



CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY

ENVIRONMENTAL GROWTH STRATEGY

2020-2065 | Natural foundations for a green recovery

The global evidence is clear that we must increase the speed with which we are bringing back nature in our land and seas if we are to prevent ecological breakdown.

CONTENTS

06	INTRODUCTION	19	ACTION TO GROW NATURE
09	WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL GROWTH?	22	STRATEGIC CONTEXT
12	OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	26	OUR STRATEGY
14	NATURE UNDER PRESSURE	28	NEXT STEPS



FOREWORD

WE CAN BE PROUD TO SAY THAT OUR 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL GROWTH STRATEGY WAS A GROUND-BREAKING DOCUMENT THAT SHOWED OUR STRONG LOCAL AMBITION TO REVERSE THE DECLINE OF WILDLIFE AND RAISE THE QUALITY OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT.

But over those five years the challenges have become greater. Whilst our contribution to halt climate change - through the decarbonisation of the energy we use - has moved decisively forward, the state of nature in Cornwall and Scilly has followed national and global trends. It is still in serious decline.

The 2015 strategy rightly stressed our interconnections with nature – and the value of environmental goods and services as an essential foundation for a cleaner, greener society and economy. There will be no healthy economy, or society, without a thriving natural and historic environment. This remains a fundamental principle of our refreshed strategy.

In the face of the now widely accepted double crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss, we can add the challenge of adaptation to the resulting environmental changes. Environmental growth is as vital as ever to each: to reverse the decline of nature, to drawdown carbon, and to protect us from environmental hazards like flooding.

Globally, the scale of the challenge is daunting. This year's Global Biodiversity Outlook from the UN found that the world failed to meet any of the international targets set to stem the destruction of wildlife and ecosystems over the last decade. We are, together with the rest of the global village, at a crossroads – with the natural systems which underwrite our wellbeing and prosperity in peril.

Positively, in 2021 we have a major international conference in China to push forward the worldwide biodiversity agenda; while at

home we have the COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow. The unprecedented challenges of the pandemic have highlighted that planetary health and human health are closely linked. People found a deeper appreciation of nature during lockdown, and this has put a much greater focus on the value of green spaces and inclusive access to the world of nature. Our national economic recovery plan also has a strong emphasis on clean green growth. The Prime Minister's commitment to protect 30% of land for nature recovery is also to be welcomed. In agriculture, the Environment Land Management scheme also presents new opportunities and risks for local agriculture and land management stakeholders too – who will be vital partners in delivering environmental growth.

Given these challenges and opportunities, this refreshed strategy reaffirms our commitment to grow nature locally – as a key piece of the jigsaw for keeping us within safe planetary boundaries. It retains the vision and underlying ambitions of our 2015 strategy. But it sharpens our focus with 10 pillars and associated objectives for the next five years.

The scale of our ambition and activity here in Cornwall and Scilly has been noticed by Government. Cornwall is pioneering action as one of the first areas to pilot a developing nature recovery plan – a requirement of the future Environment Act. We are confident that document, together with this strategy, will provide a clear route map for action and investment. Please support us as part of our coalition for nature.

RAGLAVAR

Y HYLlyn BOS PROUT DHE LEVEREL AGAN STRATEJI TEVYANS KERGHYNEDHEK DHE VOS SKRIFEN NOWEDHYANSEK A DHISKWEDHAS AGAN UGHELHWANS LEEL KREV DHE WORTHREYLYA DIFYGYANS A WODHVEWNANS HA GWELLHE KWALITA A'GAN KERGHYNNEDH NATUREL. AVEL SEWYANS, RE BEU LIES KOWLWRANS.

Mes dres an pypm bledhen na an chalenjys re dheuth ha bos moy. Kynth avonsyas yn ervirus agan kevro dhe hedhi chanj hin – dre lehe an karbon a'n nerth devnydhys genen – plit natur yn Kernow ha Syllan re holyas tuedh kenedhlek hag ollvysel. Hwath ymava ow perthi difygyans sevir.

An strateji 2015 a boslevas yn reyth agan kesgevennow gans natur – ha'n dalvosgoeth a wara ha gonisyow kerghynedhel avel fondyans essensek rag kemeneth hag erbyriedh glanna ha glassa. Ny vydh erbyriedh na kemeneth yaghus aga gnas heb kerghynnedh naturel hag istorek a sewen. Y hworta hemma avel pennrewl selvenel a'gan strateji diseghys.

Erbynn an barras dewblek degemerys yn efan lemmyn a janj hin ha koll a vewdhiversita, y hyllyn keworra an chalenj a aswiwa dhe janjyow kerghynedhel hag a sew. Tevyans kerghynedhel yw mar bosek avel nevra dhe bub huni: rag gorthreylya deklinyans natur, istenna karbon, ha'gan gwitha a beryllow kerghynedhel kepar ha liv.

Dres an norvys, kales dres eghen yw skeul an chalenj. Gologva Vewdhiversedh Ollvysel an vledhen ma a'n KU (UN) a dhismygis an norvys dhe fyllel metya kosten geswlasek vyth settyd dhe hedhi distruyans a wodhvevnans hag ekosystemow dres an dhegvedhen dhiwettha. Yth eson ni, war-barth ha remenant an wig ollvysel, orth krowsfordh – ha'n systemow naturel a wra mewghya agan les ha sewena yn peryl.

