

As part of research being carried out by the Scottish Agricultural College, we would like to know your views and opinions on certain aspects of conservation in Scotland – protecting our native wildlife, reintroducing lost species and removing invasive non-native species. Your answers will help to design future conservation and land management policy in Scotland.

**All your answers to this survey are completely confidential, anonymous and will not be revealed to anyone outside of the research team.**

To say thank you for helping us with this research you can choose to be entered into a prize draw for a £100 cash prize. If you would like to be entered, please fill in the slip below. This will detached from the survey before your answers are looked at to ensure anonymity.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Many thanks.

Yours faithfully,



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PLEASE ENTER ME INTO THE PRIZE DRAW!

Name

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Email address/contact details

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Knowing how **you** feel about different conservation strategies is very useful for those people who make conservation and land management plans in Scotland. **Information from this survey will help the government to be sure that the public's interests are represented by these plans**

**By completing this survey, you can help us protect Scotland's natural heritage.**

By **conservation** we mean the effort to manage wildlife and the land in many different ways, such as setting up nature reserves, protecting species from hunting and replanting areas of natural forest.

Q1. Do you think we should carry out any conservation as part of the management of land in Scotland?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Q2. How would you rate your knowledge about conservation issues in Scotland?

1      2      3      4      5

Very little knowledge-----Expert knowledge

**Please read the following information about some of the different ways in which conservation is carried out in Scotland.**

### **Conservation of native species**

Native species are those plants and animals which have always lived in Scotland. These species face many different threats. Conservation of native species can involve protecting areas where they live, planting new forests and creating laws which protect them. People want to protect native species for a variety of reasons.

Q3. **In principal, not with a particular species in mind**, do you agree that the conservation of native species is a good idea?

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

Completely                      Neither                      Completely  
disagree                      agree nor                      agree  
disagree

### **Control of invasive non-native species**

Species which are not native to Scotland can become a part of our wildlife. This can happen accidentally such as the escape of plants from gardens into the countryside, or on purpose such as the release of game birds for shooting. Occasionally these invasive non-native species can be very harmful to native species. Conservationists try to prevent this damage by removing the invasive species from certain areas, for example by trapping or shooting them.

Q4. **In principal, not with a particular species in mind**, do you agree that the control of invasive non-native species is a good idea?

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

Completely                      Neither                      Completely  
disagree                      agree nor                      agree  
disagree

### **Reintroductions**

Reintroductions bring back missing native species, which have been lost due to man-made reasons such as over hunting. Plants or animals are brought from a country where they still live and are then released into the wild. There have been several successful reintroductions in Scotland. Reasons for reintroductions include habitat restoration, increasing biodiversity or because they involve a species that people like. Some people argue we have a moral duty to return a species which humans removed, other people argue that some reintroduced species could cause damage to farms and the countryside.

Q5. **In principal, not with a particular species in mind**, do you agree that reintroductions are a good idea?

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

Completely                      Neither                      Completely  
disagree                      agree nor                      agree  
   disagree

We are interested in what you think about the above methods of conservation: **conservation of native species**, **control of invasive non-native species**, and **reintroductions** and what you think is the best way to carry out conservation in Scotland.

**All of the above methods cost money**, because they are labour intensive, require large areas of land or need a lot of equipment. Conservation projects are usually funded from a combination of money raised by charities such as the RSPB and from government grants raised from taxes paid by the public.

Conservation can also **lead to reductions in the public's ability to use land** affected by the project, to protect the species in question (e.g. nature reserves) or due to safety reasons when traps or poisons are being used to control invasive species.

We would now like you to make some choices, where we ask you to choose between **conservation of native species, control of invasive non-native species, and reintroductions.**

**Please make these choices thinking about these different methods of conservation generally, not with any particular species in mind.**

In each of the following 6 tables there are four options for you to choose from: **CONSERVE NATIVE SPECIES, CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES, and REINTRODUCE SPECIES** – the different methods described above – and **DO NOTHING**, where there would be no conservation action of any type taken, and **which costs nothing.**

Choosing **DO NOTHING** would result in decreasing numbers of native species, increasing numbers of invasive species and no returns of missing native species. However, if you are unsure as to which project you prefer, or if you think they are all too expensive, you should choose **DO NOTHING.**

**For each project you are told:**

- **How much of Scotland would be affected by the project (AREA).** The possible area where each project can be carried out is either 25%, 50% or 75% of the area of Scotland
- **How the project would affect people's ability to use this land for the next 10 years (LAND USE).**

There can either be:

- 1) **No restrictions**, where public land use continues as normal.
  - 2) **Some restrictions**, where parts of the affected land may be closed to public access up to 6 months a year, and farming and hunting activities would be more controlled.
  - 3) **High levels of restrictions**, where no public or commercial use of the land would be permitted for at least a year.
- **How much extra tax your household would have to pay per year for the next 10 years** for the project to go ahead (**COST TO YOU**).

Different programs will all have a different focus and costs. Please select the one you like the most in each of the tables below.

**Please carefully consider your current household expenditures and income when making your choices.** Remember the cost of running one of the alternative programs would reduce **your household budget**, as you would have to pay more taxes to cover its cost. **If you think all of the options in a table are too expensive, pick the 'DO NOTHING' option.**

Don't worry if you are not an expert! We are interested in what YOU think, this is very important to us. For each table please only choose **one** option by ticking the appropriate 'YOUR CHOICE' box. Please tick only one box for each set of options.

