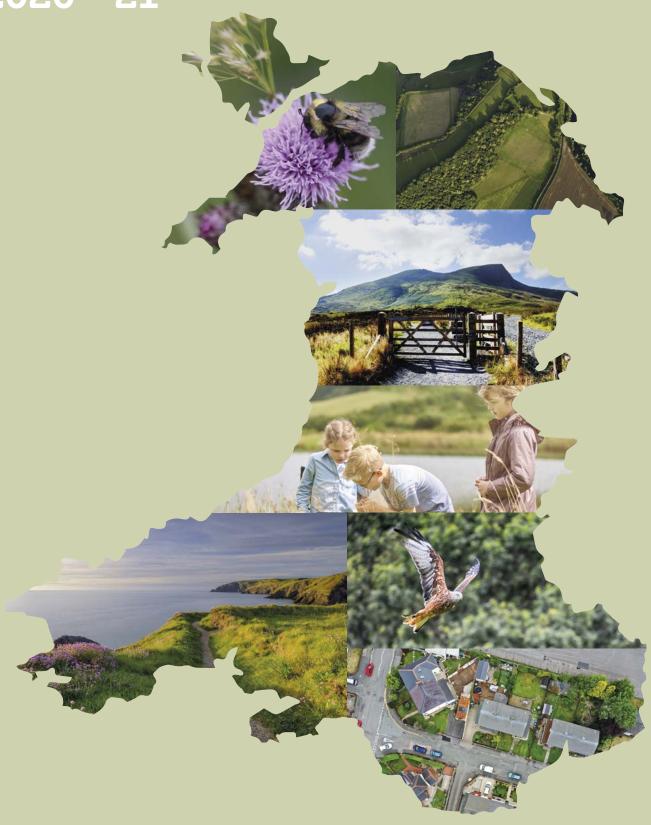# The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales

2020 - 21

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Summary

2019 was a turning point in recognising the escalating nature emergency and stepping up action for biodiversity. Wales also declared a climate emergency.

The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales has been refreshed to take into account the growing evidence around the scale of the loss of biodiversity and the changing policy context in Wales. This includes the legislative framework and the Natural Resources Policy, the expected impacts of our exit from the EU, the escalating ecological crisis and the need to respond urgently to that alongside the response to the climate emergency.

The Coronavirus pandemic of 2020 has placed fresh emphasis on the need to clarify the urgent priorities for biodiversity and a green recovery.

The refreshed plan has 5 themes for action:

Maintaining and Enhancing Resilient Ecological Networks – <u>spatial</u> action to deliver benefits for biodiversity, species and habitats, avoid negative impacts and maximise our well-being.

The refreshed plan reflects the need for action to build resilient ecological networks across our whole land and seascape to safeguard species and habitats and the benefits they provide, addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss, and targeting interventions to help species recover where necessary.

Increasing Knowledge and Knowledge Transfer; Realising new Investment and funding; Upskilling and capacity for delivery; Mainstreaming, Governance and Reporting our Progress – <u>transformative</u> action to influence behaviour and investment decisions to ensure we maintain and enhance biodiversity.

The plan identifies the urgency of recognising and valuing biodiversity in our accounting and decision making across sectors and portfolios, and demonstrating that value through support for skills and capacity and governance.

Actions address the need to improve our evidence and monitoring for the long term, and to understand the role that nature plays in our lives, livelihoods and well-being.

Current funded actions underway by multiple partners across Wales have been collated in a SMART delivery plan which will be monitored and reviewed annually.

Within the themes, 5 immediate priorities have been identified for further action:

- ➢ Aligning the responses to the climate emergency with the biodiversity crisis
- ➢ Addressing the post EU exit funding gap for agri-environment measures
- ➢ Providing spatial direction for targeting action for biodiversity
- ➢ Improving the condition of the Protected Sites Network
- ➢ Exploring new and sustainable funding mechanisms for biodiversity action.

The original 2015 Strategy for Nature will remain in place until it is realigned to address the post 2020 framework for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, with these refreshed themes guiding action through this transitional phase.

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Annex 2 – Summary of the content of the NRAP delivery plan – programmes, projects and identified gaps, including:

Table 1: NRAP Themes for Action and delivery plan content 2020 - 21

1. Introduction

The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales[1] was originally published in December 2015 as the Nature Recovery Plan. It sets out how the United Nations Environment Programme's Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011-20 in Wales[2] would be addressed, and is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Wales under Aichi target 17.

