

A world richer in nature

Where nature and people can thrive

Getting nature positive
in the UK by 2030



Time for a decade of action



Global day of action
Nick Hawkes (rspb-images.com)

We all want a world with more nature

Nature underpins our lives. It provides us with food, water, air to breathe, materials for our homes, and medicine that keeps us healthy. It brings us joy, sparks curiosity, and brings peace.

Sadly, the importance and value of nature are often overlooked and downgraded in times of crisis. But this is short-sighted. For us to thrive, nature must thrive.

We don't just want more nature - we need it. The good news is we already know many of the solutions, and have success stories to show that this is possible. Over the next ten years, we need to implement these solutions at scale to put our wildlife and our own futures on a path to recovery by 2030.

To get there, we need to take a 'nature positive' approach (see page 6). This will ensure we have more nature at the end of this decade than we started with. It will mean we have halted declines and are driving recovery. Adopting nature positive will put us on an upward path to restoring the health of nature by 2050, by choosing the right actions for the benefit of people and the planet. It will achieve the best for nature.

But there are barriers in the way to success

Nature is in crisis, both in the UK and globally. According to the State of Nature report (2019) 41% of assessed UK species are in decline, and since 1950, 133 species have been lost from our shores completely. A recent [global assessment](#) highlighted that habitats and species are being lost at an unprecedented rate: with over one million threatened with extinction. We know the core reasons for this crisis include habitat loss and degradation, often due to damaging agricultural practices and over-fishing; pollution such as pesticide use; and invasive species which are having a particularly devastating impact on island nature.

These issues are interconnected, and made worse by accelerating climate change.

We're in a now or never time to act.

We need to deliver the new global plan to save nature

The world has agreed a landmark new global plan for nature that will guide action to 2030. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a global agreement, where countries across the world come together to decide on action to protect and restore nature.

In December 2022, countries agreed and adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (see link in top right and a summary on page 68). Whilst not perfect, the new plan sets an ambitious mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. The delivery of this framework is essential for climate action, putting Sustainable Development Goals into practice, and the future of life on our planet.

The new global plan must be implemented nationally, including across the four countries of the UK and its Overseas Territories. But to meet these new targets, we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past.

Our [Lost Decade Report](#) (2020) showed that despite promising to take action to halt the decline of nature under the last global framework in 2010, the UK failed to meet almost all the global targets. Alarming, this is a trend.

Governments repeatedly sign up to targets, make promises, and then fall short on action.

We must not let this happen again

This is our vision for a nature positive world by 2030

SPECIES RECOVERY

We all want a world richer in nature. Sadly, every year there are fewer birds singing, insects buzzing, and fish in our seas.

Our vision: By 2030, the UK is richer in nature, and the future of wildlife is more secure, with populations recovering, extinctions halted, and the threat of extinctions dramatically reduced.

PROTECTED AREAS

Our protected areas are fragments of diverse habitats and species, and should sit at the heart of nature's recovery.

Our vision: By 2030, our best places for nature, amounting to at least 30% of land and at sea, are properly protected and well managed. They play a vital role in nature's recovery.

FOOD AND FARMING

Through a change in approach, our farmland has the potential to drive the recovery of nature rather than its decline.

Our vision: By 2030, our farms teem with wildlife, produce high quality food that meets our needs as part of a fair global food system, and support the recovery of nature and the transition to a net zero economy.

FISHERIES

Unsustainable fishing practices are putting our much-loved seabirds, and our marine environments at risk. But with progressive action, this can be a thing of the past.

Our vision: By 2030, fisheries are managed so that they support thriving seabird populations, and benefit nature and the climate.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Our climate is changing at pace. It's becoming ever clearer that the nature and climate emergencies are deeply intertwined.

Our vision: By 2030, the nature and climate emergency is tackled to achieve a world which is nature positive, on track for net zero, and adapted for a warmer climate. This is delivered through nature-based solutions to climate change, nature positive renewable energy, and agriculture and fisheries that work in a way that support nature, climate and people.

FINANCE

Action needs money: money that is good for nature and that can really accelerate positive change.

Our vision: By 2030, there is a wholesale shift towards a nature positive economy. The financing gap for nature is closed, investment decisions are nature positive, and funds are accessible and targeted in ways that make a real difference for nature.

This is our proposition for how the governments of the UK can drive a nature positive decade of action. This will help us to meet this vision.

We've identified six areas for action to focus efforts on across the UK and the UK Overseas Territories to avoid another lost decade for nature. These are by no means the only things that need to happen, but if we achieve these priorities, they could steer us onto a nature positive course. We also include success measures and the current state of play for each priority, which we will use to hold the government accountable as it implements the new global framework. Across the six focus areas, there are cross cutting actions which stand out:

- 1. Shift to a nature positive economy.** This means embedding nature into the heart of economic decisions and measuring and costing in nature's true asset value, to ensure that investment flows back into restoring and stewarding the natural capital of the ecosystems that support us.
- 2. Strengthen, implement, and better enforce environmental legislation** which provides a firm legal basis for the recovery of nature in this decade.
- 3. Develop, implement, and learn from robust plans and strategies** to guide and deliver on the UK's legally-binding environmental commitments.
- 4. Take holistic action which brings multiple solutions for nature.** This will be achieved by embedding and prioritising nature recovery across governments, recognising its crucial role in our food system, economy, and for tackling and adapting to climate change.
- 5. Deliver and effectively deploy adequate and effective financing** that genuinely drives change.
- 6. Underpin action with science,** and closely, accurately and transparently monitor our progress.
- 7. Support and empower people to act for nature.**



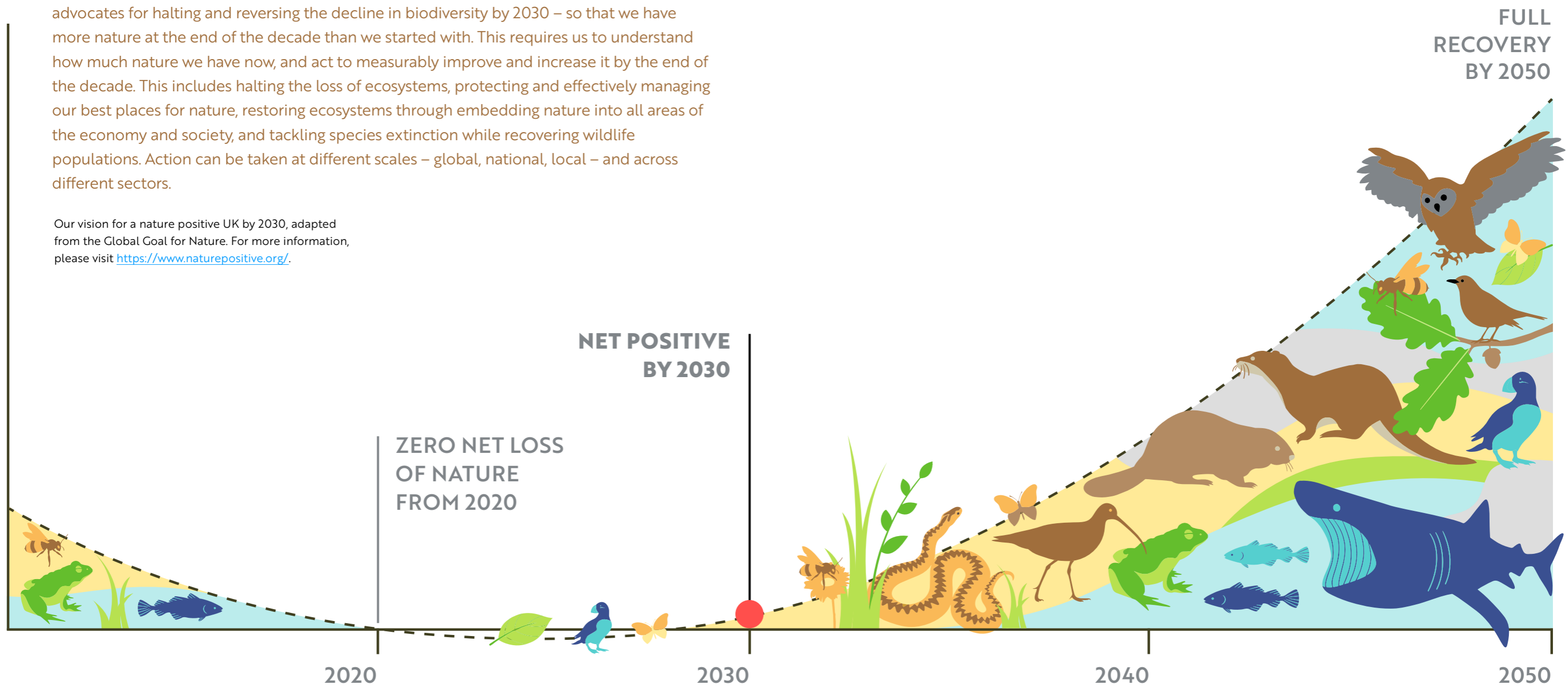
Oak tree Celtic rainforest, North Wales
Richard Bowler (rspb-images.com)

A nature positive UK by 2030

Nature positive is established as a defining mission to drive global action for nature. It advocates for halting and reversing the decline in biodiversity by 2030 – so that we have more nature at the end of the decade than we started with. This requires us to understand how much nature we have now, and act to measurably improve and increase it by the end of the decade. This includes halting the loss of ecosystems, protecting and effectively managing our best places for nature, restoring ecosystems through embedding nature into all areas of the economy and society, and tackling species extinction while recovering wildlife populations. Action can be taken at different scales – global, national, local – and across different sectors.

Our vision for a nature positive UK by 2030, adapted from the Global Goal for Nature. For more information, please visit <https://www.naturepositive.org/>.

INDICATORS OF BIODIVERSITY



Species recovery



Common starling murmuration
Oliver Smart (rspb-images.com)

What do we want?

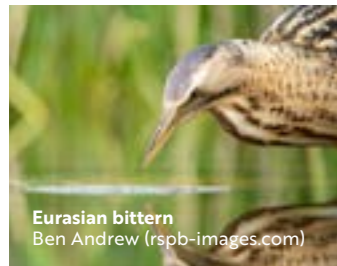
By 2030, the UK is richer in nature, and the future of wildlife is **more secure**, with **populations recovering, extinctions halted, and the threat of extinctions dramatically reduced.**

How will we know we're there?

- **Biodiversity loss is halted and reversed.**
This means that trends in species abundance and range have changed from 'declining' to 'increasing'.
- **There have been no human-driven extinctions** of known threatened species.
- **There are improvements in the conservation status of threatened species**, so the extinction risk is lowered.
- **Recovering species communities play a key role in ecosystem restoration.**

Inspiring case studies

England

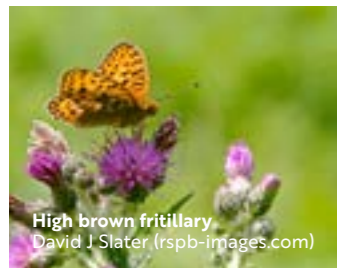


Eurasian bittern
Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)

Bittern

Following near extinction due to habitat loss and degradation, bitterns are now recovering well. This is thanks to targeted reedbed habitat creation and improvement projects. In 1997 there were just 11 booming males. Now there are nearly 200 booming males at almost 100 sites. Many other wetland birds and a wide range of species, including water voles and the reed leopard moth, have benefited hugely from this work.

Wales



High brown fritillary
David J Slater (rspb-images.com)

Natur am Byth

Natur am Byth is a flagship Green Recovery project aiming to save species from extinction and reconnect people with nature. The project, in its development phase until February 2023, focuses on four land-based and two marine areas in Wales. It will benefit rare species through an integrated approach. In addition, there are six single species projects that are either across Wales or site-specific.

This project involves nine eNGOs (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bat Conservation Trust, Buglife, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Plantlife, Marine Conservation Society, RSPB Cymru, Vincent Wildlife Trust), and is led by Natural Resources Wales. The development phase of the project has received funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Northern Ireland



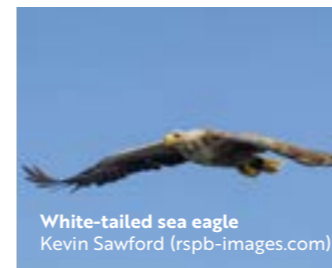
Eurasian curlew
Roger Tidman (rspb-images.com)

Curlew

The curlew population in Northern Ireland declined by 82% between 1987 and 2013. There are as few as 250 pairs remaining. However targeted conservation action in the remaining core areas of Antrim Plateau and Lough Erne over the last 20 years has resulted in a much lower rate of decline (25 to 30%). Numbers have stabilised in recent years. Almost half of the NI population are within these core areas. This targeted approach has involved close partnership working between RSPB NI, landowners, communities and the statutory agencies. The current EU LIFE-funded Curlew in Crisis project seeks to build on this work.

