



**WE ARE URGING THE PRIME MINISTER, AND THE ENTIRE UK GOVERNMENT, TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE AND LEAD THE WORLD ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE:**

**LEAD ON THE WORLD STAGE:**

**Climate: Take unprecedented action to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees**

1.5°C is a critical threshold. An increase in the earth's average temperature of more than this amounts to 'code red for humanity,' according to the world's leading climate scientists. It will be the point at which some of the climate impacts we already see today begin to go from bad to out of control, and many natural systems begin to cross dangerous points of no return, triggering lasting changes to life as we know it .

The further we go past 1.5°C, the worse it gets. Billions of people will be affected by extreme heat, drought, flooding and storms. Hundreds of millions will be forced from their homes. Unprecedented pressure will be put on basic supplies, with millions exposed to the knock-on effects of instability and poverty.

However, despite political statements and action to date, the world is not on track to slow climate change. The current climate plans submitted, known as National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and mid-century net-zero targets are estimated to lead to a temperature rise of 2.4°C by the end of the century.

As President of COP26, the UK has a historical opportunity to increase global ambition to bring forward more ambitious NDCs. The UK has already submitted theirs and while it is reasonably ambitious, [they could do even better](#) and should push other countries, as host of the summit, to follow suit

It is also essential that the UK Government publishes well ahead of COP26 a long-term net-zero strategy that reduces emissions fast enough to be compatible with 1.5°C, urges other countries to do the same, and pushes for an agreement at COP26 that specifically targets 1.5°C.

**Nature: Rapidly escalate the protection and restoration of nature globally**

Climate change has brought changes to all types of animal and plant life on every continent. Higher temperatures can shift the suitable range for species, disrupt the timing of their life cycle, and increase the frequency and intensity of extreme events that directly affect their



natural habitats. We have now entered a sixth mass extinction, and climate change is accelerating the crisis.

Many species cannot cope with the current rate of climate change, especially when their resilience has already been reduced by habitat destruction, overexploitation, disease, pollution and competition from invasive species. The UN estimates that one million species are threatened with extinction globally, many in the coming decades.

The climate crisis is not simply about the disappearance of certain animals and plants from particular places, but about profound changes to ecosystems that provide vital services to hundreds of millions of people. Half of the world's warm-water coral reefs have already been lost, with impacts on other marine life and coastal communities.

In the UK, the ranges of many species, including birds, butterflies, moths and dragonflies, have already shifted northwards over the last four decades. But often species are unable to move because their habitat is too rare or fragmented, or too hard to reach because they face natural or human-made barriers.

The climate and nature crises are two sides of the same coin. By protecting and restoring nature, transforming our agricultural systems, and rethinking the way we use our land, we can tackle these twin crises, limit warming, and create better lives for future generations. As the UK prepares to host COP26, where world leaders will decide the course of action for our planet, we must seize this chance to build a greener, fairer future – one with nature at its heart.

An important step towards this would be to ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of land and of sea globally - especially areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people - are conserved and protected from conversion and degradation. That needs to go hand in hand with protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to their lands and waters.

**People:** Significantly increase international financial support to communities on the frontline of the climate crisis to adapt to climate change and manage loss and damage.

\$100bn per year in climate finance for five years, starting in 2020 was promised to developing countries in 2009 but has yet to be realised. These resources are intended to



support developing countries to build resilience to climate impacts, protect nature, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and align their development pathways to net-zero carbon futures.

Ahead of COP26, it is vital that this promise is fulfilled and major emitters need to step up and put money on the table and, as agreed, earmark 50% of that funding specifically to help developing countries adapt to climate change impacts that they are already experiencing and build resilience for future impacts.

Alongside the \$100bn in climate finance, additional funding is needed to help countries deal with the climate change impacts that are already 'locked in' and can't be prevented. Addressing 'Loss and damage' needs to be a key principle for all countries and is already experienced, for example, by many small island states and countries that are particularly exposed to climate change. It is vital that COP26 makes progress on loss and damage, by establishing a separate workstream and providing specific funding that is new, additional to existing climate finance commitments, and additional to current overseas aid pledges - to avoid stretching resources too thinly.

## LEAD BY EXAMPLE

### **Climate: Stop new fossil fuel projects at home and abroad, and make all UK finance decisions support your climate commitments**

In order to keep 1.5 Degrees within reach, it is vital that fossil fuels remain in the ground. This includes proposed new developments in the UK - especially a coal mine in Whitehaven, and oil drilling in both the North Atlantic (Cambo) and Surrey.

It also means making sure money flowing through the UK does not support fossil fuel projects. We are asking the UK government to regulate to ensure all **UK financial institutions** adopt and implement transition plans to **align with the 1.5°C goal** in the Paris Agreement, extending across all its global practices, and introduce a **net-zero test** into government spending to ensure overall UK government recovery spending is aligned with Paris Agreement

### **Nature: Urgently rescue carbon stores like ancient peat and woodland and set strict targets in law to begin to reverse nature loss by 2030.**

The UK's natural environment is special, and it is our biggest domestic ally in dealing with climate change. We need to ensure that, by 2030, **30%** of UK land is managed primarily for



nature, and is **protected** in perpetuity for that purpose, and that 30% of UK seas are fully or highly protected.

The **Environment Bill** is currently going through parliament and there is still time for MPs to strengthen it with legally enforceable targets to restore and enhance UK nature, including vital natural assets like ancient peat and woodland. There should be a clear commitment to halt and begin to reverse the decline of UK nature by 2030 at the very latest, and a target to reduce the UK's global environmental footprint to ensure we do not shift our impact to other countries.

**People: Spearhead the long-term economic recovery from COVID-19 by investing to create 1.8 million green jobs in renewable energy, green homes, clean transport and nature protection in the next 3 years.**

The shift to net zero is a huge economic opportunity - it can boost manufacturing, create new jobs and supply chains, insulate homes, reduce energy bills and improve public transport. With the right strategy, we can improve quality of life, boost livelihoods and reduce bills for millions of people in the UK.

In particular, we are asking the government to:

- Build on the promise to phase out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030 by significantly increasing investment in public transport, walking, and cycling to at least £10bn per year. We also need to reassess pledged funding for new roads in light of our climate obligations and consider a frequent flier levy to contain demand for regular flying.
- Meet the manifesto pledge to fund a long-term, large-scale home insulation programme that prioritises those living in fuel poverty. This includes investing an additional £8.2bn in energy efficiency and £5.5bn in heat-pump deployment until 2025, and learning lessons from the Green Homes Grant by creating a new financing scheme that works for people and businesses and uses positive financial incentives.
- Invest £100bn in Net Zero over the lifetime of this Parliament to create 1.8 million new, secure and good quality **green jobs**, stimulate the green transition and boost the UK's competitiveness. This should include creating 250,000 green apprenticeships and a pilot National Nature Service.