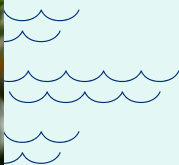


Global Biodiversity Framework Report

2025/26



Aligning SSEN Transmission's Nature Strategy with the Global Biodiversity Framework

Delivering a resilient transmission network for net zero and strengthening the UK's long-term energy security requires infrastructure at unprecedented scale. This is why SSEN Transmission is planning to invest over £29bn in mission critical grid upgrades through our RII0-T3 Business Plan, supporting the 'Pathway to 2030' programme and enabling the connection and transport of renewable energy across Great Britain. Against this backdrop, we recognise the importance of embedding biodiversity considerations into project delivery and aligning our nature strategy with global biodiversity goals. The development of frameworks, regulations and initiatives such as the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) Policy 3 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) provide a structured approach for our projects to contribute positively to nature.



Background

The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted by 196 countries at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) in December 2022. It provides a global roadmap to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieve a vision of "living in harmony with nature" by 2050. It comprises four global goals for 2050 and 23 action-orientated targets that are to be achieved before 2030, covering conservation and restoration, financial mobilisation and elimination of harmful subsidies.

The framework builds on its predecessor, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which were widely considered unsuccessful. Mainly due to their lack of measurable and clearly defined metrics, making progress difficult to monitor and quantify, along with inadequate funding and support for implementation. The GBF addresses these challenges through measurable targets, an enhanced monitoring and reporting framework, and a stronger emphasis on mainstreaming biodiversity into national policy, economic systems and corporate action, increasing its potential to drive meaningful progress.



Aligning with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

We have identified examples of our nature-related targets and activities aligning with the GBF. The targets featured in this visual are sourced from SSEN Transmission's Sustainability Action Plan (SAP), which sets out the actions, commitments and targets that will guide delivery of the company's Sustainability Strategy through to 2030.



Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems

SAP Target 9.a - Deliver 10% biodiversity net gain on all projects gaining consent (ongoing)
SAP Target 9.b - Monitor and maintain restoration sites both on SSEN-owned land and on land owned by partners, implementing new data management system by 2026.

We have a landmark partnership with nature charity SCOTLAND: The Big Picture, becoming the first energy company to support its Northwoods Rewilding Network to drive nature restoration across the north of Scotland and empower landowners to restore ecosystems at scale.¹



Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas

SAP Target 8.a - Follow mitigation hierarchy for irreplaceable habitat (ongoing)

Our Irreplaceable habitat policy includes avoiding ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, and peatland in good or moderate condition wherever possible, as well as designated sites (e.g. Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) etc.) In circumstances where impacts are unavoidable, our method statements minimise any potential impacts.²



Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts

SAP Target 10.b - By 2030, deliver large scale oyster restoration in partnership with experts.

In partnership with SAMS Enterprise, we published a landmark report on restoring Scotland's native oyster reefs, which are important habitats for marine biodiversity and water quality. The report assesses the current state of these ecosystems and identifies opportunities for large-scale restoration.³



Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience

SAP Target 10.c - By 2030, deliver large scale seagrass restoration in partnership with experts.

We have supported seagrass restoration by funding and publishing research with partners like SAMS Enterprise to understand the condition of UK seagrass meadows and identify how to restore them at scale - helping enhance carbon absorption and supporting climate adaptation by reducing coastal erosion while improving marine biodiversity.³



Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts

SAP Target 7.a - By 2026, work with other TOs to assess impacts of materials and construction methods on nature, including cumulative impacts.
SAP Target 26.e - By 2026, develop nature reporting in line with global best practice

We are supporting the wider SSE Group in exploring alignment with the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), helping to improve understanding and assessment of nature-related risks and opportunities.



Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity

SAP Target 10.a - Collaborate with other TOs and experts across the UK to lead on the development and adoption of an agreed methodology for measuring Net Gain in the marine (MNG) environment by 2027.