This work has been funded through RSPB NI, agri-environment, and project funding from national and EU funding sources (National Lottery Heritage Fund, EU LIFE and Interreg).

Scotland

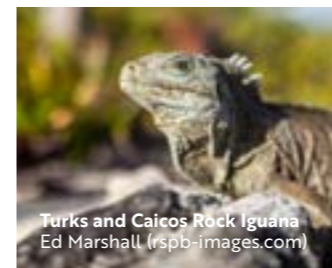


White-tailed sea eagle
Kevin Sawford (rspb-images.com)

White-tailed eagle

Following intense persecution through the 19th century, white-tailed eagles were driven to national extinction in the early years of the 20th century. Scottish and Norwegian conservationists worked in partnership to bring the species back. Following reintroduction successes in both East and West Scotland, the species now has a growing native breeding population once more. Although numbers remain low, the populations benefits local communities through tourism in remote areas.

UK Overseas Territories



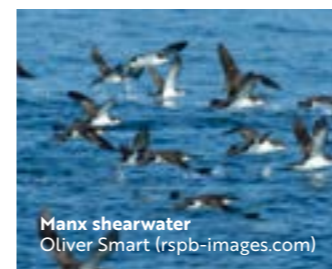
Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana
Ed Marshall (rspb-images.com)

Turks and Caicos rock iguanas

This special species of iguana is found only on the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), and on one small island in the Bahamas. The iguanas play an important ecological role, and are a key tourism attraction, contributing an estimated \$3.7m annually. These iguanas now occupy less than 10% of their historic range, largely due to invasive predators. When the island of Pine Cay was developed in the 1970s, iguana numbers dropped from 5,500 to fewer than 30 adults in just three years due to the introduction of cats and dogs. Building on three decades of research and conservation work, a cross-organisational partnership has developed to manage invasive species. In 2019, feral cats were eradicated from three islands, giving Pine Cay's iguanas an opportunity to recover. The overall population is now relatively stable. In 2020, the iguana was down-listed from Critically Endangered to Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

This cross-organisational partnership includes Turks & Caicos National Trust, Turks & Caicos Government, the private sector, and international NGOs.

UK Seas



Manx shearwater
Oliver Smart (rspb-images.com)

UK Seabirds

The UK is internationally important for seabirds and has a responsibility to protect and recover their populations. Just under 8 million seabirds from 25 species breed in the UK, including 80% of the world's Manx shearwaters, and millions more birds winter or pass through the UK on migration. Yet seabirds are now under unprecedented threat, declining faster than any other group of birds. Most breeding seabirds are on islands, dependent on well-managed seas and fisheries, and robust biosecurity measures. Projects to remove rats from Ynys Seiriol/Puffin Island and Ynys Dewi/Ramsey Island in the 1990s enabled several seabird species to recover, including a five-fold increase in Manx shearwaters, and a doubling of guillemot and cormorant numbers. A wider programme of island restoration will be crucial to protecting our seabirds from future threats.

What do we need to do?

Overall, the governments of the UK need to:

- **Set ambitious, legally binding targets for species abundance** (to keep common species common, and restore numbers of depleted populations) **and species extinction risk** (to ensure that extinctions as a result of human activity cease).
- **Take action across all walks of life to safeguard species** from extinction, recover species at risk, see them thrive, and keep common species common. These actions – which must be underpinned by sufficient funding and policies – include:
 - national species recovery and reintroduction programmes;
 - site protection and management, taking the 'better, bigger and more joined up' approach;
 - ecosystem restoration;
 - pollution reduction;
 - nature-friendly farming, supported by agri environment schemes;
 - forestry and fisheries management;
 - designing economic incentives to restore nature;
 - biosecurity standards;
 - investment in understanding diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu and actions to reduce impacts;
 - environmental planning;
 - regular, robust monitoring.
- **Take urgent action for priority groups in particular, such as for seabirds** (see UK Seas section on page 15) **and farmland birds** (through agri environment schemes which are key to recovering at risk species as well as keeping common species common. See the [Food and Farming section](#)).
- Urgently introduce a **UK replacement for the EU LIFE funding programme** to fund this action.



Oyster catchers
Ernie Janes (rspb-images.com)



Chequered skipper butterfly
Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)

Country specific actions needed:



England

- Ensure ambitious, legally binding targets for species abundance and extinction risk are included in the first suite of Environment Act targets.
- Increase funding for Natural England's species recovery programme.
- Formulate a progressive and collaborative Species Recovery Framework. This should build from the lessons from past species recovery programmes for England such as ['Back from the Brink'](#) which worked to secure the future for over 200 species, through collaboration between nearly 100 organisations and Natural England.
- Ensure the new environment land management (ELM) schemes are well funded and aid species recovery by supporting farmers to transition to more nature and climate friendly practices.



Wales

- Include targets for species distribution and abundance, and extinction risk, in a suite of legally binding nature recovery targets for Wales.
- Develop a Species Recovery Framework for Wales to guide collaborative action by government, NGOs and civic society. This will ensure Wales's wildlife thrives in recovering habitats, and people and communities benefit and care for nature.
- Through the new Sustainable Farming Scheme, provide high quality advice and enable farmers and land managers to work together to support priority species on their land.



Northern Ireland

- Set legally binding targets for nature's recovery including species abundance, distribution and extinction risk within an Environment Act for Northern Ireland.
- Develop and deliver a Species Recovery Programme, and involving government, NGOs and civic society. This should also address monitoring and science gaps.
- Ensure future agri environment schemes have all the mechanisms in place and are conserving priority farmland species including breeding waders, choughs, corncrakes and yellowhammers.
- Ensure funding is available for species-specific interventions that cannot be funded in other ways.



Scotland

- Include a programme of targeted species recovery in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045.
- Include a programme of ecosystem restoration in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045.
- Develop an effective system of agri-environment funding targeted at recovery of key species, including breeding wading birds, corncrakes, corn buntings, arable plants and bumblebees.
- Implement robust licensing of driven grouse shooting.
- Develop a national programme of seabird island restoration (invasive species removal) and island biosecurity. Establish a Scottish Invasive Species Inspectorate by 2025 to tackle the spread and impacts of invasive species more generally.



UK Seas

- Take action to ensure that seabirds and wider marine health descriptors are meeting Good Environmental Status (GES) under the UK Marine Strategy. These actions must include (but are not limited to):
- Further develop a programme of island restoration to remove invasive mammals from breeding colonies and investing in biosecurity measures. This should build on the success of the Biosecurity for LIFE project.
- End industrial sandeel fishing in UK waters and implement measures to enhance forage fish populations (in particular sandeel and herring), including ecosystem-based fisheries management and protections for key habitats.
- Follow a robust spatial marine planning system, that takes an ecosystem based approach and ensures human pressures will not compromise achieving Good Environmental Status.
- Publish, and fund urgent actions from Seabird Conservation Strategies to improve their conservation prospects. Many of these should include actions listed above.



UK Overseas Territories

- Ensure long-term funding of the UK Government's Darwin Plus programme. This has helped safeguard numerous threatened species.
- Continue to offer support to strengthen biosecurity legislation and implementation across the Territories.
- Raise public awareness and understanding of the significance of the wildlife in the UK's Overseas Territories – which are home to 94 per cent of British endemic species and 90 per cent of the biodiversity for which the UK Government has responsibility.



Eurasian bittern
Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)

Current state of play

United Kingdom

41%
of species
in decline

41% of UK species are in decline since 1970. Average species abundance has declined by 13% since 1970, and the rate of decline was greater in the last decade.¹



133 species have been lost completely since the 1500s. 15% of 8,418 species assessed using regional Red List criteria are regarded as threatened with extinction in the UK.¹

228th
out of
240

The UK countries are among the most nature-depleted in the world. Overall, they scored 228th out of 240 countries and territories in the Biodiversity Intactness Index.² This is an international measure of the health of ecosystems. While much of this loss is historical, we are still losing nature today.

Northern Ireland

43%
decline in
butterflies

Due to poor data, there is no single abundance indicator for species in Northern Ireland. But we know that there has been a 43% decline in average abundance of nine butterfly species since 2006, and a 38% decline in average abundance of 36 wintering waterbird species since 1988.¹



Of 6,413 species assessed using regional Red List criteria, 11% are threatened from extinction from the island of Ireland.¹

228th
out of
240

Northern Ireland was ranked 228th in the Biodiversity Intactness Index (12th worst).²

England

35%
of species
in decline

35% of species in England have decreased since 1970. Species in England have decreased on average in abundance since 1970.¹



Of 7,615 species assessed using regional Red List criteria, 13% of species in England are threatened with extinction from Great Britain.¹

233rd
out of
240

England was ranked 233rd in the Biodiversity Intactness Index (seventh worst).²

Scotland

49%
of species
in decline

49% of species have shown declines in abundance since 1970.¹



Of 6,413 species assessed using regional Red List criteria, 11% are threatened from extinction from Great Britain.¹

212th
out of
240

Scotland was ranked 212th in the Biodiversity Intactness Index (28th worst).²

Wales

52%
decline in
butterflies

There is not yet a single abundance indicator for species in Wales, but we know we have continuing declines in many taxa, including butterflies which have declined on average by 52%.³



Of 6,500 species in Wales that have been assessed using IUCN Regional Red List criteria, 8% of species in Wales are threatened with extinction from Great Britain.¹

224th
out of
240

Wales was ranked 224th in the Biodiversity Intactness Index (16th worst).²

UK Overseas Territories



There have been no known global extinctions in the UK Overseas Territories since 2004, when the St Helena Olive Tree was lost forever. Darwin Plus has enabled urgent action on many critical species, but greater support is needed.

UK Seas



Seabirds are currently failing to meet Good Environmental Status (GES) under the UK Marine Strategy. Of the 15 indicators in the UK Marine Strategy only four are being met. Seabirds are moving away from, rather than towards, Good Environmental Status.

Protected areas



RSPB Forsinard Nature Reserve
David Tipling (rspb-images.com)

What do we want?

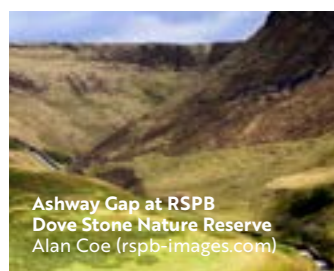
By 2030, our best places for nature, amounting to at least 30% of land and sea, are properly protected and well managed. They play a vital role in nature's recovery.

How will we know we're there?

- At least 30% of land and seas across the UK is robustly protected for nature.
- These sites are effectively managed to ensure their habitats and species are in the best possible condition.
- Protected areas are better connected, creating bigger areas of habitat and allowing species to move more easily.
- There is good monitoring in place for all our protected areas, helping us to understand where intervention is needed.

Inspiring studies

England



Ashway Gap at RSPB Dove Stone Nature Reserve
Alan Coe (rspb-images.com)

Blanket bogs at Dove Stone

Healthy blanket bogs store vast quantities of carbon and are some of our most precious habitats, home to an incredible variety of wildlife. However, peatlands have suffered from long-term declines, due to pollution, overgrazing and burning. At Dove Stone in the Peak District, a project has reversed the loss of peat loss through improved management and re-wetting and re-vegetating. The work has transformed the peatlands. There have been increases in breeding wading birds, water quality has improved, and richer habitats are starting to develop.

This is a partnership project between the RSPB England and United Utilities.

Wales



Cors Ddyga
David Wootton (rspb-images.com)

Wetland restoration at Cors Ddyga

Cors Ddyga on Anglesey is one of just three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Wales designated for the richness of its aquatic invertebrates. It has been managed by the RSPB since 1994. The site is a former working colliery, and had been drained with many steep sided channels that left little space for nature. Since RSPB started managing the site, we have raised water levels and restored wetland and open water features. This was successful – Cors Ddyga is now one of the most important wildlife sites in Wales and one of a handful where lapwing are successfully breeding. The reedbeds are home to otters, water voles and wetland birds. It is one of the few places in Wales where you can see marsh harriers, and bitterns recently returned to breed at the site.

The work is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Gaynor Cemlyn-Jones Trust and the Sustainable Development Fund, a Welsh Government initiative in the Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Northern Ireland



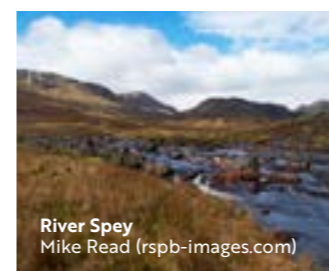
Garron Dungonnell Peat Dams
Henry McLaughlin, NIW

Peatland restoration at Garron Plateau

Garron Plateau is an incredibly important place for nature. It contains the largest area of intact blanket bog in Northern Ireland, with breeding hen harriers, merlins, and curlews, and rare plants including marsh saxifrage. The site includes the Dungonnell Reservoir which supplies drinking water to over 14,000 homes. In 2010, 94.5% of the site was in an unfavourable condition. Restoration work began in 2010 including a management plan, drain blocking, installation of dams, and the reduction in the density of livestock. By 2016 the site was already on its way to recovery.

