



A PLAN FOR NATURE

OUR MANIFESTO FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT

 Labour

FOR THE MANY
NOT THE FEW

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A PLAN FOR **NATURE**

OUR MANIFESTO FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT

A CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT EMERGENCY



The climate and environment emergency we face is the biggest challenge facing the future of our country and of our planet. On 1st May 2019, the United Kingdom Parliament became the world's first national legislature to declare a climate and environment emergency.

Labour's Plan for Nature sets out how we will take bold new actions in response to the environmental impacts of the climate and environment emergency. It is both our plan for climate change mitigation and nature restoration for net gain biodiversity. Our plans are built on the foundations of social justice, nationally and internationally. Protecting and enhancing the environment around us improves our own health and well-being.

A Labour government will invest nearly **£10 billion pounds** over the next ten years to restore nature, adopting natural solutions to climate change, recovering our islands' biodiversity, reducing waste and protecting vulnerable habitats and species both on land and in the seas around us.

The climate emergency and the environment emergency interact with each other, with changes in one reinforcing changes in the other: global heating is melting the polar ice caps, which changes ocean salinity and temperature, which affects the role in the global carbon cycle of the microorganisms found in oceans which leads to more global heating and more depleted marine life. Similar cycles of reinforcing interactions can be found on land and in coastal boundary areas. A net loss of biodiversity blunts the tools with which we can mitigate climate change, which is now a direct driver of biodiversity loss and increasingly exacerbating the impacts of other drivers.

On Mayday, Labour led calls on the Conservative government to publish by 1st November its urgent proposals to restore our country's natural environment.

We have heard nothing. Here, we introduce the steps a Labour government will take to make the transformative changes that are urgently needed to restore our natural environment and protect our planet.



Jeremy Corbyn
Leader of the Labour Party



Sue Hayman
Shadow Environment Secretary

PLAN FOR NATURE

IT'S TIME FOR REAL CHANGE

Our Plan for Nature starts with a transformational programme to recover and enhance the natural state of our National Parks, working with scientists, farmers, local communities and conservation groups to reverse years of decline. The new challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss mean that radical approaches are needed to get the most biodiversity net gains out of England's most loved but now environmentally degraded landscapes.

A Labour government will reignite the founding spirit of the ten National Parks of England by giving them the task and additional new purpose of delivering nature restoration, along with new protections for the habitats and species found in them.

We will increase the funding for our National Park authorities by 50%, from under £50m each year to almost £75m each year. Since 2010 the Conservative government has cut the annual funding to these authorities by £11m, or 20%. We will more than reverse that cut in funding, in order to enable the Parks to fulfill existing responsibilities and undertake their new purposes, too.

Our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty cover a quarter of England's land and are home to over 2.3 million people. They generate more than £20 billion for the rural economy, and support 75,000 jobs. Bold action in a holistic approach is required in order to make them greener, more beautiful

and still open for everyone to enjoy. We cannot limit our ambition to simply preserving the last British semi-wildernesses.

We will restore the natural environment of Britain in a network of large, connected areas across the entire country, founded on our National Parks. We will link them with connecting restored pathways, hedgerows and water courses to each other and to smaller protected conservation areas. Connecting natural corridors will allow animal migrations, seed dispersals and provide habitats in their own right, and can lead onwards into the parks and gardens of our town and city centres along railway lines, canals, footpaths and cycle routes.

Our approach is challenging: granular, holistic and integrated. We aim to adapt the way we live with nature, not expect nature to survive alongside our unchanging ways. We all deserve the opportunity to live with and alongside nature, and we must learn to do so. City dwellers benefit from access to the countryside just as much as rural communities need to live in vibrant, thriving local economies.

The Glover Review of Landscapes reported on whether the current protections for National Parks are still fit for purpose. In particular, the report asked what might be done better, what changes will help and whether the definitions and systems in place are still valid.

A Labour government will review the hierarchy of designations for protected areas informed by the recommendations of the Glover Report. Seventy years after the Act of Parliament that first created the National Parks, our rejuvenated areas will sit at the head of a revised system of area-based protections, including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the National Forest, Natura Network Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, the Green Belts and both local and national Nature Reserves. Each designated area, whether existing, revised or newly selected will be given legal and regulatory protections, and will adopt management plans and rigorous targets for either nature restoration or carbon sequestration, or both, proportionate to the environment emergency we face.

Our plans envisage a network of natural hedgerows and other nature-friendly corridors joining all these places with each other, with replanted road verges, railway lines and canal paths connecting them to our urban green and blue spaces in parks, communal gardens, lakes and ponds.

Our plan is designed for England but we recognise that we live in an **island ecosystem**. We will work with the additionally funded devolved government administrations of Scotland and Wales to ensure that nature recovery networks are developed to extend across the entire island of Great Britain and adjacent islands. We will fund a restored Northern Ireland Assembly to develop cross border arrangements with the Republic of Ireland. We also will work with Ireland, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and our European neighbours on all our marine and avian nature restoration plans.

We will help devolved government authorities in England to embed the Plan for Nature at local levels in our cities, towns and counties. We will properly fund local councils so that they can breathe new life into local nature reserves, parks and networks.



10 new National Parks will be created under a single National Nature Parks Authority. Labour will propose and consult on the locations and establish the authority with an annual budget rising to £50 million a year to manage ten new parks in England.

The new authority will have the primary purposes of nature restoration and climate change mitigation, for both of which we will set challenging targets consistent with the best available scientific advice. Secondary purposes of the new authority will include the maintenance of recreational access to the countryside and protecting countryside landscapes.

The National Nature Parks will increase our National Parks' land coverage by 50% and to ensure that by 2030 75% of the English population lives within half an hour of a National Park or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Criteria for the selection of the new

Nature Parks will include:

- current state of environmental degradation
- potential for carbon sequestration
- potential for biodiversity net gain
- existing management planning capacity
- accessibility and proximity to urban populations

For these reasons, we will include as candidates for public consultation the Cotswolds, the Chiltern Hills, the North and South Pennines, Coastal Suffolk, Coastal Dorset, Wessex and the Lincolnshire Wolds. We will also consult with devolved governments for cross-border candidate Parks like the Malvern Hills and with the public again on candidate extensions to the National Forest, including Sherwood Forest and, separately, on candidate sites for Marine Nature Parks including the Farne Islands and Lundy.



A Green Transformation Fund of £250 billion over the next ten years will be established by a Labour government to directly fund the transition to our sustainable future. Separate funding streams will support or be dedicated to:

- developing renewable and low carbon energy sources with which we can power our society, industries and homes
- supporting the shift towards sustainable, pollution-free transport systems, including accessible public transport, rail electrification and low or ultra-low emission road vehicles
- supporting the decarbonisation of energy intense industries through investment in carbon capture and storage, hydrogen and energy efficiency
- achieving net biodiversity gains through natural environment restoration and
- delivering natural mitigations of climate change through carbon storage and sequestration.

The Green Transformation Fund will support our Plan for Nature with new investments totalling £3.7 billion over the next ten years for the latter of these purposes.

We will use those funds to expand sustainable forestry and restore the natural environment of our National

Parks, our new National Nature Parks and our other protected areas, including important newly identified areas and existing areas with revised designations.

We will establish clear criteria and new priorities for new protected area designations, with holistic and adequate funding streams to support environmental management schemes that deliver for our landscape, our environment and for a sustainable rural economy.

