

## 4-YEAR ACTION PLAN

OUR INFLUENCE IN NEGOTIATIONS AT COP27 LED TO A NEW FOUR-YEAR ACTION PLAN ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY THAT TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION MANY WWF ASKS

## 2022-23 TARGET

We'll continue to work with the farming sector and influence the vision and policies of the UK governments on land use and agriculture to ensure they are compatible with a 1.5°C and nature positive future.

More than 70% of the UK's land area is farmed in some way, and our agriculture sector is responsible for 11% of UK domestic emissions, so solutions that encourage a transition to net zero in the farming sector are crucial.

We know that nature-friendly farming is at the heart of the public's vision for nature in the UK. Food and farming were key themes of the independent People's Assembly for Nature we convened along with the National Trust and the RSPB. A third of the resulting plan's calls to action relate to food and farming, including a demand on government to support farmers financially to transition to climate and nature-friendly practices.

Save Our Wild Isles, our joint campaign also with the National Trust and the RSPB, called on UK leaders to halt the destruction of nature and take urgent action for its recovery. The campaign provided a platform for the People's Assembly for Nature and farmers alike to win support for a transformation in our food system. Together, we encouraged the public to send 20,000 emails to their MPs calling on them to back the People's Plan and provide more support for nature-friendly farming.

This formed a clear public demonstration of support for the type of farming we at WWF are championing, which enabled us to make a strong case to the government for change.

Outside these campaigns, we pressed the UK government to be ambitious about the farming sector transition in its updated Net Zero Strategy. Our analysis of the government's original strategy, and of the government's failure to honour its net-zero farming pledges, gained good media coverage, which helped us call out its lack of ambition on agriculture. Our pressure led it to produce more detail on reducing emissions from land use and agriculture, but while we've helped put farming and land use firmly on the UK's net-zero agenda, the total emissions reductions are not ambitious enough and we don't yet have the policy actions that are needed.

## 2022-23 TARGET

We'll influence the COP27 climate negotiations, working with WWF colleagues across the network to get sustainable food systems on the agenda.

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C, adapting to climate impacts, and nourishing all people within planetary boundaries will be impossible unless the world urgently and profoundly transforms the way we produce and consume food. That's why at WWF we're calling on governments to place sustainable and healthy food systems at the core of ambitious climate action.

This was a key demand we pressed for at the UN climate summit in November 2022 (COP27), which was hearteningly described as the first 'food systems COP'.

We were instrumental in influencing the formal negotiations on agriculture and food at COP27, which led to a major win – a new four-year action plan on agriculture and food security that takes into consideration many WWF asks. For instance, it promotes a more holistic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture and food security, and provides recommendations for better integration of agriculture across the climate negotiations. This will enable us to keep advocating for food systems to be better anchored in global climate action.

To help achieve this outcome, we at WWF-UK worked closely with our colleagues across the WWF network and other civil society partners, especially from the African region, to push the urgent need to reform food systems higher up the agenda at COP27. Together, we demonstrated how a food systems approach to climate action can succeed.

WWF also engaged with and briefed government delegates from 30 countries in the run-up to and during COP27, to share our recommendations on how to strengthen climate action on food systems. We published a letter supporting a food systems approach to climate action. This gathered support from over 100 civil society organisations in less than 24 hours.

## 2022-23 TARGET

We'll influence transition plans in the finance sector, ensuring there are robust standards for climate and nature and a strong legal and regulatory framework.

Currently, financial flows in the UK predominantly support businesses and industries contributing to a high-carbon economy, but what we urgently need is for them to support a low-carbon, nature-positive economy.

Following a campaign that we were centrally involved in, at the UN climate summit in 2021 (COP26) the UK chancellor announced the establishment of the Transition Plan Taskforce as part of the UK's plans to become the world's first net-zero financial centre, ensuring financial flows shift towards supporting a net-zero economy.

This year, we have focused on influencing the recommendations of the UK government's Transition Plan Taskforce, to help shape government guidance for companies and financial institutions on the transition plans they need to produce to show what they're doing to tackle climate change.

We influenced the first draft of the taskforce's transition plan guidance, and were successful in incorporating nature as well as the climate into the guidance for companies. We published an industry leading document, Nature in Transition Plans: Why and How?, which laid out how transition plan guidance could go further in addressing climate and nature holistically. As a result, we were asked to chair the taskforce's Nature Working Group, which has given us greater scope to shape its ambition – such as recommending that companies give explicit consideration to impacts on nature arising from their transition plan and set out how they will mitigate these risks. The outcome of these recommendations will be decided in autumn 2023.

We also successfully pressed for changes in legislation for financial regulators – the Financial Services and Markets Bill – so financial regulators must consider nature alongside climate when carrying out their supervisory and regulatory responsibilities. This means the law now recognises climate and nature are relevant considerations in the regulation of the financial sector.



WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN INCORPORATING NATURE INTO UK GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE FOR COMPANIES' CLIMATE TRANSITION PLANS

