



RSPB Cymru

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair of the Climate Change, Environment & Infrastructure Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

8th July 2021

Dear Llyr,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Chair of the Climate Change, Environment & Infrastructure Committee. We would like to take this opportunity also to thank you for championing environmental issues, and particularly biodiversity, in the previous Senedd. We look forward to continuing to work positively with you in this new role for the benefit of Wales' wildlife.

As you know this Senedd term will be a critical one for nature both internationally and at home. In October, the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 summit taking place in China will set a new global framework for biodiversity for the next decade. We are calling for ambitious targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in line with the global [nature positive](#) movement. Following the passing of the Motion declaring a Nature Emergency last week we trust that the Committee will want to hold Welsh Government to account on taking forward the points in the motion including to bring forward legally-binding nature recovery targets for Wales, as well as urgently needed legislation to secure robust environmental governance and supporting an ambitious global framework.

The next 12 months will also be a critical time for determining how Wales will respond to the challenge of climate change, with COP26 fast approaching and following recent new guidance from the UK Committee on Climate Change it is imperative that we act decisively and take the necessary steps to deliver our climate ambitions. Nature-based solutions have the potential to play a significant role in delivering not only our climate ambitions, but also, in helping address the nature emergency and contributing to other societal challenges we face. If we are to meet these challenges, we need to ensure we use the full range of nature-based solutions available to us, this means restoring peatlands and other carbon-rich habitats such as saltmarsh and heathlands, as well as pursuing opportunities to create new woodland habitats. We would urge you as chair of the Committee that includes both climate change and the environment to ensure the Welsh Government delivers the ambitious actions we need if we are to deliver our climate goals, and nature-based solutions that deliver against multiple objectives are at the heart of Wales' response.

You will be well aware there has been much bad news on the plight of nature in Wales in recent months and years – not least SoNaRR 2020 which found biodiversity in Wales to be in serious

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Mae'r RSPB yn aelod o BirdLife International, partneriaeth o gyrff cadwraeth sy'n gweithio i sicrhau cartref i fydd natur o amgylch y byd.

The RSPB is a member of BirdLife International, a partnership of conservation organisations working to give nature a home around the world.

Noddwr/Patron: Ei Mawrhydi y Frenhines/Her Majesty the Queen **Cadeirydd y Cyngor /Chairman of Council:** Kevin Cox **Llywydd/President:** Miranda Krestovnikoff **Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Cymru/Chairman, Committee for Wales:** Professor Sir Adrian Webb **Cyfarwyddwr, RSPB Cymru/Director, RSPB Cymru:** Katie-Jo Luxton

Mae'r Gymdeithas Frenhinol er Gwarchod Adar (yr RSPB) yn elusen gofrestrddig: Lloegr a Chymru rhif 207076, yr Alban rhif SC037654. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654.



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giving
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decline, in line with global trends. NRW's recently published baseline evaluation of terrestrial protected sites also made grim reading with only 20% of protected site features in favorable condition, and around half of features

in 'unknown' condition. Similarly, the 2018 condition assessment of SPAs and SACs with marine features found 54% of features in unfavorable or unknown condition. An important feature of the terrestrial evaluation report was that it reported on the reasons for site features' condition being unknown; in 30% of cases insufficient staff resource is cited as a reason. The Committee's scrutiny of NRW, and in particular, whether it is adequately funded to lead on driving nature's recovery will be as important as ever.

We suggest the new Committee should also consider spending time considering the issue of funding nature's recovery; and noting your own comments at WEL's recent event on the CBD and nature targets for Wales, we hope other Senedd Committees will also consider it and would welcome working with you to achieve scrutiny from other Committees.

We would very much welcome a discussion on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sharon Thompson
Head of Policy & Advocacy

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