



## **Scottish Government support Peatland Restoration with funding.**

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012, the Scottish Government announced it will be supporting peatland restoration with plans of £1.7 million funding from their Green Stimulus packaged announced in this year's budget. The funding will also support the development of a Peatland Plan for Scotland.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change Paul Wheelhouse said:

“The transition to a low-carbon, highly resource-efficient economy is a key priority for this Government.

“Over 20 per cent of Scotland's land is covered by peat or peaty soils, and it is estimated that they store fifteen times more carbon than UK vegetation. We know that peatlands in good condition can provide many benefits to our biodiversity, wildlife, and economy, and could also play a critical role in our fight against climate change.

“This offers us a real chance to influence peatland restoration and management and to contribute on the international stage.

“Working with Scottish Natural Heritage and other interested organisations, we will develop a substantial programme of peatland restoration across Scotland supported by £1.7 million from our Green Stimulus Package.”

Susan Davies, SNH Director of Policy & Advice, said:

“This is truly excellent news, and will make a big difference to Scotland's peatlands. We'll work with local community groups, NGOs and land managers to restore this valuable habitat. We also want to make sure the excellent work already done in our protected areas, such as nature reserves, guides us in this new programme. We already have a head start through the IUCN Peatland Programme, which has pulled together the best examples of peatland restoration in Scotland and throughout the UK.”

The IUCN National Committee UK Peatland Programme welcomes the news and Director Clifton Bain said:

“We strongly welcome this important step in a new dawn for peatlands. Our Inquiry on Peatlands showed broad support to bring peatlands into good condition. This is a wise investment from the Scottish Government which will avoid more costly problems from damaged peatlands and help secure a key part of our natural environment.”

To read the Scottish Government full press release, please [click here](#).