We will use the revised system of site and area designations to establish, restore, protect and expand natural carbon sinks and areas with potential for net biodiversity gain. Our programme could contribute an additional total of 47mt CO₂/year natural carbon storage, more per year than is held in all the trees of England's forests today.

NATURAL SOLUTIONS

A landscape photograph showing a field of tall, green grass in the foreground, leading to a range of hills or mountains in the background. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall color palette is dominated by shades of green and blue.

Peatlands

Healthy peat bogs and wet upland moors are important stores for carbon. To help restore degraded peatlands to their natural state we will end the harvesting of peat and the burning of moors or blanket bog. We will establish an independent review of the habitat degradation and fire risks caused by grouse shoot management arrangements with a view to new restrictive licensing arrangements or other regulatory controls.

Saltmarshes

Salt marshes keep huge amounts of carbon out of the atmosphere by trapping organic matter, breaking it down and burying it relatively quickly. The meeting of land and sea, fresh and salt water creates unique habitats supporting populations of finely adapted species including the fish that feed in them and wading birds. We will prepare our coastlines and communities for the impacts of climate change using nature-based solutions, such as managed realignment, to restore our salt marshes and mudflats.

Grasslands

England's traditional hay meadows were once some of our richest grassland habitats for wildlife but 95% of them no longer exist. Grasslands like these are essential to sustain insect and bird life, especially. Many of them have been ploughed,

reseeded with a single species of grass and treated with fertilisers. Intensive grass growth is required to feed intensively farmed sheep and cattle.

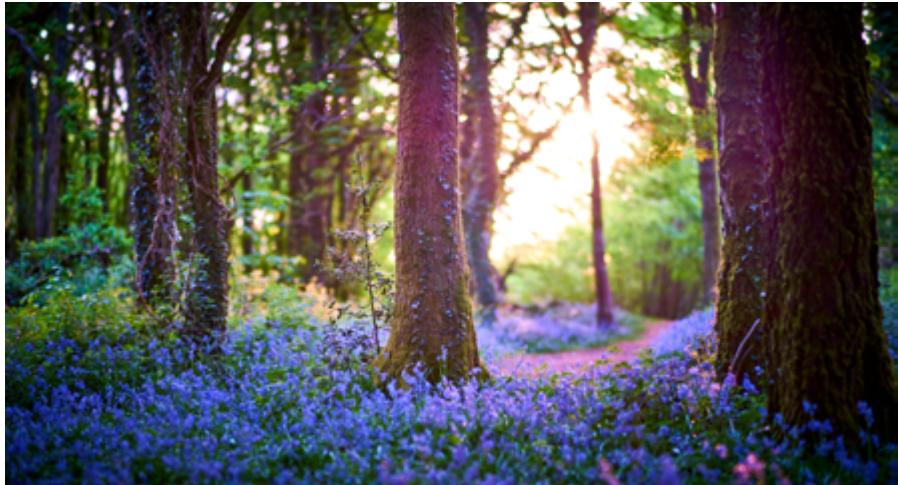
Grasslands which are less intensively farmed are among our most biodiverse habitats. A single square metre of chalk grassland may contain more than 30 kinds of wildflower. Our richest grasslands are underlain by chalk and limestone rocks, of the sort found in South Downs National Park and our Chiltern Hills candidate National Nature Park.

Forests and Woodland

The Climate Change Committee advises that to meet our 2050 international climate obligations we will need to plant across Britain a new forest the combined size of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Labour will invest £2.5 billion over its first term to plant 300 million trees in Britain, with a target of reaching one billion new trees planted across Britain by 2030, and two billion by 2040. We will plant mixed native woodlands and enlarge commercial forestry to support housebuilding and other industries. But we will need to go further, and faster to meet our ambitious climate targets.

Our ambition is to plant one billion new trees across Britain by 2030, two billion by 2040. Some of our plans will be delivered under framework agreements



with the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales . The Scottish Government is already planting 10,000 ha each year, rising to 15,000 from 2024/25. The Welsh Assembly Government is planting 2,000 ha each year with the aim of adding 100,000 ha by 2030. Consequential funding from our investments will allow both to raise ambitions, as we also set out more ambitious targets for England.

We will first identify environmentally degraded sites for mixed woodland plantings of native trees in the one quarter of England that is covered by designated landscapes. We will start with sites in our National Parks, our new National Nature Parks and with an enlargement of the National Forest to include the Sherwood Forest Area. These plantings will add to both our carbon storage and provide restored habitats for native species, increasing biodiversity gains.

We will also expand the Urban Tree Challenge Fund to plant street trees and community woodlands across England's Towns and Cities, and support school tree planting initiatives. We will identify opportunities on the public estate, and the 10% of land that is publicly owned, beginning with a million new trees in an NHS Forest.

We will also establish a horticulture fund, by excluding billionaire landowners from receipt of farm subsidies, to plant more organic fruit orchards sustaining insect and bird life, storing carbon and supporting our plans for public health and local food networks.

We will engage communities in citizen's assemblies to identify further local sites for tree planting and use farm payments to encourage future agroforestry, and tree and hedge planting across our farmlands.

We cannot tackle climate change unless we change our relationship to the food we eat.

We will implement recommendations from Our Future in the Land, the report of the RSA Food, Farming and Countryside Commission and adopt the standards set out in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on a Right to Food.

10 million tonnes of food is wasted each year, a quarter of all food purchased, costing £20bn and equivalent to 20 million tonnes of greenhouse gases. At the same time we are in the grip of a national obesity epidemic and our country's usage of foodbanks has soared.

Labour will establish a People's Access to Food Fund and review our food system under the governance of a National Food Commission. We will work across government to ensure our national diets become healthier and more sustainable, setting dietary and nutritional standards for hospital, school and prison meals, resetting food procurement standards and reviewing the food distribution and retail sectors. We will review food labelling with the aim of reducing harmful food consumption.

In order to transform our food system we will first need to work closely with our principal primary food producers, to promote sustainable agricultural and fisheries practises.

Farming

Agriculture is a key part of the solution to both nature restoration and climate change. It is both an emissions source and a carbon sink. The utilised agricultural area of the United Kingdom is 17.5 million hectares, covering 72% of the country. The total croppable area is 6.1 million hectares.

Farmers have the ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including methane and ammonia by changing common agricultural practises. They can manage feedstuffs, slurry and other waste differently.

Critical carbon storage resources are found in farm soils, and in hedgerows, wooded landscapes and semi-natural habitats. Farmers can protect or enhance the carbon reserves already present in soils and vegetation. Most agricultural emissions arise from complex natural soil and animal microbial processes so we will focus on productivity and efficiency to produce the required quantities of food in smarter ways.

We share the National Farmers Union commitment to achieve net zero emissions targets in agriculture and will work with farmers to adopt strategies set out in 'Achieving Net Zero: Farming's 2040 goal'. Farmers can promote both biodiversity and nature conservation. They can incorporate wildlife corridors in farmland hedgerows and provide refuges for vulnerable



species in planting coppices and pastoral meadows.

