



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T 03459 335577
[defra.helpline@defra.gov](mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk)
[.uk](http://www.gov.uk/defra)
www.gov.uk/defra
11 November 2021

Baroness Parminter
Chair
Environment and Climate Change Committee,
House of Lords,
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Baroness Parminter

Re: COP15 – The UN Biodiversity Conference

Thank you for your letter of 22 July 2021 regarding the Committee's inquiry into COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and for the chance to appear before you earlier this year to give evidence to that inquiry.

As the Committee has rightly stated, we are at a critical moment for addressing biodiversity loss, with biodiversity continuing to decline at an unprecedented rate. Although globally we failed to achieve the Aichi biodiversity targets adopted by Parties to the CBD in 2011, we do still have an opportunity to reverse this trend and preserve those species and ecosystems essential for life on Earth. Since I spoke to the Committee earlier this year, China has announced that it will host COP15 as a two-part Summit. The first part took place in a hybrid format from 11 to 15 October 2021, with Part 2 scheduled to take place in person from 25 April to 8 May 2022.

When the 196 Parties to the CBD come together again next spring, we must adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will set us on a path to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and achieve the CBD's 2050 Vision of 'living in harmony with nature'. This Government remains committed to playing a leading role in developing that transformative framework and is supportive of ambitious global targets to bend the curve of biodiversity loss by 2030. This includes targets to ensure more ocean and land is protected, ecosystems are restored, species population sizes are recovering and that by 2050 human-induced species extinctions are halted.

But setting targets alone is not enough. We must learn lessons from the failure of the Aichi targets and ensure that the new framework also includes the relevant supporting mechanisms, i.e. increased global finance for nature and strengthened reporting and review mechanisms to facilitate the achievement of them.

I am encouraged by recent global progress on nature protection, including for example major commitments secured at the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This included the largest ever private funding commitment to biodiversity conservation: \$5bn, pledged by a group of nine philanthropic foundations to finance the protection of 30% of land and sea by the end of the decade; and the announcement that more than 100 countries have now pledged support to the 30by30 ocean protection target.

The strong political will to act was also evident at Part 1 of COP15, with broad engagement from leaders and Ministers from around the globe. The UK was represented among others by Lord Goldsmith and Helen Whately MP. I was also delighted that HRH Prince of Wales spoke at the conference's two-day High-Level Segment (12-13 October), which opened with the announcement by Chinese President Xi Jinping of the 1.5 billion-yuan Kunming Biodiversity Fund, and which saw the adoption of the Kunming Declaration, in which Parties to the CBD committed to negotiate an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework that bends the curve of biodiversity loss.

We are grateful to China for hosting this first part of COP15 and focusing attention on the further action needed to achieve the transformative outcomes required. The delay to these important negotiations is no excuse for taking our foot off the pedal, and we must tackle the biodiversity crisis head on. The UK will be working closely with other countries to ensure we use this extra time to safeguard and finance nature conservation and ensure the adoption of a truly ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP15 next year.

We would like to thank the Committee for their twelve recommendations to address biodiversity loss. Our response to these is set out here.

Committee Recommendations (1-12)

1. Continue promoting ambitious targets, alongside strong mechanisms for implementing the post-2020 framework and monitoring countries' progress towards its targets.

Biodiversity loss is a global problem that needs a global solution. That is why the UK is committed to playing a leading role in developing an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at COP15, including targets to ensure more ocean and land is protected, ecosystems are restored, species population sizes are recovering and, that by 2050 human-induced species extinctions are halted. This ambitious set of targets must be supported by increased finance for nature and strengthened reporting and review mechanisms to facilitate the achievement of them.

The UK is leading the way globally on the development of a new CBD monitoring and reporting mechanism. In partnership with Norway, we have been running a series of workshops for Parties to discuss enhanced planning, reporting and review mechanisms which would strengthen implementation. The adoption of a set of headline indicators to monitor countries' progress towards achieving the targets is an important part of this work.

The UK is also a global leader in driving high ambition for the Framework. Through our chairmanship of the Global Ocean Alliance and role as Ocean Co-Chair of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, we have galvanised unprecedented support for the 30by30 target – to protect at least 30% of the land and ocean globally by 2030. As announced at UNGA, between these and other alliances, over 100 countries now support the 30by30 ocean protection target.