Part 1: Our Strategy for Nature, sets out the commitment to reversing the loss of biodiversity in Wales, and the objectives for action.

It contains our ambition:

'To reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society'

and our objectives, to:

1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.

2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

Part 2: Our Action Plan set out those actions which had been specifically identified to meet our objectives to reverse the decline of biodiversity.

Part 3: The Nature Recovery Framework sets out the governance and partnerships involved in nature recovery in Wales, and the relationships between them.

While the ambition and the objectives of the 2015 Strategy still stand, the Part 2 action plan needed to be reviewed and re-organised to provide focus and prioritisation within a fast changing policy context and the emerging ecological crisis.

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[1] Originally named the Nature Recovery Plan for Wales, it was renamed to avoid confusion with the Natural Resources Policy published in 2016.
[2] Convention on Biological Diversity - Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including Aichi Biodiversity Targets

2. The current context - evidence, priorities, Welsh Government objectives and reporting obligations

In developing the post 2020 framework for the CBD's Strategic Plan to 2050 it has been acknowledged that very few of the 2020 Aichi targets have been achieved and that biodiversity is still in decline.

The 2019 report on biodiversity and ecosystems from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)[3] described the loss of biodiversity as a threat of equal size to the climate emergency.

NRW's interim State of Natural Resources Report[4] reflects the international position:

'Climate change is driving species to move location. Arctic-alpine species within mountain habitats could disappear from Wales as their habitats are lost. Where coastal plants and wildlife cannot move inland, sea-level rise and increased land erosion could lead to widespread loss. The number and range of invasive non-native species is likely to increase with the changing climate.

Environmental pressures are causing global biodiversity declines at rates not previously encountered in human history. The rate of species extinctions is accelerating.

Nature plays an essential role in providing food, energy, medicines and genetic resources. The ecosystem services resilient habitats provide - like flood defence and carbon dioxide removal - will also be lost.

If changes aren't made now, losses of biodiversity and the negative impact on nature's benefits to people will continue.'

In Wales, although positive steps have been made and some notable species are recovering, the loss of biodiversity continues.

The First Minister made biodiversity and environmental growth a top priority for his delivery over the remainder of this Assembly term, declaring a climate emergency in April 2019.

Commitments have been made by Welsh Ministers to a green-led recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, to tackle the climate emergency and reverse the decline in biodiversity[5].

There will also be a need to address the post EU exit governance gap to secure core environmental principles and robust governance for the environment and biodiversity. Britain's exit from the EU is also driving the future farming policy and new support for a Sustainable Farming Scheme.

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[3] **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**
[4] https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/state-of-natural-resources-interim-report-2019/?lang=en
[5] For example, see *https://gov.wales/planning-policy-covid-19-recovery*

The Convention on Biological Diversity's post 2020 framework for delivery to 2030 is also under development and will set out goals and targets to reverse the decline in biodiversity. The NRAP will need to be realigned to address these and remain responsive to the evidence and framework emerging from that process, postponed to the end of 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. <u>Taking an integrated approach – how action for biodiversity is delivered in Wales and where the NRAP fits in</u>

In Wales international best practice, to take an ecosystem approach to reverse the decline of biodiversity, is embedded into key legislation. The Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act 2015 sets out goals including the Resilient Wales goal for public bodies and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets out the objective, principles and framework for the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR).

These Acts aim to address the root causes of biodiversity loss and embed the value and importance of biodiversity throughout public service delivery:

►For Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales delivery of the SMNR framework – the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), the Natural Resources Policy (NRP), and the Area Statements – is the high level context for action to address biodiversity decline.

The NRP priorities are the current national priorities for our natural resources, for everyone to take action. They support the integration of biodiversity into decision making across Welsh Government and local delivery through area statements.

The priorities are:

- delivering nature based solutions;
- increasing resource efficiency and renewable energy and
- taking a place based approach.

Area statements provide a local evidence base to help implement these priorities, and the risks and opportunities identified in the Natural Resources Policy.

Other organisations, from public bodies to NGOs to local community groups, can use the area statements to help identify key actions they may wish to deliver, and Public Service Boards will use these to help them assess the well-being of their area.

