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WWF Political Briefing

MANIFESTO FOR YOUR WORLD

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Right now, the Amazon is burning. July 2019 saw the highest temperature ever recorded in the UK and, globally, the hottest month since records began. Our world is in the middle of a dangerous climate and nature crisis. Globally, wildlife populations have decreased by an average of 60% since 1970, and the UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Rapid climate change is causing disruption and damage to infrastructure, impacting on water and food security, and threatens to trigger mass migration on an unprecedented scale. We are facing the national and international triple challenge of meeting the needs of a growing population, achieving net zero emissions to keep global warming to 1.5 C and restoring nature and the natural systems we depend on.

Public concern for the environment and climate change has hit a record high. A quarter of UK residents now cite the environment in their top three issues facing the country, putting it behind only Brexit and health. We are the first generation to know we are destroying our planet and the last that can do anything about it. We owe it to those who will inherit our planet to ensure the actions we take account for their impact on future generations.

WWF ARE CALLING ON ALL PARTIES TO RESPOND TO THE CRISIS FACING #OURPLANET AND #FIGHTFORYOURWORLD BY MAKING THE UK THE FIRST MAJOR ECONOMY TO:

1. Put NATURE on path to recovery

Bring forward flagship legislation, in England, that legally requires government to restore nature in a way that helps tackle the climate crisis and supports a resilient and biodiverse countryside and ocean recovery. This should include investing the appropriate share of the £3.4 billion needed annually across the UK to fund the transition to nature and climate friendly farming and land management, and legally binding targets to reduce our environmental footprint abroad.

2. End our contribution to CLIMATE CHANGE

Unlocking of the most cost-effective form of renewables; on-shore wind, and take forward a mass energy efficiency programme to retrofit 20 million homes, ensure all new homes are zero carbon and accelerate the transition to an electric transport system so that no more petrol or diesel cars can be sold after 2030.

3. Stop DEFORESTATION in our food

Commit to a deadline to end the importation of goods that have caused deforestation. This can be achieved by bringing forward legislation that ensures the supply chains of companies operating in the UK are sustainable and investing Overseas Development Aid and climate finance in supporting the transition to nature and climate friendly farming worldwide.

4. Pioneer an ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL system that works for people and planet

Commit to at least 5% of total government spending a year for the next 10 years in a bold package of action to restore nature and deliver a fair transition to a net zero future in a way that will help build a positive vision for the country, reduce inequality, drive innovation and growth and leave the country and planet improved for future generations.

Create a new Minister for Sustainability post in the Treasury whose job is to ensure the UK is transitioning to a low carbon, nature friendly economy and who will review the impact of UK economic policy on the achievement of this goal, starting with a review of fossil fuel subsidies and developing a package of environmental fiscal reform that will speed up the transition and motivate private sector investment in new green technologies and the natural capital asset base needed to support the UK economy for the long term.

5. Drive GLOBAL AMBITON to reverse catastrophic nature loss 2030

Delivering this ambitious action at home will give legitimacy to our leadership role on the international stage ahead of hosting the COP 26 in Glasgow next year. An Emergency Declaration for Nature and People signed by Heads of State and government by September 2020 will provide a strong political signal, announcing this as a turning point for people and planet. Another opportunity for the UK to show international leadership on the nature crisis is by taking the lead on the setting of global targets for biodiversity to be agreed in China next year. These should drive the ambition to ensure that these targets add up to, and deliver, the action required to reverse the loss of nature by 2030.

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