2. Increase its diplomatic efforts on the key sticking points ahead of COP15: funding for biodiversity action (the resource mobilisation issue) and digital sequence information. The Government should create opportunities for political progress by stepping up Ministerial engagements on these issues including at events like the IUCN World Conservation Congress and the UN Food Systems Summit, both in September.

The UK recognises the critical role that both resource mobilisation and a solution on DSI will play in the adoption of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP15. Regarding finance, mobilising resources from all sources (public and private), and at all levels (domestic and international) will be vital to securing global agreement of the framework, as well as supporting the implementation of the goals and targets. This includes mainstreaming nature, eliminating flows that do harm to nature, and shifting existing financial flows towards nature positive investments. In response to the findings of the Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity, HMG has committed to integrating biodiversity into economic decision-making and delivering a 'nature positive' economy. Under our Presidency G7 Finance Ministers welcomed the Dasgupta Review and have committed to working together on a series of commitments including to properly embed biodiversity loss considerations into economic and financial decision-making.

In support of global implementation, in January 2021, the PM committed to spending at least £3bn of the UK's International Climate Finance (ICF) over the next five years on climate change solutions that protect and restore nature and biodiversity. The UK is also making a significant contribution to tackling biodiversity loss in developing countries by providing funding to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) totalling £250m in the current GEF 7 replenishment period (2018 to 2022). The GEF is the major global fund tackling catastrophic environmental degradation, including wildlife loss, land degradation and climate change. The UK is the 3rd largest contributor to the GEF in this period and we are committed to ensuring a successful GEF 8 replenishment to contribute to the finances needed to tackle environmental challenges.

The UK has over 25 years' experience of funding international biodiversity projects through the highly regarded Darwin Initiative, alongside newer programmes tackling the illegal

wildlife trade. Since its establishment in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, Darwin has funded 1,220 projects in 159 countries, with £180m awarded by HMG (this includes Darwin Plus funding, as a sub-fund of Darwin). As of 2012, the Government's Darwin Plus Programme has committed £22m towards 122 individual projects supporting conservation in marine, terrestrial and freshwater environments

We will also be delivering a £500m Planet Fund (BPF) to support developing countries to protect the marine environment and reduce poverty. £15m of our Official Development Assistance (ODA) will continue to support our ICF portfolio which includes programmes that deliver nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation.

The UK has also played a key catalytic role in driving political momentum on finance for nature. We have put nature at the heart of COP26 and driven forward innovative partnerships such as the Leaders Pledge for Nature, FACT, the Global Ocean Alliance and the High-Ambition Coalition for Nature and People. The UK was represented by Her Majesty's Treasury at part one of COP15 in October and will continue to drive political momentum in the lead up to COP15 part two in 2022.

The private sector is also key to closing the finance gap. We are taking a leading role in facilitating high level exchanges with the financial sector to ensure that the CBD agrees relevant and stretching targets and ambitions, and that all sectors of the economy are ready to respond. At COP26 the UN High Level Champions and HMG mobilised over thirty financial institutions with more than \$8.7trillion of global assets under management to work together to tackle deforestation and drive a global shift to sustainable production of global agricultural commodities. We also saw the launch of three complementary initiatives which will mobilise billions of dollars to support forests and rebuild natural capital, and crucially for the first time, provide the resources and expertise to overcome the barriers to investment in natural capital and demonstrate the opportunities

On DSI, the UK understands the importance of finding a solution and is committed to working with Parties and relevant stakeholders to support the agreement of an acceptable outcome. We are actively contributing to strengthening the evidence base on DSI, including through commissioning and publishing two DSI studies to help inform the discussions. The first of the two studies is now available online¹. We continue to engage in relevant global dialogues and the UK was nominated to be part of the Informal Advisory Group on DSI to progress discussions ahead of the next round of CBD negotiations. We will continue to engage with other Parties, including at Ministerial level, in the lead up to COP15.

