

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Question 1 - The table in part 5 provides an overview of the proposals under each of the EU 2020 headings – Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive – matched against the relevant thematic objective and investment priorities. Do you think the investment priorities are the most appropriate ones for the activity suggested?

The Scottish Wildlife Trust whole heartedly supports the Green Infrastructure proposal (13). A key feature of well-designed places be they in the heart of the city, urban or peri-urban areas, is the attention given to the quality of the green infrastructure in the public realm e.g. a tree-lined street, a public garden or park or a wildlife friendly - urban drainage system. Vibrant, distinctive, attractive and safe places are where people want to be and attract businesses and people with knowledge skills alike.

Investment in GI provides multiple benefits, including mitigating and adapting to climate change, improving ecosystem health - thereby increasing the quality of ecosystem services upon which Scotland relies, and improving people's health and wellbeing through ensuring people have more encounters with the natural world – the latter will be delivered, inter alia, by increasing the number of households that live within 300 m of high quality greenspace.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is actively involved in creating/retrofitting green infrastructure to revitalise urban areas. The Cumbernauld Living Landscape project is an urban ecosystem restoration project in Central Scotland (partners include inter alia, North Lanarkshire Council) which aims to reinforce and expand existing green networks and reconnect the people of the town to their natural environment. In the urban landscape this transformational change will benefit local people, help wildlife and support the regional economy.

The Edinburgh Living Landscape project (main partner: City of Edinburgh Council) is currently being developed and the objectives include, inter alia: improving benefits for the city, particularly in areas of deprivation; engaging more people in caring for their local greenspace; and new developments being planned and delivered in such a way as to create low carbon, walkable neighbourhoods, and workplaces containing high quality green infrastructure.

We agree with the investment priorities and would also like to see support for physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived communities in urban and rural areas being included.

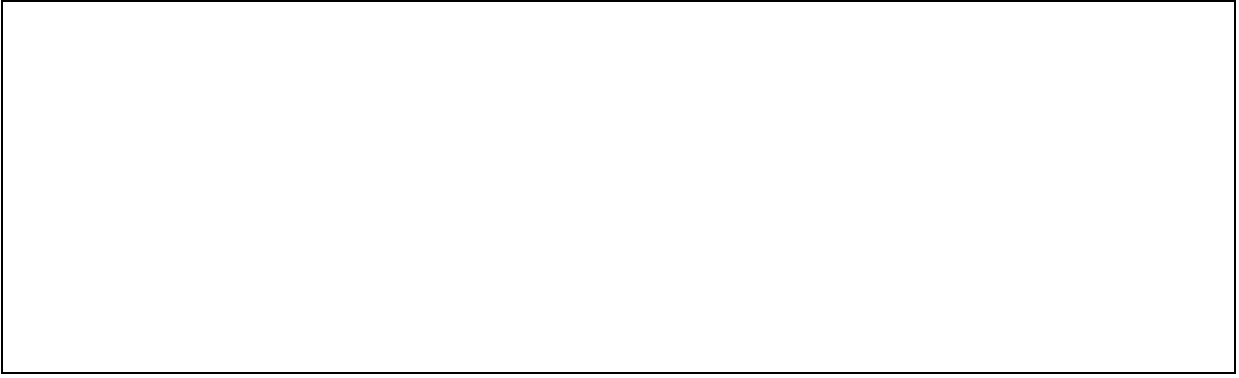
The GI proposal also accords with the Scottish Government's 2020 Biodiversity Challenge, National Planning Framework, Scottish Planning Policy, National Performance Framework and will help Scotland achieve its commitment to delivering the Convention of Biological Diversity Aichi targets.

Question 2 – Section 6 sets out the linkages between Structural, Rural and Fisheries Funds as well as linkages to other EU Funding Programmes. We would welcome stakeholder comments on these linkages in order to help us develop this thinking further


Question 3 - Do you think the new proposals will have a positive or negative impact on the protected characteristics and wider issues of inclusion and participation?

Question 4 - If you think there will be a negative impact on the protected characteristics or inclusion and participation please provide suggestions as to what could be done differently to diminish this impact.

Question 5 - Please provide your views for improving the process for design, procurement, delivery, monitoring and evaluation to strengthen delivery of sustainable development.



Question 6 – Do you have any further comments on the proposals outlined in this document?

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