



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Natural Environment White Paper

Implementation update report

October 2014

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Introduction

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) [*The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature*](#) (2011) recognised that a healthy natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. It sets out how the value of nature can be mainstreamed across our society by facilitating local action; strengthening the connections between people and nature; creating a green economy and showing leadership in the EU and internationally. It set out 92 specific commitments for action.

There has been ongoing good progress implementing the commitments with three quarters of the commitments now assessed as “completed” and many others well underway. The White Paper sets long term ambitions. Many of the “completed” commitments represent initial steps, albeit important ones, towards these ambitions and we are putting in place important foundations for the future..

Since its publication in 2011 Defra has published periodic [NEWP implementation update newsletters](#) highlighting significant progress since the last update. This document summarises this information and sets it out in one place. It lists all 92 commitments and sets out the status of each commitment and where further information can be found.

NEWP commitment 90 promised to “develop a set of key indicators...to track progress on the ambitions of this White Paper”. These are now in place and are entitled the [England Natural Environment Indicators \(ENEIs\)](#). These will be used to track progress against the broad ambitions of the White Paper over time, to communicate this to interested parties and to provide a robust evidence base. At this stage, it is too soon to see the impacts of the White Paper reflected in the ENEIs.

Protecting and Improving our Natural Environment

A vision for nature (Commitments 1-3)

1. **Building on the National Ecosystem Assessment**, the government will support a further phase of ground-breaking research. It will investigate the mix of future actions most likely to secure the most benefits for nature and for people from our ecosystems. It will also develop practical tools to assist decision-makers in applying the lessons of the NEA.

- **Status:** Commitment completed.
- **Comment:** A programme of research, funded by Defra, the Welsh Government and three Research Councils, was initiated in January 2012 and the report was published 26th June 2014.
- **Further information:** <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/NEWFollowonPhase/tabid/123/Default.aspx>

2. We will publish a **new Biodiversity Strategy for England** to follow this White Paper. It will respond to our international commitments and set a new strategic direction for biodiversity policy in England for the next decade.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; ongoing work to deliver the strategy is covered under commitment 3
- **Comment:** *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services* was published on 19 August 2011.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>

3. Our **2020 mission is to halt overall biodiversity loss**, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** We are working with a range of partners to deliver the strategic outcomes set out in Biodiversity 2020. Action to deliver the Strategy will continue to 2020. The latest update to the Biodiversity 2020 indicators was published in October 2013 (see link below).
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-biodiversity-indicators>

<https://plus.google.com/109941339763068283056#109941339763068283056/posts>

Local Nature Partnerships (Commitments 4-7)

4. We will **encourage and support Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs)** where local areas wish to establish them. These partnerships will work at a strategic scale to improve the range of benefits and services we get from a healthy natural environment. They will aim to improve the multiple benefits we receive from good management of the land.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** There are 48 Local Nature Partnerships, recognised by ministers, across England in rural and urban areas. They were announced in summer/autumn 2012.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-at-home-and-abroad/supporting-pages/local-nature-partnerships>

5. Partnerships which fulfil the broad vision set out in this White Paper will be recognised by government and its environmental bodies. We will **host an annual Ministerial event** at which partnerships can come together to share best practice, discuss implementation issues and celebrate success. We will **maintain a partnership database on the internet**.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** The second Ministerial event, attended by Lord de Mauley, held in March 2014. Map and list of Local Nature Partnerships/contacts can be found at the link below.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-at-home-and-abroad/supporting-pages/local-nature-partnerships>

6. The government wants to provide support to both new and existing partnerships wishing to adopt an integrated, landscape scale approach. We will **provide a one-off fund in 2011/12 worth £1 million**, to develop Local Nature Partnerships.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Funding awarded in 2011/12 to help develop local nature partnerships around England and work completed.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-at-home-and-abroad/supporting-pages/local-nature-partnerships>

7. We will **inaugurate a network of 50 Natural Value Ambassadors** to engage key decision-makers and opinion formers using the latest evidence and materials available.