Yn posedhek, ni a'gan beus yn 2021 keskussulyans keswlasek meur

yn China rag herdhya yn-rag rol negys bewdhiverseth treusvysek; hag yn kettermyn ni a'gan beus tre keskussulyans chanj hin COP26 yn Glasgow. An chalenjys na veu gwelys kyns a'n pandemik re wolowpoyntyas an yeghes planetek ha yeghes tus yw keskemys yn ogas. A'gan towlen dhasvevnans erbysek kenedhlek a's teves poslev krev war devyans las ha glan. Res yw wolkomma keffrys ambos an Pennvenyster dhe witha 30% a'n tir rag dasvevnans natur. Yn ammeth, an dowlen Gerghynnedh Menystrans Tir a bresent peryllow gwir ha nowydh rag ammeth leel ha kevrenogyon menystrans tir ynwedh – neb a vydh kesparow ow telivra tevyans kerghynedhek.

Gans an chalenjys ha chonsyow ma, an strateji nowydhhes a dhasafydh agan ambos dhe devi natur yn leel – avel tamm posek a'n mildam rag agan gwitha a-ji dhe oryon planetek salow. Ev a with an welesigeth hag ughelhwansow elvennek a'gan strateji 2015. Mes ev a vleyng agan fog gans 10 koloven hag amkanow kevrennys rag an pypm bledhen a dheu.

Skeul a'gan ughelhwans ha gwrians omma yn Kernow ha Syllan re beu merkys gans an Governans. Yth yw Kernow ragresek yn hy gwrians avel onan a'n kynsa ranndiryow dhe brofya towlen dhasvevnans rag displegya natur – gorholedh a'n Reyth Kerghynnedh devedhek. Kyfyans a'gan beus an skrif na, warbarth ha'n strateji ma, dhe brovia mappa hyns kler rag gwrians ha kevarghow. Gwrewgh agan skoodhya, mar pleg, avel rann a'gan keskowethyans rag natur.



Lord Robin Teverson,
Chair of the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership
Kaderyer a'n Keskowethyans Natur Leel Kernow ha Syllan



Councillor Rob Nolan,
Cornwall Council Portfolio Holder for Environment and Public Protection
Synsyas Plegel Konsel Kernow rag Kerghynnedh ha Difresyans Poblek



Councillor Jonathan Smith,
Council of the Isles of Scilly Lead Member for Energy, Climate Change and Environment
Chif-Esel rag Nerth, Chanj an Hin ha Kerghynnedh Konsel Syllan

INTRODUCTION

THE GLOBAL EVIDENCE IS CLEAR THAT WE MUST INCREASE THE SPEED WITH WHICH WE ARE BRINGING BACK NATURE IN OUR LAND AND SEAS IF WE ARE TO PREVENT ECOLOGICAL BREAKDOWN.

And whilst we have reduced our carbon footprint, evidence shows that we must radically accelerate progress on this and other pressures if we are to avert climate and ecological breakdown. Nature must be at the core of our response – going beyond decarbonising our energy systems by growing nature to help us reduce the risks, draw down carbon and adapt.

This refreshed strategy provides a long-term framework for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to not just conserve, but to grow nature. Guided by the principle that we are interconnected with nature – it supports our transition to sustainable land, food and seas and towards a healthy green future. It retains the vision and core ambitions of our 2015 strategy, and sharpens our focus with 10 interrelated pillars and associated objectives for the next five years to provide the natural foundations for a green recovery.

Nature must be at the core of our response



This strategy was developed on behalf of, and for the benefit of, the whole of Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly. It is a response to the biodiversity crisis, and sets out how growing nature will also support us reduce the risks of, and adapt to, climate change.

This refresh builds upon the 2015 strategy, which was created with the input of a wide range of stakeholders, and updates it with the findings of recent nature-focused public engagements and consultation responses.

It is co-produced by our Local Nature Partnership, which brings together representatives of public bodies, wildlife trusts, community representatives, academics and leading environment professionals in areas such as farming and fisheries.

This strategy also sets out in further detail how partners will work together to help deliver Cornwall's transition to sustainable food, land and seas, as part of the shared vision Gyllyn Warbarth: Together We Can, The Cornwall Plan 2020-50. A cleaner, greener Cornwall is at the heart of that vision's ambition to be leading in sustainable living for the wellbeing of future generations.



OUR VISION

In 2065, nature in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will be diverse, beautiful, and healthy, supporting a thriving society, prosperous economy and an abundance of wildlife.

- Nature recovery, regeneration and reintroduction
- Marine health
- Natural climate solutions and adaptation
- Access to nature and active travel
- Clean air
- Clean water
- Waste and resources
- Sustainable food
- Economic and social wellbeing
- Governance, leadership and community

GROWING NATURE **UNDERSTANDING NATURE** **VALUING NATURE** **EXPERIENCING NATURE**

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL GROWTH?

Environmental growth is about not just protecting but also enhancing nature – ensuring that there is more of it, and that it is bigger, better, more diverse and more joined up.



