

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
Welsh Government
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

CC: Minister for Environment, Energy & Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths

15 September 2020

Dear First Minister,

Re: Global Biodiversity Outlook

Today, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Outlook has concluded that **the international community has failed its ten-year mission to halt the loss of nature**; just as the 2019 State of Nature Report found there has been no let-up in biodiversity loss in Wales. The urgency is plain. Ahead of global biodiversity talks in China next year, inspiring leadership will be needed to secure a new agreement that can put nature on a path to recovery by 2030 and create a society that can function in harmony with nature by 2050.

We have welcomed your first-hand commitment to biodiversity specifically and to environmental protection more widely, including the Welsh Government's work on environmental growth and recent budgetary allocation for nature restoration delivery. **We now call on you to announce the Welsh Government's support for a global target to restore biodiversity, and to commit to reflecting this in domestic law.**

The Environment (Wales) Act provides a firm legislative platform for nature's recovery via an ecosystem approach; to date, however, we have not seen it drive change at the scale and pace we need to reverse nature's collapse. Statutory nature recovery targets are needed to provide this drive. In Wales, as well as at the global level, we need **an overarching target to halt environmental losses and begin to restore species populations and habitats by 2030**. This should be comprised of individual targets for increasing species abundance and distribution; reducing species' extinction risk; and targets for improving the extent and condition of wildlife-rich habitats – a framework that would align well with Wales' ecosystem approach.

A clear announcement now of your commitment to ambitious, statutory domestic targets for nature's recovery in Wales would be extremely welcome. **The UN Summit on Biodiversity on 30th September would be an ideal opportunity to announce your support for an overarching global objective to restore species and habitats, and your commitment to setting equivalent domestic targets in law.** We consider this fundamental to Wales' Green Recovery and enduring commitment to sustainable development, and strongly commend the Future Generations Commissioner's recommendation (in the ['The Future Generations Report 2020: Chapter](#)

[3 – A Resilient Wales](#)’) that: “Welsh Government should commit to large-scale habitat restoration, creation and connectivity throughout Wales, **which includes setting statutory targets for nature recovery and specific species recovery measures to help prevent extinction**”.

The global community and individual countries must open their eyes to the ecological emergency and act decisively, or all our efforts to avert climate change and create a better world will be in vain. In the year of the UK’s UNFCCC COP presidency, we hope that an agreement of a global recovery target for nature will be a precondition of success in Glasgow. **It would be impossible to meet climate change targets without restoring ecosystems.**

We welcome the Welsh Government’s work on and support for the [Edinburgh Declaration](#) which calls for bold actions to bring about transformative change to halt biodiversity loss, and emphasises the critical role of sub-national governments in delivering the post-2020 CBD framework.

The Economics of Biodiversity [Dasgupta Review](#) once again demonstrates the economic sense behind decisive early investment in nature. **With our sister Environment Links around the UK, we are writing to the leaders of all four nations to propose that the UK can help sound a wake-up call.**

We are happy to work collaboratively with the Welsh Government on this to ensure political leadership from Wales inspires action, not just here but around the world.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Phillips
Co-Chair of WEL’s Governance Group
WWF Cymru

Steve Lucas
Co-Chair of WEL’s Governance Group
Bat Conservation Trust

Annie Smith
Co-Chair of WEL’s Biodiversity Group
RSPB Cymru

Rachel Sharp
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