

Parliamentary Briefing



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THE 2020 SUPER YEAR – A NEW DEAL FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

THE CASE FOR ACTION

Our world is in the middle of a dangerous climate and biodiversity crisis. 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. 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. Damage to ecosystems is causing the loss of natural services that are estimated to be delivering benefits worth about double global GDP. Both climate change and ecosystem damage are being driven by patterns of unsustainable development that in different ways are linked with deepening inequalities.

Now is the moment for a decisive signal from decision-makers and leaders who understand the need for action at a scale that is commensurate with the challenge. As demonstrated by youth activist Greta Thunberg, the school strikers, Extinction Rebellion and Sir David Attenborough, people across the world are increasingly aware of the scope and urgency of the worsening situation. Up and down the nation and all around the globe, people are calling for governments to take urgent action to tackle the existential crises of climate change and nature loss, with public concern for the environment at a record high.

The science is clear and more widely understood with expert reviews warning of the consequences of inaction. In May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change provided advice to the government on how to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. We have modelled pathways demonstrating that we can end our contribution to the climate crisis by 2045. The recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' (IPBES) Global Assessment Report warned that up to one million species are now at risk of extinction due to human activity – many within decades – and identified our inefficient food system as the single biggest threat to nature today.

All political parties support restoring our environment and ending the UK's contribution to climate change. Just days before the publication of the IPBES report, UK parliament passed a ground-breaking motion, making it the first in the world to declare an 'environment and climate emergency'. This was followed by the government announcement that the UK's Climate Change Act target will be amended from 'at least 80%' to 'at least 100%' reductions by 2050, eradicating its net contribution to climate change by 2050. This means the UK is on track to become the first G7 country to legislate for net zero emissions, in line with the Paris Agreement. While these are significant first steps in the right direction, words must now be turned into urgent and cohesive action. Our own research shows that net zero by 2045 is absolutely possible. As the birthplace of the industrial revolution the UK has been emitting longer than anyone. As an advanced and wealthy country, we can and should move faster, especially with the UK set to organise COP26, the most important climate summit since the Paris Agreement was struck in 2015.

The UK has an extraordinary opportunity to lead an international movement. This year, a series of important UN meetings are taking place on nature, oceans, climate and sustainable development. The decisions and actions that come out of these meetings should together form a **New Deal for Nature and People, a global collective effort that will reverse the loss of nature by 2030, in support of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, while at the same time signalling the start of a new economic era** that enables people and communities to thrive, creating economic opportunities from the transition to a new, clean future. By calling for the declaration of a **Planetary Emergency** at the UN's 75th Anniversary in September 2020, to be signed by all Member States, the UK would take an ambitious, global stand that will put us on a path to reversing the catastrophic loss of nature by 2030 and inspire world leaders to follow.



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DELIVERING A NEW DEAL FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

International summit	What the UK can do at home ahead of summits	What the UK should achieve globally by 2020
Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Spring 2020	<p>Take a strong domestic stance on 30% marine protected areas (MPAs), which influences the BBNJ discussion around area-based management tools</p> <p>Support biodiversity conservation as a priority for legitimate use of ocean space, including MPAs as an integral part of ecosystem-based management</p>	<p>Agree an international Treaty on the governance of the High Seas</p> <p>Promote the need for Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and ensuing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes as a way of engaging stakeholders and collecting essential data.</p>
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) July 2020	<p>Ensure the principles within the new Environment Act deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals</p>	<p>Extend environmental SDG targets that mature in 2020, in alignment with the post-2020 CBD framework, to uphold the integrity of the SDG agenda by maintaining environmental along with social and economic targets</p>
75th UN General Assembly September 2020	<p>Secure ambitious environmental policy and legislation, including a strong Environment Bill, Agriculture Bill, Fisheries Bill, Global Resource Initiative, and commit to reversing the loss of nature by 2030.</p>	<p>Heads of State and Government declaration on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the UN and/or Heads of State Nature Summit, where world leaders declare it is no longer acceptable to continue to degrade our planet and present an adequate Action Plan.</p>
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) October 2020	<p>Commit to protecting 30% of land and 30% of marine environment by 2030</p> <p>Enshrine game-changing commitments in the 25 Year Environment Plan into law through e.g. the Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries Bills</p> <p>Publish the Dasgupta Review of biodiversity's impact on growth, along with recommendations on how we can put sustainability at the heart of our economic model</p>	<p>Put forward strong voluntary national contributions and drive political ambition to support a strong and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a mission for 2030 to reverse the loss of nature - an implementation mechanism that allows the 'ratcheting' of ambition and action - a limited set of SMART goals and targets that focus on addressing drivers and reducing our global footprint
UNFCCC COP 26 November 2020	<p>Set out a credible delivery path to achieve the net-zero target, including strong policies, resources and nature-based climate solutions that also promote the protection and restoration of nature and wildlife</p> <p>Seize the presidency of the UNFCCC to drive increased climate ambition on the world stage, commensurate with keeping warming to 1.5°, in line with the Paris Agreement</p>	<p>Agree enhanced and improved NDCs, with a higher level of ambition and better integrated nature-based solutions to mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>Promote enhanced NDCs to deliver in line with the 1.5° target during the UK and Italy's COP Presidency, championing a balance between nature and climate action</p>

Together these decisions should form a New Deal for Nature and People, a global collective effort that will reverse the loss of nature by 2030 for the benefit of people and the planet

