



COMMUNIQUÉ

United Kingdom releases a new biodiversity strategy in response to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Montreal, 3 November 2011 – In accordance with the commitment to develop an updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan, made at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010 the United Kingdom Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services* on 19 August 2011.

The document sets out a new strategic direction for biodiversity policy in England for the next decade and describes how England will respond to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The new strategy signifies a shift in emphasis towards a more effective, more innovative and more integrated landscape-scale approach; an approach that enables better prioritization and which delivers multiple benefits for both biodiversity and society.

The strategy will also put people at the heart of biodiversity policy and action, facilitating engagement of partners at all levels, from the motivated individual to large national conservation charities. Better account of biodiversity will be taken in decision-making across government, business and wider society, ensuring that the value that biodiversity brings to us all is recognized.

In response to the publication of the strategy, the Secretary of State for Defra, Rt Hon Caroline Spelman, MP, stated: ‘Our wildlife is not only something that we should value because it’s nice to look at. Nature underpins our very existence, giving us clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and healthy food to eat. This strategy sets out how we will stop the loss of species and habitats, so that this generation can be the first to leave our natural environment in a better state than they found it.’

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “In Nagoya, the global community adopted 20 ambitious Aichi Targets under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and countries were called upon to translate these into national biodiversity strategies. The United Kingdom is one of the first countries to respond, with the National Ecosystem Assessment, the Natural Environment White Paper and now with the updated Biodiversity Strategy for England. I am very pleased to see that in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, England’s new biodiversity strategy includes clear quantitative targets as well as priority actions to address pressures from agriculture, forestry and fisheries.”