CHOICE A	DO NOTHING	CONSERVE NATIVE SPECIES	CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES	REINTRODUCE SPECIES
AREA	0	75%	75%	50%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	No restrictions	High level of restrictions	Some restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£100	£25	£150
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE B	DO NOTHING	CONSERVE NATIVE SPECIES	CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES	REINTRODUCE SPECIES
AREA	0	25%	75%	75%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	Some restrictions	High level of restrictions	No restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£150	£100	£100
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE C	DO NOTHING	CONSERVE NATIVE SPECIES	CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES	REINTRODUCE SPECIES
AREA	0	50%	75%	25%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	Some restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£150	£100	£50
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE D	DO NOTHING	CONSERVE NATIVE SPECIES	CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES	REINTRODUCE SPECIES
AREA	0	25%	50%	75%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	No restrictions	Some restrictions	High level of restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£25	£100	£50
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE E	DO NOTHING	CONSERVE NATIVE SPECIES	CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES	REINTRODUCE SPECIES
AREA	0	25%	25%	50%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	High level of restrictions	No restrictions	Some restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£25	£25	£150
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE F	DO NOTHING	CONSERVE NATIVE SPECIES	CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES	REINTRODUCE SPECIES
AREA	0	50%	25%	25%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	Some restrictions	No restrictions	High level of restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£150	£50	£25
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Q. 6 What is the first species that comes into your mind when you think about the following methods of conservation?

Conservation of native species

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Control of invasive, non-native species

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Reintroductions

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We would now like to know how you would make these choices between programmes targeting different species.

**Each table that follow relates to EITHER conserving a native species, controlling an invasive species, OR reintroducing a species. For each conservation programme please choose which species you would most like to see targeted. Please remember that by picking one species, the other species mentioned would not be targeted for the present.**

**For the following 9 questions, please only make one choice per table.**

**As before, please carefully consider your existing household expenditures and income when making your choices.** Remember the cost of these projects would reduce your household budget, as you would have to pay more taxes to cover its cost. **If you think all of the options are too expensive, pick the 'DO NOTHING' option.**

CHOICE A	DO NOTHING	CONSERVE WILDCATS	CONSERVE CAPERCAILLIE	CONSERVE GREAT CRESTED NEWTS
AREA	0	50%	25%	75%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	Some restrictions	No restrictions	High level of restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£100	£25	£50
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE B	DO NOTHING	CONSERVE WILDCATS	CONSERVE CAPERCAILLIE	CONSERVE GREAT CRESTED NEWTS
AREA	0	25%	75%	25%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	High level of restrictions	Some restrictions	Some restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£150	£50	£25
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE C	DO NOTHING	CONSERVE WILDCATS	CONSERVE CAPERCAILLIE	CONSERVE GREAT CRESTED NEWTS
AREA	0	25%	25%	75%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	No restrictions	High level of restrictions	No restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£50	£100	£100
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE D	DO NOTHING	CONTROL GREY SQUIRRELS	CONTROL AMERICAN MINK	CONTROL SIGNAL CRAYFISH
AREA	0	50%	50%	50%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	Some restrictions	Some restrictions	Some restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£150	£50	£50
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE E	DO NOTHING	CONTROL GREY SQUIRRELS	CONTROL AMERICAN MINK	CONTROL SIGNAL CRAYFISH
AREA	0	75%	25%	25%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	No restrictions	High level of restrictions	No restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£50	£50	£150
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE F	DO NOTHING	CONTROL GREY SQUIRRELS	CONTROL AMERICAN MINK	CONTROL SIGNAL CRAYFISH
AREA	0	25%	75%	50%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	No restrictions	Some restrictions	High level of restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£100	£150	£25
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE G	DO NOTHING	REINTRODUCE EUROPEAN BEAVERS	REINTRODUCE EURASIAN LYNX	REINTRODUCE COMMON CRANE
AREA	0	25%	75%	25%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	High level of restrictions	High level of restrictions	No restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£50	£50	£100
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE H	DO NOTHING	REINTRODUCE EUROPEAN BEAVERS	REINTRODUCE EURASIAN LYNX	REINTRODUCE COMMON CRANE
AREA	0	50%	25%	75%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	Some restrictions	High level of restrictions	No restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£150	£25	£50
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHOICE I	DO NOTHING	REINTRODUCE EUROPEAN BEAVERS	REINTRODUCE EURASIAN LYNX	REINTRODUCE COMMON CRANE
AREA	0	25%	50%	75%
LAND USE RESTRICTIONS	No restrictions	No restrictions	Some restrictions	Some restrictions
COST TO YOU	£0	£25	£150	£100
YOUR CHOICE (please tick <b>ONE</b> only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q. 7 If you have chosen the “Do nothing” option in **every** question above, could you tell us why?

- ☐ Costs are too high
  - ☐ Not interested
  - ☐ Don't think projects would work
  - ☐ Others should pay
  - ☐ Other (please specify)
- 

## **ABOUT YOU**

To help us understand your answers, we need to know a little bit about you. **The information you provide in this survey is completely confidential and this information cannot be connected with you personally. Please provide this information, otherwise we cannot use your other answers.**

Q.8 What is your age?

16-24 ☐      25-34 ☐      35-44 ☐      45-59 ☐      60-74 ☐      75+ ☐

Q. 9 Are you

Male ☐      Female ☐

Q. 10 Are you a member of an organisation, or work in a profession, which is connected with any of the following areas?

- Agriculture / forestry / fishing / field sports ☐
- Conservation / environmental issues ☐
- Local government / public services ☐
- Education / research ☐

Q. 11 What is your household income before tax?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <6,000           | <input type="checkbox"/> 25,001 – 30,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6,001 – 10,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> 30,001 – 40,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001 – 15,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> 40,001 – 50,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20, 001 – 25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001 +        |

**ANY FURTHER COMMENTS?**

**If you would like to make a comment on the survey or anything else,  
please do so in the box below.**

Thank you for your help!