In terms of engagement, Minister Pow participated in a panel discussion on building support and commitment for a nature-positive world on 7 September at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. At the UN Food Systems Summit on 24 September, Lord Goldsmith presented the UK's statement stressing the need for combined global action to resolve the issues in the food system and highlighted the UK's leading actions to tackle

¹ DSI: An Evidence Review (2020), [Defra, UK - Science Search](#)

these issues including G7 famine prevention, resilience and nature objectives, and COP26 ambition.

3. Seek to ensure the post-2020 framework provides a clear role for businesses, including those involved in agriculture, finance, and who trade internationally, in tackling biodiversity, and support the timely development of clear, consistent and robust requirements for businesses to report on their biodiversity impacts.

The UK recognises the role of both the public and private sectors in mainstreaming biodiversity. Government actions alone are not enough. All parts of society, including the private sector, have a role to play.

To ensure that the post-2020 framework recognises the role of business in tackling biodiversity loss, the UK has established a Business Advisory Group. The Group is comprised of business and finance sector representatives, and their direct input will support the development a post-2020 framework which fits the needs of the private sector. Specifically on the finance sector, we are taking a leading role in facilitating high level exchanges to ensure that the CBD agrees relevant and stretching targets and ambitions, and that the sector is ready to respond.

In the UK Government's Green Finance Strategy, commitments were included to work with international partners to catalyse market led action on nature related risks and reporting. The UK government has supported the initial creation of the Taskforce on Nature Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) Partners' Group which through institutional collaboration created the blueprint for the TNFD. The TNFD is set to provide a framework for corporate and financial institutions to report and act on evolving nature-related risks, in order to support a shift in global financial flows away from nature-negative outcomes and toward nature-positive outcomes.

Mainstreaming biodiversity cuts across the entire post-2020 framework and we will continue working to ensure that the relevant goals and targets work synergistically, including with the Long-Term Approach to Mainstreaming (LTAM) and its Action Plan.

4. Accelerate work on translating the Dasgupta Review's findings into policies that embed nature in economic and financial decision-making, and make this a top priority for HM Treasury and the rest of Government. This will be a mammoth task which has only just begun with the Government's response to the review.

On 14 June the Government published its formal response to the Dasgupta Review. The Government agrees with the Review's central conclusion: nature, and the biodiversity that underpins it, ultimately sustains our economies, livelihoods and well-being, and so economic and financial decision making must account for this.

Building on its ambitious, existing nature agenda, the response sets out the ways in which the Government will go further, framed around two high-level commitments:

- delivering a 'nature positive' future, in which we leave the environment in a better state than we found it, and reverse biodiversity loss globally by 2030; and
- ensuring economic and financial decision-making, and the systems and institutions that underpin it, support that nature positive future.

The Government's response sets out actions the Government is taking in light of the Review's conclusions, with HMT in particular committing to:

- up to £3 million additional support to the development of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures framework;
- working with the Office for National Statistics to improve the way nature is incorporated into our national accounts;
- further improving Government guidance for embedding environmental considerations into policy-making processes in the Green Book;
- fully incorporating biodiversity into the UK Government Green Financing Framework; and
- integrating nature, biodiversity and climate change knowledge and understanding across Government, including the Government Economic Service.

In line with these commitments, Defra continues to progress its commitments in a number of ways. These include legislating in England for a binding target for species abundance to halt the decline of nature by 2030, and legislating in England for 'Biodiversity Net Gain' for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. These also include protecting our marine areas through our commitments under the UK Marine Strategy, 25 Year Environment Plan, UN Sustainable Development Goals and the OSPAR Convention.

At the international level we are supporting developing countries to mainstream nature in their decision making through our support of the World Bank's Global Program on Sustainability (GPS) for which we are the largest donor, having committed £20m. The GPS aims to directly address the lack of evidence linking natural capital to economic decision making, targeting support on the application and implementation of natural capital by economic decision makers in both the public and private sector. FCDO are taking steps to integrate nature into its Official Development Assistance (ODA), ensuring that all new UK bilateral aid spending does no harm to nature.

5. Ensure that the Environmental Land Management schemes – which could be a positive example of reforming environmentally-harmful agricultural subsidies – live up to expectations as they are rolled out.