- **Status:** Commitment considered completed through other activities

- **Comment:** The spirit of this commitment is being delivered through a range of other NEWP initiatives which already involve people operating as champions in their sector or area (for example, Local Nature Partnership Chairs, Ecosystems Knowledge Network Champions, Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee Chairs, Catchment Partnership Hosts, Natural Capital Committee members and Ecosystems Markets Task Force members).
- **Further information:** see information at relevant sites such as <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-at-home-and-abroad/supporting-pages/local-nature-partnerships>; <http://ekn.defra.gov.uk/apply/champions/> ; <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-rac>; <http://www.naturalcapitalcommittee.org/>

Nature Improvement Areas (Commitments 8-13)

8. We will **enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)**, based on a local assessment of opportunities for restoring and connecting nature on a significant scale.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** Defra has published criteria that can be used by local authorities, Local Nature Partnerships and others when identifying locally determined Nature Improvement Areas.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criteria-to-apply-when-identifying-nature-improvement-areas>

9. To provide inspiration and illustrate what works the government will support the creation of Nature Improvement Areas. **Natural England will set up a competition to identify 12 initial areas.** We will provide £7.5 million over the current Spending Review period.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Following the competition, funding was awarded and the 12 government-funded Nature Improvement Areas started work in April 2012.
- **Further information:** <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/funding/니아/projects/>

10. Working within the framework of the National Policy Statements and the government's planning reforms (see below), **local authorities will be able to use local planning to support Nature Improvement Areas**, including identifying them in their local plans where they choose, while not deterring sustainable development.

- **Status:** Commitment completed

- **Comment:** The new National Planning Policy Framework provides for consideration of Nature Improvement Areas. See commitment 14.
- **Further information:**
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/60777/2116950.pdf

11. We will **capture the learning from Nature Improvement Areas, and review whether further action is needed** in planning policy, regulation or capacity building, to support their development.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** Monitoring and evaluation framework established. First evaluation shows Nature Improvement Areas making good progress, including leveraging in significant added value. The second year's report is expected to be published in autumn 2014.
- **Further information:**
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/funding/niа/monitoringandevaluation.aspx>

12. The government's environmental bodies are reforming the way they work together, to **provide more coherent advice to local partners**. This means sharing information to help practitioners prioritise action based on environmental risks and opportunities.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Single Voice Steering Group, which coordinates Environment Agency, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation and Forestry Commission place-based working, established and continues to meet every quarter. It has published a joint Defra Network offer to Local Enterprise Partnerships and City Deals and Group members have worked with others to develop a Coastal Concordat. The four organisations have made available the outcome of a one-year review of the operation of the Defra Network offer.
- **Further information:** the Defra Network offer can be found on all the organisations' websites, for example e.g. http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/defra-network-offer_tcm6-35836.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-coastal-concordat-for-england>

13. We will **maximise the contribution which Environmental Stewardship and the Woodland Grant Scheme make** towards our over arching objective to promote multiple benefits from ecological restoration at a landscape scale, including through Nature Improvement Areas.

- **Status:** Commitment completed (phase 1); work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits (Phase 2)
- **Comment:** Promoting multiple benefits of English Woodland Grant Scheme and Higher Level Stewardship in two phases. (1) Closer ways of working within Rural

Development Programme for England (2007-2013) and (2) full integration within new rural development programme from 2015 (new environmental land management scheme being developed).

- **Further information:** <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs> and <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/hls/>

Protecting natural value through the planning system (Commitment 14)

14. The government will **consult extensively on a draft of the National Planning Policy Framework** later in the summer, and has already invited comments on its content and received responses from a wide range of environmental and other interested groups.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Consultation received around 14000 responses. New National Planning Policy Framework published on 27 March 2012 and is consistent with, and helps implement, Natural Environment White Paper ambitions.
- **Further information:** https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/60777/2116950.pdf

Offsetting the impacts of development on biodiversity (Commitment 15)

15. We will **establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting** and will test this using a number of pilot areas.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** Two-year pilots began in six areas in April 2012. These completed in March 2014 and an independent report on them is now being produced. In its response to an Environmental Audit Committee's report, the government agreed that it would not take decisions on the future of offsetting until the report on the pilots is available.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/biodiversity-offsetting> and https://consult.defra.gov.uk/biodiversity/biodiversity_offsetting and <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news/government-response-biodiversity-offsetting-/>

Planning for low-carbon infrastructure (Commitment 16)

16. The government will work with others to **establish a research programme** to fill evidence gaps about impacts on the natural environment of the level of infrastructure needed to meet 2050 objectives, in particular with respect to the cumulative and indirect effects.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** Sustainable Pathways to Low Carbon Energy (SPLiCE) research programme is expected to last 3 to 5 years. Phase 1 started on 1st July 2014, and is a one year scoping study that will establish research priorities for phase 2.
- **Further information:** <http://www.lwec.org.uk/sustainable-pathways-low-carbon-energy>

Getting the best value from agricultural land (Commitments 17-20)

17. We will bring together government, industry and environmental partners to **reconcile how we will achieve our goals of improving the environment and increasing food production**. We will publish our conclusions within the next 12 months.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; report published in July 2012 and key actions addressed in 2012-13
- **Comment:** The Green Food Project has now been completed. Work is now underway building on the conclusions in the report.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-food-project-conclusions>

18. We will use the review in 2012 of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment and the Greenhouse Gas Action Plan, as well as the evidence from elsewhere such as on pesticides or voluntary action under the Water Framework Directive, to **assess more generally the effectiveness of this kind of voluntary industry-wide approach**.