►For public bodies subject to the WFG Act, achieving the Resilient Wales goal alongside the six other well-being goals should drive delivery of action for biodiversity.

►For public authorities subject to the section 6 biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty under the Environment (Wales) Act, maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in the exercise of their functions should drive the mainstreaming of action into public service delivery.

This legislation is starting to deliver action[6,7] however targeted action is still needed, and many other partners and organisations are critical to the success of action for the recovery of nature. Everybody has a role to play.

4. **The refresh of the NRAP**

Part 2 of NRAP was refreshed during 2019 to:

- Integrate and reflect the Welsh Government's Natural Resources Policy (NRP) published after NRAP in 2017

- Better align the action plan with the current context – latest evidence, priorities, Welsh Government's objectives and reporting obligations

- Include a wider range of stakeholder actions on biodiversity and improve the structure of the delivery plan to make it SMARTer.

- Identify further action needed to address each of the themes, both in the urgent short term and the longer term. These actions were assessed with reference to a set of criteria, to prioritise them with regard to urgency and impact.

Annex 1 shows an overview of the Refresh process, including the criteria used to assess the urgent priorities and further actions needed.

5. **Structure and content of the refreshed NRAP**

During the NRAP refresh a series of game-changers were identified, recognising that to recover nature we must:

- build resilient ecological networks and mosaics across our whole land and seascape to safeguard species and habitats and the benefits they provide

- address the root causes of biodiversity loss, not just the symptoms

- understand the role that nature plays in our lives, livelihoods and well-being

- invest in improving our evidence and monitoring for the long term

- recognise and value biodiversity in our accounting and decision making across sectors and portfolios

- demonstrate the value we place on biodiversity through governance, and support for skills and capacity

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[6] https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-01/implementation-of-the-natural-resources-policy-snapshot-report.pdf

[7] Examples of section 6 duty reports can be found at https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Biodiversity-Duty-Reporting

To respond to the game-changers, the urgent context, and the IPBES report, NRAP actions have been grouped into five themes which together address one or more of the NRAP objectives.

➤ **Maintaining and Enhancing Resilient Ecological Networks**

– targeted place-based <u>spatial</u> action to deliver benefits for biodiversity, species and habitats, reduce negative impacts and maximise our well-being.

➤ **Increasing Knowledge and Knowledge Transfer,**
➤ **Realising new Investment and funding,**
➤ **Upskilling and capacity for delivery,**
➤ **Mainstreaming, Governance and Reporting our Progress**

– <u>transformative</u> action to influence behaviour and take investment decisions to ensure we maintain and enhance biodiversity.

For each theme of action there are several groups of actions to achieve an outcome, see Annex 2 (Table 1).

The actions currently underway to address each of these have been collated into a detailed delivery plan including further SMART information, including timescales and funding, in a spreadsheet format.

6. <u>Identifying the gaps and urgent short term actions</u>

The refresh process also highlighted continuing gaps in delivery for biodiversity action. This was not an exhaustive process and will be kept under review. However, the five immediate and urgent identified priorities are:

➤ Aligning the responses to the climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis

There is a need to highlight the nature emergency and align it with the response to the climate emergency. Nature based solutions are key to addressing both issues. For example, clear messages are needed to ensure tree planting is in the right place to maximise biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

➤ Addressing the post EU exit funding gap for agri-environment measures.

While the proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme should deliver biodiversity outcomes, a new scheme remains several years away. There is a need to respond more urgently to the needs for agri-environment action, built in collaboration with the farming community.

➤ Providing spatial direction for action for biodiversity.

Resilient ecological networks are needed everywhere to create mosaics across Wales, but further identification of 'core resilience areas' is needed in which to prioritise action. Area Statements provide some of the baseline for this, but further 'opportunity mapping' needs to be developed.

➤ Improving the condition of the Protected Sites Network

Protected sites are at the heart of resilient ecological networks and restoration of the Natura 2000 (N2K) sites across Wales to favourable conservation status is key to reversing the decline in biodiversity.

➢ Exploring new and sustainable funding mechanisms

This priority recognises the urgent need to find more sustainable funding mechanisms, including accessible revenue funding for capacity. This priority has become even more pressing following the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Action to address these priorities has begun to be identified and taken forward through the NRAP Implementation Group, Covid recovery groups and across wider policy mechanisms. Agreed and funded action will be added to the NRAP delivery plan.