We are committed to ensuring that the Environmental Land Management schemes become a world leading example of how governments can support farmers and landowners to deliver public goods, such as nature restoration, clean water and climate sequestration. To achieve our ambitious goals across all our Environmental Land Management schemes, it is vital that we work for a range of land managers and land types. We are working closely with a range of environmental and agricultural stakeholders

to collaboratively design the new environmental land management schemes so that they are fit for purpose. This includes over 3,000 farmers working on more than 70 Tests and Trials.

Over the last months we have worked closely with the Environmental Land Management Engagement Group, which is a group of around 30 people from environmental and agricultural backgrounds. We have developed practitioner working groups to help us build key elements of the scheme, working with end users to co-design our schemes. We have also launched more information on the Sustainable Farming Incentive pilot, including guidance and technical information on the scheme. Over 2,000 farmers expressed an interest in participating in the Sustainable Farming Incentive pilot and were invited to apply before 30th September 2021.

Equally, we will work with applicants throughout our pilots to learn from and develop our schemes.

6. Recognising the impacts of global trade on biodiversity loss, promote action on biodiversity at the WTO, including through the trade and environmental sustainability structured discussions (TESSD), and seek concrete outcomes from these and the FACT dialogue. Protecting and restoring biodiversity should also be a central consideration in the negotiation of new trade deals, and the Government must report on the effects on biodiversity of any new trade agreement.

We will not compromise on our high standards of environmental protection in any of our trade negotiations.

Reversing nature loss will require many different forms of partnership and the COP26 FACT Dialogue is a ground-breaking partnership that has convened 28 governments of producer and consumer countries over the past 18 months to address the interrelated issues that need to be overcome to support the transition to more sustainable commodity production and global trade, to protect forests and other ecosystems, while promoting sustainable trade and development. Drawing on the discussions of the FACT Dialogue, the UK and Indonesia as co-chairs developed the Roadmap of Action, which includes a joint statement supported by 28 countries that shows countries commitment to work together over the coming years, and a chairs statement that outlines 14 actions across four thematic areas that serve as the basis for ongoing dialogue. The UK at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) encourages Members to engage with the relevant departments or ministries in their country to better support the objectives of the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade Dialogue (FACT).

The FACT roadmap of action was launched by the Prime Minister and President Jokowi of Indonesia as co-chairs of the dialogue on behalf of 28 countries at the World Leaders Summit Forest and Land Use event on 2nd November 2021.

The Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD) initiative was launched during the WTO's Trade and Environment week in November 2020. Participating Members, including the UK, are collaborating to advance discussions on trade and

environmental sustainability and to identify concrete deliverables at the multilateral level. During interventions in TESSD meetings, the UK has highlighted the importance of biodiversity loss as a critical challenge alongside climate change.

As we approach the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) in November/December, a significant event on the WTO calendar, we are working with Members to secure outcomes on the environment (through the TESSD and in other fora). This could include a high-level multilateral statement on trade and the environment but also commitments to work programmes and dedicated discussions on topics such as trade in environmentally beneficial goods and services, and marine plastic pollution.

In bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, we are promoting the UK's high environmental standards with negotiation partners and aiming to improve future cooperation on important areas. This includes promoting measures that protect and restore biodiversity.

The Department for International Trade publishes scoping assessments to assess the impacts of new FTAs in advance of negotiations, alongside the results of comprehensive consultation exercises. Following the conclusion of negotiations, a full impact assessment is published prior to implementation. These include assessments, both quantitative and qualitative, of impacts on aspects of the environment, including biodiversity.

7. Make sure the right machinery of government is in place to effectively implement what is agreed at COP15 and give biodiversity the priority it deserves across Government. This could include cross-Government structures to facilitate a strategic approach to biodiversity and ensure that the implications for biodiversity are given a higher weight in all relevant Government decisions.

The Government has already announced actions and commitments which will implement in England some of the measures we want and expect to see under the post-2020 framework. This includes, for example, protecting 30% of land and ocean and publishing tree and peat action plans for England.

Under the target framework in the Environment Bill, we are also already going beyond what is required under the CBD and setting key environmental targets in law in England, including for biodiversity. Our announcement that we will set a historic, legally binding target to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030 underscores our commitment to the CBD and in addition to long-term legally binding targets, puts the environment at the heart of all government policy-making for generations to come.