This was a collaborative initiative between RSPB NI, NIEA, and NI Water funded by the EU INTERREG VA Cooperation across Borders for Biodiversity initiative (CABB).

Scotland



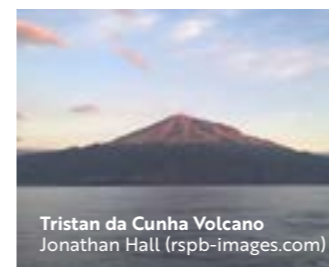
River Spey
Mike Read (rspb-images.com)

LIFE 100% for nature project (Scotland)

This five-year project will boost the condition of the most important sites for nature in eleven locations, trialling innovative conservation techniques. Projects include using grazing Konik ponies to help restore the largest floodplain fen in the UK at Insh Marshes and using remote controlled flail mowers to cut heather. We also introduced cattle grazing as part of two trials in ancient pine forests to improve conditions for capercaillie. These techniques can then be replicated on other sites.

This is an RSPB Scotland project funded through the EU LIFE programme with additional support from NatureScot, Cairngorms Connect ELP, The Famous Grouse and many other funders and supporters.

UK Overseas Territories



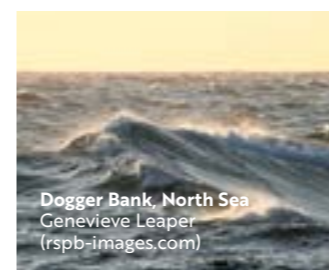
Tristan da Cunha Volcano
Jonathan Hall (rspb-images.com)

Tristan Da Cunha marine protected area

In November 2020, the ocean around Tristan da Cunha, a UK Overseas Territory, was announced as the Atlantic's largest fully-protected area. The Marine Protection Zone is three times the size of the UK and home to tens of millions of seabirds including critically endangered albatross, northern rockhopper penguins, seals, sharks and whales. The island is home to around 250 people whose livelihoods depend on the health of the oceans for sustainable fishing. Led by the community, the Marine Protection Zone is the result of many years of partnership work with support from the RSPB, UK Government Blue Belt Programme and many other non-governmental organisations and funders. Through a range of management, science, engagement and outreach activities, the project will ensure that the community have capacity to build a strong and sustainable future for their ocean.

This project has been made possible through the collaboration including, but not limited to: the RSPB, the Tristan da Cunha Government, the local community, and multiple funders.

UK Seas



Dogger Bank, North Sea
Genevieve Leaper (rspb-images.com)

Protection of seabird prey at the Dogger Bank

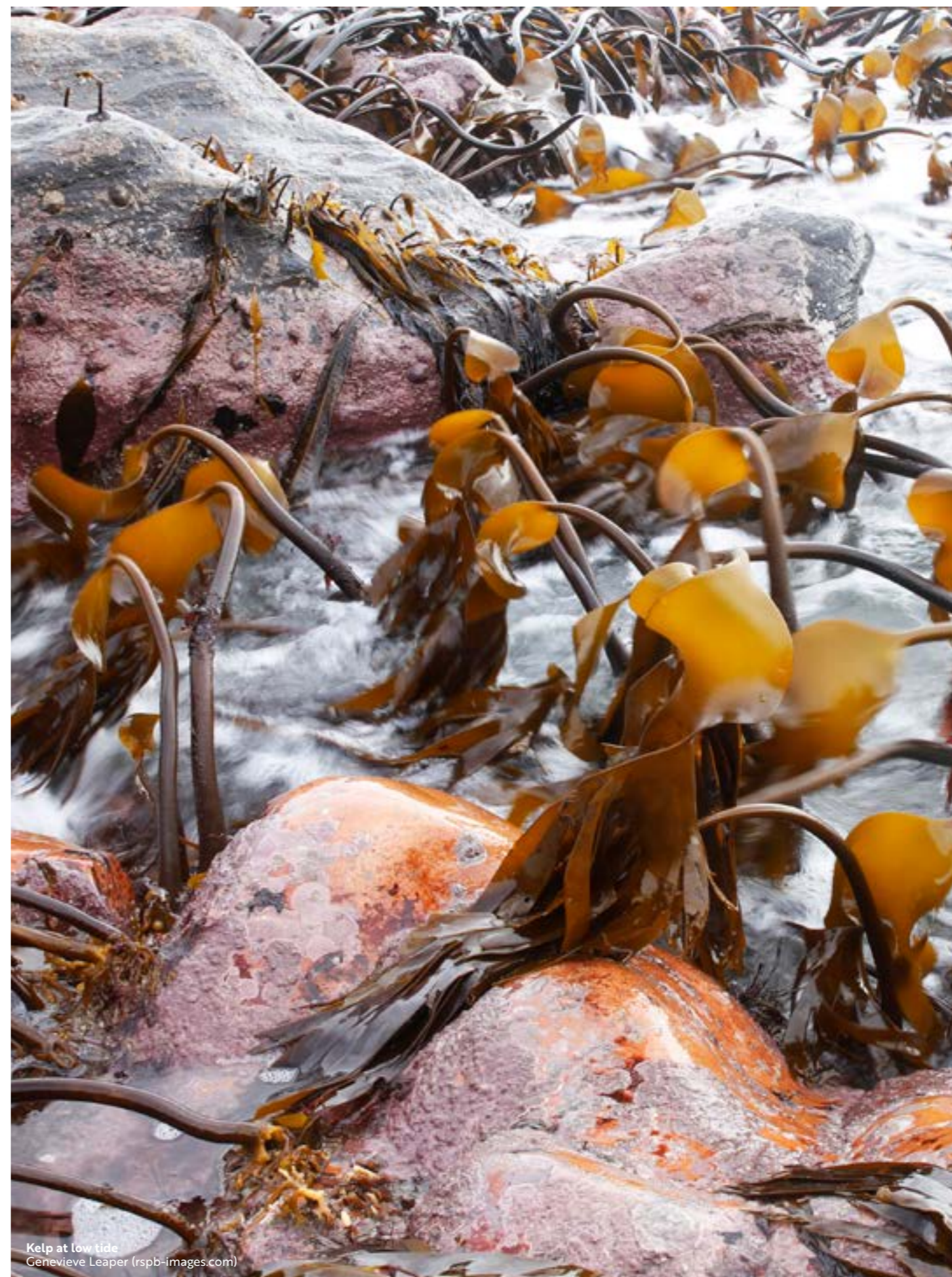
The Dogger Bank is the largest sandbank in the central-southern North Sea, and is rich in sandeels, a small oily fish that is a key food source for seabirds. In March 2022, the Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation was finally given protection from damaging fishing activity to protect the sandbanks of the Dogger Bank. These measures brought an end to sandeel fishing in the area. It also signalled a positive move from governments to strongly regulate the industrial sandeel fishery which is known to impact internationally important UK seabird populations.

What do we need to do?

The governments of the UK need to ensure that protected areas are not just lines on a map, but are our very best sites where nature can thrive through proper protection and good management.

To achieve this, the Governments need to designate better, bigger, more and joined up protected areas, and recognise and value their benefits:

- **Make protected areas ‘better’**
 - **Protect our protected areas properly**
Our best nature sites must be legally protected from damage and degradation. Robust planning and development control, and effective use of enforcement powers are needed to protect these special places.
 - **Manage our protected areas properly**
Effective management should be put in place to ensure that the wildlife and habitats are in a good condition or on their way to recovery.
 - **Fund our protected areas properly.**
This is critical. Their current poor condition is the result of many years of under investment and budget cuts.
 - **Monitor our protected areas properly.**
We need robust monitoring and reporting for all protected areas. This will tell us about the health of these sites and help us understand where we need to take action.
 - **Set strong targets** for improving the health of our protected areas and their species and habitats.
 - **Ensure our protected areas are fit for the future.** We need to ensure protected areas are resilient and dynamic in the face of climate change.
- **Make protected areas ‘bigger’**
 - **Make our existing protected areas larger.**
We need bigger protected areas that provide larger patches of habitat that are better at supporting wildlife and helping species populations to recover.
 - **Transform our protected landscapes.**
Places like National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be reformed and supported to drive large-scale nature recovery. This will also increase the area of land that is properly protected and managed for nature.
- **Make ‘more’ places protected for nature**
 - Expand areas protected for nature. We need at least **30% of our land and seas to be effectively protected and managed by 2030.** This means that 30% of land and sea is legally protected from damage over the long term, and managed well so that nature is in good or recovering condition.
 - Ensure that new protected areas are created to protect our **best places for nature.** This will start by identifying and designating sites that complement and complete our existing networks of protected areas and then protecting other sites that are good for nature.
 - **At sea, fill the gaps** within the Marine Protected Area network and **increase the network** of Highly Protected Marine Areas.
- **Make protected areas ‘more joined up’**
 - **Better connect our protected areas and place them at the heart of wider nature networks.** This will help create and join up bigger areas of good quality habitats, improve the condition of our best nature sites, and allow species to move more freely throughout our landscapes.



Kelp at low tide
Genevieve Leaper (rspb-images.com)

Country specific actions needed:



England

- Ensure legally binding targets for protected site condition on land and sea are included within Environment Act targets.
- Ensure that proposed changes to legislation secure and strengthen the laws that safeguard our protected sites.
- Implement and build on the Glover Review, so that the area of land in protected landscapes that can count towards the target of 30% of land by 2030 is increased. This will require changes to protected landscapes' purposes, duties and governance, in addition to developing clear and measurable targets.
- In the refreshed 25 Year Environment Plan, commit to implementing the recommendations set out in recent reviews (including on Special Protected Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest). This includes ensuring England's most important sites for key species and habitats are protected and improved.
- Invest in local Natural England teams to enable them to deliver improved site condition.



Wales

- Bring forward an Environmental Protection Bill with a duty to set legally-binding targets for nature recovery including targets for protected site condition on land and at sea.
- Ensure that all protected sites have effective management in place, including making greater use of management agreements.
- Fill the current data gaps for protected sites by implementing and resourcing comprehensive national monitoring programmes.
- Designate more protected sites starting with cases where the need has already been identified (including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas and Marine Conservation Zones).
- Reform Wales's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to give them greater resources and powers to do more for nature, with clear and measurable targets.



Northern Ireland

- Bring forward an Environment Act for Northern Ireland that includes a duty to set and meet targets for nature's recovery, including protected areas on land and at sea.
- Expand the protected areas network across Northern Ireland by designating sites that have already been identified and ensure all sites have effective management plans in place.
- Ensure that the expansion of the sites network is managed in a way that reflects the shared biogeographical unit on the island of Ireland. Continue to collaborate on a cross border basis.
- Carry out comprehensive monitoring of the protected sites across Northern Ireland, and make the data publicly available.
- Reform Northern Ireland's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to enable them to do more for nature, with clear and measurable targets.



Scotland

- Carry out a robust and ambitious plan for protecting 30% and strictly protecting 10% of Scotland's land and sea for nature by 2030. Focus on making the protected areas network 'bigger, better and more joined up'.
- Bring forward a Natural Environment Bill with binding targets to effectively protect 30% of Scotland's land and sea for nature by 2030 and improve the condition of our protected areas.
- Properly fund NatureScot to protect our best nature sites and work in partnership to restore these places and tackle key pressures such as deer and invasive species.
- Transform Scotland's new and existing National Parks to drive nature's recovery at a large scale.
- Deliver a Scottish Nature Network with existing protected areas at its heart.



UK Seas

- Carry out a review of Special Protection Areas in the marine environment. This remains outstanding for at least 49 species.
- Ensure that effective management is in place, particularly within all offshore Marine Protected Areas by 2024, removing damaging activities where seabed habitats are the key reason for protection. All sites within the network must have clear conservation objectives and robust monitoring.
- Fill gaps within the Marine Protected Area network for marine birds, especially to protect areas important for seabird prey species and their habitats. Also specifically designate, implement, and enforce Marine Protected Areas to protect blue carbon habitats.
- Deliver on a network of Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs), which remove all damaging and destructive activity at sea, allowing for recovery of habitats and species, providing 'gold standard' protection.