Further identified areas for **urgent short term action** include:

- Working with developers to enact Planning Policy and demonstrate progress
- Building delivery capacity and skills across all sectors
- Ramping up landscape scale nature projects

The need for **urgent but longer term actions** was also identified to include**:**

- Environmental education to connect people and nature in a lifelong way,
- Continuing to tackle Invasive Non Native Species,
- Exploring and developing new biodiversity valuation techniques e.g. valuation through the Green Book for Wales

Priority actions will be monitored, kept under review and escalated as necessary.

7. **How is the NRAP governed?**

The NRAP Implementation Group maintains oversight of the NRAP and its delivery. However as biodiversity is mainstreamed and embedded into action across wider sectors there is a need to review its role, governance and membership to:

➢ identify and develop more collaborative and cost-effective ways of promoting nature recovery i.e. mainstreaming biodiversity;

➢ promote greater ownership, including funding, of actions by the whole community including business, land owners and the general public; by other sectors

➢ develop new ways of working that move away from a reliance on short-term project funding (focused on specific species) to longer-term sustainable practices;

A review of the Nature Recovery Framework and Terms of Reference for the Implementation Group will be undertaken to ensure they are effective to achieve these aims.

Annex 1: Overview of the NRAP Refresh

Nature Recovery Plan 2015

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to address the CBD Strategic Plan and Aichi targets:

Objectives:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.

Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management.

Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.

Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats.

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.

Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.

NRAP refresh 2019

Policy drivers:

-Natural Resources Policy and national priorities:

  -Delivering nature based solutions.

  -Increased resource efficiency and renewable energy.

  -Place based approaches.

-Exit from the EU.

-Declaration of climate emergency and escalation of the nature crisis

-Developing the post 2020 Convention of Biological Diversity framework

Evidence drivers:

-IPBES global assessment.

-State of Natural Resources Report.

-UK biodiversity indicators.

-State of Nature and interim SoNaRR.

2020-21 themes of action

NB. These themes meet multiple NRAP objectives.

Maintaining and Enhancing Resilient Ecological Networks (nature networks).

Increasing Knowledge and Knowledge Transfer.

Realising new Investment and funding.

Upskilling and capacity for delivery.

Governance, Mainstreaming and Reporting our Progress.

Implementation Group review criteria for urgent action

- Urgent/cliff edge – reflects current situation.

- Far reaching, Wales wide scale.

- Action oriented – there is something the NRAP Implementation Group can impactfully act on.

- Builds capacity and innovation for the sector, including through collaboration.

- Addresses evidence based top pressures.

- Focussed on enhancing ecosystem resilience delivering multiple benefits.

- Empowering and enthusing.

Identifies urgent priorities

Aligning the responses to the climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis.

Addressing the post EU exit funding gap for agri-environment measures.

Providing spatial direction for action for biodiversity.

Improving the Protected Sites Network condition.

Exploring new and sustainable funding mechanisms.

Immediate actions to take forward:

- Communication and engagement plan and key messages.

- Promotion of Nature based Solutions to address both climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as providing multiple benefits.

- Co-production work on Sustainable Farming Scheme development.

- Opportunity mapping for habitat networks.

- Area statements.

- N2K SMS funding and longer term pipeline.

- Re-establish a Payment for Ecosystem Services Plus group

- Covid 19 Green recovery financial resilience plans.

- Biodiversity Taskforce.

Annex 2 – Summary of the content of the NRAP delivery plan – programmes, projects and identified gaps

During the NRAP refresh currently funded action contributing to the NRAP objectives across Wales and by multiple partners, were collated and grouped within the themes of action.

This list of currently funded actions is contained in the NRAP delivery plan, a master spreadsheet, together with details of funding, timescales, outputs and monitoring. This delivery plan is not yet exhaustive and collation of actions will continue, providing a more complete picture of current action, funding and impact.

The delivery plan will be reviewed annually and further gaps in delivery will be identified and escalated to be addressed.

A monitoring framework will be put in place alongside the delivery plan.