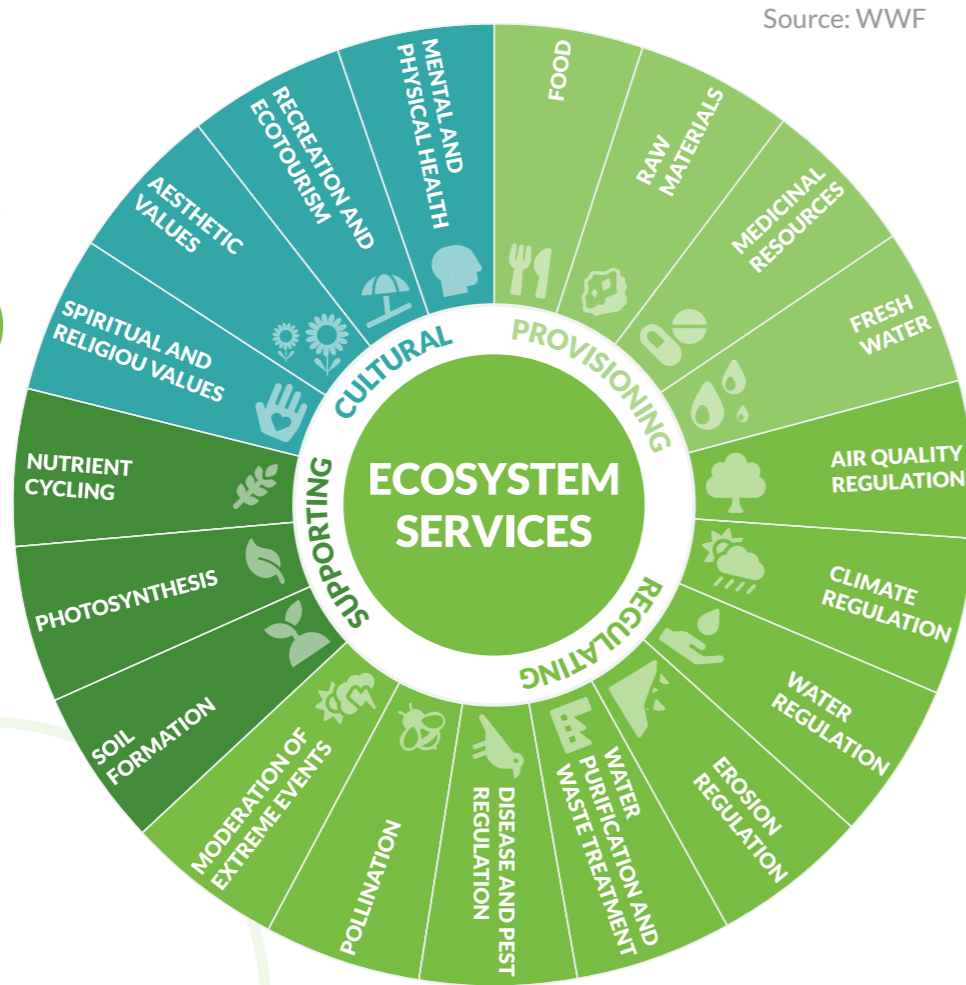
WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL GROWTH?

NATURE IS IN SERIOUS DECLINE, WITH SPECIES AND HABITATS DECLINING SIGNIFICANTLY OVER RECENT DECADES.

Environmental growth is about not just protecting but also enhancing nature – ensuring that there is more of it, and that it is bigger, better, more diverse and more joined up.

THIS MEANS:

- Protecting and restoring existing areas for nature
- Making more space for nature
- Joining up nature-rich sites
- Restoring dynamic natural processes
- Reducing pressures on nature, and making habitats more resilient
- Integrating and living with nature
- Supporting nature based solutions for social, economic or environmental challenges



Achieving environmental growth will mean we'll secure nature's 'ecosystem services', which ground our health and prosperity.



THE ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS:

- Nature-based solutions to reduce our emissions and tackle climate change.
- An abundance and diversity of wildlife and green spaces for healthier ecosystems.
- Protecting rare and threatened species and habitats.
- Natural regulation is restored so that climate, hazards, disease and pests remain within safe limits.
- Food webs are rebuilt so that people, plants and animals thrive.
- Natural cycles are repaired to improve air, water and soil quality.



THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

- UK natural capital has an estimated value of £921bn to the economy
- Natural goods and services are foundational to local industry.
- Greater productivity through a healthier, happier workforce and greater resource efficiency
- A more stable economy, with better conditions to attract and retain investment
- An attractive place to work and do business
- Enhancement of local character and distinctiveness
- Increased business resilience through reduced risk of environmental hazards
- More sustainable businesses with reduced operating cost



THE SOCIAL BENEFITS:

- Resilient communities buffered from weather extremes through nature-based solutions that reduce flood risks.
- Happier communities with improved and more inclusive physical health, mental wellbeing and safety outcomes
- A healthier place to live with clean air and water, and reduced risk of disease
- Replenished resources for food fuel and medicines, for improved food and fuel security.
- Greater connection to our natural and historic environment
- A strengthened sense of place
- An attractive place to live, work and raise a family
- A better quality of life



OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Our natural environment is at the core of our identity and heritage, and globally renowned for its beautiful land and seascapes and our unique historic landscape. It boasts a wide range of flora and fauna, with diverse features and habitats – from towans to tors, marshland to moorland.

We are vitally dependent upon nature for our health and prosperity, which when well-managed provides critical systems for our health such as food, clean air and water; and others vital to our wellbeing, such as learning and relaxation. It is helping us to tackle climate change, and to adapt by helping to reduce flood risks. The goods it provides are also foundational to our economy and culture including our agri-fisheries and mining industries.



CORNWALL AND THE ISLES OF SCILLY CURRENTLY CONTAINS...