The Government has an explicit duty to ensure that the 2030 species abundance target is met, alongside our wider suite of legally binding Environment Bill targets which will be brought forward by 31 October 2022, including at least one additional target related to biodiversity. We are committed to cross-departmental action in the delivery of targets and have been having regular cross-government discussion as we develop our evidence base.

Before commencing our public consultation on targets in early 2022, we will continue this engagement and seek collective agreement on target proposals in the usual way.

The Bill's statutory cycle of monitoring, planning and reporting ensures that government will take early, regular steps to achieve its targets, and is held to account with regular scrutiny from the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) and Parliament. The OEP will have the power to bring legal proceedings if government breaches its environmental law duties, including its duty to achieve long-term targets.

The Bill also creates a duty on the government to publish Environmental Improvement Plans (EIPs), the first of which was the 25 Year Environment Plan. This plan, its update due in 2023, and its associated regular reporting requirements, are crucial to delivering our goals on biodiversity and the wider environment. Our intention is to set out further our approach to delivering our CBD commitments at home through the update of our EIP.

We are committed to cross-departmental action in the delivery of EIPs and long-term environmental improvement. We would expect future EIP reviews, when considering progress and further measures needed towards achieving targets, to highlight if changes are needed in cross-Government structures, or if further steps can be taken to enable public and local authorities to contribute to achieving targets.

Furthermore, in October we set out further detail on actions other government departments and their partner organisations will take through the Greening Government Commitments, to reduce their impacts on the environment in the period 2021 to 2025, including specific actions for nature recovery.

Policy makers will also be required to consider the environment in the making of new or revised policy across government through a new duty in the Environment Bill. This duty is for Ministers to have due regard to the Environmental Principles Policy Statement when making policy. This policy statement outlines how to interpret and proportionately apply five environmental principles: integration, prevention, precautionary, rectification at source and polluter pays. This new duty will ensure the environment is at the heart of policymaking across government, and in doing so support the government's biodiversity goals.

We will also publish a Nature Recovery Green Paper for England later this year, setting out our approach to driving nature recovery and providing the primary vehicle for developing and engaging on our future plans and proposals. We will continue to develop our approach to implementing our CBD commitments, updating our plans and strategies in response to COP15 Part 2. This will include actions across Government.

8. Develop a serious PR campaign to engage the public on biodiversity before and after COP15 – including through a high-profile media campaign like the Scottish Government's net zero media campaign – with messaging that brings home the relevance of COP15 to individuals and communities and highlights the role they can play in protecting and restoring nature more widely.

As part of our ongoing communications strategy to meet net zero and combat biodiversity loss, we continue to proactively promote policy developments, utilising multiple communications channels and strands, as well as working across Government on campaigns including Together For Our Planet.

9. Include an ambitious, overarching state of nature target in the Environment Bill which has the potential to inspire an ambitious headline target in the post-2020 framework. Introducing a weak or ambiguous domestic target would surely send an unhelpful signal ahead of COP15.

As a core part of our commitment to leave the environment in a better state than we found it, we have amended the Environment Bill to require a new, historic legally binding target to be set to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030 in England.

To recover species, we will need to reduce pressures and restore habitats both within protected sites and in the wider countryside, meaning a single target for 2030 will drive wide-ranging improvements to the state of nature.

Our 2030 species target demonstrates our commitment to ambitious domestic action, and we hope will encourage international partners to make similarly ambitious commitments.

The details of the 2030 species target will be set in secondary legislation, brought forwards by 31 October 2022. The 2030 species target will be subject to the same requirements as the long-term legally binding targets set under the Bill.

10. Enhance coordination between COP26 and COP15, and work to improve relations with China so that progress in this area of common interest can be achieved. The Government should ensure nature is a central focus at COP26. The Government should also seek to build lasting links between the UNFCCC and CBD beyond COP26 and COP15 and make clear the importance of the climate change and biodiversity interface when it hands over the UNFCCC Presidency.

We know that addressing climate change is not possible without also addressing biodiversity loss, and vice versa. The UK is addressing these dual threats together and that is why we placed nature at the heart of COP26.