Examples of the actions contained in the delivery plan are grouped and listed as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: NRAP Themes for Action and delivery plan content 2020 - 21

Refreshed Action for Biodiversity and Nature Recovery in Wales:	SPATIAL ACTION
 - To achieve our ambition '*to reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society*' - To focus action on priority themes to achieve the objectives of the Nature Recovery Action for Plan for Wales	**Maintaining and Enhancing Resilient Ecological Networks (nature networks)** (to reverse the decline in biodiversity and adapt to climate change) - Restoring and maintaining the Protected Site network - Restoring and creating habitat outside protected sites to build nature networks and mosaics - Maintaining and enhancing species of principal importance for Wales - Addressing direct pressures on Resilient Ecological Networks e.g. pollution, climate change and Invasive Non-Native Species - Maintaining and improving the spatial evidence base for the state and distribution of biodiversity in Wales - Identifying and sharing the spatial priorities for action

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION		
Increasing Knowledge and Knowledge Transfer - Establishing the case for action and policy development - Tracking change and trends - Raising awareness through communications, campaigns and providing advice and guidance - Utilising Knowledge Transfer mechanisms to raise awareness and share key messages - Enhancing people's physical connection to nature	**Realising New Investment and Funding** - Realising and increasing private investment - Mobilising cross-sectoral public funding **Upskilling and Capacity for Delivery** - Increasing capacity to deliver action for biodiversity - Improving biodiversity capability, training and skills	**Mainstreaming, Governance, and Reporting our Progress** - Mainstreaming biodiversity across policy and decision-making - Improving governance and transparency for biodiversity action - Contributing to UK and global policy and delivery

SPATIAL ACTION

Theme: Maintaining and Enhancing Resilient Ecological Networks (nature networks)

Resilient ecological networks are vital for nature recovery. They are networks of habitat in good ecological condition linking protected sites and other biodiversity hotspots across the wider landscape, providing maximum benefit for biodiversity and well-being.   Such nature networks have existing or potential for healthy resilient ecosystems which provide a range of important ecosystem services as well as allowing the movement of species across landscapes in response to climate change. These networks should be **diverse**, of sufficient scale and **extent**, in good functional **condition** and part of **connected** mosaics, to enable species and habitats to **adapt** to disturbance and change.

Resilient ecological networks are key to delivery for biodiversity and climate change, and nature based solutions to address both challenges should contribute wherever possible to maintaining and enhancing these nature networks.

- **Restoring and maintaining the Protected Site network**

Projects and programmes include:
- o Special Sites Programme, including implementing SAC Thematic Action Plans, and management of SSSIs
- o Marine Protected Areas – network management
- o Completing the Marine Protected Sites Network
- o Delivering the MPA management action plan
- o Sustainable Management Scheme Projects
- o LIFE Projects

Further action is needed to:

- ensure protected sites achieve favourable conservation status across the whole network.

- **Restoring and creating habitat outside protected sites to build nature networks and mosaics**

Programmes and projects include:
- o Marine Action Plan
- o Land Use Planning system
- o 'Green Corridors on the Welsh Government Trunk Road and Motorway' Initiative
- o Habitat creation e.g. seagrass project,
- o Peatland programme,
- o Management of the Welsh Government Woodland Estate
- o Glastir Schemes
- o Local Nature Partnership projects
- o River basin management plans
- o River restoration projects
- o Bee Friendly and Local Places for Nature projects
- o NRW Place-based catchment scale habitat improvement projects
- o Fish Habitat Restoration Plans
- o B-Lines

Further action is needed to:

- deliver more landscape scale projects and projects to link terrestrial and marine habitats
- ensure greater coverage across Wales – leading to mosaics of resilient ecosystems
- ensure delivery of nature networks through the Sustainable Farming scheme and the National Forest

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- **Maintaining and enhancing species of principal importance for Wales for their intrinsic value and to ensure the resilience of ecosystems**

Programmes and projects include:

- o NRW Protected species work/programmes
- o NGO species action, including action for Butterflies, Birds, Bats, Plants, mammals, invertebrates
- o Curlew UK LIFE bid stage 2
- o Implementing new salmonid fisheries byelaws and progressing the Plan of Action for salmon and sea trout
- o Back from the Brink ENRaW project
- o Emergency action programmes e.g. for Curlew, Angel Shark
- o Action Plan for Pollinators actions
- o Red Squirrel Conservation Plan for Wales
- o Glastir Advanced targeted species actions
- o Acorn Antic campaign