9.9% tree cover, with 2% of ancient woodland cover

37 registered parks and gardens

OVER 650KM of coastline, including 254km designated as Heritage Coast

34% of inshore waters in a Marine Protected Area



498 County Wildlife Sites covering ~33,000 hectares

51 National Trust sites, including 1/3 of the coastline

OVER 120ha of coastal salt marsh

1.7% of land in a nature reserve



17 Special Areas of Conservation

3 Special Protection Areas

OVER 400 beaches, with 89 designated Bathing Waters

8 Blue Flag Beaches

OVER 2400ha of maerl beds

48,000 km of Cornish hedges

193 sites of special scientific interest

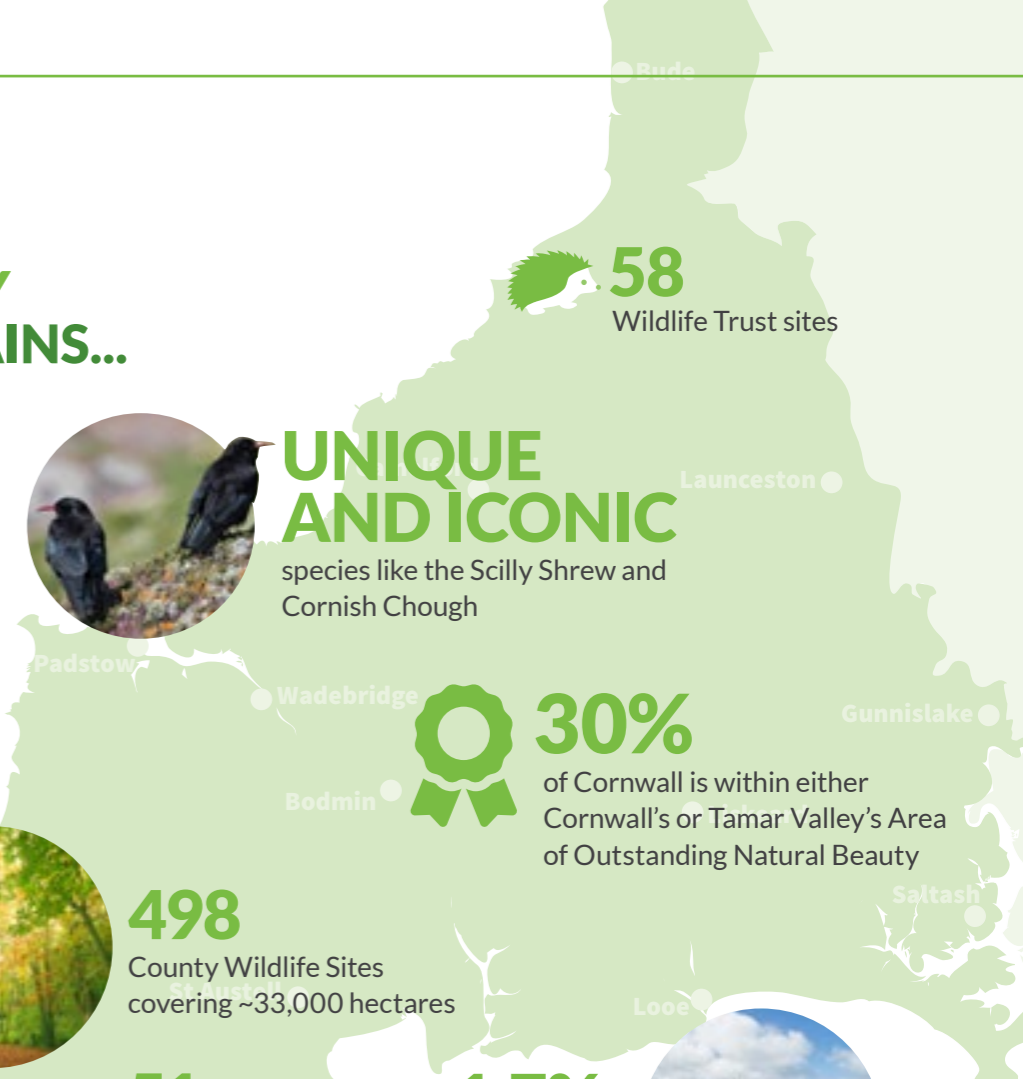
2,000ha of Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust land

11 Scilly Marine Conservation Zones

AN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY covering all of the Isles of Scilly

LAND USE IN CORNWALL:

74.4% Agricultural	5.5% Built environment
9.9% Woodland and scrub	2.4% Transport
5.7% Moorland, upland and heathland	1.8% Waterways and wetlands
	0.3% other