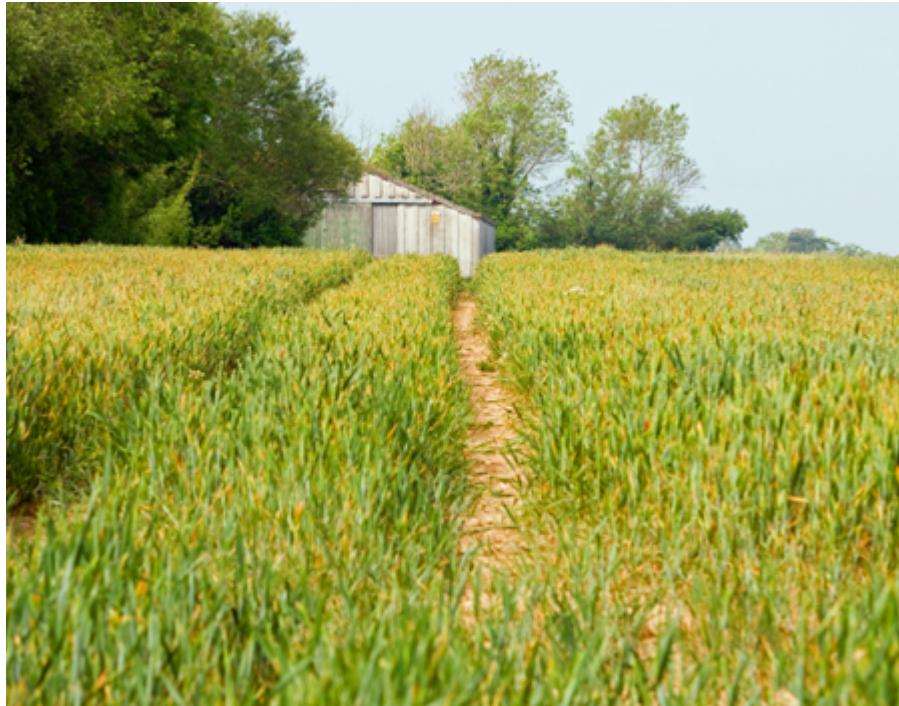
Farmers will need support to adapt and improve agricultural practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and manage the usage of fertilisers and pesticides differently, to the benefit of environmental quality in soils and water sources.

We will reform farm payments to reward the provision of public goods and promote environmentally sustainable land management systems, with more organic matter in soils, the restoration of natural environments, protections to habitats and wildlife and the provision of affordable, healthy, sustainably sourced food for everyone. Enhanced soil carbon storage in our farms could deliver GHG savings of 5mt CO₂/year. Increasing woodland plantings could deliver savings of 0.7mtCO₂/year. More managed hedgerows could deliver 0.5mtCO₂/year.

Bringing change will require different incentives to farm. We will cooperate with farmers to ensure more

sustainable land management goes hand-in-hand with viable businesses and thriving rural economies. We will invest in more county farms to replace those lost, and we will work with agricultural organisations to increase access into farming for new entrants. We will support local food networks, expand access to farm holdings and ensure union representation and fair wages and conditions for all food and agricultural workers. We will put farmers and food sector workers at the heart of our plans, increasing fairness throughout the food supply chain. We will also ensure that food production and land use keeps pace with changing public appetites and dietary requirements.

Our aim is to ensure the transition to our future agriculture is fair to farmers, better for wildlife and affordable for us all. We will fund the transition by maintaining current environmental improvement schemes and investing in new schemes after the British public has had its final say on our future relationship with the European Union.



Pest Management

Agricultural pesticides can degrade our environment, impacting soils, water and pollinating insects. We will consult to set appropriate targets for the reduced use of harmful pesticides and fungicides and adopt the precautionary principle in regulations. We will provide more support to sustainable farming methods with less reliance on chemicals.

New classes of insecticides introduced in the last 20 years, including neonicotinoids and fipronil, appear to have been particularly damaging to insect life, sterilising soils and killing insect grubs. 75% of

insect losses recorded in Germany have been in protected areas adjacent to farmlands.

We will trial integrated pest management systems and support varietal trials to help farmers reduce reliance on harmful chemicals and deliver healthier soils, as well as cleaner water and thriving natural systems.

We will review the regulations governing gene editing for disease resistance of crops and livestock feed to improve health and productivity, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

EU Structural Funds

Common Agricultural Policy

Our plans to reform British farming and farmlands will be financed by funds derived from:

- either the English portion of the British contribution to the EU Common Agricultural Policy payments
- or from our share of the structural fund payments received

This will be decided only in accordance with the final say of the British people in a legally binding referendum that will take place within the first six months of a Labour Government.

Almost 40% of the current EU

budget is related to agriculture and rural development through the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). EU farm payments now make up around 50-60% of farm income in Britain.

Our final funding allocations to support the transformation of British farming are dependent on two imminent negotiations: the renegotiated terms of UK withdrawal to be completed within three months of a Labour government and the EU Budget negotiations in 2020. Either or both of these may adjust levels of domestic expenditure.

A Labour government will properly maintain agricultural support systems, ensuring that the current level of funding support made available to British farming and farmland management remains stable.



LIFE Fund

The EU LIFE programme for environment and climate action is a EUR3.4bn fund which supports, among other policies, the Special Areas of Conservation in the Natura network.

Subject to the same EU budget negotiations and EU Withdrawal Agreement negotiations as the CAP, a Labour government will ensure that either the British contributions to this fund or the British receipts from this fund will also continue to be maintained, for the continuing purposes of nature conservation and climate actions.

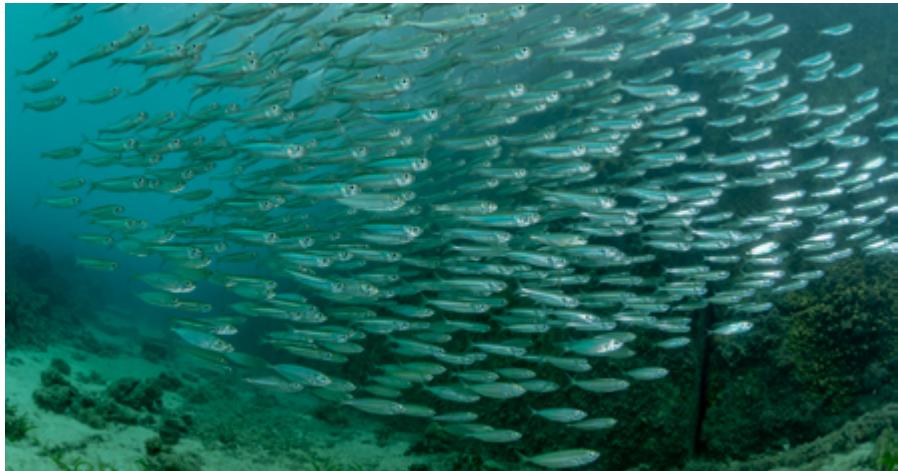
Maritime and Fisheries Fund

EU MFF is a EUR 6.4bn programme budget of which the UK receipts are around £250m. More than 25% of the overall fund supports projects protecting the marine environment, developing sustainable fisheries and supporting the scientific and data collection aspects of fisheries management. Both the scope and the scale of the MFF will be negotiated in the EU 2020 budget negotiations. Labour will ensure that either British contributions or British receipts will be maintained at stable levels for all the purposes of nature conservation, climate change mitigation or adaptation, protecting the marine environment, adapting fishing methods, restoring marine or migratory species, inland waterway biodiversity, and other marine conservation measures.

Fisheries

Our fishing industry has again been failed by the Conservative government. It has been left for the foreseeable future entirely within the restrictive confines of the unreformed Common Fisheries Policy, and the alternative approach risks both market access for fish products and the commercial extinction of fish species with a reckless policy of managed over-fishing in pursuit of fair zonal attachment shares. A decade of Conservative government has plummeted the stocks of North Sea cod back to critical levels. The Fisheries Bill has fallen far short of a commitment to sustainable fisheries management.

