

Agriculture (Wales) Bill Consultation Response Size of Wales



We strongly welcome the laying of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill 2022 and the importance this Bill has to respond to the climate and nature emergency.

We are pleased to see the inclusion of indicators and targets for the objectives of the Bill, so that progress can be measured. The Bill should be amended so that each indicator is required to have at least one target. The Bill should also allow for the inclusion of composite indicators and targets, where this provides a clearer or more effective way of monitoring impact. The Bill should specify what some of these indicators should be. These should include, but not be limited to, sectoral greenhouse gas emissions, species condition and extent and/or other nature targets (as per Welsh Government's commitment to statutory nature targets), global responsibility, carbon sequestration.

Focusing on global responsibility, which is a legal obligation set out in our well-being of future generations act Wales, against the SLM objective of 'To produce food and other goods in a sustainable manner' – we want indicators and targets that address our global responsibility so that farmers produce food in a way that does not drive overseas deforestation and habitat loss. This would largely require an indicator on global responsibility and targets to ensure that farmers are not importing animal feed such as soy and palm which are driving deforestation, habitat loss and social exploitation overseas in the countries they are produced, as outlined in our [Wales and global responsibility report](#).

Context – Global Responsibility

One of the key factors driving the global climate and nature emergency is deforestation and habitat loss. The International Panel on Climate Change is clear that without our forests, we will fail to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Wales needs to play its part by changing its farming and food practices since this can drive unethical practices and environmental degradation overseas. Agriculture in Wales must uphold the goal of being a Globally Responsible Nation as defined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act for Wales.

[Wales and Global Responsibility Report](#) commissioned by Size of Wales, WWF Cymru and RSPB Cymru has for the first time provided data on the impact of inputs used in agriculture in Wales.

The key findings are:

- An area equivalent to **40% of the size of Wales (823,000 hectares) was required overseas to grow Welsh imports** of cocoa, palm, beef, leather, natural rubber, soy, timber, pulp and paper in an average year between 2011-2018.

- **30% of the land used to grow Welsh imports of commodities is in countries categorised high or very high risk for social and deforestation issues.** This means commodity supply chains supplying Wales in these countries risk deforestation, conversion of natural ecosystems and/or social issues, such as child or forced labour or abuse of Indigenous Peoples rights
- **Palm** is the commodity most likely to come from high or very high-risk countries for deforestation and social issues, followed by **soy**.
- Wales' imports **190,000 tonnes of soy** a year. Soy is mostly imported into Wales in the form of meal and beans for livestock feed (80%) of total Welsh soy imports. The Welsh poultry industry is estimated to be responsible for consuming 48% of Wales' imported soy feed for livestock, followed by dairy (20%) and sheep (19%).
- Welsh imports **51,000 tonnes of palm** a year, mostly in the form of palm kernel expeller and oilcake (53% of total), which is an ingredient in livestock feed.
- Wales imports **12,000 tonnes of beef** a year. Most beef imported into Wales is fresh or chilled (53%). The rest is frozen or in processed meat products such as corned beef. Wales has a higher proportion of its beef land footprint in Brazil compared to the rest of the UK (15% of total versus 12%). This is due to higher levels of corned beef consumption in Wales, which nearly always comes from Brazil.
- In high and very high-risk countries from which Wales is importing commodities, there are **2,800 species threatened with extinction** such as the northern tiger.
- The **green house gas emissions (GHG)** associated with the conversion of natural ecosystems and changes in land cover for the production of Welsh imports of soy, cocoa, palm and natural rubber total **1.5 million tonnes CO₂e each year**. This is equivalent to 4% of Wales' total estimated domestic and imported goods carbon footprint, or 22% of the GHG emissions from transport in Wales.

Key actions for Welsh Government to be globally responsible

- Account for and report on the significant greenhouse gas emissions caused by Wales overseas as a result of the deforestation and habitat loss associated with Welsh imports of commodities.
- Support Welsh farmers to eliminate imported livestock feed that is linked to deforestation overseas and design the Sustainable Farming Scheme so that it incentivises farmers to adopt nature and climate friendly farming methods, such as organic, agroecological or agroforestry systems.
- Design the imminent Community Food Strategy so that it both drives and rewards local sustainable Farm & Fishing to Fork supply chains and prioritises only sustainable goods from overseas to support livelihoods at home and abroad.

For further information, please contact

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