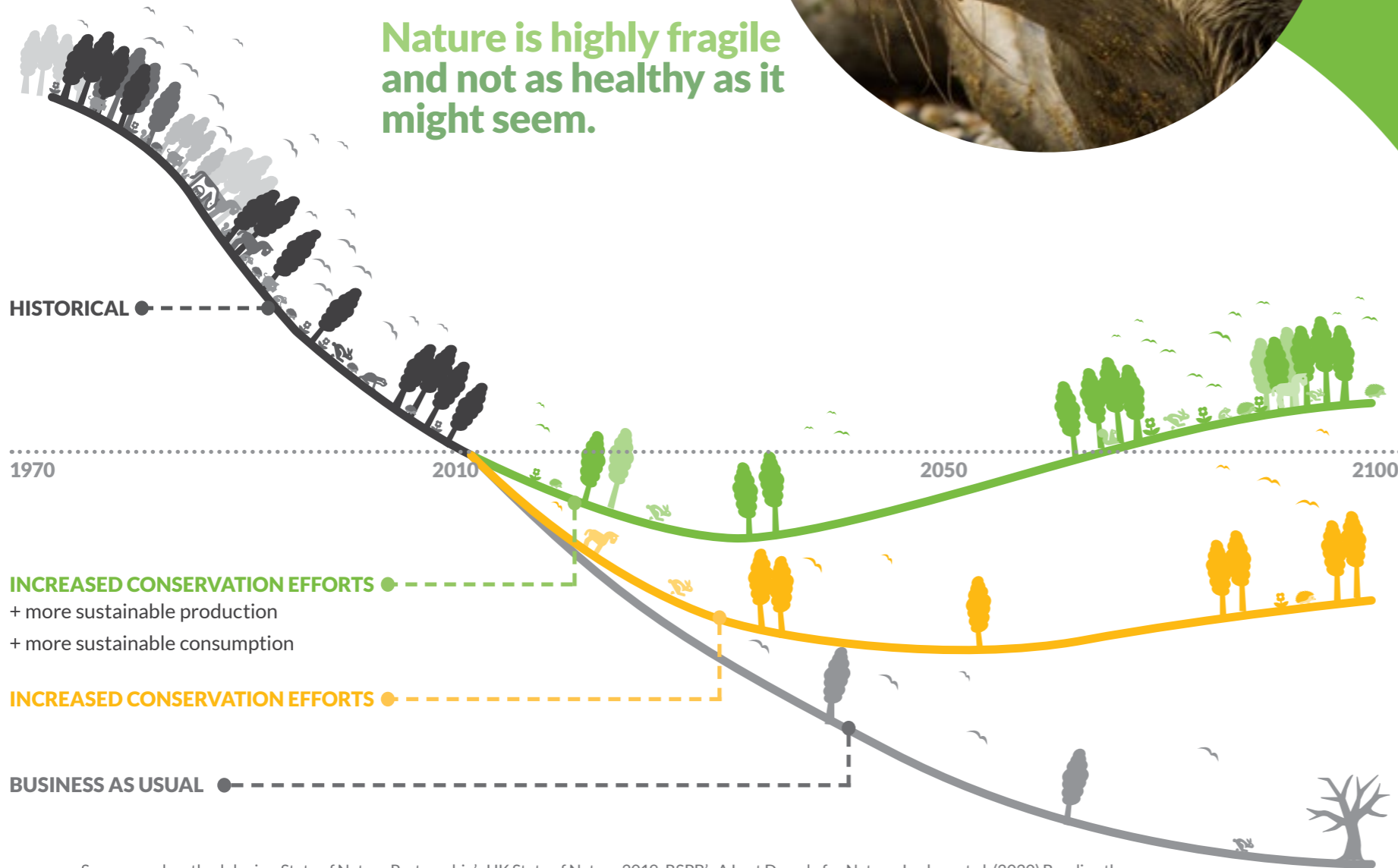


NATURE UNDER PRESSURE

HOWEVER, NATURE IS HIGHLY FRAGILE AND NOT AS HEALTHY AS IT MIGHT SEEM. Although fundamental to our life, health and prosperity, it is being destroyed at an historically unprecedented rate. It has degraded over the last 50 years at a dramatic rate, and that is accelerating due to climate change as it threatens habitat resilience.

Globally, our 'Ecological Footprint' exceeds nature's capacity to regenerate so much that we now exceed earth's 'biocapacity' by at least 56%. This threatens to reverse the advances in human wellbeing over the past century, with our global stock of 'natural capital' (natural goods and services) declining 40% in the last 30 years alone.

Nature is highly fragile and not as healthy as it might seem.



41%

decline of UK species since 1970



13%

average decline in abundance for indicator species in the UK since 1970



15%

of species are threatened with extinction in the UK, of 8,431 assessed



133

species have gone extinct in the UK since 1950



0 of 20

international targets for halting biodiversity loss were met in 2020

Nearly half

of terrestrial mammals are found in fewer places in Cornwall* since the late 80s



Nearly half

of breeding birds have declined in Cornwall since the late 80s



30%

decline in farmland bird species in Cornwall (1994-2019)

Three fifths

of butterflies are found in fewer places in Cornwall since the late 80s



104

seals were entangled with marine litter in 2019 in Cornwall



152km

of hedgerow and Cornish hedge has been lost in Cornwall

79%
of land in Cornwall isn't actively managed to deliver environmental growth

93%
of inshore seabed area in Cornwall isn't actively managed to deliver environmental growth

5%
of our carbon emissions are currently reabsorbed by our landscape

59%
of our residents don't live within 4km of an accessible woodland

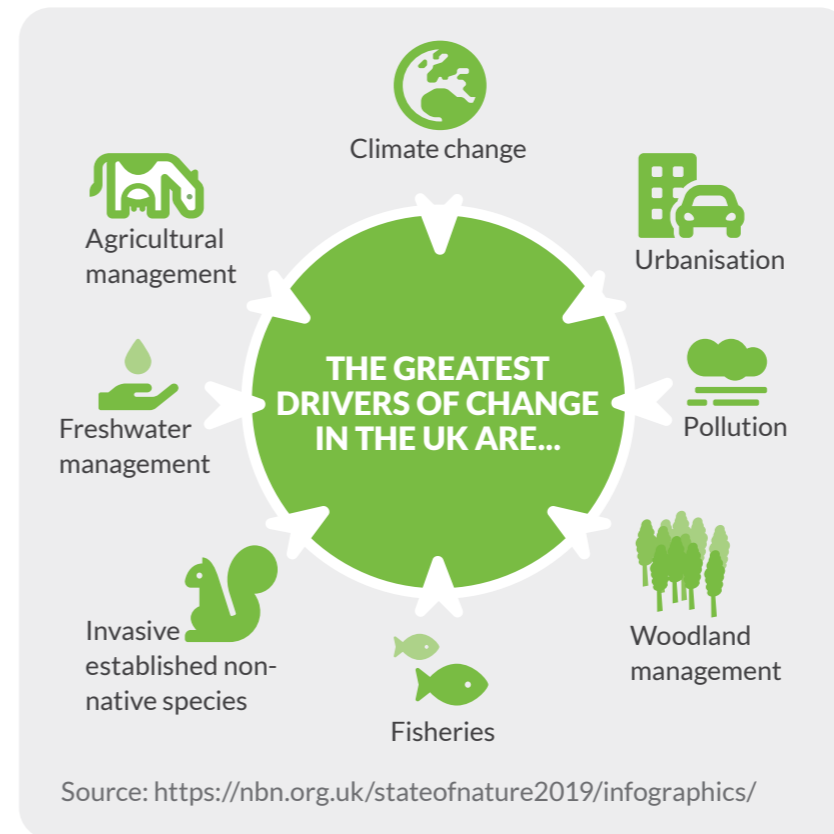
13%
of our monitored sites exceeded their annual target for Nitrogen Dioxide in 2018

75%
of our lakes, rivers and estuaries weren't rated good in 2016

59%
of our household waste wasn't recycled or composted in 2019/20

31%
of fish landed (by value) to Cornish ports were not recommended as sustainable in 2020