UK Overseas Territories

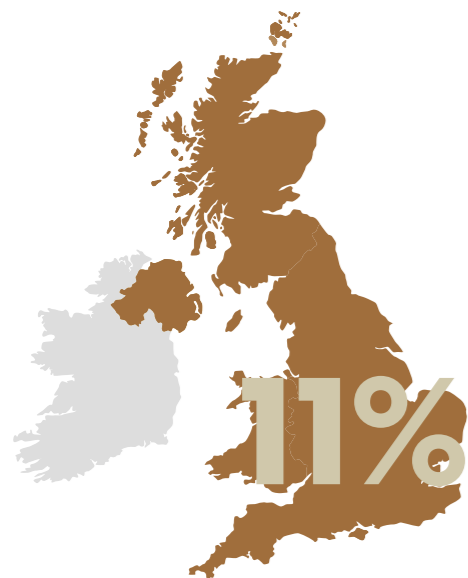
- Ensure long-term funding for the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme, supporting management, monitoring, surveillance and enforcement of over 4 million square kilometres of Marine Protected Areas across the Territories.
- Mirror the success of the Blue Belt with a UK Overseas Territories terrestrial protected areas programme. This will provide the technical support and finance to enable Territory Governments and communities to better protect and manage their key habitats, while contributing to the global target to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030.
- Provide technical secondment and exchange opportunities for UK and UK Overseas Territory protected area managers, enabling lesson sharing and capacity building.



RSPB Bempton Cliffs Nature Reserve
David Tipling (rspb-images.com)

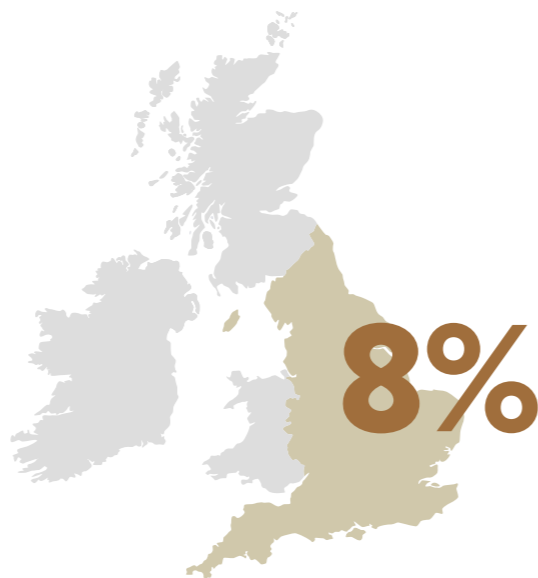
Current state of play

United Kingdom



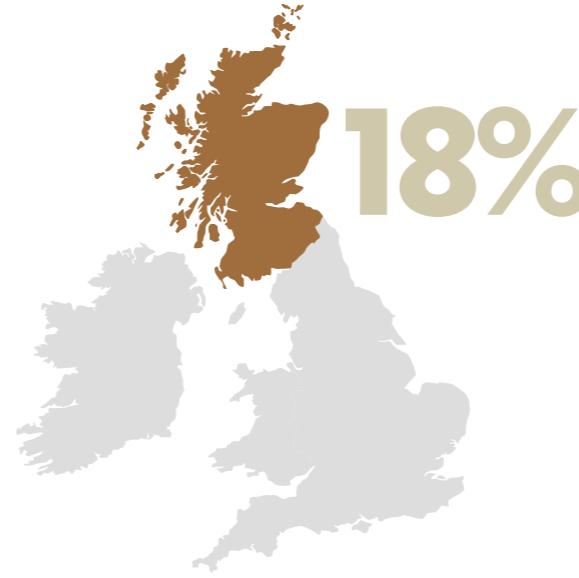
11% of the UK's land is designated for nature but only 5% of the UK's land is both protected and effectively managed for nature.⁴ This is well short of the 30% target that all UK governments have committed to achieve by 2030.

England



8% of land is designated for nature. However, only 38% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are in favourable condition. There is insufficient evidence on how many SSSIs are actively recovering, so we can only be confident that around 3% of land in England is protected and effectively managed for nature.

Scotland



18% of land is designated for nature in Scotland, with around 65% of designated features in good condition. One in five protected features in Scotland remain in unfavourable condition. Monitoring of protected areas has declined in frequency over the last decade, due to decreasing resources.

UK Seas



UK

Over 30% of UK seas are covered by protected area designations, however many are not effectively managed for nature. Across the UK, governments are failing to meet [global targets](#) as well as only achieving 4 of the 15 indicators of ocean health. Monitoring is only undertaken in 13% of Marine Protected Areas.

England

Approximately 40% of English seas are within a Marine Protected Area. However, most still lack effective management and enforcement. Government has committed to implement effective management measures in its 40 offshore MPAs by 2024.

Wales

Wales has Marine Protected Areas covering 69% of inshore waters (up to 12 nautical miles), however only 46% of protected features in Wales are in favourable condition.⁷ Approximately 50% of all Welsh waters are within MPAs.

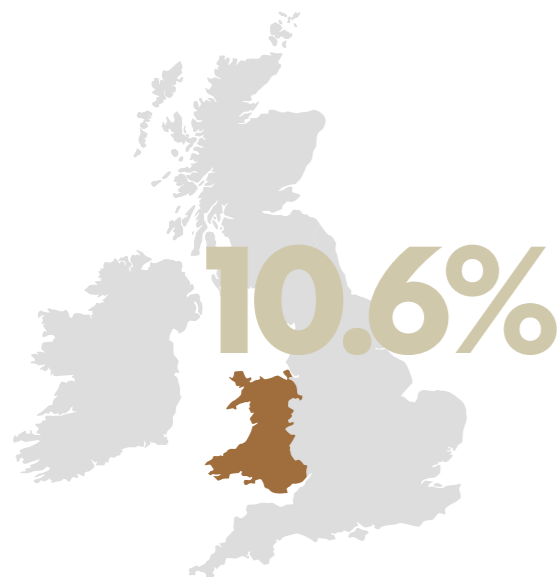
Northern Ireland

36% of NI seas are currently within a Marine Protected Area but only 4.48% are considered to be in favourable management.

Scotland

Over 37% of Scottish seas are designated as protected areas, with 28% falling within the Marine Protected Area Network. However, many are not effectively managed for nature. New Scottish government commitments mean that the existing Marine Protected Areas network must have fisheries management measures in place by March 2024.

Wales



10.6% of land is designated for nature, but only 20% of protected site features are in favourable condition, with 30% unfavourable and 49% unknown (largely due to insufficient evidence and resources).⁵

Northern Ireland



9% land is designated for nature. 55% of Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) features are in favourable condition, 36% are in unfavourable condition, and 7% have not been assessed.⁶

UK Overseas Territories



The UK Government has a world-leading programme supporting the establishment and management of vast and locally-led marine protected areas in the UK Overseas Territories: the 'Blue Belt' programme. This now includes some of the largest protected areas in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans. A sister programme, providing funding and technical support for terrestrial protected areas, is lacking. Many Territories have protected less than 10% of their land area. Support is needed for additional locally-led protections. There is no active two-way exchange programme between protected area managers in the UK and the Territories.

Food and farming



Lapwing
Mark Hamblin (rspb-images.com)

What do we want?

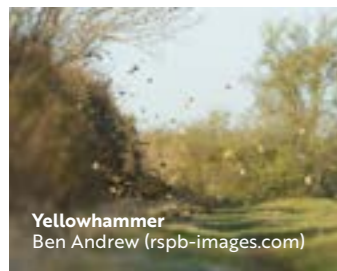
By 2030, our farms **teem with wildlife**, produce **high quality food that meets our needs** as part of a **fair global food system**, and **support the recovery of nature and the transition to a net zero economy**.

How will we know we're there?

- **Ambitious farming and land management legislation and policies are in place**, helping to transform the way we farm and manage land so we can heal the planet, whilst feeding ourselves well.
- **Adequate funding** is available to support the ambitious policies, combined with the removal and redistribution of harmful agricultural subsidies towards environmental recovery.
- **Nature and climate positive management** will be supported **throughout the supply chain via ethical business decisions**.
- **Farms support healthy populations of species**, including thriving populations of insects, birds, plants and mammals. We can measure this recovery through tools like the farmland bird index.
- **The concept of nature-friendly eating** - consuming less climate intensive foods (e.g. by eating less meat), and choosing food produced in a wildlife friendly way - **is understood and accessible to everyone**.

Inspiring case studies

England



Yellowhammer
Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)

Hope Farm

Hope Farm is a pioneering example of nature-friendly farming. For the last 20 years, it has run as a profitable wildlife-friendly farm. Between 2000 and 2011, work on the farm has allowed wildlife habitats such as hedges and wildflower margins to recover, and farmland birds and butterflies have bounced back. The farmland bird index at Hope Farm (a measure of change in the number of farmland breeding bird territories) increased threefold and butterflies increased fourfold. Since 2011, we have sought to find nature-based solutions to farming challenges such as improving soil fertility, and reducing pests and diseases, without taking any further land out of production. The farm no longer uses insecticide, has reduced the use of inorganic fertiliser, and is still profitable, comparing well against similar local business in terms of yields and profits.

Hope Farm is an RSPB-led project. It is supported by trusts and members who helped to fund the purchase and running of research trials at the farm. The environmental management is underpinned by agri-environment funding.

Wales



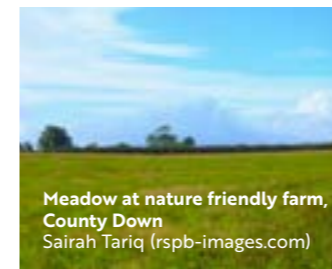
Blaen-y-coed
Ian S Geograph.org.uk

Peatland restoration in an upland pastoral system at Blaen y Coed

Since 2017, a pioneering project has been underway to restore peatlands in the Upper Conwy Valley. The goal is to create healthier habitat for declining bird species. The Ritchie family are National Trust tenants at Blaen y Coed and farm this habitat as part of an upland pastoral system, within the Migneint Special Area of Conservation. This is an internationally renowned expanse of upland heath and blanket bog. When managed appropriately, this habitat gives a number of benefits to people: carbon storage, wildlife, water filtration and protection against flooding. Using their own farm machinery the family spent four winters blocking peatland drainage ditches and deep erosion gullies, creating mini dams and small pools to re-wet the landscape. All the work was carried out by the Ritchie family themselves, using their own farm machinery. The habitat has improved dramatically. Pools are re-forming, and specialist plants such as sphagnum mosses, cotton grasses and sundews are thriving once again. This habitat is ideal for golden plover and curlew. In 2021 both species returned, breeding successfully for the first time since 1990.

This work is a collaboration between RSPB Cymru, National Trust Cymru and the Ritchie family. It was part funded through Wales Peatland Sustainable Management Scheme and run by Snowdonia National Park Authority.

Northern Ireland



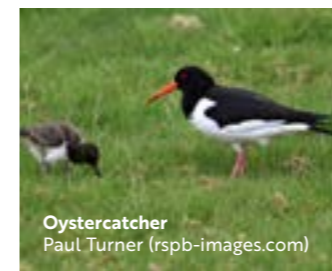
Meadow at nature friendly farm,
County Down
Sairah Tariq (rspb-images.com)

Successful agri-environment schemes

In Northern Ireland, seed-eating farmland birds such as yellowhammers and tree sparrows have seen widespread declines, due to intensive agriculture. Yellowhammers have been particularly badly affected. The farmland of East County Down is particularly important as it is one of the last strongholds for arable and mixed farming. The RSPB began working with the farming community in this area in 2005, to help increase the knowledge and uptake of wildlife-friendly farming. Between 2006 and 2011, numbers of yellowhammers increased by 79% on farms under the Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme. Under this scheme, farmers received the greatest levels of habitat management advice. Research also showed that other seed-eating birds like tree and house sparrows have benefited from agri-environment schemes (AES). Now, more than 22 farms in County Down use AES to provide feeding and nesting habitat for seed-eating farmland birds.

This RSPB-led work has been supported by funding from DAERA.

Scotland



Oystercatcher
Paul Turner (rspb-images.com)

The Strathspey wetlands and waders initiative

Launched in 2009, this partnership project has involved working with farmers, crofters and other local agents to improve farm habitats for the area's important populations of lapwings, snipes, curlews, oystercatchers and redshanks. These species have suffered alarming declines across the UK. But in Strathspey, there are still significant populations, thanks largely to the farming systems there. Every five years, we carry out an extensive survey of breeding wading birds on more than 100 farms, and over 50 farms work in wading bird friendly ways, through agri-environment schemes. Whatever the type of farm, they all have the potential to contribute to a nature positive landscape.

This project is a partnership between Nature Scot, RSPB, Cairngorms National Park Authority and SAC Consulting.

What do we need to do?

