

BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT

December 2024

Bòrd na Gàidhlig identifies with Level 2 within the framework as a public body that engages directly or indirectly with communities, young people or the public but does not own or manage land, regulate land use, or have responsibilities linked to biodiversity

- Section 1: Introductory information about your public body
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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Please describe your organisation's role and purpose, including any particular environmental responsibilities

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is an executive non-departmental public body, responsible through Ministers to the Scottish Parliament. Established under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 (The Act), Bòrd na Gàidhlig is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic language development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on issues relating to the Gaelic language. Under the terms of the Act, Bòrd na Gàidhlig is required to exercise its functions with a view to securing the status of Gaelic as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language.

SECTION 2: ACTIONS TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY

Please describe and explain any actions that your organisation has undertaken alone or as part of a partnership to benefit biodiversity directly, to tackle the main drivers of biodiversity loss, or to achieve wider outcomes for nature and people

Bòrd na Gàidhlig promotes active travel through the Cycle to Work Scheme, the Travel and Subsistence Policy and the Business Travel Plan.

An Environmental Working Group has been established to monitor and develop these processes as well as ensuring the duties under the Climate Emergency Charter. The working group will allow for more action points to be developed over the next few years.

SECTION 3: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

Please outline any steps your organisation has taken to incorporate biodiversity measures into its wider policies, plans or strategies. This should include decision-making structures and staff and organisational roles and responsibilities.

We currently have a range of policies to support our role in Biodiversity such as our Business Travel Plan where employees are encouraged to consider the environmental impacts of their travel plans and choices. Our Travel and Subsistence Policy and Environmental Policy communicate and promote the reduction of environmental impacts by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and aim to reduce the carbon footprint of the organisation.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is committed to the Sustainable Development Goals as outlined by the Scottish Government within our Climate Emergency Charter. An action plan is currently being developed by the Environmental Working Group to raise awareness and promote initiatives within the organisation to support the charter.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has the statutory responsibility to require public authorities to develop Gaelic language plans. As part of our work, we have requested Scottish Government, NatureScot, Forestry and Land Scotland, Scottish Land Commission, Crofting Commission and as well as local authorities to develop Gaelic language plans. Thus, we link our work with a wide range of organisations who have statutory responsibilities for land management, conservation and land use.

SECTION 4: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

How has your organisation integrated biodiversity into nature-based solutions to the climate emergency and other socio-economic outcomes?

Given the remit of the organisation, Bòrd na Gàidhlig is limited in what can be done to improve access to nature for all. We work closely with our delivery partners and funded organisations to support these outcomes where possible.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig does not own any land and shares its working spaces with other public bodies. We fully support the initiatives undertaken within these shared spaces to support biodiversity and reducing our carbon footprint.

SECTION 5: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Public Engagement

Bòrd na Gàidhlig works with other public bodies and delivery partners to actively engage with the public and uses these opportunities to promote the work of the organisation. We regularly engage with the public through exhibitions and events, engagement with schools and other public bodies. Bòrd na Gàidhlig ensures to promote biodiversity and climate awareness in all suitable circumstances.

Workforce development

Bòrd na Gàidhlig's policies allow all staff to request days off for volunteering and our Environmental Policy is currently under review. The Environmental Working Group will promote any opportunities for staff to engage in appropriate training and drive environmental impact awareness throughout the organisation through information sharing and any opportunities for collaborative working within shared working spaces.

SECTION 6: RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Describe any research activities that your organisation has undertaken to help develop understanding and awareness of biodiversity or nature

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has not carried out any research activities on biodiversity because of the nature of its statutory remit, nor would it be appropriate for an organisation such as Bòrd na Gàidhlig to do so.

What follow-up actions or monitoring have you undertaken to assess the impacts of the actions you have taken? How have you measured this? If you do not carry out any monitoring activities, please explain why.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has not carried out any monitoring activities because of the nature of its statutory remit, nor would it be appropriate for an organisation such as Bòrd na Gàidhlig to monitor biodiversity in relation to any decisions that it has made.

SECTION 7: BIODIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

Describe your organisation's main achievements for biodiversity over the reporting period and what you are most proud of (this can include processes, plans, projects, partnerships, events and actions).

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has worked with other bodies to support any biodiversity projects where this is possible and appropriate within the remit of the organisation.

Looking ahead, what do you think will be the main challenges over the next three years?

Bòrd na Gàidhlig aims to encourage partnership working and staff awareness of the importance of biodiversity and other environmental factors which are impacted by our organisation as well as through our delivery partners.