Further action is needed to:

- Complete the section 7 review of species and habitats of principal importance for Wales
- Step up action for insects

- **Addressing direct pressures on Resilient Ecological Networks e.g. pollution, climate change and Invasive Non-Native Species**

Programmes and projects include:

- o EIA (Agriculture) Regs
- o WBP INNS Group actions
- o Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme in Wales
- o Pesticide Policy
- o PestSmart
- o Abandoned mine waters project
- o Wales Resilient Ecological Network (WaREN) Project 2
- o Deer impact management
- o Plant Health Inspection and Regulation
- o *Phytophthera ramorum* Strategy actions
- o Action Oak
- o Observatree
- o Grey Squirrel Management Action Plan (GSMAP)
- o Clean seas partnership

Further action is needed to:

- Increase delivery to tackle INNS

- **Maintaining and improving the spatial evidence base for the distribution and state of biodiversity in Wales**

Programmes and projects include:

- o Marine surveillance and monitoring
- o National terrestrial surveillance and monitoring schemes: birds, bats, butterflies, plants

- o Citizen science projects
- o Forest Research - National Forest Inventory - Forest Condition measurement tool
- o Important Plant Areas
- o UK Seas programme
- o LERCs ad hoc records and data mobilisation
- o ERAMMP
- o NRW protected sites baseline condition assessment
- o National Trust survey system
- o ENRaW monitoring data,
- o Marine Monitoring programme

Further action is needed to:

- Mobilise developers' data

- **Identifying and sharing the spatial priorities for action**

Programmes and projects include:

- o Area Statements
- o National Development Framework
- o Green Infrastructure Assessments
- o Atlas of Living Wales
- o Glastir spatial evidence
- o Forest Resource plans to identify woodland and other habitats and connectivity via rides, riparian zones

Further action is needed to:

- build on Area Statements to identify national level priorities for resilient ecological networks, through opportunity mapping and to ensure the right thing in the right place

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TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

Theme: Increasing Knowledge and Knowledge Transfer

This theme is about understanding what is happening to biodiversity more widely and the role of resilient ecological networks, building the case for action and encouraging behaviour change. It also about increasing the awareness of biodiversity and its importance, both through communications and practical actions.

- **Establishing and maintaining the case for action and policy development**

Programmes and projects include:

- o The State of Natural Resources Report
- o State of Nature
- o Marine science programme
- o Science and Innovation Strategy - Forest Research
- o Environment Platform Wales
- o National Forest Inventory
- o RBMPs (WFD)

- o Planning Policy Wales
- o Ecosystems resilience and restoration T and F group
- o NGO/Academic research partnerships
- o BEERN project
- o Wales INNS Portal
- o Wales Resilient Ecological Network (WaREN) Project 1
- o Plant Pests And diseases UK co-ordination
- o Engagement with Defra R and D programme

Further action is needed to:

- Highlight the nature emergency and align it with the response to the climate emergency. For example, clear messages are needed to ensure tree planting for climate change mitigation is not to the detriment of biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

- **Tracking change and trends through monitoring and indicators**

Programmes and projects include:

- o WFG National Indicators
- o UK Biodiversity Indicator,
- o Developing SoNaRR indicators
- o Woodlands for Wales indicators
- o SMS Project Key Performance Indicators
- o Sentinel Sites Project for plant health
- o SSSI Baseline Evaluation Project

Further action is needed to:

- fund a Protected Sites Terrestrial Monitoring Programme
- identify a consistent and comprehensive set of NRAP measures

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- **Raising awareness through communications, campaigns and providing advice and guidance**

Programmes and projects include:

- o Section 6 Task and Finish group guidance
- o Biodiversity and Planning Forum
- o NRW/IG members representation on Public Service Boards
- o WEL species champions project
- o Wales Nature Week
- o Plant & Tree Health at Royal Welsh Show and others
- o International Year of Plant Health 2020
- o National Plant Health Week
- o Don't risk it campaign
- o Wales Land Management Forum (WLMF) Sub-Group on Agricultural Pollution

Further action is needed to:

- Work with developers to enact Planning Policy and demonstrate progress

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- **Utilising Knowledge Transfer mechanisms to raise awareness and share key messages**

Programmes and projects include:

