

# CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM



We're fighting to reform our food system, to halt nature loss and ensure the UK leads a global transformation to sustainable production and consumption of food.

## 2021-22 TARGET

**We'll convene major UK food sector companies to lead change by agreeing ambitious climate and deforestation outcomes in their supply chains.**

Globally, the food and agriculture system drives 60% of nature loss – and in the UK, food accounts for more than a fifth of our domestic emissions and over 30% of our global climate footprint. At WWF, we're working with the food industry to radically reduce this devastating impact.

During November's Glasgow climate summit (COP26), we launched two closely-linked initiatives that have great potential to make a difference – the WWF Basket, and the Retailers' Commitment to Nature. Through these initiatives, five major UK retailers pledged to take action for nature and work together towards our ambitious target of halving the environmental impact of UK shopping baskets by 2030. The five (The Co-op, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose) have a combined share of more than half the UK grocery market. The ambition to halve the impact of UK shopping baskets was first developed as a part of our partnership with Tesco; during this year we've expanded its impact by working with the additional retailers who share our vision.

Each retailer has committed to cut its emissions in line with science-based targets that would keep us on track to limit warming to 1.5°C. In addition, they will submit data to WWF each year, so we can monitor progress towards our target (our first progress report will be out in November 2022).

The five chief executives of these companies also came together to address some of the most challenging issues faced across the seven areas covered in the WWF Basket (agriculture, climate change, deforestation, diets, food waste, marine and packaging). The first of these sessions focused on establishing sources of soy

that limit deforestation and land conversion; in the future they will collaborate on climate and ask for the government's agricultural strategy to support climate and nature outcomes.

During the year, we also brought together the broader food industry through webinars and events, and published technical reports aligned to all seven of the areas covered by the WWF Basket. Through this work, we've supported industry and provided guidance for them to achieve the targets that we know we need to meet to halt nature loss and deliver a sustainable global food system.



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## 2021-22 TARGET

**We'll advocate for the UK government to introduce laws or policies to remove deforestation from supply chains.**

This year provided critical opportunities for removing deforestation from the UK's supply chains. A key focus of our work was amending the Environment Act as it passed through Parliament. Proposals in the Act, developed after our advocacy, require companies to conduct due diligence to ensure their imports of 'forest risk' commodities such as soy and palm oil are not from illegally deforested areas. But this doesn't include legal deforestation – a significant proportion of deforestation in UK supply chains. To address this, we organised the tabling of an amendment to the Environment Act requiring the UK government to set a target to reduce the UK's global environmental footprint. Unfortunately this wasn't passed, but we're exploring other options to secure this target.

After the Act became law in November, we contributed to the government's consultation on the secondary legislation – regulations that will determine the commodities and companies the due diligence framework will affect. We commissioned a report, *Designing Due Diligence*, which examined how to ensure the regulations are as robust as possible, taking business recommendations into account. It was one of the most cited reports in consultation responses.

We played a leading role among UK NGOs in addressing global deforestation. In addition to leading the work by Greener UK (a group of environmental NGOs) on due diligence legislation, we had a key role in the NGO Forest Coalition. As well as contributing to consultation responses and advocacy on the Environment Act, we were instrumental in the coalition's work to set up, fund and provide a secretariat for the Global Deforestation All-Party Parliamentary Group – a group of MPs and peers we hope will play a significant role within Parliament on addressing deforestation for years to come.

Tackling deforestation is a key element of the work we have been doing with supermarkets through the WWF Basket and beyond. Also, at COP26, we advocated for action that saw more than 140 countries sign up to the Glasgow Declaration on Forests. The countries committed to halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation by 2030. Twelve of them also committed to providing £8.75 billion in climate finance to the Global Forest Finance Pledge, including £1.5 billion from the UK.

## 2021-22 TARGET

**We'll outline what successful landscape restoration looks like, and produce plans on how to achieve this. We'll use them to influence the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue and drive action at the UN climate summit in Glasgow.**

The Glasgow climate summit (COP26) was a critical moment to influence global leaders to take action to protect and restore precious forests threatened by commodity supply chains – and, in doing so, help create a sustainable food system.

A key initiative launched by the UK COP26 Presidency's nature campaign, the FACT Dialogue, brought together 30 consumer and producer countries for the first time to commit collectively to a roadmap to accelerate the transition to sustainable commodity supply chains. The countries represent more than 75% of global trade in the key agricultural commodities (such as soy, palm, cattle and cocoa) that are driving deforestation and ecosystem conversion. The initiative set out principles and actions on four critical areas of work to achieving win-win solutions for forests and sustainable development – trade and markets; smallholder support; traceability and transparency; and research, development and innovation.

We took every opportunity to positively influence the agreed FACT roadmap, and we actively shaped and engaged in FACT Dialogue events and communications in the lead-up to and during COP26. Tanya Steele, our chief executive, joined a panel discussion at a FACT roundtable event during COP26. Kate Norgrove, our director of advocacy and campaigns, recorded a session about the importance of stopping deforestation in commodity supply chains for a FACT Dialogue global event we helped to shape. And we secured a seat for WWF in the FACT Multistakeholder Taskforce (a committee of civil society and business representatives directly engaged on the FACT Dialogue).

We mobilised the WWF network to input into the process and outcomes of the Dialogue. Our UK team promoted wider participation from our colleagues internationally, and successfully pressed for key governments including Brazil, Germany and Italy to endorse the initiative.

We also produced policy documents, aligned with the WWF network's main priorities, including *WWF's Asks for the FACT Dialogue* and *Ideas for the FACT Working Groups*, which successfully strengthened the ambition and robustness of the final FACT roadmap.

We'd originally planned to produce a blueprint for what successful landscape restoration looks like, to influence the FACT Dialogue further still, but we decided it would be more appropriate for us in the UK to raise the profile of the initiative and accelerate the information flow from larger commodity producer countries in the WWF network.



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## OUR 2022-23 PRIORITIES INCLUDE

We'll work with financiers to influence the development of a standard for transition plans that incentivises achieving a net-zero, regenerative agriculture sector in the UK.

We'll release the *State of the Nation* report, on progress against the Commitment for Nature and identifying key areas of action for 2023. We'll continue to make progress on deforestation, climate and agriculture outcomes by convening businesses.

We'll deliver our Land of Plenty pathway targets: a decarbonisation strategy for agriculture and land use, nitrogen budgets and take-up of Environmental Land Management schemes (with equivalent progress in Scotland and Wales).

We'll encourage one million UK citizens to take an active role as consumers in a shift towards more sustainable diets. We'll also increase public awareness of the impact of food on global climate goals and Sustainable Development Goals, reaching 10 million UK citizens.