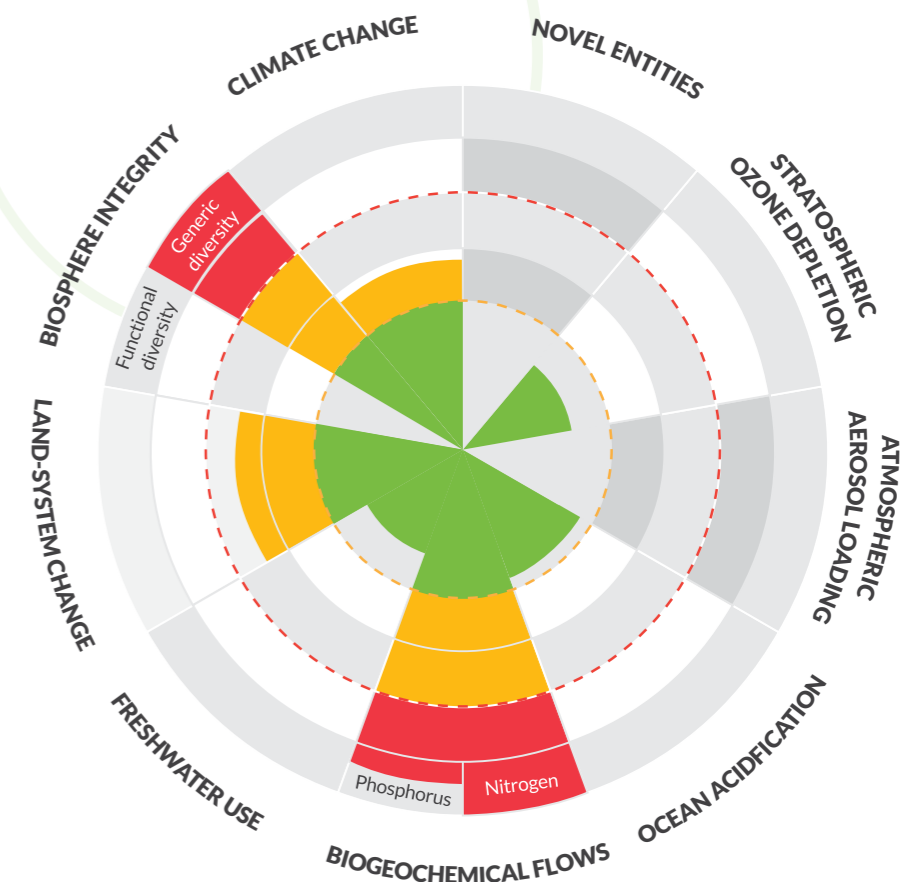
8.5%
of jobs in Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly were circular in 2019



Globally, our 'Ecological Footprint' exceeds earth's 'biocapacity' by at least 56%.

A range of pressures are behind this global decline; including pollution, development, and poor agri-fisheries practices. Thankfully, various actions could help bend the curve on biodiversity loss, including embedding nature recovery in the planning process; more sensitive and pollinator-friendly land management; climate change mitigation; action on pollution, invasive species and overexploitation; more sustainable production and consumption; and better education and awareness. The '10 pillars' of our strategy look to these opportunities.

Globally, four out of nine of the planetary boundaries within which humanity can safely operate have been crossed



We are vitally dependent upon nature for our health and prosperity

Sources and methodology: Cornwall EGS Monitoring & Evaluation Framework; Turner et al. (2020) Towards a Sustainable Cornwall: State of the Doughnut; Tevi, Circle Economy (2020) Baseline Analysis of Circular Jobs in Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly; Cornwall Wildlife Trust & Cornwall Council (2020) State of Nature Cornwall 2020

ACTION TO GROW NATURE



ACTION TO GROW NATURE

There has been a huge range of activity to grow nature in recent years – from community agriculture schemes to citizen science. These pages show a snapshot of recent projects.

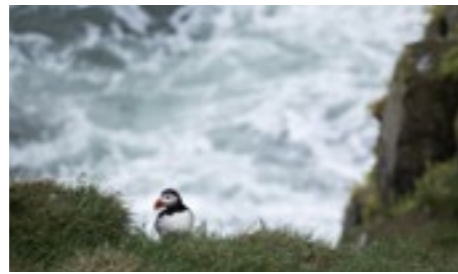


ACTION FOR NATURE RECOVERY



Making Space for Nature scheme

Communities in 7 Cornish towns have benefitted from improved green spaces created to bring nature-rich habitats to urban areas. £3.5m of ERDF, Cornwall Council, and University of Exeter funding enabled transformation of 40ha, of 44 hectares at 33 sites.



ACTION FOR MARINE HEALTH



Saving Scilly's Seabirds

This project builds on the successful St Agnes island restoration project by collecting data to inform practical habitat management improvements and public engagement, to enhance the breeding success of seabirds across the Isles of Scilly. The annual data collection, funded by the Isles of Scilly AONB, informs the Seabird Conservation Strategy for the Isles of Scilly.



ACTION FOR CLIMATE



Forest for Cornwall

Cornwall Council's 10-year 'Forest for Cornwall' is an ambitious tree planting project. It aims to cover around 8,000 hectares (about 2% of Cornwall's land area) - increasing canopy cover, whilst strengthening protections for existing trees, woodlands and hedges.



ACTION FOR WASTE



Connon Bridge Landfill site

Following the closure of the last landfill site in Cornwall, at St. Pinnock, work is underway to restore land and re-create natural habitats. SUEZ has restored woodland, grassland, wetlands and ponds, reconnected existing native oak woodland sites, and enhanced an array of existing Cornish hedges.



ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD



Tamar Grow Local

Tamar Grow Local is one of our many nature-friendly community food producers a not for profit cooperative working to revitalise the local food economy and address barriers for small-scale farmers. It provides support and education on growing food in allotments and community orchards, and works with business to increase the availability of local produce.



ACTION FOR CLEAN WATER



Upstream Thinking

South West Water's Upstream Thinking project is a scheme applying natural solutions to reduce pollution, improve catchment quality, recover habitats and reduce flood risks. Working with local conservation charities such as the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, with farmers and land owners, it has delivered strategic land restoration work to improve water quality.



ACTION FOR ACCESS



Keyn Glas

This Highways England and Cornwall Council funded project is investing in enhancing nature, including in 'green ribs' which make strategic habitat connections and improve landscape quality. It's also developing multi-use trails to connect communities to nature and each other through active travel along green corridors.



ACTION FOR CLEAN AIR



Encouraging cycling in West Carclaze

Supporting action on Cornwall's Clean Air Strategy in St Austell, work is underway to integrate extended cycle routes and supply electric bike charging points into the West Carclaze Garden Village – as part of a blue and green spine of waterbodies, open spaces and paths.



ACTION FOR ECONOMY & SOCIETY



Tevi

Tevi is a University of Exeter-led project supporting enterprises to adopt more efficient natural resource use, minimise waste, and support the transition towards a circular economy. It provides small and medium sized enterprises with expert consultation, opportunities for recognition and certification, and grant funding; and hosts the annual Cornwall Sustainability Awards.



ACTION FOR GOVERNANCE



Decision-making wheel

Cornwall Council's decision-making wheel is a tool for evaluating the social and environmental impacts of new policies and projects. They are used in Council reports to explain the effect of a project to aid Cabinet Member decision-making.



STRATEGIC CONTEXT



GOVERNMENT'S 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN

This plan lays the foundation of Government's environment framework, and sets an objective to "leave the environment in a better state than that in which we inherited it". It sets aims on clean air and water; biodiversity; sustainable resource use (such as timber); environmental hazards; resource efficiency; beauty, heritage and engagement; and pressures such as climate change. It also lays out objectives, including a principle of 'environmental net gain' for developers, a new system of land management, sustainable soil management by 2030, and an increase in woodland coverage to 12% by 2060.

Many parts of the plan have now been incorporated into draft legislation, most notably the Environment Bill. It sets a new environmental governance framework, a statutory footing for developers' biodiversity net gain requirement, and an enhanced duty on public bodies to 'conserve and enhance' biodiversity - i.e. to undertake environmental growth. It also requires the production of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, which Cornwall is piloting the creation of as the action plan for this strategy.

GYLLYN WARBARTH TOGETHER WE CAN

THE CORNWALL PLAN 2020-50

During summer 2020, over 25,000 people visited our online platform created to give people a say on the Cornwall We Want and 900 people took part in events to share their hopes for the future. One of the most common themes and calls for action was for a cleaner, greener Cornwall with more space for nature.

The hopes we heard from residents shaped our shared vision for Cornwall to be "leading in sustainable living for the wellbeing of future generations". The Environmental Growth Strategy sets out in further detail how partners will work together to deliver on the commitment to grow nature set out in The Cornwall Plan.

- NATIONAL**
- 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN
 - ENVIRONMENT BILL
 - AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES ACTS
 - NATURAL CAPITAL COMMITTEE ASSESSMENTS
 - CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE ASSESSMENTS AND CARBON BUDGETS
 - UK STATE OF NATURE REPORT
 - GLOVER REVIEW OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPES



- PLACE**
- GYLLYN WARBARTH - TOGETHER WE CAN: THE CORNWALL PLAN
 - LOCAL PLAN, NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS & CLIMATE CHANGE DPD
 - AONB MANAGEMENT PLANS
 - HERITAGE STRATEGY, WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND CORNISH DISTINCTIVENESS GUIDE
 - SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS
 - BEACH & DUNE MANAGEMENT PLANS



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



NATURE RECOVERY, REGENERATION AND REINTRODUCTION



We will exceed on the ambitions in the Environment Bill to develop and deliver a Local Nature Recovery Strategy; encourage landscape-scale restoration and reintroduction of species; help tackle invasive species; and embed environmental growth and biodiversity net-gain in the planning system.

MARINE HEALTH



We will enhance our Marine Protected Areas, increase the percentage of our inshore waters that are actively managed to deliver environmental growth, and increase the sustainability of local fisheries. We will support the development of fisheries management plans and a whole marine environment approach; tackle sources of pollution (such as plastics, chemicals and sewage); and pioneer marine rewilding – it having clear potential as a nature-based solution for climate change.

NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AND ADAPTATION



We will support the use of new land management approaches to develop climate solutions that work with natural processes, create natural on-land carbon sequestration and adaptation landscapes (including plants and soils), as well as delivering marine sequestration.

ACCESS TO NATURE AND ACTIVE TRAVEL



We will work to develop an inclusive active travel strategy to set out a road map for access to nature and work, whilst promoting Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly as a car-less visitor destination for sustainable eco-tourism. We will tackle inequalities in access and health by enabling better access to the countryside, volunteer opportunities, farm visits, and better designed and numerous green public spaces.

CLEAN AIR



We will support the delivery of the Clean Air for Cornwall Strategy to tackle air pollution, and promote a modal shift to active travel.

OUR VISION

In 2065, nature in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will be diverse, beautiful, and healthy, supporting a thriving society, prosperous economy and abundance of wildlife.