- o Farm Liaison Service and Farming Connect actions
- o WBP website and Local Nature Partnerships
- o Ecoschools
- o Bee Friendly scheme
- o WBP/Nature recovery conference
- o Marine Planning Portal
- o SMS Projects
- o UK Forest Standard website
- o National Forest stakeholder engagement

Further action is needed to:

- Consider building a consortium to deliver ecological advice
- Improve environmental education to connect people and nature in a lifelong way

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- **Enhancing people's physical connection to nature**

Programmes and projects include:

- o Visitor centres
- o Outdoor learning
- o Bee Friendly Scheme
- o Lake Vyrnwy Experience Project

- o Natural Explorers
- o South Stack Visitor Centre redevelopment
- o Giving Nature a Home

Further action is needed to:

- Increase environmental education to connect people and nature in a lifelong way

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Theme: Realising new Investment and Funding

This theme is about the proper valuation of biodiversity for our well-being, and the link to levering in new sources of public and private investment, as part of mainstreaming biodiversity delivery.

- **Realising and increasing private investment**

Programmes and projects include:

- o Peatland and woodland codes
- o NGO partnerships with private sector e.g. Iceland, Coke, Tesco
- o IUCN contract
- o SMS and ENRaW projects with central PES levering ambitions
- o National Forest

Further action is needed to:

- explore mechanisms to enable private funds to be used to supplement public funds through the Sustainable Farming Scheme, and ensure the sustainable farm reviews account for the value of biodiversity

- trial/pilot integrated valuation methods in the Welsh context

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- **Mobilising cross-sectoral public funding**

Programmes and projects include:

  - National Lottery Heritage Fund
  - Welsh Government cross government funding for biodiversity – strategic budgeting process

Further action is needed to:

- Develop valuation tools for public service delivery to account for long term value of biodiversity and 'biodiversity footprint' or develop a Green Book for Wales
- Sustainability Risk Assessment for public procurement to account for biodiversity
- EMFF replacement scheme

Theme: Upskilling and capacity for delivery

This theme is about ensuring Wales has the capacity and capability to deliver for biodiversity.

- **Increasing capacity to deliver action for biodiversity**

Programmes and projects include:

- NRW sponsorship
- Wales Biodiversity Partnership sponsorship
- ENRaW project funding, particularly Local Nature Partnerships Cymru
- SMS project funding

Further action is needed to:

- ensure the SFS is sufficiently resourced to support farmers and other land managers to work in different ways

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- **Improving biodiversity capability, training and skills**

Programmes and projects include:

- Forestry apprenticeship pilot
- Bright Futures
- ENRaW project funding e.g. Local Nature Partnerships Cymru
- SMS project Funding
- Curriculum Reform
- Tyfu Project
- LERC's support for volunteer County recorders

Further action is needed to:

- Address the loss of capacity and ecological expertise in Wales
- Upskill to deliver proposals for farmer self-assessment towards delivering environmental outcomes for SFS

- Increase environmental education to connect people and nature in a lifelong way

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Theme: Governance, Mainstreaming and Reporting our Progress

This theme reflects the need to increase the traction of biodiversity action and its transparency across government and sectors. It contributes to raising public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the volume and breadth of action across all sectors in Wales.

- **Mainstreaming biodiversity across policy and decision-making**

Programmes and projects include:

- o Implementation and evaluation of the section 6 duty across the public sector
- o WG's Biodiversity Taskforce

Further action is needed to:

- Mainstream biodiversity delivery across sectors
- Provide a clear governance structure linked to government delivery mechanisms
- Ensure awards and accreditation schemes are fit for purpose to maintain and enhance biodiversity

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- **Improving governance and transparency for biodiversity action across Wales**

Programmes and projects include:

- o WG's Biodiversity Programme
- o Post EU Environmental Governance and Principles work

Further action is needed to:

- Produce a dedicated Nature Recovery annual report, using traffic light system– RAG, milestones recognising time lags
- Refresh the Nature Recovery Framework
- Align and update the NRAP alongside the CBD post 2020 framework

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- **Contributing to UK and global policy and delivery**

Programmes and projects include:

- o UK 4 Countries Biodiversity Group
- o UK biodiversity framework
- o Regions4

Further action is needed to:

- Contribute Welsh policy and case studies to the development of global biodiversity policy

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