

*To:*

The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
The Rt Hon Lord Benyon, Minister for Climate, Environment and Energy  
Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change (Wales)  
Andrew Muir MLA, Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)  
Lorna Slater MSP, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity (Scotland)

*Cc:*

Four Country Biodiversity Group  
David Rutley MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Americas, Caribbean and the Overseas Territories)

*Sent via email*

13 March 2024

**Subject: An ambitious, comprehensive and well-resourced UK National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to deliver on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Dear Ministers,

In December 2022, the world reached a potential turning point for the future of our planet. Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity agreed the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) – a landmark global action plan with an ambitious mission to halt and reverse the loss of nature by 2030. This sets a foundation for the transformative action required to truly tackle the biodiversity crisis and put nature on the path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet.

However, success is only possible if countries take their global commitments seriously and translate the KMGBF into well-resourced national targets and action plans. We know that the four countries of the UK and its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies are in the process of updating the UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. This is the chance to turn global promises into on-the-ground delivery.

The four countries of the UK are amongst the most nature-depleted in the world, and hence share a responsibility to take a leading role in driving nature's recovery. As a well-resourced nation with a history of environmental leadership, the UK should produce an ambitious and coordinated NBSAP which sets a strong example for other countries. The targets set in the UK should be just as – if not more – ambitious than the targets in the KMGBF, and the NBSAP (comprising the plans made at country level) must include practical, adequately resourced delivery plans to meet those targets in each country, as well as in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. Where there are gaps between existing policies or strategies and the global targets, these should be clearly identified, and action and resources should be identified in a transparent way to fill those gaps. We welcome the proposals in Scotland and Wales to establish legally binding nature recovery targets to support mainstreaming and delivery of the global framework, as has been done already in England. We also welcome the return of the Northern Ireland Assembly which presents the opportunity to bring forward a legislative programme for nature restoration.

We therefore call on you to:

1. Champion a **robust and ambitious NBSAP** that sets the path for transformative action across the UK, its Overseas Territories, and Crown Dependencies, to recover species populations and protect and restore ecosystems.
2. Commit to effective and timely **delivery** – including the proper **resourcing and monitoring** – of the UK NBSAP, and ensure longevity of this commitment.
3. Commit to **taking action to fill any gaps** that are identified between the KMGBF global targets and the national plans and strategies which comprise the UK NBSAP.
4. Commit to taking a **whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in regular reviews** of the UK NBSAP and contributions towards the delivery of the KMGBF.

Now is the time for the countries, Overseas Territories, and Crown Dependencies of the UK to come together and show leadership, in order to make this a genuine turning point for nature, and our planet's future.

We look forward to your responses and can be available for meetings to further discuss our vision for the UK NBSAP and the implementation of the KMGBF.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Williams, CEO, Butterfly Conservation

Jamie Christon, CEO, Chester Zoo

Kathy Wormald, CEO, Froglife

Rosie Hails, Director of Nature and Science, National Trust

Nicola Hutchinson, Director of Conservation, Plantlife

Nida Al-Fulaij, CEO, People's Trust for Endangered Species

Beccy Speight, CEO, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Sue Sayer, Director, Seal Research Trust

Deborah Long, CEO, Scottish Environment Link

Karen Whitfield, Director, Wales Environment Network

Dr Carla Boreham, Director of Campaigns & Policy, Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Richard Benwell, CEO, Wildlife and Countryside Link

Matthew Gould, CEO, The Zoological Society of London



Replies can be sent to [matt@wcl.org.uk](mailto:matt@wcl.org.uk).