OUR AMBITIONS



GROWING NATURE

Enable more people to deliver environmental growth



UNDERSTANDING NATURE

Enable better education, understanding and evidence-based decision-making



VALUING NATURE

Enable more people to value our environment, intrinsically and instrumentally



EXPERIENCING NATURE

Enable more people to have more positive and more frequent experiences of nature

CLEAN WATER



We will work with industry & partners to increase the percentage of freshwater currently classified as having a good or higher ecological rating, improve aquatic health, and enhance bathing water quality. We will tackle sources of pollution such as run-off, soil erosion, sewage, plastics, and industry (e.g. legacy mining impacts).

WASTE & RESOURCES



We will work with local authorities on their waste reduction and recycling strategies to further embed the LNP Materials Charter to help create a more circular economy – including improving recycling rates, sustainable production of natural resources (such as timber and minerals), and tackling pollution and food waste.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD



We will support local farmers and landowners to deliver nature recovery through the Environmental Land Management scheme and provision of public money for public goods. We will work to create a new Land Management Advice service. We will promote local producers (including small-scale); champion pollinator-friendly practices; champion food & seed security; and encourage regenerative, low input and organic local production, good soil-management, and agroforestry.

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL WELLBEING



We will create training for green jobs to ensure we have the skills and capabilities needed to restore nature; and set up an Environment Centre to encourage businesses, communities and individuals to work together to increase environmental, social and economic prosperity. We will tackle environmental health hazards and support green social prescribing for better mental and physical health.

GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY



We will act to ensure that existing arrangements for environmental protection are adhered to nationally and locally; develop a local one planet/doughnut model; create a single, shared plan jointly owned by partners; explore green finance opportunities; and champion volunteer and local council action alongside green education initiatives.



OUR NEXT STEPS

Our immediate next steps are to develop a **Nature Recovery Strategy and linked investment programme**, to kickstart nature recovery and target increased investment in natural assets. These will define what, where and how we can best support at appropriate scale to help nature to regenerate; and ensure that we can strategically champion and support projects through our partners, local communities, and volunteer networks.

Alongside this **we will integrate nature recovery into our local planning framework, and embed our dynamic environment mapping system** to ensure the specific characteristics of our environment are well understood. We will also continue building our evidence-base on our unique features, the role of our environment in a local and global context, our outcomes, and nature's social and economic benefits.

The plan will be a key pillar of our local response to strategic environmental challenges, and unlock nature-based solutions for carbon draw down and flood risk management, supporting linked plans in areas such as energy decarbonisation. We will therefore support the development of a refreshed Climate Change Action Plan and the implementation of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – to ensure that nature is at their heart.

We will also continue to deliver in partnership on major strategic projects – such as Cornwall's Making Space for Nature Project and Scilly's Coastal Resilience & Adaptive (water) Action Plan project – whilst supporting community delivery too.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY
 Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Leadership Board
 • Climate Change Action Plan



ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY
 Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership
 • Nature Recovery Strategy



ENVIRONMENTAL ADAPTATION
 Cornwall Strategic Resilience Board
 • Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Our immediate next steps are to develop a Nature Recovery Strategy and linked investment programme

TOGETHER FOR NATURE

Environmental Growth will only be achieved with the active contributions of our strategic and delivery partners, and wider support of other organisations, central government, businesses, volunteer networks and local communities.

We will continue to work closely with our strategic partners, including our strategic environment partnerships, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Leadership Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and Local Enterprise Partnership, to seize opportunities for joint-working – such as the environmental growth element in our Local Industrial Strategy – as well as strengthening our links with local councils and community volunteer networks.



GET INVOLVED: Everyone can support the effort for environmental growth – including making changes to how you consume, travel and more. You can find inspiration from our Grow Nature Toolkit and get funding from our Grow Nature Seed Fund:

www.cornwall.gov.uk/grow-nature

HOW WE WILL MEASURE PROGRESS

TO MONITOR PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS TARGET, WE WILL MONITOR TRENDS ACROSS THE FOLLOWING KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.

These indicators enable us to reflect, learn lessons, and improve. They align to The Cornwall Plan Outcomes Framework, and represent currently available, repeatable open source data.**

LAND DELIVERING ENVIRONMENTAL GROWTH

% of land actively managed to deliver environmental growth

FRESH WATER RATING

% of lakes and rivers with a good or higher ecological rating

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

% of coastal waters protected

CARBON FOOTPRINT

Tonnes of carbon per-person

DEVELOPMENTS WITH NATURAL FEATURES

% of natural features proposed for large new development sites which were delivered

ESTUARY RATING

% estuaries with a good or higher ecological rating

OUR MILESTONES

By 2030, at least

30%

of our land and seas will be positively managed for nature*

By 2050, we are growing nature on

twice as much land

and four times as much of our inshore waters as in 2020.

INSHORE WATERS

% of inshore seabed area actively managed to deliver environmental growth

NATURAL CARBON STORAGE

% of our carbon emissions reabsorbed by our landscape

TARGETS ON BIODIVERSITY

% of biodiversity targets likely to be fulfilled

BATHING WATER QUALITY

% of bathing waters that were rated good or excellent

WOODLAND ACCESS

% of residents living within 4km of a large accessible wood

GETTING OUTDOORS

% of residents which visited the outdoors at least once a week

AIR POLLUTION

% of monitored sites exceeding the annual target for NO²

CIRCULAR JOBS

% of jobs that are circular

SUSTAINABLE FISHING

% of fish landed (by value) to Cornish ports recommended as sustainable

RECYCLED WASTE

% of waste collection recycled or composted

*Elaboration of what constitutes 'positive management', and the methodology for these indicators, is available in the Environmental Growth Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

**We will aim to incorporate further new measures where evidence becomes available. Progress reports will be published on the Grow Nature webpage. Further biodiversity-related data will be published in our State of Nature report.



**ENVIRONMENTAL
GROWTH STRATEGY**
2020-2065

**GYLLYN WARBARTH
TOGETHER WE CAN**

 www.cornwall.gov.uk/grow-nature

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