Overall, the governments of the UK need to:

- **Reform food and farming policy to support nature positive farming and transform the way we manage land.** To do this, they must:
 - **Set out a clear roadmap** for how the farming sector will undergo a safe transition to be nature positive by 2030;
 - **Address agricultural subsidies** so that money rewards nature-friendly land management instead of harmful practices;
 - **Set precise and measurable targets;**
 - **Invest in monitoring and evaluation,** and use findings to continually improve the farming schemes;
 - **Ensure effective regulation and enforcement,** so that there is genuine action on the ground.
- **Introduce market measures to improve supply chains and support nature-friendly eating.** This means reducing the consumption of foods with the highest climate footprint (e.g. meat and dairy) and sourcing produce from farms which adopt nature-friendly farming practices.
- **Support the public to adopt nature-friendly eating patterns** by communicating the link between farming, climate and nature. Ensure everyone can access a healthy, nature-friendly diet.
- **Support farmers, growers and land managers to take nature positive actions to manage at least 10% of the farm for wildlife:**
 - Protect and ensure good ecological condition of existing semi-natural habitats.
 - Maximise the value of field boundaries and margins.
 - Create and enhance wet features.
 - Create flower-rich habitats on at least 4% of the farm. These will support vital pollinators and natural pest predators.
 - Create seed-rich habitats on at least 2% of the farm.
 - Develop in-field habitats, such as beetle banks, fallow plots and in-field trees.
- **Support farmers, growers and land managers to carry out nature positive whole farm management.** This includes managing soils in ways that are good for insects and carbon, managing pests in nature-friendly ways, and using organic farming techniques.
- **Support farmer peer learning** to share nature friendly techniques.
- **Invest in research and development** to improve the evidence base and development of sustainable, nature-friendly techniques. This should include low tech and low-cost options.
- **Commit to an ambitious pesticide reduction target** through the National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides. This should take into account toxicity as well as volume applied.



RSPB Hope Farm
Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

Country specific actions needed:



England

- Achieve the [government's vision from 2018](#). This includes redirecting agricultural subsidies to public payments for public goods via an ambitious environmental land management (ELM) scheme.
- Help farmers to reduce or eliminate pesticides, including through the Sustainable Farming Incentive to encourage adoption of nature-friendly integrated pest management (IPM). This support should include independent advice and research into non-chemical alternatives, and support for actions to encourage beneficial wildlife. Monitor the uptake of IPM and its impact on pesticide use.
- Implement the recommendations of the National Food Strategy in full to drive changes in the food system. Support the transition to a nature and climate friendly system which can feed everyone well.



Wales

The new Sustainable Farming Scheme and the Agricultural Bill must:

- Establish regulation that prevents further loss and damage to semi-natural habitats as well as soil, air and water.
- Ensure farmers understand and are rewarded for the value of their farmland in terms of public money for public goods.
- Develop an approach to farm assessments and management plans that maintains existing habitats and uses nature-based solutions to tackle environmental challenges.
- Develop an effective approach to implement remote data sensing and an advisory support system to prepare farmers for the new scheme.
- Enable farmers to manage their farmland as a range of habitats, promote sustainable and diverse food production more aligned with consumer behaviour, and help build a more resilient agriculture sector.



Northern Ireland

- Agree a new Agriculture Act for Northern Ireland to set a legal framework for future sustainable farming and and management. This must be based on the principle of 'public money for public goods'.
- Ensure that future money is redirected towards enabling farmers and other land managers to work in ways that restore and protect nature, tackle climate change and produce food in a balanced and sustainable way.
- Meet these commitments with a clearly defined timeframe with detailed proposals for how measures will build upon existing agri-environment schemes.
- Promote a Northern Ireland Food Strategy with a shift to more nature-friendly eating.



Scotland

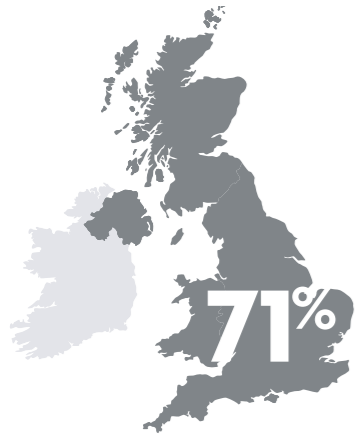
- Maintain the current level of public funding for farming but ensure that the majority of the budget is spent on supporting land management and farming methods that are nature friendly and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This fund should include specific, targeted payments for restoring declining farmland wildlife.
- Increase the amount of funding spent on advice, knowledge transfer and training.
- Increase the area of organic land from 2% to 10% by 2030.
- Implement food system change through the Good Food Nation Act (2022), for example through crosscutting and ambitious food plans or through the new Scottish Food Commission, to support the transition toward more nature friendly forms of agricultural and dietary choices.



Reed bunting
Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)

Current state of play

United Kingdom



71% of the UK land is agricultural area.

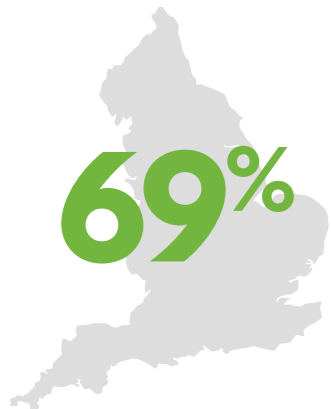


Agriculture is the most significant driver of wildlife loss. Since the 1970s, the farmland bird index has more than halved.



Agriculture produces 11% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions.⁸ It is also a significant driver of water pollution and ammonia emissions.

England



Agricultural land constitutes 69% of England's area.



By 2017, the England farmland bird index had fallen 55% below its 1970 level, while farmland butterflies have declined by 10% on average since 1990.



Agriculture is responsible for around 9% of England's greenhouse gas emissions.

Wales



Agricultural land constitutes 88% of the land area in Wales.

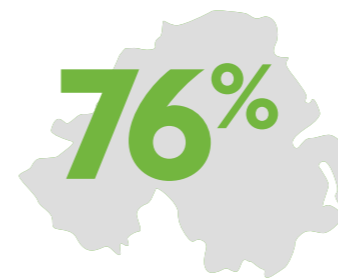


Half of farmland bird species have suffered a loss of breeding range since 1994.⁹ 90% of enclosed, semi natural grassland habitats have been lost. In the 1980's alone, 25% of hedges were lost.

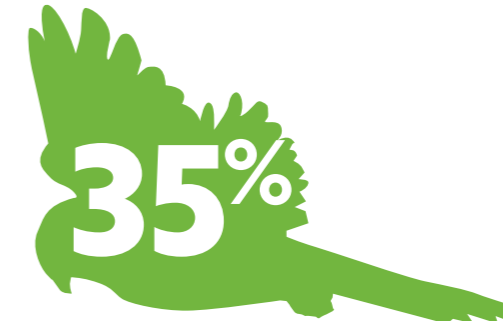


Agriculture accounted for 12% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions in 2018.

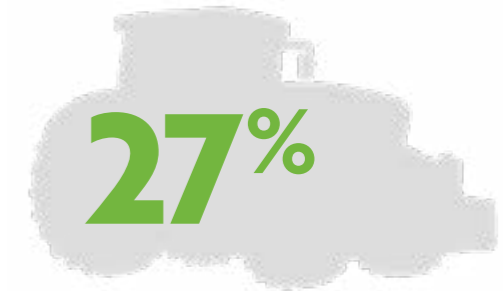
Northern Ireland



Around 76% of Northern Ireland's countryside is farmed in some way.



35% of farmland birds in Northern Ireland are Red-listed according to the Birds of Conservation Concern assessment.¹⁰



Agriculture makes up 27% of Northern Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions, the largest proportion of emissions of any sector.

Scotland



Approximately 70% of Scotland's land is agricultural land.¹¹



Curlew populations declined by 59% between 1995-2018 – a once widespread farmland bird. Other farmland birds have also declined, like lapwings (56%) and rooks (34%). Once common birds such as corn crane and corn bunting are now largely confined to the Scottish islands.



Agricultural emissions make up 16% of total emissions in Scotland.

Fisheries



Norfolk coast
Ernie Janes (rspb-images.com)

What do we want?

By 2030, fisheries are managed so that they support thriving seabird populations, and benefit nature and the climate.

How will we know we're there?

- **Fishing for sandeels**, small eel-like fish which many seabirds rely on for food, is prohibited in UK waters.
- **Advice** provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea **is being followed** for the management of UK fish stocks.
- **Fisheries Management Plans** are implemented for species that seabirds rely on for food.
- **The amount of seabirds accidentally caught in fishing gear (known as bycatch)** is minimised, and seabird numbers are starting to show improvements.
- There is **effective monitoring of fishing activity** at sea using remote electronic monitoring with cameras.
- **Damaging activities are removed from offshore Marine Protected Areas** where seabird species and habitats are the key reason for protection.
- **Fish levels meet Good Environmental Status** under the UK Marine Strategy. This means that seas are clean, healthy and productive.
- **Fisheries practices are nature positive, good for the climate, and engage coastal communities.**

Inspiring case studies

UK Seas



Sandwich tern
David Tipling (rspb-images.com)

Protection for seabird foraging areas in Scotland.

In December 2020, 12 marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs), a form of Marine Protected Area, were officially classified. These SPAs protect key areas that marine birds use to find food and shelter in Scottish waters. These sites are vital for the survival of our breeding and wintering birds. They occur throughout Scottish seas, from the Solway Firth in the south, to the Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds in the north. The SPAs will safeguard important foraging and wintering areas for over 30 different species of seabirds, including terns, long-tailed ducks, and puffins. We now need UK-wide commitments to protect seabird foraging areas.



Northern gannet
Andrew Parkinson (rspb-images.com)

What do we need to do?

Overall, the governments of the UK need to:

- **Achieve a four-nation agreement to close UK seas (the UK Exclusive Economic Zone) to industrial sandeel fisheries.** Seabirds such as puffins rely on sandeels for food.
- **Take an approach to fisheries management that focuses on ecosystems,** to help achieve Good Environmental Status and promote the recovery of nature.
- **Designate and/or effectively protect and manage sites** to protect key species, especially to sustain the diet of seabirds.
- **Assess and manage fisheries activities that affect seabirds,** particularly in protected sites.
- **Develop Fisheries Management Plans** under the new Fisheries Act for species that are vital for seabird diets, including herring, sprat, sardine, and other forage fish. Integrate Marine Protected Areas into these plans.
- **Implement a UK bycatch mitigation initiative** which includes ambitious targets to **minimise the numbers of sensitive species caught in fishing nets.** Ensure the resources are available to make this happen.
- **Make changes to fishing practices** to ensure high-risk fishing fleets use best practice approaches to limit their impact. Support the fishing industry to trial new measures to prevent wildlife bycatch.
- **Effectively manage all Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). In particular, halt damaging activities in offshore MPAs.** This includes ending fishing with bottom-towed gear, where the seabed is the protected feature.
- **Introduce effective monitoring** of fishing activity at sea, through remote electronic monitoring with cameras.
- **Develop fisheries strategies which minimise the effects on nature and the climate.** These include a reduction of pressures from bottom towed gear, the decarbonising of the fishing fleet, providing incentives for carbon savings from engine upgrades and green technology, and ending tax relief for fossil fuel use across the industry, through a transition to low carbon fishing.
- **Invest in research** to improve the evidence that will go on to inform fisheries management.



Seabirds, Scotland
Phil Cutt (rspb-images.com)

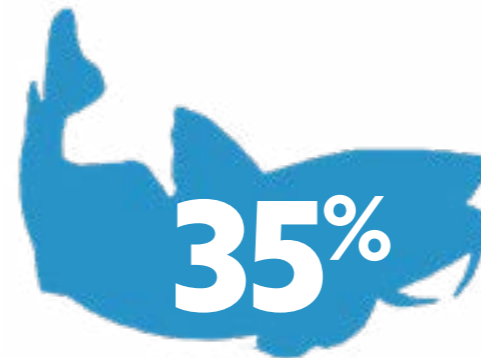
Current state of play

UK Seas



UK

In the 2019 UK Marine Strategy assessment, 11 of the 15 indicators used to determine the health of our seas failed to achieve Good Environmental Status. This included a red rating for both commercial fish stocks and seabirds, with seabirds moving away from the target instead of towards it.

