- **Gaps in codes and the verification science** – Rewilding often falls through the cracks
- Community engagement tough – an **anti-minority can be very resistant** to change
- Planning systems **complex and lengthy**, with challenging conditions



## Summary - how do we scale?

- **Clarity on government policy** and support for landowners, aligned with 2030 targets
- Key signals for corporates - **TNFD and SBTn will be a large driver**, as TCFD and SBTi were for climate
- More joined up thinking **across local and national government** departments
- **Guidance and standards** on M&V, community engagement, etc.