Huge global progress has been made in this forum. Over 130 countries representing more than 90% of the world's forests have committed to 'halt and reverse'; deforestation by 2030; we have secured unprecedented finance – around \$20 billion – to protect the world's forests, including by supporting indigenous communities; we have unprecedented commitments from Financial Institutions with assets worth nearly \$9 trillion that they will align with nature; we secured the commitment from the Multilateral Development Banks, including the World Bank, that they will align their portfolios not only with Paris goals, but with nature as well. And we secured a commitment from the 12 biggest buyers of agricultural commodities that their buying policies will be aligned with 1.5 degrees and our overall deforestation goals.

As hosts of UNFCCC COP26, the UK is in a unique position to work with China to integrate global action on climate change and biodiversity to achieve the step-change needed to tackle these global issues. There has been regular and productive engagement between the UK and China in the preparations for COP15 and COP26. For instance, UK COP President Designate Alok Sharma travelled to China in September for extensive discussions with China's Special Envoy for Climate Change, Minister Xie Zhenhua, and held calls with China's Environment Minister, Energy Minister, and Vice-Premier. The UK has worked alongside China on the 'Kunming Declaration', which highlights the synergies between COP26 and COP15 and will help in maintaining global political momentum.

Finally, the UK, in its role as COP26 President, is working with the Rio Convention Presidencies, Secretariats and the GEF on joint activities across 2021/22 that will promote integrated approaches to tackling biodiversity loss, climate change, and land degradation. These joint activities will take place ahead of, at, and after our respective COPs, and will aim to build political will and global momentum on the importance of integration, whilst also facilitating knowledge-sharing to support integrated approaches.

11. Work to re-establish trust with developing country partners, recognising that the failure to ensure global access to COVID vaccines and the Government's cut to ODA has damaged this trust, and that a good outcome at COP15 rests on renewal of that trust. ODA spent on education and good governance can also underpin biodiversity action.

The UK is working with our developing country partners to tackle the key challenges of our age and to secure an ambitious outcome at COP15.

We are delivering Covid-19 vaccines in record time, working with our G7 partners to vaccinate the world by the end of 2022 and we are one of the largest donors to the COVAX's Advance Market Commitment (AMC), which supports access to COVID-19 vaccines for up to 92 low- and middle-income countries. Our £548 million commitment will support the COVAX AMC to deliver up to 1.8 billion doses to these countries in early 2022.

We are a global leader in development. The UK will spend more than £10bn on ODA in 2021, and is on track to meet the fiscal tests set out by the Chancellor in the summer, and return to a 0.7% GNI ODA budget in 2024-25 if current fiscal trajectory is maintained. Based on 2020 OECD data, the UK will be the third largest ODA donor in the G7 as a percentage of GNI in 2021. We will spend a greater percentage of our GNI on ODA than the US, Japan, Canada or Italy.

Finally, the UK was pleased to announce at CBD COP15 Part 1 a contribution of £200,000 to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for facilitating participation in the Convention processes, especially by developing countries.

12. Advocate for positive, mutually-beneficial links between biodiversity and development in the post-2020 framework - for example by including social safeguards, like a requirement for full and effective stakeholder participation, in delivering the targets. The Government should also seek in its COP15 negotiating

positions to ensure the role played by indigenous peoples and local communities protecting biodiversity is secured by the post-2020 framework.

We acknowledge the leadership of Indigenous Peoples, as stewards of 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity, in developing nature-based, resilient and effective solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss, through their knowledge, innovations, technologies, and cultural and spiritual values. We have made Nature and Land Use a key theme at COP26, and know that support to Indigenous Peoples and local communities is crucial to the success of global mitigation and adaptation efforts. We also, recognise their historic underfunding, which is why we have announced a bespoke package of finance for them from 14 bilateral and philanthropic donors, including the UK and the Ford Foundation, to advance local communities' tenure rights and forest guardianship, with an initial pledge of at least \$1.7 billion (£1.2 billion).

The UK strongly supports an ambitious global biodiversity framework which ensures that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) guide decision making for the effective management of biodiversity. The framework must also ensure equitable, full and effective participation of IPLCs in decision making at all levels related to biodiversity.

The post-2020 framework is an opportunity to ensure an innovative approach to conservation that respects and engages IPLCs as full and effective partners, securing the recognition and protection of legitimate tenure rights and resource rights.



RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP