IT'S ZERO HOUR FOR CLIMATE AND NATURE: THREE COP OUTCOMES WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

ADD YOUR NAME HERE

We are calling on Boris Johnson, Alok Sharma (President of COP26) and George Eustice (Environment Secretary) to push for the following Three COP Outcomes We Can’t Live Without at the climate summit (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021 and the biodiversity summit (COP15) in Kunming, China in April/May 2022

1.

CREATE A JOINT EMERGENCY STRATEGY FOR CLIMATE & NATURE

COP26 and COP15 must create a joint emergency strategy for getting back within the planet’s safe limits.

This strategy should be rooted in an understanding of how the climate and environmental emergencies are intertwined and together contribute to Earth systems collapse. The parties must think outside their established structures and be creative in integrating their decision-making and governance systems.

2. COMMIT TO THE CARBON BUDGET FOR 1.5°C

The COP26 parties must agree to stick to the remaining global carbon budget that gives us a 66% chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C.

This budget must be allocated fairly on a per capita basis and in keeping with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Every country has to account for its entire carbon footprint – not just the emissions produced on its own soil, as is currently the case. All countries need individual carbon budgets, which add up to the total remaining global carbon budget.

3. GO NATURE POSITIVE BY 2030

The Global Biodiversity Framework on the table at COP15 must include a global goal to go nature positive by 2030.

This means that by the end of the decade, we must be achieving net gains in biodiversity against a baseline of 2020. Countries must commit to taking responsibility for their entire ecological footprint, not just their impact on nature within their own borders. This goal must be supported by a well-resourced implementation framework, which integrates biodiversity commitments across all sectors of society, and can be used for coordinating, prioritising and tracking the responsibilities and contributions of different stakeholders towards a net-positive goal.

ADD YOUR NAME HERE

TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE ZERO HOUR COP OUTCOMES

THIS IS OUR ZERO HOUR

We have run out of time. Unprecedented changes are happening now and further damage is inevitable. But we can still do so much to avoid catastrophe. The upcoming international summits on climate and biodiversity offer the last best chance for humanity to change course and avert the worst.

As host of the climate summit (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021, the UK has a unique opportunity to demonstrate leadership and spearhead ambitious decisions. The biodiversity summit (COP15) in Kunming, China in April/May 2022 receives less media attention but is equally important, with the adoption of a three-decade plan – the Global Biodiversity Framework – on the table. It is being touted as a sort of Paris Agreement for nature. The UK has a key role to play here too in setting the agenda and leading by example.

This publication outlines three essential outcomes that Zero Hour is calling on the UK Government to push for at both summits.

1. CREATE A JOINT EMERGENCY STRATEGY FOR CLIMATE & NATURE

‘We are rapidly moving away from the safe operating space for humanity on Earth’

Prof. Johan Rockström, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

This is not just about emissions. It’s not even just about the extinction of species. What is at stake is the stable planetary environment that has made human civilisation possible. Yet, our political and cultural expectations of the future still assume that the natural world will continue to evolve slowly and in a way we can easily adapt to. The action we take at the highest level of international governance must be based on an understanding of how humans are fundamentally destabilising natural systems in multiple and interconnected ways. From the Natural History Museum and the Club of Rome to 126 Nobel Prize laureates, public institutions, scientists and thought leaders are recognising the multifaceted nature of the planetary emergency we are facing. It is time for the world’s governments to do the same.

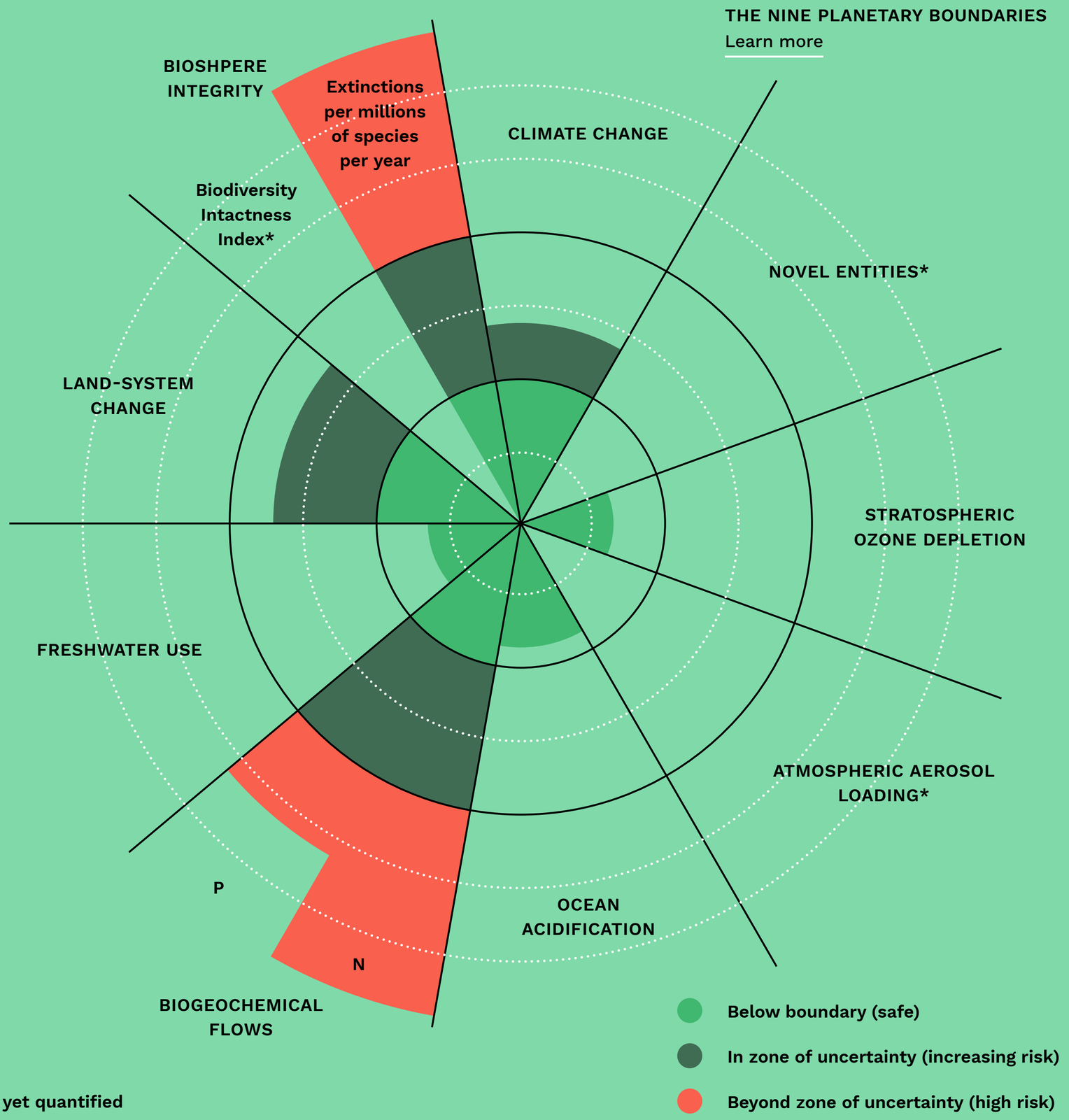
THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK ISN’T WORKING – IT NEEDS FIXING

Our current approach to this emergency is desperately siloed. In the UNFCCC and the CBD, we have created parallel UN conventions on climate and biodiversity, who meet at separate summits (both called ‘conferences of the parties’ or ‘COPs’) and are informed by distinct intergovernmental expert panels (the IPCC and IPBES, respectively). What’s more,

the extraordinary rigour with which these bodies carry out their work comes at a cost: they are steeped in painstakingly laborious decision-making processes. Policymakers and officials at COP26 and COP15 must therefore be bold and think outside of their own established structures. Based on a common understanding of Earth systems collapse, they need to join up and speed up their actions in order to drive a rapid shift in how humans interact with the natural world. If they fail to do this, at best they risk being supplanted by other more agile – but less representative – multilateral and bilateral processes. At worst, they risk jeopardising the stable planetary environment on which we depend.

NOT TWO SEPARATE CRISES BUT A COMPLEX PLANETARY SYSTEM

The Stockholm Resilience Centre has famously mapped out nine planetary boundaries. By staying within these critical thresholds, we enable a safe operating space for humanity. We are already out of the safe zone for four boundaries: climate, biogeochemical flows, land-use change and biosphere integrity. And this will have knock-on effects for the other boundaries because they are deeply interconnected. Disrupting one boundary often leads to the disruption of others. For instance,



‘This needs to be treated as a global emergency because our future as a civilisation depends on a rapid response to the situation’

Sir David King, Founder, Climate Crisis Advisory Group and Founder & Chair, Centre for Climate Repair, University of Cambridge

land-clearing can lead to carbon emissions, which exacerbates climate change and ocean acidification, and these in turn impact ecosystems. Conversely, forests will die not just from climate change or acid rain but also from biodiversity loss. It’s the web of other species – plants, invertebrates and mammals – that keeps them alive. Not only this, but as we push the limits of one of Earth’s systems, we are often forced to adjust our behaviour, and this can rebound on the very problem we were adapting to: it’s a vicious circle. For example, climate change leads to decreased agricultural productivity, which means clearing more forests for agriculture, and that in turn leads to more emissions and global warming. For more on the planetary boundaries, see this recent documentary featuring Sir David Attenborough and Prof. Johan Rockström.

When we see the emergency in this holistic way, we understand that changes in the climate and nature are blinking lights on the dashboard that point to problems in the overall Earth system. The risk of not conceiving of them as part of a bigger picture is that we see each problem as neatly circumscribed. We may understand that it is huge and terrifying but we also just see it as an anomaly. And that means that the solutions devised for one area risk backfiring in another. We might come up with a plan to reduce our emissions, for instance, but we may end up endangering ecosystems in the process (which in turn further exacerbates climate change).

THE COPS MUST JOIN UP THEIR ACTIONS CONCEPTUALLY, IN TERMS OF POLICYMAKING AND IN IMPLEMENTATION

While climate scientists and ecologists have long understood their work in the broader context of Earth systems collapse, policy has yet to catch up with the scientific community, at both the national and international levels. Last December saw the first joint workshop between the UN’s climate and biodiversity expert panels – the IPCC and IPBES. Their conclusions are an urgent rallying call to policymakers for joined-up action on the twin climate and nature emergencies: ‘Ignoring the inseparable nature of climate, biodiversity, and human quality of life will result in non-optimal solutions to either crisis.’ But: ‘Existing governance systems often lack effective mechanisms to improve integration between climate and biodiversity.’

Over the years, there have been attempts to join up the work of the so-called Rio conventions on climate, biodiversity and desertification (UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD),

which were agreed at the Earth Summit in 1992. For instance, a Joint Liaison Group for the conventions was established in 2001, but its terms of reference – which were not finalised until 2011 – limited its work to supporting implementation at national level. While joined-up action on climate and nature at national level is of course essential, it is only made possible if the agreements that underpin it at international level are fundamentally integrated.

A first step in an integrated approach to the planetary emergency is for the parties at COP26 and COP15 to agree a joint emergency strategy which includes a set of overarching principles that ensure agreements under the two conventions dovetail. It is essential that biodiversity considerations are systematically embedded into the UNFCCC agenda. For instance, parties must ensure that nature-based solutions are used only on the precondition of rapid reductions in emissions and not to offset those emissions. Some uses of nature-based solutions such as mass afforestation and bioenergy plantations can be detrimental to biodiversity and people – while not reducing emissions in areas such as energy production and transportation can reduce the effectiveness of nature-based solutions overall. In parallel, climate change must be considered in the CBD agenda, and especially in the proposed Global Biodiversity Framework up for adoption at COP15. For instance, avoiding and reversing the loss and degradation of ecosystems is not only key to biodiversity but can also contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as human health. To give just one example, mangrove restoration can contribute to a critical carbon store while helping buffer coastal communities from hurricanes. Finally, it is essential that joint working processes for IPCC and IPBES, as well as for the secretariats of the conventions, are formalised.

'People everywhere must have the capability to flourish as human beings – within the ecological and resource constraints of a finite planet'

Prof. Tim Jackson, Director of the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity, University of Surrey

2. COMMIT TO THE CARBON BUDGET FOR 1.5°C

‘The latest IPCC report is likely to be the last while there is still time to stay below 1.5°C. It shows we can stay within 1.5°C but only just’

Dr. Joeri Rogelj, IPCC report lead and Director of Research, Grantham Institute, Imperial College London

WHY WE MUST FIGHT FOR 1.5

The impacts on our climate and natural world grow with every increment in temperature. The 2018 IPCC Special Report outlined the consequences of just half a degree of warming above 1.5. These include twice as many people without enough water, 1.7 billion more people exposed to regular extreme heat waves, and a major increase in climate migration as large areas of the planet become too hot for humans. But current policies around the world will not limit the impact there. According to Climate Action Tracker, the world is currently heading for about 3°C of warming by 2100. Even if all the countries’ pledges are put into policy (many have not been, including in the UK), warming is still predicted to reach 2.4°C. The UN warns this will cause mass extinctions and leave large parts of the globe uninhabitable. We must do everything in our power to limit global heating as much as possible. Every fraction of a degree matters. Every tonne of carbon matters. And we have run out of time. According to this year’s IPCC report AR6, ‘unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5°C will be beyond reach.’ The world must double down on the Paris aspiration to 1.5°C and close the gap with domestic policies.

WHY WE NEED TO WORK TO A CARBON BUDGET NOT JUST A NET ZERO DATE

In 2008, the UK led the world with the Climate Change Act and its legally binding decarbonisation target, enhanced in 2019 to target net zero by 2050. Net zero targets have since become the go-to measure of a nation's mitigation ambitions, with China recently promising to decarbonise by 2060. This is an overdue but encouraging sign that global leaders are waking up to the importance of taking action on the climate crisis. But while net zero target dates are a useful rallying call, when used alone they are the wrong tool for meaningful climate change mitigation. The proof is in the pudding: countries representing more than 70% of the world economy now have net zero targets, and yet global emissions are still rising.

Global warming is driven by cumulative emissions. It's not enormously important *when* we reach net zero – it's *how much CO2 we emit on the way there* that matters. In its most recent report, the IPCC told us that total global emissions must not exceed 400 billion tonnes of CO2 starting from 2020 for a 66% chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C. This is known as our carbon budget. According to the IPCC we can stretch this carbon budget out to 2050, but only by making 'immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions' in emissions. The steeply declining curve in Figure 1 on the right shows how quickly emissions must be cut in the near term to allow countries to keep burning fossil fuels until 2050.

Figure 2 below on the right illustrates what would happen if global emissions keep growing for some years, before declining. As you can see, despite still reaching net zero by 2050, the world would nevertheless far exceed its carbon budget, triggering significantly more global heating.

The Climate Change Act is based on an IPCC net zero pathway, which carries a mere 50:50 chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C. In other words, this pathway is as likely to fail as it is to succeed. The UK must advocate at COP26 for the adoption of the IPCC's higher chance 66% carbon budget, as shown in Figure 1. It must also set the international standard by bringing its own plans into line with this budget.

THE UK'S NET ZERO LEGISLATION IS BUILT UPON AN UNREALISTIC ASSUMPTION

In devising the UK's 2050 net zero plan, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) made the assumption that all other nations will

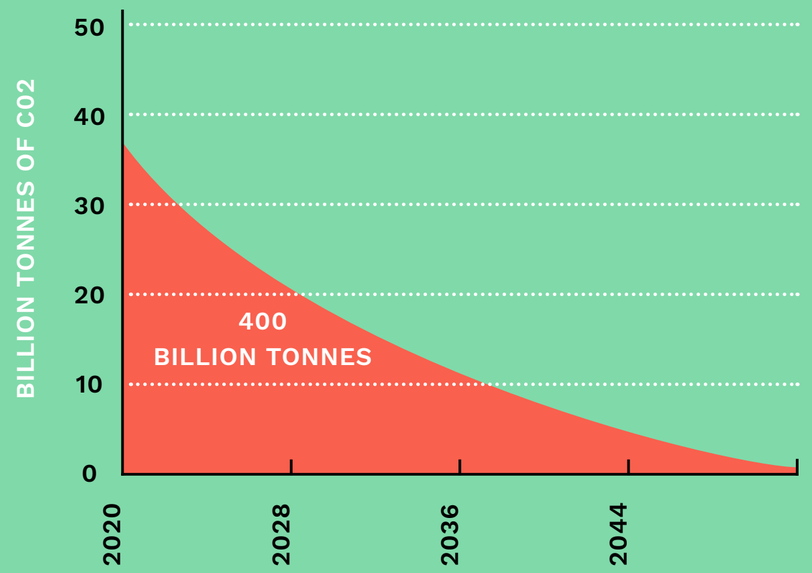


FIGURE 1

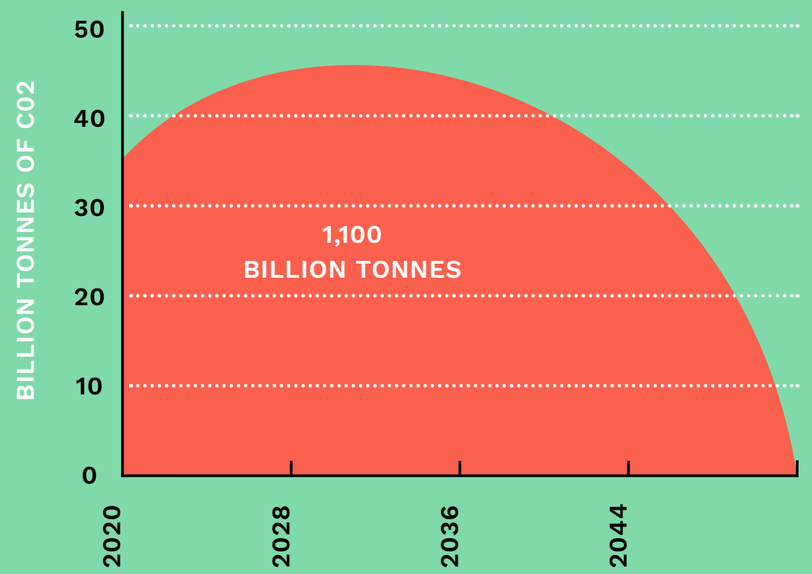


FIGURE 2

‘It’s carbon budgets, not long-term targets, that link with temperature rise’

Prof. Kevin Anderson, Professor of Climate and Energy Transitions, University of Manchester

cut emissions as quickly as we do. Of the UK’s plan, the CCC states:

‘If replicated across the world, and coupled with ambitious near-term reductions in emissions, it would deliver a greater than 50% chance of limiting the temperature increase to 1.5°C.’

Yet we know this is far from realistic. As poorer countries with very low emissions climb out of poverty, their emissions will inevitably rise, not fall. So in order for the world to cut emissions fast enough to stay within its carbon budget, wealthier nations like ours will need to cut emissions faster than the average to compensate. As a signatory to the UNFCCC, the UK has already committed to cut emissions faster than developing countries in accordance with the principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’.

WHY WE SHOULD ACCOUNT FOR OUR EMISSIONS BASED ON CONSUMPTION RATHER THAN PRODUCTION

The UK, like other countries, accounts only for its *territorial emissions* – those occurring on its own soil. But this approach is hopelessly outdated. The CCC already calculates UK consumption emissions on an annual basis and reports these to the UK Parliament. So the data is available, it is just that decision-makers are currently turning a blind eye to it. What’s more, forward-thinking companies, and public bodies like NHS England, now use the consumption-based approach set out in British Standard PAS 2050. Organisations that apply the standard must recognise the full impact of their activities across their supply chains. This world-leading methodology was co-sponsored by the UK Government. Local governments are also getting in on the act: an equivalent standard – PAS 2070 – has been developed, and cities such as London are accounting for their emissions based on consumption. The time for national governments to catch up is long overdue.

Only when armed with the full picture can the right choices be made. Imports from other countries produced on a carbon-heavy power grid are not subject to a levy on arrival in the UK. UK manufacturers producing lower carbon products face an unfair disadvantage. Incorporating emissions from imports into our climate targets could create a case for the sort of carbon border tax floated by the EU. This would level the playing field and help boost British manufacturing and create jobs at home. There would, of course, be concerns

that a carbon border tax may damage the economies of the poorest countries. But the UK already allows tariff-free imports from the world’s least developed 49 countries, and since these countries tend to export low-carbon products, there is no reason why this exclusion should not continue. There will also inevitably need to be a reorientation of countries’ economies towards sustainable development. In 2010, wealthy countries pledged that by 2020, they would transfer $100 billion in ‘climate finance’ per year to support poorer countries in their green transition. They must make good on this commitment, which was reiterated at the 2021 G7 summit in Cornwall.

International aviation and shipping are similarly excluded from our national carbon account. The UK plans to bring these emissions into our national targets, but not until 2033, removing any impetus to act immediately. Consequently we see every major UK airport with plans to expand despite clear expert advice that there must be fewer flights if we are to limit warming to 1.5°C. Emissions from international aviation and shipping would be included in the consumption-based emissions accounting called for by Zero Hour.

Equity

‘Equity lies at the heart of any 1.5-degree pathway because emissions are not evenly distributed globally. While the 46 least developed countries are home to 1 billion people, they emit only 1% of global emissions. At the same time, nearly 70% of climate-related deaths over the past 50 years have been in these countries. The moral argument is overwhelming, but this is also just basic maths: we simply won’t address the problem if we take the view that everyone is equally responsible. Richer countries, where the lion’s share of emissions are produced, must cut them harder and faster. The UK has an opportunity to show global leadership on climate equity’

Dr. Anna Schulz, International Institute for Environment and Development

‘The extreme weather events that are happening today – extremes of temperature, rainfall and drought – were predicted to happen in 70 years’ time. The situation now is a lot worse than was previously imagined. We must have deep and rapid emissions reduction’

Sir David King, Founder, Climate Crisis Advisory Group and Founder & Chair, Centre for Climate Repair, University of Cambridge

ENSURING THE SUM TOTAL OF COUNTRIES’ PLEDGES DOES NOT EXCEED THE IPCC’S CARBON BUDGET

Under the current system of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), each country has submitted its pledged emissions reduction for 2030. But this only tells us expected emissions in the year 2030 – a single data point. It does not tell us how much carbon each country expects to emit before reaching net zero – i.e. their remaining carbon budget. It’s like a company setting a sales target for the year, and then rewarding sales staff based just on their sales for week 32. Countries must work to a fully calculated budget, otherwise it’s not possible to assess whether pledged emissions reductions will keep the world within its total carbon budget. To create a clear and transparent link between NDCs and the global carbon budget, each country should be required to submit its entire emissions reduction pathway.

3. GO NATURE POSITIVE BY 2030

‘The upcoming UN Climate and Biodiversity conferences are major opportunities for joined-up thinking that puts nature restoration at the heart of national and international policy, alongside tackling climate change and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Ambitious targets backed up by real commitment to delivery are required if we are to reverse the decline in nature which threatens all of our futures. The UK is ideally placed to be a global leader in nature recovery, at home and overseas.’

Prof. E.J. Milner Gulland, Director, Interdisciplinary Centre for Conservation Science, University of Oxford

When it comes to policymaking, nature has long played second fiddle to the climate. But the planetary emergency is not just expressing itself in changing weather patterns, catastrophic though they are. Scientists estimate we are losing species at 1000 times the natural rate. And we have seen populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians plummet by 68%, on average, since 1970.

WE NEED AN AMBITIOUS NATURE GOAL THAT FORCES US TO START MAKING BIG CHANGES NOW

As well as joining up our action on the twin crises, we need an ambitious international goal to galvanise efforts to protect and restore the natural world – similarly to how the Paris Agreement provided a focal point for action on climate in 2015. But in setting a goal for nature, we must learn the lessons of Paris: the agreement in Kunming in 2022 must include a detailed framework for implementation. The world’s nations need to be able to track, monitor and hold each other accountable as they take serious and immediate steps to protect and restore nature.

Work is underway on a global goal for nature. A working group at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity has produced a first

draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The UK Government must lead efforts to improve this draft and advocate for its adoption at COP15. The current draft includes the overall vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050, a mission to be on a path to recovery by 2030. It also quantifies, for the first time, the financial resources needed to implement the framework. However, there is still much to be done to enhance the GBF in terms of its ambition, scope and implementation:

WE MUST TURN THE TIDE BY 2030

The mission must emphasise the need to be nature-positive by 2030. This means that by the end of the decade there is a net gain in biodiversity across all of its elements (i.e. ecosystems, species and genetic diversity) and in nature's contributions to people against a baseline of 2020. Currently, the draft framework merely talks of 'stabilising' biodiversity loss over the coming years, representing a climbdown from the ambitions of the Leaders Pledge for Nature, which was signed by the heads of state and government of 88 countries, including the UK Prime Minister, in September 2020. The term 'stabilise' is worryingly open to interpretation – it could even be taken to mean a more stable rate of decline. We must go further than the current GBF draft: Leaders must bend the curve and reverse the destruction of nature by 2030 to stand any chance of achieving the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

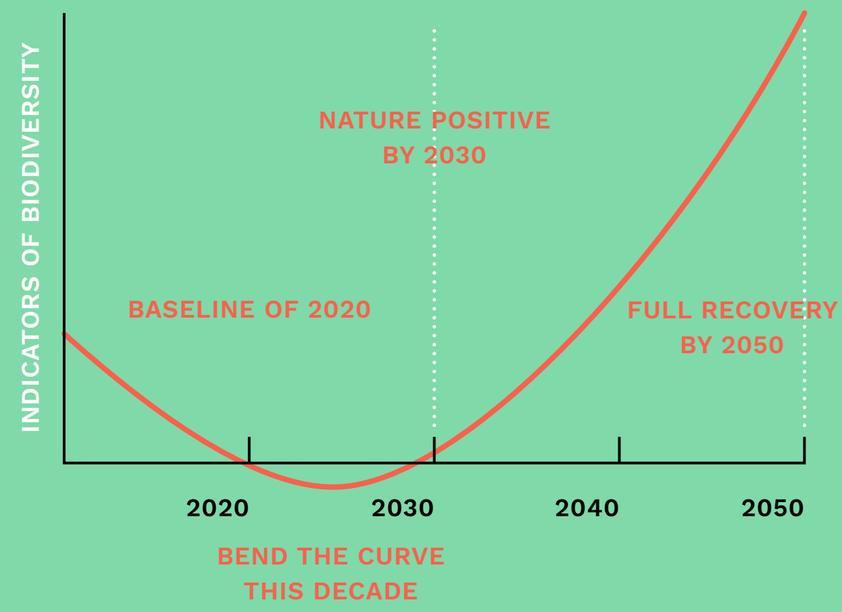
COUNTRIES HAVE DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES

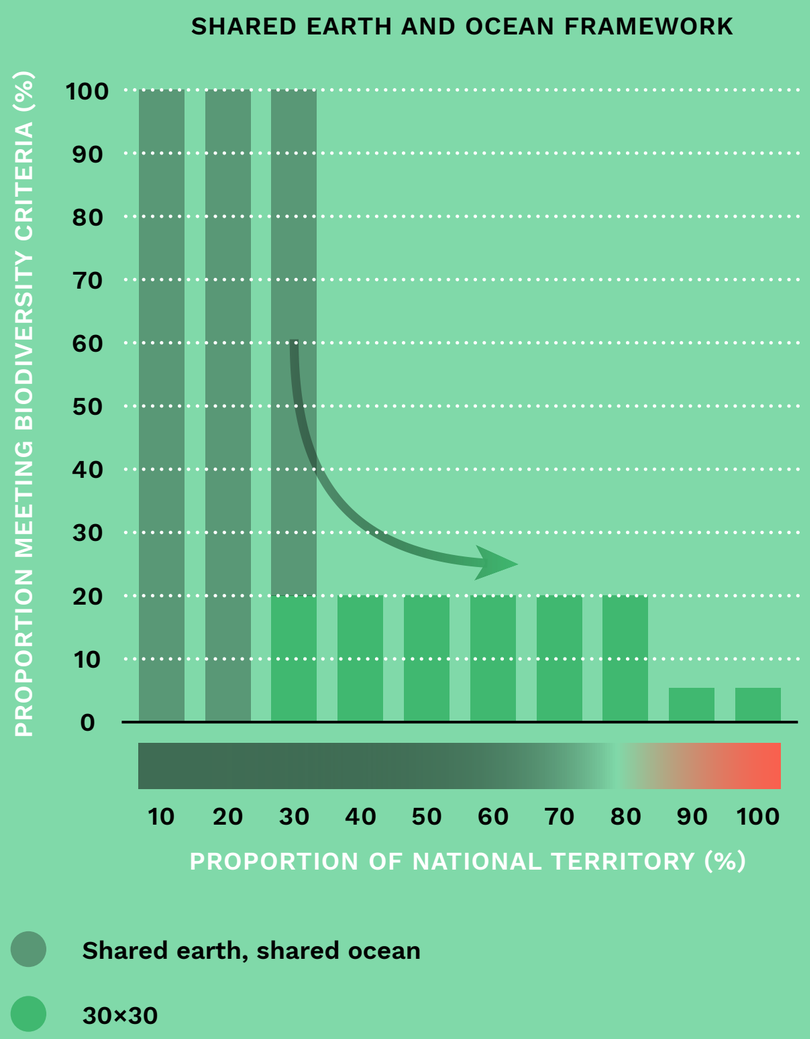
Similarly to the Paris Agreement, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities must be firmly embedded into the GBF. Developed countries must carry the greater burden in achieving the global goal since their consumption and energy use levels are orders of magnitude higher than the poorer countries. They must also take responsibility for their entire ecological footprint along their globalised supply chains, not just their impact on nature within their own borders. In parallel, restrictions on the harvest, trade and use of nature, for instance, must take into account the needs and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities.

CONSERVATION MUST BE NATURE POSITIVE AND PEOPLE-CENTRED

Global conservation goals, such as the '30x30' target to protect 30% of land and sea areas by 2030, are steps in the right direction. But they don't tackle the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss. What's more, with their focus on intact

GLOBAL GOAL FOR NATURE: NATURE POSITIVE BY 2030





and untouched nature, they don't factor in the needs of local communities, and there is a risk people will be driven from their land. Approaches such as the 'shared earth, shared ocean' framework put communities in charge of retaining and restoring 20% of all areas locally. So while the 30×30 target covers a large proportion of a smaller area of land and sea, 'shared earth, shared ocean' covers a smaller proportion of the larger area that has already been impacted by people (see graph on the left). The 30×30 target should only be adopted in combination with other approaches that meet the needs of climate, nature and people.

ALL SECTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE

We will not be successful if we continue to silo nature protection and restoration in certain sectors and specific government departments and agencies. All infrastructure and economic plans must address nature, nature-based solutions and biodiversity. The GBF must make explicit reference to the key areas of the economy that drive biodiversity loss including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health. These sectors must understand the contributions they have to make in going nature positive, and be capable of tracking them.

WE MUST CHANGE OUR PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

The Leaders Pledge for Nature also included a commitment to 'transition to sustainable patterns of production and consumption and sustainable food systems while remaining within planetary boundaries'. The GBF currently only calls for better consumer choice; it must align with and flesh out the commitment in the Leaders Pledge in order to actively change consumption patterns.

WE NEED A PLAN

A goal is only worth having if you know how you will achieve it. The GBF needs a universal framework for action on biodiversity, linking different elements (e.g. outcomes, actions and enabling conditions) and scales, and supporting international cooperation towards measurable goals. The implementation framework must help enhance national biodiversity strategy action plans (NBSAPs) and foster ownership among stakeholders beyond the biodiversity community. The focus needs to be on creating tangible action, with measurable indicators and an effective monitoring and review process, to improve transparency and accountability. Finally, there should be a plan for mainstreaming biodiversity and bioabundance – across industry, local and national government and the third sector, as

well as in every stage of policy development, planning and project cycles. (See box on the right for more.)

THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK WILL ONLY WORK IF IT HAS ADEQUATE FUNDING

Another reason for the failure in achieving previous biodiversity targets was the lack of finance available, especially to developing countries. What's more, countries are spending several times more on subsidies that degrade nature than on global biodiversity conservation. Taking this into account, the biodiversity finance gap has been calculated at as much as $824 billion per year. This may seem a lot, but as the Paulson Institute, who helped calculate the figure, points out: it is roughly equivalent to the total amount spent on cigarettes annually. The current draft of the GBF recognises this issue by reducing incentives that are harmful to biodiversity by at least $500 billion and generating new revenue of at least $200 billion. This figure is at the lower end of what is needed. We also need to ensure a clear plan is in place for developing countries to access these funds.

THE UK GOVERNMENT MUST ALSO LEAD BY EXAMPLE AT HOME

It must pass nature-positive legislation, as

Implementation

One of the main reasons we failed to reach all 20 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (the convention's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020) was that they lacked a clear delivery plan. There is now talk of removing an already weakened section on implementation from the GBF entirely and treating it separately, perhaps even two years later at COP16. There is simply no point in setting a goal without agreeing on how to achieve it (again, see the Paris Agreement). A possible implementation framework for the GBF – the Mitigation and Conservation Hierarchy – has already been proposed. The MCH aids transparency and monitoring; is flexible, allowing for differentiated pathways towards common goals; is founded on a strong evidence-base and a wealth of practical experience and supports aspirational goals for nature.

‘Conservation is critical to reducing biodiversity loss, but many conservation efforts fail to treat people fairly. This is not only unjust; it also undermines the long-term sustainability of conservation. The UK must use international diplomacy to ensure that environmental priorities are not met at the cost of local people and marginalised communities, including indigenous peoples, and that their knowledge and priorities are part of the governance and implementation.’

Ebony Holland, International Institute for Environment and Development

contained in the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill, to cover all our activities at home and abroad. Current proposed laws only call for biodiversity net gain on new infrastructural developments, but we need far more comprehensive legislation that ensures nature-positive impacts for all human actions and economic activities, from the food system, consumables and electronics to energy provision, water and the City of London’s investments. The UK Government must also put in place funding and regulatory and economic instruments to enable the effective implementation and monitoring of the GBF in the UK, including adequate financing of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Natural England, as well as oversight and compliance mechanisms.

ABOUT ZERO HOUR AND THE CEE BILL

Zero Hour is an alliance of organisations, scientists and thousands of ordinary citizens across the UK. We are calling for urgent and specific actions on the planetary emergency based on the current science and international agreements. Our focus is on the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill, which was introduced as a Private Members' Bill in the UK Parliament by Caroline Lucas MP in September 2020.

We have formulated our essential COP outcomes based on some of the key aspects of the CEE Bill. Addressing the planetary emergency requires rapid and bold action at both national and international levels. We are calling on the UK Government to use diplomacy to achieve these outcomes at the COP summits, and to take responsibility at home and demonstrate leadership by enshrining the CEE Bill into law.

The CEE Bill is the response to the urgent need for stronger, more joined-up legislation on climate and nature. It is the only proposed legislative plan in the UK that addresses the interconnections between the climate, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. It calls for an emergency strategy for rapid and immediate reductions in emissions and the preservation and restoration of the natural world in line with the UK's international commitments. The strategy is to be developed by Government in conjunction with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Committee on Climate Change based on the recommendations of a temporary and representative Climate and Nature Assembly. In developing the strategy, these bodies must ensure that they comply with critical red lines, including that the UK takes responsibility for its entire carbon and ecological footprint at home and abroad (this is currently not the case) and that there is an end to the exploration, extraction, export and import of fossil fuels. Government must also ensure that local communities are not negatively impacted by the strategy and that financial support and retraining is offered to those currently working in high-impact industries. You can read the full text of the Bill here. And here is a briefing with further explanation on the Bill's contents.

So far, the Bill has been backed by nearly 150 parliamentarians from all major political parties, as well as over 100 local councils. Supporting allies include the Co-operative Bank, Oxfam GB, Greenpeace, Bates Wells LLP (law firm), the Federation of Women's Institutes (N.I.) and the Knepp Estate. The Bill is also backed by leading academics and public figures including Prof. Joanna Haigh, formerly of the Grantham Institute, the broadcaster Gillian Burke, Sir David King, and IPCC report lead Dr. Joeri Rogelj. See a full list of supporting organisations and MPs here.

Zero Hour is mobilising people and communities across the country to push for bold, new legislation while also engaging directly with councillors, mayors, MPs and peers. It's the same approach that was used by the Big Ask campaign, which paved the way for the Climate Change Act of 2008.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
The content of this briefing was produced by the Zero Hour team with advice and support from Hollie Booth, University of Oxford; Ebony Holland, IIED; Rodrigo Martinez Peña, University of Linköping; Prof. E.J. Milner-Gulland, University of Oxford; Dr. David Obura, CORDIO EAST AFRICA; Dr. Anna Schulz, IIED; and Jefim Vogel, University of Leeds. It was designed by Europa.

Last updated: September 2021

Email: political@ceebill.uk
Web: ceebill.uk
Twitter: @ceebill_now

In partnership with

CUSP
Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity

TOAST
HERE'S TO CHANGE