Labour will reassert our domestic and international commitments to maintain healthy fish stocks and enable the sustainable management of shared resources in co-operation with international partners. We will pursue our fair share of fisheries in an environmentally responsible manner, more successfully. We will agree with our neighbours in and out of the EU maximum sustainable yield management plans for all shared fish stocks and we will maintain all agreed and demonstrably successful conservation measures. We will continue to develop actions to eliminate fisheries by-catch, including the incidental capture and drowning of seabirds, cetaceans and other marine wildlife in fishing gear.



We will adopt a fair and sustainable approach to distributing fishing opportunities, distributing new fish quotas to support small scale fishers and fishers with the least environmental impact and if we leave the EU we will ensure more fish caught under UK quota will be landed into UK ports.

Marine Environments

The waters of our Blue Planet have been damaged by dumping waste and toxins in the oceans, dredging and dragging the sea bed and destroying corals, maerls and sandbanks. The seas and oceans around us support diverse marine ecosystems, including all those on the fertile European continental shelf and at the submarine seamounts of the Atlantic Ocean. These are made even more vulnerable by changing temperature, currents and salinity associated with climate change. Our seas and oceans provide rich biodiversity and carbon storage of

global importance in biochemical and geophysical processes we do not yet fully understand.

The English zone of the UK Exclusive Economic Area is a comparatively small part of a single, connected global ocean system. Our plans to expand offshore wind farms will require a review of Marine Spatial Planning arrangements. We will not permit expansion of marine extractions or dredging industries in the North Sea. We will establish new Marine National Parks and consult on candidates including Lundy and the Farne Islands. We will extend the network of marine protected areas (SACs).

A Labour government will also deploy our powerful maritime heritage and uniquely elevated status in the institutions of global marine governance to exercise beneficial influence. We will work with our shipping industry to assess targets for achieving zero carbon domestic

shipping by 2050. We will co-operate with our overseas territories to extend Blue Belt provisions in oceans around the world. We will pursue cleaner cargo shipping in the International Maritime Organisation, mining controls in the International Seabed Authority, the restoration of a complete hunting ban in the International Whaling Commission and the preservation of the rich abundance of living marine resources under the Antarctic Treaty.

We will lead the global effort for a UN Ocean Treaty creating a network of marine sanctuaries in 30% of the world's oceans and we will work with allies in the Arctic Council to seek a new Arctic Ocean Treaty. In the OSPAR Convention Area we will co-operate to reduce the pollution of our shallower seas by taking measures to reduce waste and complex chemical pollution accumulations.

Ecosystem Services

Carbon sequestration through natural solutions to climate change is just one of many ecosystem services provided by a healthy natural environment. Other regulating ecosystem services include water purification, flood hazard reduction and noise and air pollution. Provisioning ecosystem services include the crops we eat as well as animal fodder, fish, honey, timber and water supplies. Aesthetic ecosystem services include non-material benefits like recreation, culture and heritage. All these

services contribute to our population health and well being and they all require the maintenance of basic environmental quality standards to perform at their most effective best.

Environmental Accounting

The concept of sustainability involves operating in a way that takes full account of an organisation's impacts on the planet, its people and the future.

The costs involved in implementing environmental protections can be substantial.

A DTI task force has recently assessed the annual UK cost of complying with the End-of-life Vehicles Directive as between £126 million and £163 million and the annual UK cost of complying with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive as between £215 million and £455 million. The cost of implementing in the UK the Restriction of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS) Directive is estimated to be £120 million annually for 10 years in capital costs, research and development, together with a further £55–£96 million per year in increased operating costs.

The loss of ecosystem services for not implementing these laws is not accounted for, anywhere. We will work to progress the ways of better accounting for the true cost of business practises and environmental protections.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS

Labour has consistently upheld a principle that a future relationship with the EU and other trade arrangements must not regress food safety, sanitary or environmental quality standards. We remain fully committed to non-regression of all environmental standards, in our relationship with the EU and in any future trade agreement with other countries.

We will pursue trade frameworks within or without the EU that match our own environmental standards, comply with international environment law and protect biodiversity in partner countries. We will not export our climate impacts or polluting waste to the Global South.

Air Quality

Polluted air contributes to more than 40,000 premature deaths every year. Air pollution harms our natural environment by reducing biodiversity and poisoning both our water and our soils. It also limits crop yields. The current quality of the air we breathe breaches legal requirement standards for emissions of nitrous oxides, with direct harms done to children's health around schools in our urban centres. Labour will introduce a new Clean Air Act enshrining the World Health Organisation's advisory air quality standards into domestic law.

We will meet the new standards set out in the Act with a scrappage scheme for polluting vehicles, an

expansion of rail freight to take more lorries off our roads, support for farming practises which reduce the release of ammonia and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and clean air zones around schools.

Water Quality

Access to safe drinking water is an internationally recognised human right. Clean water is a pre-requisite for all life on Earth, not only for human life. Our publicly-owned system of Regional Water Authorities will enable us to manage water resources in the public interest, in place of rip-off private utilities companies which have been run for profit, to the detriment of the whole water and sewerage management system. We will establish a National Water Agency to sit alongside the Environment Agency in co-management of our water supplies.

All of England's rivers and lakes were required to have achieved good ecological status by 2015 but by 2016 only 14% of our rivers and 16% of our lakes met this standard. The Tories have deferred publication of the scheduled 2019 water quality assessments until after the general election. The water quality monitoring regime has seen resources halved since 2010 and in one study polluting plastics were found in every river tested.

We will restore and enhance our water environments with actions to ensure 50% of England's rivers

and lakes meet the standard of good ecological status by 2027, including increased investment in the Environment Agency's water monitoring and project implementation programmes. We will maintain the £9m annual Water Environment Grant scheme and set challenging new targets to reduce per capita water consumption including in London and the South East, where permanent drought is now threatened.

We will ensure renewable energy sources power the water industry sector and use the revenues from our public water companies to invest in mitigation, prevention and adaptation support for flooding.

Soil Quality

Soil organic carbon is the basis of soil fertility. It releases nutrients for plant growth, promotes the structure, biological and physical health of soil, and is a buffer against harmful substances. If more carbon is stored in the soil as organic carbon, it will reduce the amount present in the atmosphere, and help reduce global heating. We will work with and incentivise farmers to build soil carbon through reducing pesticide use.

Vulnerable Species

The Global Assessment Report of IPBES (the International Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) has reported one million species worldwide at risk of extinction. This

global collapse of biodiversity covers animals, plants and microorganisms. It is exacerbated by a simultaneous association with changing geophysical qualities, like global heating and the shifting ocean currents.

This wave of extinctions signals a global ecosystem crisis. The complex ways in which biotic and abiotic components are linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows are changing faster than lifeforms can adapt to those changes. It is happening here in Britain, too. Of the 8,418 species assessed in the 2019 State of Nature report, 15% are now at risk of extinction.

The disappearance of recognisable life forms clearly indicates a deep rooted, multi layered and complex problem.

Birds

In the United Kingdom 18 bird species are listed as threatened, representing 7.3% of all British bird species. Our large island ecosystems mean we will play an especially important role in the global conservation of migrating birds

There are 275 Special Protected Areas for birdlife in the United Kingdom, including 82 sites covering 860,000 ha in England. The continuing population declines of bird species suggest that the level of protection afforded for birds is inadequate.

