



giving
nature
a home

Futureescapes

NORTHERN IRELAND

SUMMARY GUIDE





Futurescapes:

saving nature with partners across Northern Ireland

Despite hard-won successes in the past, the fact is that the current scale of conservation effort just isn't enough. Species decline and habitat loss is still happening, and wildlife will need even greater conservation efforts to meet the challenges of the future. Nature conservation needs us to build upon the preservation of reserves and protected areas. We need to look to the wider countryside, restoring and recreating vibrant landscapes in which birds and other wildlife will thrive.

Thinking big for nature

We've chosen the name Futurescapes for our UK-wide programme of landscape-scale conservation initiatives. We believe it can build on our strengths, in partnership with others, to achieve a step-change in sustainable countryside management. We have already identified our first Futurescapes, and at these locations, we are carrying out a wide range of conservation activities, working with partners and advocating the landscape approach to stakeholders – seeking the maximum aggregate impact for nature.

Nature conservation needs to consider other land uses, including agriculture, forestry and housing, and we need to learn how to make the best use of our land to deliver multiple objectives simultaneously. Landscape-scale conservation must also consider the flows of those "free" services we receive from nature and in doing so ensure that more people benefit from the delivery of a portfolio of goods and services from the land. It's a balanced mix of nature, food, water and other ecosystems services that is needed.

Government action now

To date, landscape-scale conservation has been constrained by a lack of funding and insufficient support among policy-makers. Governments must acknowledge that their failure to halt biodiversity loss by 2010 was a wake-up call that cannot be ignored, and that nature desperately needs our help to adapt to the challenges of climate change. Landscape-scale conservation requires concerted governmental support to make it happen: support that recognises the huge contribution nature makes to the UK's economy and well-being, and provides in return an appropriate level of funding, over and above that already earmarked for species and site safeguards.

Specifically, RSPB Northern Ireland calls for the Northern Ireland Executive to:

- ▶ Work with the Irish Government to recognise the importance and take an all-island approach to landscape-scale conservation, and take the intellectual lead in driving forward this approach.
- ▶ Ensure appropriate policy and planning frameworks facilitate a landscape-scale approach, the effective delivery of EU Green Infrastructure and our commitments under the European Landscape Convention.
- ▶ Introduce innovative mechanisms for funding a landscape-scale approach, make existing funding mechanisms work harder for wildlife and ensure that public spending does not have negative impacts on the natural resource base.
- ▶ Undertake pilot projects via their agencies to test the landscape-scale approach and use their practical findings to inform future policy-making.

Working together – for nature and for people

The Futurescapes programme represents the RSPB's commitment to working for conservation on a scale never seen before. We can't do this alone – and our partnerships, old and new, have never been more important. Working together with fellow environment organisations, local communities, businesses and government bodies is crucial to realising this vision for a countryside rich in habitats and diverse green spaces – not just for wildlife, but for people too.

RSPB Northern Ireland has decades of experience in helping to put the natural world at the centre of decision-making. Our Futurescapes programme challenges us to build on our experience and apply, consistently, the lessons we have learned from our most successful and enduring projects.

The landscapes that we have identified within the Futurescapes programme have been shaped by their histories and are at the heart of their communities. Our shared vision will only be achievable if we work together in co-operation and mutual respect. We want to hear from you – so please contact us to discuss how we can work together to make our countryside rich in wildlife and better for people, now and in the future.





Let's work together to
build homes for nature
throughout Northern Ireland,
visit rspb.org.uk/futurescapes
for more information.

Get in touch

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**Futurescapes is the RSPB's vision for landscape-scale
conservation throughout the UK**

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The RSPB is part of BirdLife International, a partnership
of conservation organisations working to give nature a
home around the world



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