

Nature 2030: Cost Analysis

In July 2023, Wildlife & Countryside Link commissioned Economics for the Environment Consultancy ([eftec](#)) to estimate the cost of the five [policy proposals](#) put forward by the Nature 2030 campaign. The resulting analysis can be found [here](#).

The analysis shows the following upfront costs for each policy per year:

1. Pay rise for nature: £2.25 billion

A major increase in public spending for nature-friendly farming through an increased and enhanced Environmental Land Management scheme.

2. Making polluters pay: £37 million

A Nature Recovery Obligation that requires polluters to tackle the damage they cause, through compulsory climate and nature recovery planning and a polluters levy.

3. More space for nature: £452 million

Improving our existing protected landscapes and protecting more through a 30x30 rapid delivery programme to meet Government 2030 targets.

4. Growing green jobs: £299 million

Delivering a National Nature Service that reduces the green skills gap, provides young and disadvantaged jobseekers with careers, and contributes to nature's recovery.

5. A Right to a Healthy Environment: £114 million

An 'Environmental Rights' Bill to drive better decisions for nature, improving access to nature, public health and cleaner air and water.

These figures take into account existing Government spending in the areas covered by asks 1, 2 and 3, along with savings from the public health boost that would swiftly manifest from increasing access to nature through asks 1 and 5.

The resulting total of £3.08 billion is reduced down by £38 million, as spending associated with three existing Government budget items (nature elements of the UK Infrastructure Bank, the Big Nature Impact Fund and the Nature Recovery Impact Fund) could be directed towards Nature 2030 policies. This results in a yearly total of £3.04 billion in additional public expenditure to implement the full Nature 2030 policy programme, to run over the course of the next Parliament.

To put this number in context, the Green Finance Institute have [estimated](#) that in order for the UK to meet its commitments to nature, £56 billion (above current public expenditure) should be spent over the next ten years. Increases in spending on a similar scale do happen as part of the general course of Government business, for example between 2022 and 2023 the Government [increased](#) the transport budget by £5.1 billion.

Nature is declining in the UK at a concerning rate, with the September 2023 [State of Nature](#) report finding 1500 species in Great Britain are facing extinction. 2% have already gone extinct. The economic, social and health consequences of ongoing climate and ecological crises - from the consequences of [pollinator decline](#) for food producers to the [destruction of property assets](#) from flooding and fire - will impose costs on the UK that far outweigh the outlay required to prevent them. WWF have estimated that failing to protect nature and reverse biodiversity loss could cost the UK economy more than [£16 billion](#) every year.

The robust economic case for the Nature 2030 programme becomes even stronger when the revenue-potential of these policies is considered. Hundreds of millions of pounds could be generated via a polluter levy for big businesses within the Nature Recovery Obligation. This would provide a means for large companies to pay to address their impact on nature, bringing in revenue for nature recovery from the private sector that could offset a considerable amount of the costs outlined. The eftc figures linked to in this report concern only upfront cost to the public purse; further Link work will consider the revenue aspect in more detail.

Spending an extra £3 billion per year on nature's recovery, through the Nature 2030 programme, would be a cost-effective intervention to secure economic prosperity, improve food security and climate change readiness, and improve health outcomes in the UK. The next Government should seize this opportunity for pre-emptive investment.

The Nature 2030 campaign is supported by over 100 environmental, climate and health organisations. You can support the Nature 2030 campaign [here](#).

*For questions or further information please contact:
Matt Browne, Wildlife and Countryside Link
E: matt@wcl.org.uk*

18 October 2023