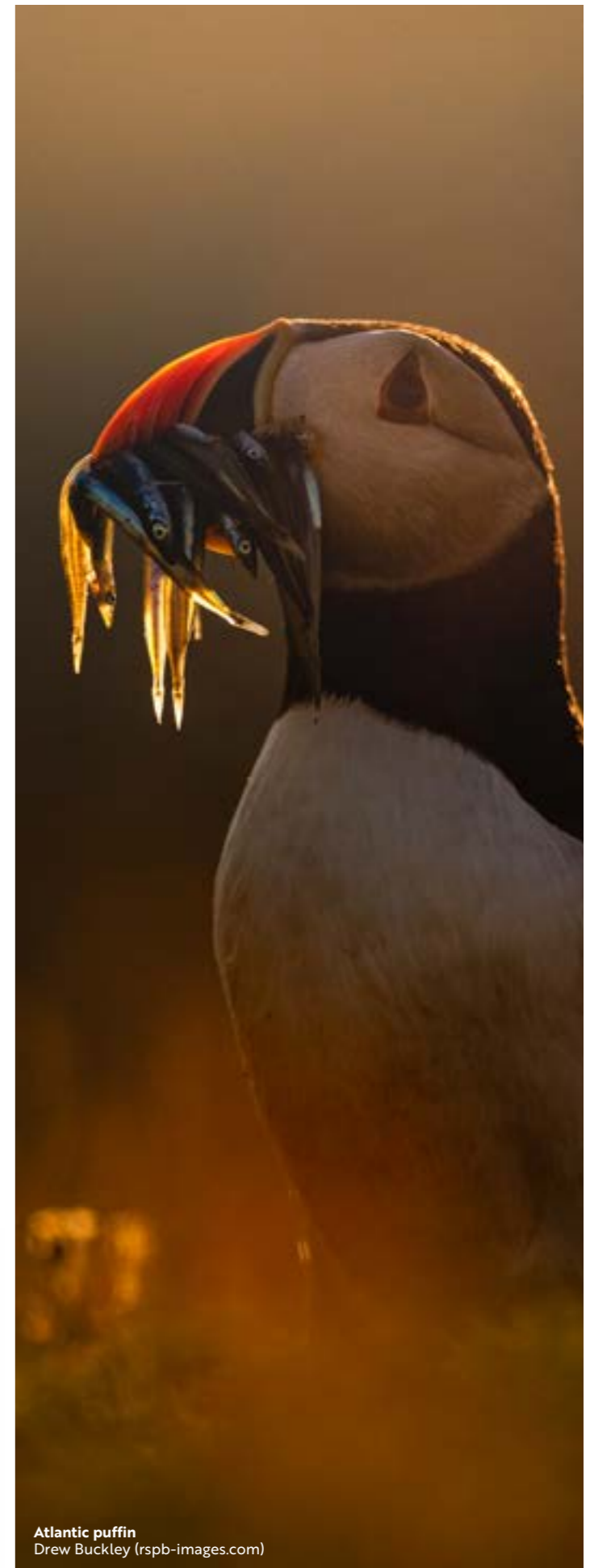
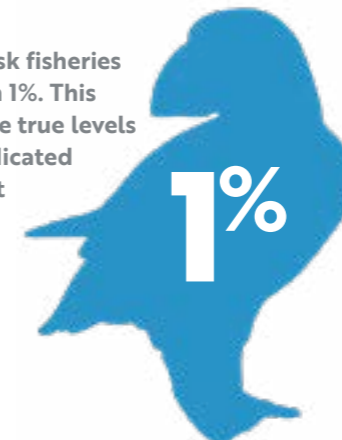


Only 35% of stocks negotiated for UK fisheries in 2022 were set in line with the advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

In 2022, sandeel populations across much of the North Sea were assessed to be in poor state. Key areas within UK waters were recommended to have zero targeted fishing taking place (with small amounts of permitted fishing for monitoring only).

Each year, thousands of UK seabirds are caught and die in fishing gear. Despite years of promises, there is no clear plan as to how this will be addressed. However, it is readily solvable.

Effective monitoring of high-risk fisheries for seabird bycatch is less than 1%. This means we don't understand the true levels of bycatch, and there is no dedicated programme in place to prevent seabird deaths.



Atlantic puffin
Drew Buckley (rspb-images.com)

Climate change



Strontian Glen
David Tipling (rspb-images.com)

What do we want?

By 2030, **the nature and climate emergency is tackled to achieve a world which is nature positive, on track for net zero, and adapted for a warmer climate.** This is achieved through nature-based solutions to climate change, nature positive renewable energy and agriculture and fisheries that work in a way that support nature, climate and people.

What does success look like?

- Land and sea use is both nature positive and contributes to net zero.
- Nature-based solutions to climate change are rolled out across the UK, in different habitats such as woodlands, peatlands and saltmarshes. They benefit nature, people, and help us to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Our approach to conservation is more dynamic. It looks for the richest and most appropriate outcomes for nature to thrive in a world with a changing climate.
- A nature positive energy transition embeds action to restore and protect species and habitats, alongside sustainable usage of renewable energy (both on land and at sea). This is at the scale and pace needed to reach net zero by 2045.
- People have adopted nature-friendly eating patterns. They have reduced their consumption of the most climate intensive food such as meat and dairy, and choose food produced on climate and nature friendly farms.

Inspiring case studies

England



RSPB Medmerry Nature Reserve
Colin Wilkinson (rspb-images.com)

Medmerry

The UK's coastal zone is home to some of our most important places for wildlife, especially habitats such as saltmarsh and mudflats. It is under threat from both climate and land-use change. At Medmerry on the West Sussex coast, we undertook a large-scale coastal realignment scheme. Here, the traditional sea defences were breached, which allowed 184 ha of intertidal habitat to reform. This drastically lowered the flood risk for the nearby town. Since the creation of the site, birds and other wildlife such as water voles have flourished, and the agricultural land within the area is also now managed for wildlife. Medmerry is a great example of a 'nature-based solution' to climate change. It benefits nature and people, and helps tackle the effects of climate change.

This project was a partnership between RSPB England and the Environment Agency.



RSPB Forsinard Nature Reserve
Mike Read (rspb-images.com)

Wales



RSPB Lake Vyrnwy Nature Reserve
Jake Stephen (rspb-images.com)

Gold standard peatland restoration on the Lake Vyrnwy Estate

The Lake Vyrnwy Estate, on the edge of Snowdonia National Park, covers nearly 25% of the Berwyn Mountains. It holds the largest tracts of upland heath and semi-natural blanket bog in Wales designated as a Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA). As part of a partnership, RSPB Cymru is restoring the blanket bog here to a “gold standard”. This aims to restore the blanket bog to near-natural condition to maximise the benefit for nature and climate. This will also regulate water flows and prevent water colouration. Two areas have already been entered into the Peatland Code, which will provide long-term funding to maintain these benefits for at least the next 65 years. The partnership has worked to re-wet nearly 400 ha over the last two winters, and plan to continue this over the next five years. In total, this will restore over 1,400 ha of blanket bog across more than 4,500 ha of upland. Over 30 years, this work is expected to avoid around 67,440 tonnes of carbon emissions (based on an estimate of 1.6 tonnes CO₂-eq saved per ha per year).

This project is a partnership between Hafren Dyfrdwy, Natural Resources Wales and RSPB Cymru.

Northern Ireland



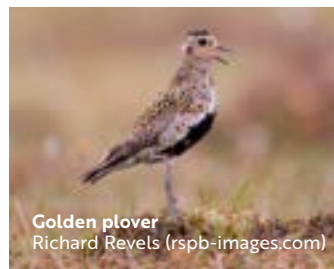
Garron Henry McLaughlin, NIW

Garron Plateau peatland restoration

A large-scale partnership project has restored and repaired approximately 2,000 ha of peatland in the Garron Plateau in County Antrim. As a result, the site is avoiding 9,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually. As well as improving carbon storage, this has helped improve raw water quality, reducing the need for water treatment, and created improved habitat for declining species including curlews, hen harriers and marsh fritillaries. The [Valuing our Peatlands report](#) shows that every £1 invested in peatland restoration results in nearly £4 of public benefits.

This project is part of the Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity (CABB) project, and is in partnership with RSPB NI, RSPB Scotland, BirdWatch Ireland, Butterfly Conservation, Northern Ireland Water and Moors for the Future.

Scotland



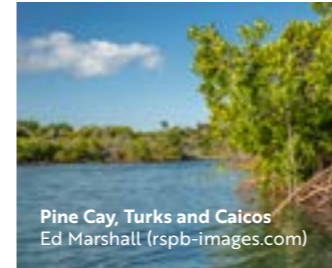
Golden plover
Richard Revels (rspb-images.com)

Flow Country peatland restoration

Flows to the Future was an ambitious five-year partnership project, restoring areas of blanket bog in the heart of the Flow Country that had been damaged by non-native forestry planting. Over 2,600 ha of bog have been cleared of trees to enable the bog to recover. The bog has also been actively restored through blocking old drains and flattening eroded gullies. In addition to the benefits to wildlife and carbon, of the £11.3 million spend from the project, £4.3 million was spent in the local economy. Over a 30-year period the Gross Value Added across Caithness and Sutherland is expected to be £6.3 million. The project provides habitat for bog plants, invertebrates and wading birds like golden plovers, dunlins and greenshanks.

This project was led by the Flow Country Partnership.

UK Overseas Territories



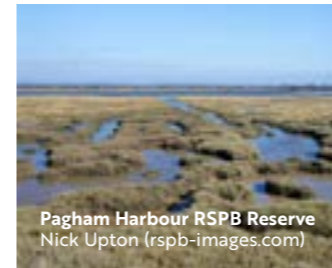
Pine Cay, Turks and Caicos
Ed Marshall (rspb-images.com)

Anguillan mangroves

In 2017, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands were devastated by record Category 5 Hurricanes, with storm damage costs estimated at USD 3.6 billion. Mangroves play an important role in reducing storm impacts, for example by reducing wave height and impact. The Anguilla National Trust (ANT) commissioned a study, funded by the RSPB, to look at targeted mangrove planting around East End Pond Conservation Area to reduce flooding. The results of this informed mangrove planting of red, black and white mangroves in the area. ANT, together with Government of Anguilla, have implemented a wider programme of coastal restoration through another Darwin Plus-funded project ‘coastal ecosystem resilience to climate change in Anguilla’, with a nursery established for restoration at scale around Anguilla.

This work with the Anguilla National Trust and the RSPB was carried out as part of a Darwin Plus Wetlands project (2019-22).

UK Seas



Pagharn Harbour RSPB Reserve
Nick Upton (rspb-images.com)

Protection and restoration of ‘blue carbon’ habitats

Our seas have a critical role to play in mitigating climate change. For example, through the capture and storage of carbon by marine and coastal ecosystems. This includes both marine animals and habitats such as saltmarsh, mudflats, kelp forests, seagrass beds, and living reefs. Protecting and restoring these “blue carbon” habitats will lead to multiple benefits through nature-based solutions. This is demonstrated by case studies such as Medmerry in England (above). Other approaches include increasing protection of staple species to build their resilience to climate change. For example, in Scotland, Marine Protected Areas have been designated for forage fish. However, these examples remain scarce. To truly benefit from our seas’ potential for climate change mitigation, they must be better included in the countries’ climate policies.