SSEN Transmission has partnered with the Orkney Skate Trust, providing funding and sharing marine survey data to support research into seabed habitats and marine biodiversity as part of the route section for the proposed Orkney transmission connection. Following initial support in 2022, the partnership has expanded into a five-year funding programme, helping to improve understanding of the marine environment and identify opportunities to preserve and enhance marine wildlife.⁴

¹ [Powering nature restoration: SSEN Transmission launch landmark partnership with Scottish nature charity - SSEN Transmission](#)

² [SSEN Transmission: why nature restoration matters - SSEN Transmission](#)

³ [SSEN Transmission and SAMS Enterprise Publish Landmark Marine Restoration Reports - SSEN Transmission](#)

⁴ [Delivering a positive environmental legacy](#)

Case Studies

SSEN Transmission and SAMS Enterprise – Advancing Native Oyster Restoration in Scotland

As SSEN Transmission expands the electricity network needed to support Scotland's clean energy transition, including new subsea connections to the Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney, we are committed to understanding and minimising our impacts on the marine environment. SSEN Transmission is investing in research and innovation to inform long-term marine restoration strategies and to support our ambition to become a leader in marine habitat restoration by 2030.

SSEN Transmission's partnership with Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) Enterprise marks an important step to better understand how marine habitats can be protected and restored alongside network development. Through the partnership, SSEN Transmission published landmark research on Scotland's native oyster reefs. Native oysters are a keystone species that have suffered a decline of more than 95% over the last century due to overfishing, poor water quality, habitat degradation, disease and invasive species.¹

The native oyster report highlights benefits such as improved water clarity through filter feeding, enhanced biodiversity through reef structure, improved water quality, fish production, oyster production and cultural value.² The research also provides an important evidence base to support future restoration and restoration efforts by helping identify where oyster reef recovery could deliver the greatest environmental and community benefits. It also emphasises that social licence, community engagement and transparent communication are critical to long-term restoration success. For SSEN Transmission, this work helps strengthen alignment between grid delivery, marine biodiversity restoration and global biodiversity goals, while ensuring the safeguarding of marine biodiversity for future generations as we build out Scotland's energy transition.



Partnering with Scotland: the BIG PICTURE for Nature Recovery Across Scotland

As SSEN Transmission delivers the network infrastructure needed for the transition to net zero across much of Scotland, we are working to create a positive legacy for nature through partnerships such as our support for SCOTLAND: The Big Picture's Northwoods Rewilding Network. Spanning communities and landscapes across the country, the partnership reflects our ambition to work with conservation experts and local land managers to restore habitats, improve ecosystem resilience and strengthen ecological connectivity at a scale that mirrors the extensive areas in which we operate.

The Northwoods Network brings together farmers, crofters, community groups and other landowners across Scotland who are committed to restoring nature on their land. Through funding, expert guidance and knowledge sharing, the network helps overcome barriers to nature restoration and enables ecological recovery at a meaningful scale.

Since its launch in 2021, the Northwoods Rewilding Network has grown to more than 100 land partners, supporting nature recovery across over 31,000 acres of land. Restoration activities include creation and restoration of native woodland, peatland, and wildlife corridors, as well as restoring natural river processes through wetland creation and river re-naturalisation. These actions help reconnect habitats, support species recovery, strengthen ecosystem resilience and increase nature's ability to adapt to climate change.

By partnering with Scotland: the BIG PICTURE, SSEN Transmission is helping build the capacity, partnerships and practical expertise needed to restore habitats at scale across Scotland. Through collaborative action this initiative aims to deliver lasting benefits for biodiversity, climate resilience and local communities.



Photo credit: SCOTLAND: The Big Picture

¹ SSEN Transmission and SAMS Enterprise Publish Landmark Marine Restoration Reports - SSEN Transmission

² Native Oyster restoration – Scotland and the UK

³ Powering nature restoration: SSEN Transmission launch landmark partnership with Scottish nature charity - SSEN Transmission

⁴ Northwoods Rewilding Network | SCOTLAND: The Big Picture

Governance

The Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) is incorporated in our RIIO-T3 Business plan which sets out the investment, commitments and outcomes we will deliver for the price control period between 2026 to 2031. The SAP charts our course across 6 focus areas: Climate, Nature, Communities, Procurement, Performance and People. Oversight sits with our Sustainability Steering Group (SSG) who oversee the delivery model, actions and risks in delivering the SAP. The Transmission Executive Committee, which consists of Directors across our business, own the Sustainability Strategy. This provides clear ownership of nature-related targets at both strategic and project levels. Progress is reported annually in our Annual Sustainability Report (ASR), whilst also being reported internally on a quarterly basis by the Transmission Executive Committee (TEC).