Garden birds, farmland birds and seabirds alike are threatened by



The UK tree sparrow population suffered a severe decline 1970-2008, estimated at 93%

declining populations. In farmland bird species the decline is associated with simultaneous impacting factors, principally including habitat loss:

- the loss of mixed farming's habitat diversity
- changed spring crops which provided nesting for lapwings, skylarks and wagtails
- a loss of winter stubbles and other fallow habitats
- reduced abundance of seeds and insects in grasslands
- the loss of foraging habitats and weedy field margins in ever larger fields
- the increased use and efficacy of pesticides
- field drainage
- introduced or increased predation

Exacerbating global factors associated with the loss of birdlife include changing weather systems and the impacts of migration routes for birds like the Turtle Dove, which has undergone a population decline of 97% since 1970 and is now listed on the Global Red List for Endangered Species.

Greater, interacting and more holistic responses will be required to restore the natural balances which support birdlife. As a first step, we will implement recommendations from the third review of Special Protected Areas, including measures to protect the Little Egret, the reintroduced Osprey, White-tailed Eagle and Red Kite, and non-breeding gulls and raptors in coastal areas.

Insects

Insects are by far the most varied and abundant animals on Earth, with a global biomass outweighing seven billion human beings 17 times over.

Insects are essential components for the proper functioning of all ecosystems, as food for other creatures, as pollinators and as recyclers of nutrients.

More than 40% of insect species worldwide are declining and a third are endangered. The rate of extinction is eight times faster than that of mammals, birds and reptiles. The total mass of insects is falling by a precipitous 2.5% a year, according to the best scientific data available, suggesting insects could vanish from the world within a century. The world's insects are hurtling down the path to extinction, threatening a catastrophic collapse of nature's ecosystems.

One of the biggest impacts of insect loss is on the many birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish that eat insects. Insects are at the heart of every food web, including ours. They pollinate the large majority of plant species, keep the soil healthy, recycle nutrients and control pests. Humans cannot survive without insects.

Urbanisation, artificial light pollution and climate change are all significant drivers of the insect population collapses but it is intensive agriculture that is the main driver of the declines, particularly the heavy use of pesticides.

Labour's Plan for Nature is unabashed in centring in our response to the



environment emergency the need for food and farming system reforms as well as carbon sequestration and nature restoration. The number of widespread butterfly species fell by 58% on farmed land in England between 2000 and 2009. Unless we change our ways of producing food, insects as a whole will go down the path of extinction in a few decades. The repercussions this will have for the planet's ecosystems are catastrophic.

Hedgehogs

In 1950 there were an estimated 36 million hedgehogs in the UK. Reports now suggest that the hedgehog population had dropped to just one million by 2013, one third of levels at the start of this century. Hedgehogs' hibernation patterns have been disturbed by warmer winters, waking them up at the wrong time of year, before there is enough food around. The destruction of habitats with new roads and building developments is also believed to have contributed to the population decline.

Our Plan for Nature will provide connecting corridors in rural and urban hedgehog habitats.

Red Squirrels

It is estimated that red squirrels will be extinct in England in approximately 10 years, unable to compete with invasive grey squirrels. We will support the red squirrel conservation projects in the Isle of Wight and Cumbria, and monitor the reintroduction of pine martens

in the Forest of Dean and Northern England. We will set aside areas of our enlarged forestry plantations and replanted native woodlands to provide suitable habitats for squirrel and pine martens populations.

Natterjack Toad

One of only two species of native toad in the United Kingdom, the Natterjack has all but gone, surviving mainly in small areas of Lincolnshire and Norfolk, and along the western coast from Lancashire to Dumfries. Reintroductions in Hampshire and Surrey demonstrate the chance of success but they are still considered endangered. Our Nature Restoration projects in saltmarshes and coastal estuaries will help provide the habitats for more reintroductions.

Vulnerable Habitats

Although lacking in extremes—there are no high mountains, no true deserts and no major rivers—the British Isles are remarkably variable biophysically, ecologically and socially, with complex underlying geology, a wide climatic range from very wet to semi-arid, and large variations in the distribution of the human population, from extensive areas of near-wilderness in Scotland to one of the world's largest metropolitan areas in Greater London.

In the UK National Ecosystem Assessment, this diversity has been captured in eight broad habitat types: mountains, moorlands and heaths, semi-natural grasslands, enclosed

farmland, woodlands, freshwaters (open waters, wetlands and floodplains), urban, coastal waters and marine.

Protecting and sustainably managing natural habitats is the most efficient way of protecting the flora and fauna adapted to lie in them, and the fastest route to net biodiversity gain.

Our Plan for Nature prioritises investment in the restoration of saltmarsh, peatbog, grasslands and mixed woodland habitats. These offer the greatest combined return on our investments for net biodiversity gain and rapid carbon storage. Peatbogs and saltmarshes are among the habitats with the greatest proportion of sites rated as unfavourable and declining in environmental status.

Grasslands are among the other vulnerable habitats including dunes, forests and freshwaters with fewer than 20% of sites rated as favourable or improving.

Heathland, scrub and rocky habitats are also vulnerable.

In addition to our intensified efforts to recover forests, peatbogs and saltmarshes, Labour will - at least - maintain all the habitat protection and nature restoration efforts in the other vulnerable habitats found within existing UK Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCs) included in the Bern Convention's Emerald Network of protected areas. These include the Special Areas of

Conservation and Special Protected Areas in the network of Natura 2000 sites, as well as Ramsar Convention sites to protect wetlands and marine special areas of conservation. Some of these protected areas are designed to protect vulnerable species, not vulnerable habitats but they all require restoration or careful management of the habitats supporting those species.

Our aim is to go further than maintain current efforts. We will also consider strengthening the management requirements for all existing protected sites and assess the case for establishing new sites to protect more vulnerable habitats.

We will also review the development consent and planning laws to consider post-development nature restoration requirements, such as establishing new nature reserves in disused quarries, corridor meadows along new or re-opened rail tracks, requirements to include insect bricks in housing developments and modifications like badger tunnels under any new roads. And we will consult on a proposal to establish national standards of environmental quality in local nature reserves, with associated duties placed on reserve managers.

SCIENCE



Research and Advice

In order to take the best, most urgent and most effective decisions, we will commission research from Natural England and scientific advice from JNCC, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. The scientific research, programme delivery and advisory capacity of frontline environment agencies has been massively reduced under the Conservative Government. Although JNCC has increased its annual budget by £8m since 2010, Natural England has seen its budget cut by nearly £200m over the same period. We cannot meet the challenge of an environmental emergency by cutting the funds providing us with advice from the environmental sciences.

Labour will boost the funding to Defra agencies and arms-length bodies by a combined annual total of £70m, to be focused on securing additional environmental science research, monitoring, evaluation and advice to government. Natural England will receive more than half of the additional funds to deliver expanded and restored monitoring and evaluation of the natural environment. Our selection and designation of candidate sites for nature restoration, carbon storage and biodiversity net gain will be evidence based. Significant funding increases will also be made available to the Environment Agency, JNCC and CEFAS.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Our communities need vibrant local economies, living alongside and protecting nature and the environment. All our plans for environmental protection and nature restoration recognise that people are a part of the natural ecosystem.

Access to Nature

In 1949, when Labour first established the National Parks in our radical Access to the Countryside Act, it was one part of a broad sweep of new laws which opened up the best of our nation to everyone, from all walks of life. 70 years later, we still retain our commitment to the principle of access to the best of our common inheritance, for all.

We will supplement our extended network of restored and new parks with plans to re-open closed bus routes and branch railways, with investments in facilities for disabled people and in organised countryside activities for young people from BAME and other socially and economically disadvantaged communities, including those living in inner cities and neglected towns.