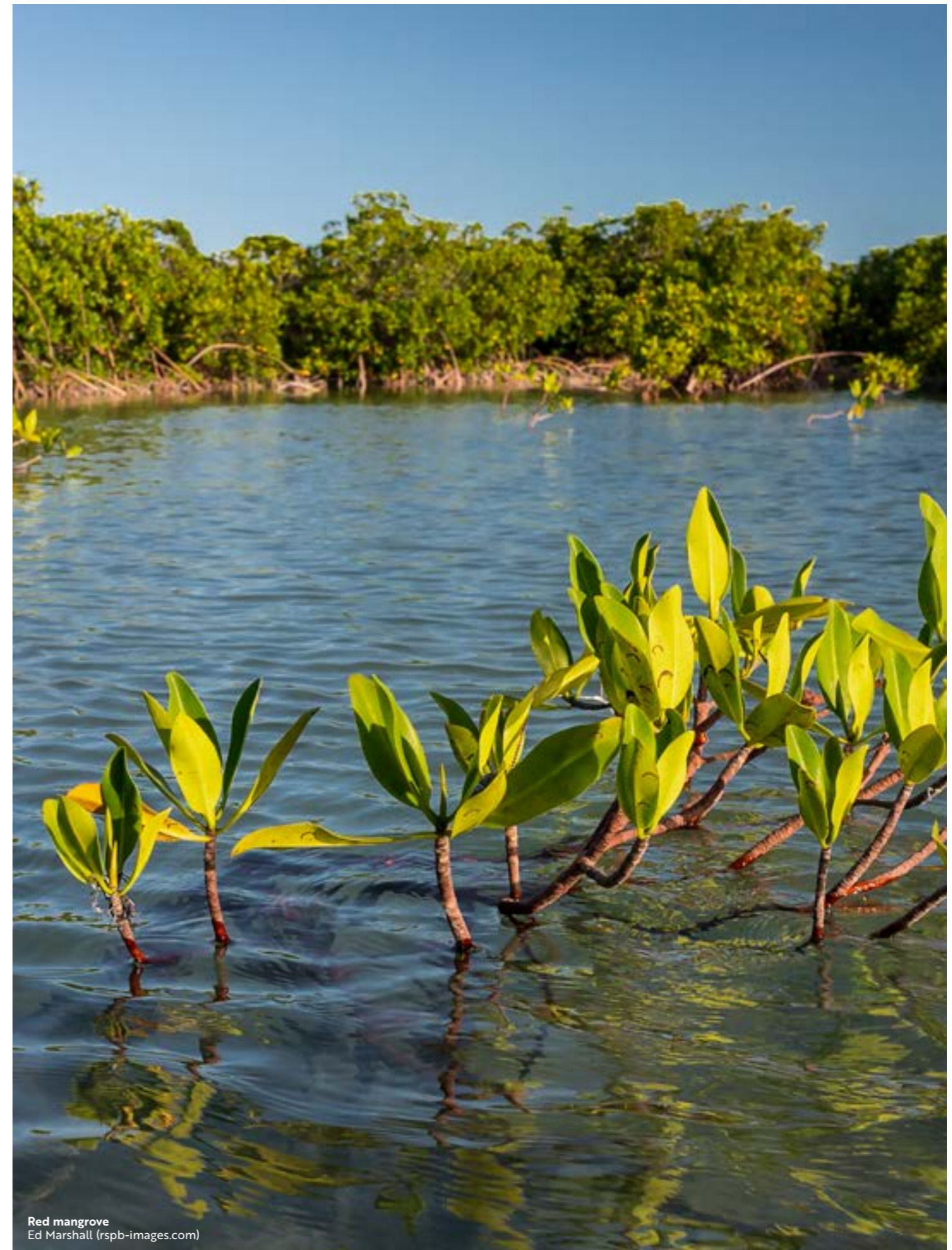


David Douglas, Conservation Scientist, heads up a team looking into the effects of a wind farm
Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

What do we need to do?

Overall, the governments of the UK need to:

- **Assess latest climate and nature science** to understand the pathways for tackling the twin crises together. Use this knowledge to inform plans to address nature loss and climate change in tandem.
- **Recognise the role of nature in the UK's climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and plans.**
- **Ensure that actions taken to tackle climate change are compatible with protecting and reviving our natural world.** This means ensuring all efforts to tackle and adapt to climate change avoid harm to wildlife.
 - For example, UK Governments must work to ensure that **offshore wind farms not only avoid and reduce harm, but also drive ocean recovery.** Government intervention must include better communication and better marine planning to ensure that offshore wind development works alongside multiple other marine users.
- Develop policy that **supports nature to thrive, within a changing climate.** This should include dynamic approaches to species recovery, the development of protected sites networks, and wilding activities. Actions should be taken to increase the dynamism of ecological communities.
- **Ensure the right policies and funds are in place for the UK's land and sea to be effectively managed for nature and climate.** Important habitats include native broadleaved woodland, peatlands, grasslands and coastal and marine habitats such as saltmarshes and seagrasses.
- **Ensure that projects using nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation follow the [NBS Guidelines](#).** This means that nature-focused climate projects are delivered alongside fossil fuel reductions; all types of wildlife habitat are considered; and projects take place in partnership with local communities that support or enhance wildlife.
- **Take measures to ensure people embrace nature-friendly eating.** This means that people eat meat and dairy in accordance with healthy eating guidelines, reducing the climate impacts of our diets.
- **Work with local authorities** to help them to support the deployment of nature-based solutions to climate change in villages, towns and cities.
- **Build from the legacy of the UK's COP26 Presidency** and show international leadership for nature and climate through driving the implementation of international commitments and pledges and strengthening delivery via diplomatic coalitions.



Red mangrove
Ed Marshall (rspb-images.com)

Country specific actions needed:



England

- Ensure that Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes allow for both climate mitigation and adaptation alongside good outcomes for wildlife.
- Work with local authorities and the water industry to ensure land management also works to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Ensure financial support for nature-based solutions is sufficient for them to be effective. For example, continue to invest in the Nature for Climate Fund and ensure funds are being distributed.
- Ensure that protected area habitat management also covers climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Put the England Peat Action Plan's vision into practice to ensure that our peatland meets the needs of wildlife, people and the planet. Ensure that all uses of peatland keep the peat wet, and in the ground. Publish a map of the extent, depth and condition of England's peatlands and end burning on peatlands.



Wales

- Ensure the new Sustainable Farming Scheme gives incentives to farmers that incorporate nature-based solutions to climate change in their farming businesses.
- Stop burning on blanket bogs and increase funding for restoring peatland.
- Protect and restore Wales' remaining ancient and semi-natural woodland. Support the creation of woodland in appropriate locations with appropriate native species to benefit climate, nature and people.
- Increase natural flood management and managed realignment to address coastal flooding and erosion risk.
- Deliver a widespread seagrass restoration programme to restore the health of our marine environment.



Northern Ireland

- Roll out an ambitious Climate Action Plan to drive the reduction in emissions across sectors, while supporting nature at the same time.
- Carry out a Nature-based Solutions Action Plan and a Nature for Climate Fund, to maximise the potential nature-based solutions to climate change.
- Deliver a Nature Investment Plan. This will set targets for the restoration and expansion of woodlands, peatlands, wetlands, marine and other habitats, and will meet goals for climate, wildlife, and people.
- Complete a Marine Natural Capital Investment Plan, which includes investments in marine protected area management, the restoration of marine and coastal habitats, and nature-based solutions to climate change (including using marine ecosystems as a carbon sink, and natural coastal flood management).



Scotland

- End both burning on peatland and the commercial sale of peat for horticulture. At the same time, expand Scotland's peatland restoration programme.
- Restore Scotland's native woodland ecosystems and significantly expand Scotland's native woodlands each year. Include a requirement for native species to comprise at least 50% of all new planting.
- Develop a more strategic approach to land use change so that emissions are reduced in ways that benefit rather than harm nature.
- Ensure healthy and resilient seabird populations with maximised safe opportunities to breed away from invasive species. This will help to mitigate the impacts of climate change on these species.



UK Seas

- Take action to ensure that the Marine Protected Area (MPA) network builds resilience to climate change, and helps recover the ocean, through achieving Good Environmental Status and blue carbon restoration and protections.
- Set out and build a climate smart fisheries strategy with a set timescale. This will integrate using marine environments as a carbon store in marine frameworks such as the UK Marine Strategy.
- Ensure effective designation and management of MPAs for important areas for removing carbon from the atmosphere.
- Reform marine planning and licensing to better integrate climate concerns and the carbon value of marine ecosystems.
- Follow the IPCC and CCC recommendation for the inclusion of blue carbon in the greenhouse gas inventory (a list of emissions sources, and their associated emissions).



UK Overseas Territories

- Nominate a clear lead UK government department with a remit to assist the Overseas Territories in adapting to climate change.
- Enable all the Territories to join the Paris Agreement via the provision of technical and financial support.
- Provide technical support and guidance to Overseas Territories governments, to develop in a way that is climate resilient and underpinned by good governance.
- Support Overseas Territories governments in recognising the role of natural habitats such as mangrove in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.
- Support sound environmental and climate impact assessments to inform decision making with respect to the biggest intact mangrove system in the Caribbean Overseas Territories which is now threatened by a major highway.



Global day of action
Lottie van Grieken (rsps-images.com)

Current state of play

United Kingdom

80%

About 80% of the UK's [peatlands](#) are in a degraded condition. UK peatlands are currently a source instead of a sink of greenhouse gases, contributing around 5% of total emissions.

48,266 ha

Saltmarshes account for approximately 48,266 ha in the UK. More than 80% of the existing saltmarsh in the UK is protected. However, the total area continues to decline due to sea level rise and coastal squeeze.

49%

Woodlands across the UK sequestered 18 million tonnes of carbon in 2017.¹² 49% of the total woodland area of the UK is native woodland.¹³

Northern Ireland

86%

Peatlands cover 12% of Northern Ireland's land area, yet 86% is degraded and only about 1% of the peatland area has been restored over the last [30 years](#).

3,110 ha

Northern Ireland has 3,110 ha of saltmarsh. The estimated value of saltmarsh in the inshore region is 8,273 tonnes of carbon per year.¹⁶

40%

Woodlands in Northern Ireland sequestered 0.6 million tonnes of carbon in 2017.¹² Around 40% of the total woodland area of Northern Ireland is native woodland.¹⁷

England

80%

Near-natural [peatlands](#) in England make up only 13% of the total. Taking re-wetted peatland into account, the figure is 20%. However, mapping is poor, and we have concerns about the state of most of the upland blanket bog and for the extensive areas of farmed lowland peatlands.

32,462 ha

There is an estimated 32,462 ha of saltmarsh in England. This is currently threatened by coastal squeeze.

62%

Woodlands in England sequestered 8.4 million tonnes of carbon in 2017.¹² 62% of the total woodland area of England is native woodland.¹³

Scotland

80%

Scotland has approximately 1.9 million ha of peatland and 80% of it is degraded in some way. These peatlands are responsible for approximately 13% of all Scottish emissions.

7,076 ha

Scottish saltmarsh covers 7,076 ha and holds about 370,000 tonnes of [carbon](#). This is a very sensitive habitat.

32%

Woodlands in Scotland sequestered 8 million tonnes of carbon in 2017.¹² Only 32% of the total woodland area of Scotland is native woodland.¹³

Wales

90%

[Peatlands](#) extend over at least 4% of Wales, and have been subject to ongoing loss, damage and fragmentation. Around 90% are in a degraded condition as a result.¹⁴

7,782 ha

Wales is estimated to have 7,782 ha of saltmarsh.¹⁵ The majority of this habitat is currently in unfavourable condition, and considerable losses are predicted due to coastal squeeze.

48%

Woodlands in Wales sequestered 1.2 million tonnes of carbon in 2017.¹² 48% of the total woodland area of Wales is native woodland.¹³

UK Overseas Territories



The UK Government does not have a strategy for supporting the UK Overseas Territories on climate change adaptation, despite ever-increasing hurricanes in the Caribbean. It has no detailed understanding of any possible UK taxpayer implications of the Territories' climate vulnerabilities. It has also not yet supported any Territories to join the Paris Agreement. Unprotected mangrove habitat in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories currently stores the equivalent annual emissions of 2.7 million cars.

UK Seas



Whilst there remains a growing recognition of the need to protect and manage blue carbon stores effectively (through the UK Marine Strategy, Joint Fisheries Statement, Marine Spatial Planning and MPA delivery programmes, to name a few) there limited active measures are in place to deliver upon this ambition, in particular the climate commitments under the Fisheries Act.

Finance



Sunset at Traeth Llyfn
Drew Buckley (rspb-images.com)

What do we want?

By 2030 there is a **wholesale shift towards a nature positive economy**. The financing gap for nature is closed, investment decisions are nature positive, and funds are accessible and targeted in ways that make a real difference for nature.

How will we know we're there?

- **Finance for nature will be in line with scale of need.** The UK's nature finance gap, estimated at £56 billion over the [next 10 years](#), is closed.
- **Spending by Governments** on nature has substantially increased.
- **Public spending is conditional on being aligned with nature positive.** Subsidies which damage nature have ended.
- **The effectiveness of public spending is properly monitored.**
- Finance for nature will be **spent more effectively** to support nature's recovery, and is accessible.
- **Private and philanthropic investment** in nature has increased.

Inspiring case studies

England

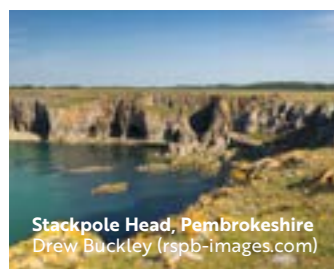


Peregrine falcon
Graham Eaton (rspb-images.com)

The Greater Manchester Environment Fund

The UK's first regional environmental impact fund is the Greater Manchester Environment Fund. It recycles capital back into achieving Greater Manchester Combined Authority's vision for the natural environment by providing a central funding source for all environmental projects. The GMCA worked with others to create opportunities for private, public and philanthropic funders to invest in and support habitat restoration and other nature-based solutions projects across the Combined Authority.

Wales

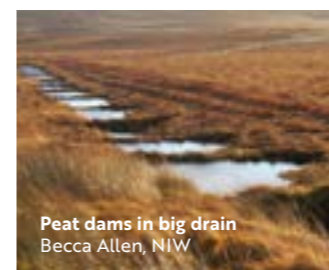


Stackpole Head, Pembrokeshire
Drew Buckley (rspb-images.com)

The Welsh Government's Nature Networks Programme

This programme recognises the need for investment over a number of years to help reverse biodiversity loss. It aims to achieve the increased resilience of protected sites and the ecological networks they're part of. A budget of £45m-60m will be made available from 2022 to 2025-26. A mapping exercise has already been undertaken to help guide investment and identify the priority actions to create more resilient ecological networks.