For More Information

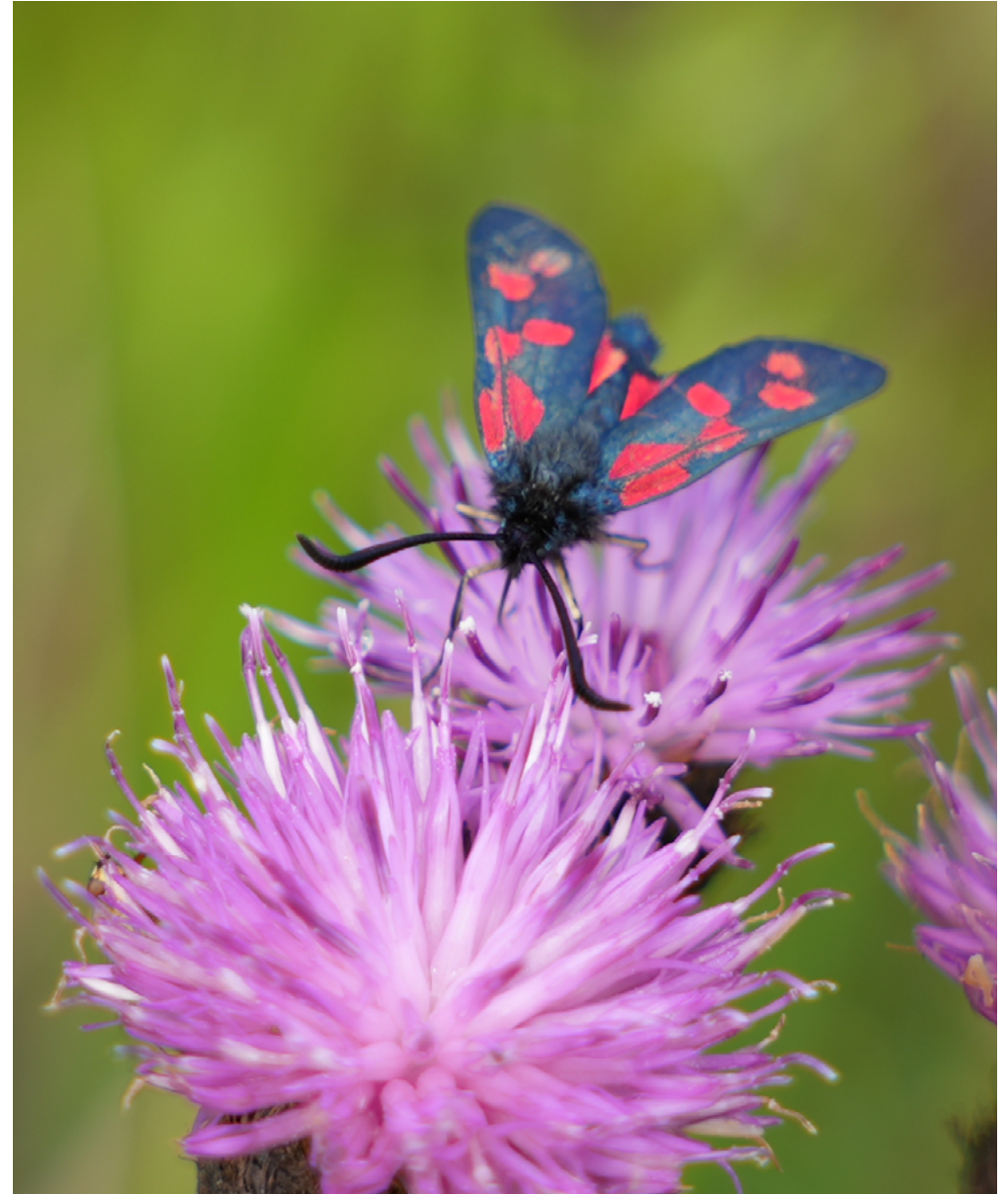
[Sustainability Action Plan](#)

[Sustainability Strategy](#)

[Sustainability Webpage for Nature : Nature - SSEN Transmission](#)

[Seagrass Supporting restoration through research](#)

[Native Oyster restoration Scotland and the UK](#)



How to get in touch with us

For more information on our nature work - including guidance for communities or landowners who may wish to collaborate, visit:

ssen-transmission.co.uk/about-us/sustainability/sustainability-nature/



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www.ssen-transmission.co.uk