We will work with community and volunteer organisations, schools and youth services to ensure young people are provided with educational access to the countryside and to farmlands, and with the opportunities to understand the connected role of urban green spaces, allotments and nature corridors in the places where they live.

Health and Well Being

Everyone benefits from greater access to green, open spaces. The physical health benefits of easy access to clean air are undoubtedly well known and the therapeutic mental health and well being effect of open spaces and proximity to a healthy natural environment are well understood. Our National Parks are just the apex of our redesigned system of protected area designations, which will also extend into urban nature reserves and the parks of our towns and cities, too.

Our diet, our health, our society and our natural environment are all closely related. The less well off we are, the more likely we are to eat more preserved, processed foods, high in sugar, fat and starch. Meat and dairy products form part of a healthy, balanced diet but a recent Lancet report recommends a reduction of red, white and processed meat consumption by as much as 80% from current levels. We will ask Public Health England to review dietary health guidelines in, in line with scientific and nutritional advice and we will help our livestock and dairy farmers to anticipate and manage any transitions arising from changing consumer demands.

Recreation

Our Plan for Nature envisages the creation of many more options for leisure and recreation, in our urban

parks and the open landscapes of our countryside.

20 million recreational angling and game fishing days a year support 27,000 full time jobs and are all dependant on the maintenance of healthy water environments. Safe sailing and boating requires effective marine spatial planning, keeping recreational boaters out of shipping access lanes around our ports and away from other hazards. The coastal path, traditional rights of way and the right to roam that we will champion provide ramblers and visitors with healthy walking and climbing opportunities. Our city parks sustain tennis, football and cricket across the country.

Our Plan for Nature is also a plan to improve the leisure time of hard working families.

Rural Communities

Farming and food production are the bedrock of our rural communities. Labour's urgent priority is to ensure continued access to markets for our food products in order to sustain our rural economies, and to steer a just transition for farmers to the sustainable, viable agricultural models of the future.

We will invest in our rural communities, and ensure a rural dimension to all our policies. Our plans to rebuild Britain's public services and invest in local economies will especially benefit rural areas,

which have been hardest hit by the loss of bus services, small schools, post offices, local food shops and banks. Our plans to roll out full fibre broadband across the country, starting with those that are least well served lays the infrastructure foundation for growing rural economies of the future.

Coastal Communities

Our seaside towns have been among the most neglected over recent years of government austerity. Our plans to invest in offshore wind will ensure that more money is reinvested in a bricks and mortar fund for coastal communities to build the infrastructure and public amenities they so badly need. We are proposing more investment in digital, rail and bus connectivity to coastal communities with a focus on access, frequency, affordability and capacity.

Urban Communities

Having access to green spaces can reduce health inequalities, improve well-being, and improve our mental health. This is just as important in our towns and cities as in rural areas. Labour will commit to a new strategy for our urban parks and green spaces to unlock their potential for people and nature by integrating green space management with health priorities, biodiversity targets and by linking into nature recovery corridors.



Public Awareness

Many people, especially young people, are concerned about the degradation of the natural environment and what it means for the future. Understanding nature and our human role in environmental management is a task for everyone. We are cheered and reassured by the enthusiasm of younger generations for sustainable, forward looking environmental policies, and by a different future relationship between human society and the natural world.

We still need to address the harms done by the prevalent commercial attitudes which simply seek to remove the natural environment from the equation whenever it is considered to be an obstacle to more efficient – meaning more profitable – business practises.

Biodiversity collapse and global heating clearly demonstrate that these attitudes prioritise short

term gains for the few over long term consequences for the many. Similarly, the imminent loss of iconic species like the rhinos, the whales, the tigers, the great apes and the panda has led to our society changing its relationship to the animals with which we share the world. Labour recognises animal sentience.

Our continued highlighting of animal welfare issues reinforces and underpins public awareness of the need to develop new, different approaches to human relationships with the environment around us.

Badgers

We will end the unnecessary cull of this protected species.

Foxes, Deer and Hares

We will clamp down on the illegal persecution of our wildlife by enforcing the laws on hunting, baiting and poisoning and will



increase police resources for the investigation and prosecution of rural wildlife crime.

Birds of Prey

The return of Ospreys to Loch Garten and the successful reintroduction of Red Kites to the Chiltern Hills demonstrate how the sustained management of nature restoration can capture the public imagination and harness the efforts of volunteers. We will review all the options for species reintroduction.



Beavers

The licensed reintroduction of Devon's wild beavers on the River Otter expires in March 2020. What will happen after that? We will review the evidence on the beavers' impact on water quality, wildlife and the surrounding landscape, farms and communities. Wildlife has thrived where beavers have returned elsewhere in Europe, including on the Devon Wildlife Trust's beaver site near Okehampton.



Public Education

Highlighting the plight of iconic species plays an important role in raising public awareness of environmental interactions but it needs to be underpinned by an effective, comprehensive programme of public education.

Our public education programme starts in schools. Pupils will learn both

the sciences and the urgency of the climate and environment emergency, and they will acquire the skills necessary to deal with it and to thrive in the careers provided by our Green Industrial Revolution.

Our National Youth Service and third sector organisations like the Scouts and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme will provide opportunities for young people to access the natural environment and to participate in conservation projects like river cleaning, woodland clearance and afforestation.

We will continue to support public service broadcasters in their efforts to engage and educate the adult population and we will co-operate with NGOs and their awareness campaigns and activity programmes. Tens of thousands of volunteers collected the data for the 2019 State of Nature report, put together using wildlife data from a group of 50 conservation organisations. We will also work more with large, public facing landowners like the National Trust and English Heritage to engage and activate their memberships.

Local, regional and national government agencies will lead and co-ordinate the efforts but it is only through our collective endeavour that we will meet the challenges we face, working together as individuals, as neighbourhoods and as communities of interest.

Community Action

We will encourage participatory decision making, establishing local citizens assemblies across the country to debate and bring agreement on the way forward, including in areas such as the carbon emissions associated with lifestyle choices like diet, travel and our throwaway culture.

Our planned interventions must be transformational, bringing about the structural changes needed to stop continued environmental degradation. Consultation and partnership working will be an important part of our approach so that we inform and engage both the public and experts. This will ensure the most recent scientific understanding is taken into account and that our plans are effectively delivered.

It will also encourage public action in our communities, by individuals, organisations and communities of shared interest. Anyone with a garden can put up a nestbox. Anyone with a pet can collect groomed fur and leave it in tree hollows for birds to use it in nest building. Local authorities can manage the pruning of your hedges, ivy and shrubbery to protect nesting birds. To paraphrase E F Schumacher, small is still beautiful - and Labour believes that no-one is too small to make a difference.

PLANNING



Our planning system balances competing interests for land use, and also separately for marine planning. Labour will put the voices of local people at the heart of planning processes.

Labour will transform our economy by investing in our critical infrastructure. We need to ensure that proper account is taken of the environmental impacts. Under the Conservatives, the profit and cost of such developments always override environmental concerns, which is what has given rise to approvals for the destruction of ancient woodlands along the route of HS2, an inadequately mitigated proposal for Heathrow expansion and the imminent insect catastrophe that is risked by Tilbury Phase 2.

Labour's plans are different. We will fully integrate environmental considerations into our planning systems and develop better assessment tools to avoid environmental harm and gain biodiversity. We will establish clear mitigation standards for any unavoidable harms, including nature restoration requirements \ as projects complete.

We will ensure we meet our international obligations under the Aarhus Convention to ensure participation in environmental decision making. We will facilitate planning inquiries for major projects, undertake public consultations on planning system reforms, engage

citizens' assemblies in particularly affected localities and establish citizens' juries to examine specific issues arising.

We will review all the environmental impact assessments for development consents on land and at sea, focusing on the standards and rigour of assessments so that they can take better account of the wider environmental effects and urgency of the climate and environment emergency.

We will consult on the need for different criteria against which proposals are environmentally assessed, including responses to the question, "Does the proposal:

- disturb protected habitats or threaten protected species?
- impact significantly on air, water or soil quality?
- contribute net biodiversity gains?
- take account of predictable effects of climate change?
- involve material change to the appearance of the landscape or townscape?
- affect the number of people exposed to noise or the levels to which they're exposed?
- lead to a change in environmental or health impacts of waste management?

- change the degree of water pollution, water abstraction or exposure to floods?
- achieve carbon neutrality or contribute to carbon sequestration?

Following our public consultation and review, we aim to:

- set a revised framework of assessment quality standards
- set a corresponding structure for planning application fees
- rebalance the powers of the planning system
- improving the quality of environmental assessments
- giving local government greater freedoms to set planning fees commensurate with assessment rigour
- introducing system incentives to consider better the environmental and climate impacts of their proposals

Green Belts

The Green Belt has proven to be an effective mechanism for achieving its principal aims of restricting large urban sprawls and safeguarding the countryside from encroachment. It is an imperfect tool for environmental management but remains a considerable asset for nature, and in particular for improving access

to nature. It represents what can be achieved with an effective adaptation of our planning system.

Labour will reframe Green Belts. We will introduce a new primary purpose into the planning framework recognising the role they play in adapting to and mitigating against climate change. The policy framework will be underpinned by a new measurement of the economic and environmental benefits of the vital natural capital and ecosystem support provided by Green Belts.

Transport

Our comprehensive plans for reducing transport emissions through investments in local public transport will contribute to a cleaner environment. By improving public transport and investing more in healthier active travel forms like cycling, by supporting the transition to ultra low emission vehicles and expanding rail freight, we will help people to become less reliant on polluting forms of transport and improve air quality for our better health, for a cleaner environment.

Improved management of our roadside verges, rail lines and canal paths will provide natural corridors, including spaces for additional wildflower meadows, which provide 45% of floral biodiversity and havens for lizard species but have lost 97% of their area over the last century.

Our publicly owned rail company will



steer network investment planning to improve connectivity across the country. We will ensure the major infrastructure projects are a model of good environmental practice, taking full account of environmental impacts in routing and planning decisions and providing additional green connecting corridors stretching from across the countryside into the very heart of our cities and towns, allowing dispersal of plant and animal life.

The privatisation of our 2,000 miles of canals and rivers, together with reservoirs, has not been a great success. Although no lives have been lost in the UK as a result of a dam failure since the introduction of reservoir safety legislation there have been a number of near

misses including, most recently at Whaley Bridge. Our waterways provide homes for people, habitats for nature and connecting blue corridors essential for the network of routes underpinning our Plan for Nature. We will consult the public on returning our waterways, canals and reservoirs to transparent, accountable public management.

Housing

We urgently need more housing and by the end of the Parliament Labour will be building at least 150,000 publicly-funded, affordable homes a year, with 100,000 of these built by councils for social rent in the biggest council housebuilding programme since the 1960s. We will set up a new



English Sovereign Land Trust with powers to buy land more cheaply for low-cost housing.

The way we live requires an improved and well-resourced planning system as much as it needs quality housing standards. We will access expert ecologists and strategic planners to develop revised national guidance standards for housing developments, including flood risk assessments, net biodiversity gain assessments, species and habitat protections, climate change impacts and access for residents to green open spaces.

We will aim to ensure that home building programme delivers net biodiversity gains as well as reductions to our carbon footprint.

Labour will consult on new planning rules to stop developers building inappropriate housing in high-risk areas such as flood plains. We will instruct the Environment Agency to take a more robust approach to halting planned development where there is serious risk of flooding. We will produce a new national design guide for building housing in areas at risk of flooding, and work with house builders and councils to ensure it is implemented.

Flooding

Climate change is already having an impact on our weather systems with increased flooding and drought seen in recent years. We will need to adapt to changes which are already inevitable and imminent.

Labour will provide an extra £5.6 billion in funding to improve the standard of flood defences and respond to the increased risk of flooding, prioritising areas at risk in North West England, Yorkshire and the East Midlands that have been neglected by Conservative investments. This will increase capital spending to the amount that the Environment Agency estimates is needed to defend against the increased risk of flooding caused by global heating and will begin the upgrade of flood defences to a 0.5 per cent standard, in line with recommendations from the National Infrastructure Commission.

We will require account to be taken of the wider flooding impacts on local communities, not only the planned developments.

Waste and Recycling

As we drive the creation of new jobs in green industries, so too must we address the harms of prevailing business practises. Waste, including plastic waste, deepens our carbon footprint but also pollutes our land and seas, killing wildlife and contaminating what we eat. Litter

remains a big problem for our country. It costs local authorities £700 million a year to clean up and kills or injures thousands of animals every year.

We will introduce measures to encourage sustainable, efficient design and manufacturing processes and bring about the changes we need to reduce the waste we create, increase recycling and use the recycled materials to manufacture new products here in Britain. We will discourage our throwaway economy with measures including small scale investments like bottle return schemes and large scale investments including steel recycling plants. We will ensure that waste producers are made to pay for the costs of recycling or disposal of the waste for which they are responsible.

We will invest £4.5bn in the waste and recycling infrastructure that we need to bring about this change, including nine new plastics recycling and manufacture sites, three new steel recycling plants, fifteen anaerobic digestion sites for food recycling and capital grants to local authorities for new re-use and recycling centres.



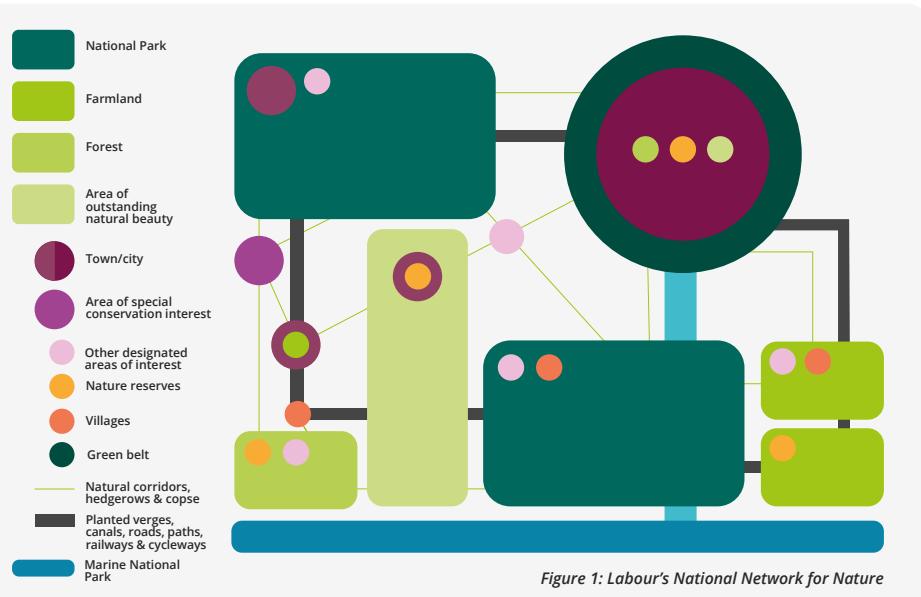
**THINKING
GLOBAL,
ACTING
LOCAL**

Local government service provision in Britain has been driven to a near collapse through the years of austerity. Labour will properly fund local councils after a decade of devastating cuts so that they can breathe new life into local communities. We will invest in our local authorities in order for them to fulfil their statutory obligations and locally determined priorities, including local environmental management responsibilities.

A Local Transformation Fund in each English region will be used exclusively to fund infrastructure projects decided at a local level. Funding for corresponding arrangements will be made available to the devolved governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Labour will establish a national framework for an ambitious Nature Recovery Network of local sites and programmes with community participation and leadership dedicated to restoring and enhancing nature.

Labour do not believe that top down decision making is the right way to engage communities or address the impact our collective lifestyle choices have on the environment. We will establish local citizens assemblies across the country to debate and establish consensus on the best ways to reduce carbon emissions associated with lifestyle choices like diet, travel and our throwaway culture and develop local nature networks which will underpin the national Networks for Nature. Local networks will need to be created to provide crucial refuges and linking



Global Ambition

Despite the best efforts of the Conservative government, the United Kingdom retains huge influence in the institutions of global governance, with the fifth largest economy in the world and a seat on the UN Security Council. Whatever the formal future relationship between the UK, its constituent nations, and the EU it is vital that we maintain close environmental co-operation and retain high environmental standards.

Labour's ambition is to return Britain to its proper place as a respected, influential, world leading beacon of good environmental practice. We will ensure natural climate solutions and effective climate change adaptations are included in DFID funding programmes. We will invest in our diplomatic capacity to deliver ambitious global climate agreements. We will champion both the ecosystem approach to land management and basic human rights, so we will add environmental good practise to the reasons we promote the rights of Chagos Islanders, indigenous Amazonians, the people of West Papua and the Western Sahara and the peoples of Arctic regions to live freely on their own lands.

We will lead the campaign for environmental justice on the international stage, including ensuring we honour the obligations of international agreements like the Biodiversity Convention's Aichi Targets, the Paris Agreement on

Climate Change and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Only Labour will rebuild Britain's leadership of the most serious threat to our shared humanity. We will rebuild our climate expertise within the Foreign Office, putting climate diplomacy at the heart of our foreign policy. We will use our influence at the UN, EU, G7, G20, World Bank and other global institutions to promote policies to tackle the climate emergency. We will use our diplomatic expertise to negotiate and deliver more ambitious global targets to deal with the climate emergency, starting with COP 26 in Glasgow next year. We cannot tackle global heating on our own. We cannot halt biodiversity loss on our own. Our international leadership will extend to the setting of global targets for biodiversity and nature restoration, to be agreed in China in 2020. Delivering ambitious actions here will give added legitimacy to our leadership role on the international stage.

We will commit to environmentally sustainable, transparent trade policies and apply these to any future trade relationships we negotiate. We will commit to a deadline to end the importation of goods that have caused deforestation.

The countries of the Global South are paying the price for a climate crisis they did not cause. Their natural environments have been ravaged by the insatiable demands of others for



our planet's finite natural resources. This is a great injustice.

Yet some world leaders, including US President Donald Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, champion a climate denial agenda and facilitate even more environmental degradation. Boris Johnson has described global warming as a "primitive fear... without foundation" and will join their cause. We will pursue agreements for an international crime of ecocide.

Labour will lead the world in a better way forward. We cannot afford not to. The cost of inaction on the environmental emergency vastly outweigh the costs of tackling it now.

LEGISLATION

We will introduce an **Environment Emergency Act** with revised standards for a healthy natural environment. The law will establish duties on public authorities to act for the recovery of nature, underpinned by ambitious targets to drive its restoration.

We will use the power of public procurement to strengthen private sector sustainable practises. We will consult on environmental due diligence obligations to reduce environmental harms in business supply chains. We will establish the Office of Environmental Protection as an independent, fully resourced watchdog with transparent governance processes and Parliamentary accountability. Labour has consistently upheld a principle that any new relationship with the EU and other trade arrangements must not undermine the progress achieved on food safety, animal welfare or environmental quality standards.

We remain fully committed and will enshrine in law non-regression of all environmental quality standards. These laws will apply to all future trade agreements.

TIMESCALES

Our Plan for Nature is ambitious in scale and will be comprehensive in its detail. It must be.

It will take time to implement in its entirety. We will need years of sustained, consistent decision making leading to real change. We will move as fast as we can for the time it takes.

We will set legally binding targets for 2030, 2040 and 2050, with the aim of reaching net zero by 2030 and full nature restoration by 2050. We have set out clear commitments for a first term, informed by the direction of travel required to meet our ambitious primary goals and the timely satisfaction of all our international obligations.

The policies laid out in our Plan for Nature represent the fastest possible way of reaching our goals according to current expert advice. We are confident that these policies, backed by the scale of our investments can make fast substantial progress towards our end goals. We will continue to revise our plans in light of scientific advice, as we make progress and new technologies emerge.

We will establish an accessible Environmental Tribunal with powers of judicial remedy to ensure that our plans for nature restoration are sustained by our government and by any others that follow.

There are 165 critically endangered species found in the United Kingdom.



The population of Atlantic puffins is now rapidly declining, along with other seabirds. Water temperature changes induced by climate change are causing a decline in plankton, the primary food of small fish like sand eels, the staple food of puffins.



The **Wart-biter Cricket** is an English folklore medical remedy, found in four naturally occurring locations across East Sussex, Dorset and Wiltshire. It has been also re-introduced in Kent but remains at risk of extinction due to loss of its habitat on heathland and chalk landscapes.



Orange Roughy is a slow maturing fish once found around the submarine seamounts in deep waters of the British Atlantic Ocean. It is now presumed that the aggregations were completely fished out eight years before the fishing prohibitions were put in place.



The **Water Vole** is the most threatened British mammal, with rapidly declining numbers. Once a common sight in Britain's waterways they have gone from 90% of sites. Public management of our waterways and canals will allow faster restoration of lost riverbank habitats.



The **Cosnard Net-Winged Beetle** is believed to be found only in the South Downs, the Forest of Dean and Wye Gorge, the net-winged beetle is threatened by a lack of deadwood in woodland habitats, habitat destruction and the altering climate.



The **Hazel Dormouse** is on the brink of extinction, with a population reduced by more than 70% in just two decades. It is still not known what is causing the decline but, just like in other species, habitat loss and climate change are believed to be driving it.



The **Tortoiseshell Butterfly** was one of our commonest butterfly species in the 20th Century but had dropped by 77% in the ten years to 2013.



Woodland habitat destruction has made the **Bechstein bat** one of the rarest bat species in Britain. There are now thought to be less than 10 breeding locations in Cornwall, Derbyshire and Wales.



Once the second most common carnivore in the UK, populations of the **Pine Marten** have declined considerably. Predation by eagles and foxes is partly to blame but the main reason is hunting and habitat destruction. Some small numbers remain northern England, and in areas of Scotland and Wales.



Image by Fritz Geller-Grimm, CC BY-SA 3.0, commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=50838311

The **New Forest Cicada** is the only cicada native to Britain. Nymphs spend around eight years underground, so it is possible there may still be some in existence but the species has not been seen or heard for two decades now. Its natural habitat was the woodland, scrub and open areas of heath and grassland in the New Forest.

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