Northern Ireland

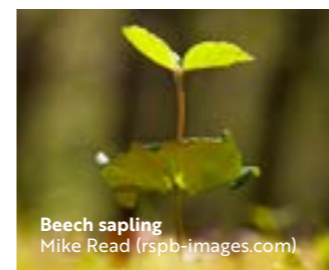


Peat dams in big drain
Becca Allen, NIW

Garron Plateau Restoration benefits

The restoration of Garron Plateau - the largest area of intact blanket bog in Northern Ireland - greatly outweighs the costs, with a net present value of £37.3m. For every £1 invested there will be £3.91 worth of benefits. In total, 92% of the benefits are due to changes in carbon sequestration. Emissions will decline as the restoration proceeds and the site will move from being a major net emitter to a net storer of carbon. The natural capital assessment confirmed that carbon, water services and biodiversity are by far the most important benefits for people by the site. Farmers also have a key role as 'carbon managers'. Support for, and by them, is crucial for the long-term success of this project.

Scotland

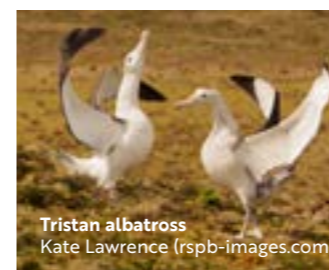


Beech sapling
Mike Read (rspb-images.com)

Nature Restoration Fund

In 2021, the Scottish Government set up a Nature Restoration Fund for projects that help tackle the nature and climate emergency by restoring Scotland's natural environment on land and at sea. The Scottish Government has committed £65m to the fund over this parliamentary term. This fund will support projects that are tackling the direct drivers of wildlife decline. We're keen to see the fund expanded to enable large scale ecosystem transformation projects.

UK Overseas Territories

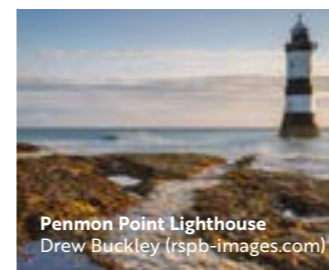


Tristan albatross
Kate Lawrence (rspb-images.com)

Revamped Darwin Plus scheme

In 2022, DEFRA launched a revamped Darwin Plus scheme for the Overseas Territories. This vital project funding programme has been boosted from c£3.5m to £10m per annum. It can now support grassroots environmental action as well as transformational restoration projects £1m to £3m in scale. The funding priorities have been broadened so that Territories can freely put forward their most urgent needs, whilst re-emphasising its focus on achieving impact on the ground.

UK Seas



Penmon Point Lighthouse
Drew Buckley (rspb-images.com)

The Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF)

This fund is a voluntary system enabling users benefiting from the rich natural marine resource to re-invest in the health and biodiversity of our seas. The fund aims to protect and improve our seas, support the sustainable growth industries, and help build a wellbeing economy for Scotland's coastal communities and visitors. It is managed by the Scottish Government.

What do we need to do?

Investing in nature is crucial for delivering multiple benefits for society and we know that access to nature enhances quality of life and contributes to our physical and mental health.

[Research](#) has shown that the benefit of investing in green space has been estimated to outweigh the cost by 20:1.

[A report](#) for the RSPB on nature-based solutions highlighted for every £1 spent on restoration, the expected economic and social return for peatlands would be £4.62 and for woodland £2.79.

Overall, the governments of the UK need to:

- Lead a transformation in government, business and financial decision-making to **consider their impacts on nature, stop the drivers of loss** and ensure **consumers face a better choice of Nature Positive options**.
- **Promote, support and incentivise key sectors to develop in nature positive ways.** These are where their economic activities both minimise impact and enhance ecosystems.
- **Increase and redirect financing to achieve a nature positive economy.**
- **Draw up clear, costed plans** for tackling the nature and climate emergency at national and local levels.
- **Green all government spending decisions, including tax reforms.** This will ensure that incentives and subsidies which drive the decline of nature through public money are ended, and that all government spending is aligned with achieving net zero and nature positive actions.
- **Expand private sector investment opportunities in nature.**

Country specific actions needed:



England

- Set out a plan for closing the nature finance gap, and increase both public and private finance to meet nature targets.
- Require all public bodies to assess their impacts on nature and work towards being nature positive.
- Ensure that government ambitions for private finance provide effective finance for nature priorities, and complement public money for public goods.
- Expand Biodiversity Net Gain policies beyond new developments. Defra expect the biodiversity gain market to be worth £100m to £150m per year in England. Support the rapid development of expertise and standards of practice.
- Build on the England 'Nature for Climate Fund' which will allocate £640m over five years to nature projects that also help the climate. Link green finance to the Woodland Carbon and Peatland Carbon Codes.



Wales

- Increase public investment in nature's recovery and ensure funding supports major collaborative projects to restore nature.
- Continue the development of the Sustainable Farming Scheme to ensure farmers are rewarded with public money for public goods, including biodiversity.
- Fully integrate the response to the nature and climate emergency across all departments, and make public support for business conditional on contributing to net zero and nature recovery targets.
- Develop clear frameworks and standards for private investment in nature-based solutions that safeguard communities and secure real benefits for biodiversity. Support an investment readiness fund to provide more sustainable investment opportunities.
- Invest in a National Nature Service to provide green jobs and skills. An RSPB Cymru [report](#) found that the right investment in nature could provide almost 7000 green jobs in Wales.



Northern Ireland

- By 2023, undertake a review into unlocking private financing for nature in Northern Ireland.
- By 2024 develop a framework and standards for enabling private sector flows of money through environmental markets.
- By 2024 establish an investment readiness fund to enable identifying potential nature-based projects and undertake further project development to create investable propositions.
- By 2025 put private sector funded nature-based projects into action.
- Establish a Nature for Climate Fund. This can unlock the economic potential of restoring the natural environment through large scale nature recovery projects. These include peatland restoration, woodland creation, restoring blue carbon, creating nature recovery networks, and restoring protected sites.



Scotland

- Spend more money on nature and set the right conditions for increased private sector investment in nature.
- Undertake an immediate review of public spending to end incentives that cause increased emissions and drive nature loss. Embed conditionality so that public funding support is conditional on achieving net zero and nature recovery targets.
- Green target sectors of the economy, such as farming and forestry, so they are nature positive. Agricultural subsidies must be reformed to ensure public money delivers public goods such as healthy soils, carbon, and wildlife, as well as high quality food.
- Develop ambitious plans for the 10-year National Strategy for Economic Transformation that achieve a nature positive economy. Embed this across all government portfolios.



UK Seas

- Ensure the effective launch of the Marine Recovery fund under the new Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package. A UK-wide approach could facilitate strategic monitoring, data analysis, and coordinated measures to restore nature at scale.
- Apply a marine biodiversity net gain system to all development, and ensure these are subject to strict assessments of their impact on biodiversity.
- Provide financial support to incentivise and support technology advances and monitoring to avoid and reduce the harm caused by offshore renewables.



UK Overseas Territories

- Continue the Darwin Plus funding scheme, ensuring wide access for Territory applicants via generous application window deadlines, simple processes and expert reviewers who have first-hand experience of on-the-ground realities.
- Establish an 'Island Ecosystems Restoration Fund', providing seed-financing and match funding to UK and UKOT islands to remove invasive species and enable ecosystem recovery.
- Continue financing the Blue Belt Programme of UKOT Marine Protected Areas.
- Work with other Caribbean institutions to help provide the necessary finance to enable the Caribbean Territories to adapt to climate change and ever strengthening hurricanes.

Current state of play

United Kingdom

£44-£97 billion gap

The recent [Green Finance Institute report](#) estimates an overall nature finance gap in the UK of £44-£97 billion, (with a central estimate of £56 billion) over 10 years, of which £19 billion relates specifically to protecting and restoring biodiversity. We estimate that to achieve priority habitat and species objectives alone, there is an annual scale of need of £1.8 billion.

England

£21-£53 billion gap

In England there is an estimated nature finance gap of £21 - £53 billion over the next [10 years](#).

Wales

£5-£7 billion gap

In Wales there is an estimated nature finance gap of £5 - £7 billion over the next [10 years](#).

Northern Ireland

£3-£5 billion gap

In Northern Ireland there is an estimated nature finance gap of £3 - £5 billion over the next [10 years](#).

Scotland

£15-£27 billion gap

In Scotland, there is an estimated nature finance gap of £15 - £27 billion over the next [10 years](#).

UK Overseas Territories



There is an estimated nature financing gap for the UK Overseas Territories of £200 million - £1.4 billion over the next [10 years](#).

£200 million - £1.4 billion gap

UK Seas



Minimal funding is available to support research, delivery or monitoring within the marine environment, hampering both the opportunities to halt wildlife decline and reach net zero at the pace required. To date, monitoring is only undertaken in 13% of Marine Protected Areas. This falls far short of requirements to improve understanding of the role protected areas provide to protect and recover protected habitats and species.



Tristan albatross
Tom McSherry (rspb-images.com)

The power of people



European starling murmuration
Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)

Our vision of a nature positive world is one where nature and people can thrive. If the governments of the UK take the actions we set out in this report, that vision will finally be within reach. But **success fundamentally depends on supporting and empowering people to act for nature**. This is crucial to lay the foundations for success, ensure meaningful progress, and embed long term, diverse benefits. Our connection with nature, and our ability to get involved with supporting nature's recovery, is vital for the transition to a nature positive world. This transition will in turn deliver multiple benefits for people as well as the environment. Governments need to play their part to enable this people power to grow and flourish.

Overall, the governments of the UK need to:

- Ensure everyone is able to access nature-rich green and blue spaces.
- Invest in improved education delivery that ensures outdoor learning experiences are a regular and progressive expectation for all.
- Support citizen science and volunteer action.
- Recognise the value of nature for well-being and invest in nature prescribing.
- Support and empower people to act for nature, from students, to land managers, to business owners, to allotment gardeners, and beyond.

Summary



Small loch near Loch Naver
David Tipling (rspb-images.com)

It is only through transformative change that we will be able to shift our natural world from decline into recovery this decade. We need the governments of the UK to lead this charge, by implementing promises made on the global stage through action on the ground at home. Action that is taken with, and for, everyone.

All the governments of the UK must take action now to move towards a nature positive world. In summary, these actions include:

- shifting to a nature positive economy;
- strengthening environmental legislation which is backed by enforcement;
- developing and carrying out robust plans and strategies for implementation;
- taking holistic action to bring multiple solutions;
- deploying adequate and effective financing;
- underpinning all this with science and monitoring;
- and supporting and empowering people to act for nature.

This can be the decade of action.

**Nature is in crisis.
Together we can save it.**

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

2050 vision
Living in harmony with nature

In December 2022, countries from across the world came together to agree a new global plan to halt and reverse nature loss this decade. This is known as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Below is a summary of what the framework includes. [Click the link in the top right to see the full framework.](#)

Global Goals for 2050

GOAL A:
Outcomes for recovery of species and ecosystems

GOAL B:
Sustainable use and nature's contributions to people

GOAL C:
Equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources

GOAL D:
Means of implementation, including finance

2030 Mission

To take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet

Global targets for 2030

Reducing threats to biodiversity

- TARGET 1: Spatial planning
- TARGET 2: Ecosystem restoration
- TARGET 3: Protected areas
- TARGET 4: Species recovery
- TARGET 5: Overexploitation
- TARGET 6: Invasive alien species
- TARGET 7: Pollution
- TARGET 8: Climate change

Meeting people's needs

- TARGET 9: Sustainable use of wild species
- TARGET 10: Sustainable production
- TARGET 11: Nature's contribution to people
- TARGET 12: Urban environment
- TARGET 13: Access and benefit sharing

Tools and solutions

- TARGET 14: Mainstreaming
- TARGET 15: Business action
- TARGET 16: Sustainable consumption
- TARGET 17: Biosafety
- TARGET 18: Subsidy reform
- TARGET 19: Financial resource mobilisation
- TARGET 20: Capacity building
- TARGET 21: Knowledge and data sharing
- TARGET 22: Indigenous peoples and local communities
- TARGET 23: Gender



Harapan Rainforest aerial, Province of Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia
Steve Rowland (rspb-images.com)

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Poppies, cornflower and scentless mayweed in a wheat field
Phil Cutt (rspb-images.com)

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CLIMATE CHANGE REFERENCES

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Thank you for the ongoing support of our partners, grant, corporate, trust and foundations, helping to save species teetering on the brink.

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