

## Peatland ACTION: more than just a bog

The Scottish Government's [Second Report on Proposals and Policies](#) includes a number of references to the role of peatlands in reducing greenhouse gas emissions; specifically noting scientific, partnership and restoration challenges. Whilst in the long term these are being addressed by a National Peatland Plan<sup>1</sup>, as lead advisor to the Scottish Government on peatland restoration Scottish Natural Heritage was allocated £6.7 million to kick-start the restoration challenge. The "Peatland ACTION" project was born with SNH administering the funding to restore and manage peatlands to maintain carbon stores, restore ecosystem functions and build restoration capacity and understanding amongst land managers, contractors, advisors and the public. From a standing start in January 2013, the project has an ambitious target of restoring 6500 ha peatland by March 2015.

In practical terms, peatland restoration generally involves action to halt or where possible reverse the cause(s) of degradation and raise water levels. However, peatland restoration at a National level is far more than an exercise in raising water levels; raising the profile of peatlands and awareness of the multiple benefits they bring is a key part of the challenge. Quickly ticking off the 'easy-wins' restoration sites, the Peatland ACTION project team are now working closely with others to engage our audiences beyond the organisational level - at the individual land manager level. To facilitate this, Peatland ACTION is geared up for a series of demonstration events around the country. On-going challenges will be to identify and try to address financial, environmental, cultural, and policy barriers to ensure we build on the success of Peatland ACTION and secure a milieu for peatland restoration in Scotland to continue.

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Why not have a look at our short videos on [Bog Restoration](#) : [What wetlands do for You](#) or the [Fen Management Handbook](#)



Find out more about Peatland ACTION [here](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [National Peatland Plan](#) will result from the consultation led by SNH on behalf of a wide group of stakeholders ending in September 2014.