- **Status:** Commitment completed (follow up action combined with Commitment 20)
- **Comment:** The reviews of voluntary approaches and how we use advice and incentives for farmers and land managers are completed. The report was published on 27 March 2013.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-environmental-advice-incentives-and-partnership-approaches-for-the-farming-sector-in-england>

19. We will work with our delivery partners and stakeholders to **develop and pilot an approach to Environmental Stewardship that increases its focus on outcomes**,

including the possibility of allowing greater flexibility within agreements in how these outcomes are achieved.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** Our improvements to the options for the Entry Level Stewardship scheme submitted to the European Commission in November 2011 to make Environmental Stewardship more effective (MESME) have been approved.
- **Further information:**
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/mesme.aspx>

20. We will carry out **a full review of how we use advice and incentives for farmers and land managers**, to create a more integrated, streamlined and efficient approach that is clearer for farmers and land managers and yields better environmental results.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits. The approach is being applied to advice provision in the next round of the Common Agricultural Policy
- **Comment:** The reviews of voluntary approaches and how we use advice and incentives for farmers and land managers are completed. The report was published on 27 March 2013.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-environmental-advice-incentives-and-partnership-approaches-for-the-farming-sector-in-england>

Protecting and improving our woodland and forests (Commitments 20-22)

21. The government welcomes the case the “Read Report” sets out and **has asked the Independent Panel on Forestry to provide advice on an appropriate level of ambition for woodland creation and more active management**, the mechanisms and market conditions needed and options for ensuring everyone has the opportunity to experience and enjoy our woodland resource.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** The Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement was published on 31 January 2013. This incorporates the government’s Response to the Independent Panel on Forestry’s Report.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-forestry-policy-statement>

22. The government is committed to providing appropriate protection to ancient woodlands and to more restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (in recognition of their

particular value). We have **asked the Independent Panel on Forestry for advice on the restoration of open habitats and plantations on ancient woodland sites.**

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** The Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement was published on 31 January 2013. This incorporates the government's Response to the Independent Panel on Forestry's Report.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-forestry-policy-statement>

Diverse and living landscapes (Commitments 23-24)

23. We will work with local communities in a number of areas throughout England to **support local engagement in landscape planning.**

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** The new Natural England Area Team model is now in place and embedding the National Character Area profiles at the local level.
- **Further information:** Achieved through the local delivery work of Natural England

24. We will work with civil society to **update and improve the consistency of the national landscape character area profiles** and integrate information on the ecosystem goods and services that they provide. Each profile will identify the environmental potential of landscape areas, to inform national policies such as agri-environment schemes and help local communities and planners to make informed decisions about land use.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** All 159 profiles were published by June 2014.
- **Further information:**
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/default.aspx>

Safeguarding our soils (Commitments 25-26)

25. We will **undertake a significant research programme** over the next four years to explore: how soil degradation can affect the soil's ability to support vital ecosystem services such as flood mitigation, carbon storage and nutrient cycling; and how to best manage our lowland peatlands in a way which supports efforts to tackle climate change. We will use the results of this research to set the direction of future action.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** Five research projects underway with a total value of £3.2million, two due to publish in 2014 (BD5001 & SP1316) and three in 2016 (SP1210, SP1317 & SP1318).

- **Further information:** <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/>

26. We want to **reduce peat use to zero by 2030**, setting the following milestones:

- a progressive phase-out target of **2015 for government** and the public sector on direct procurement of peat in new contracts for plants;
- a voluntary phase-out target of **2020 for amateur-gardeners**;
- a final voluntary phase-out target of **2030 for professional growers** of fruit, vegetables and plants,
- we will **establish a Task Force** bringing together representatives from across the supply chain with a clear remit to advise on how best to overcome the barriers to reducing peat use, exploring all the available measures to achieve this goal,
- building on the advice of the Task Force, we will **review progress towards these targets before the end of 2015** and consider the potential for alternative policy measures if necessary.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** Task Force report and draft roadmap submitted to Defra and published in early July 2012; government response published in January 2013.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-the-food-and-farming-industry-more-competitive-while-protecting-the-environment/supporting-pages/horticultural-peat>

Restoring nature in our rivers and water bodies (Commitments 27-30)

27. We will **develop an action plan to identify and address the most significant diffuse sources of water pollution from non-agricultural sources**.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** Consultation ended 8 February 2013. Summary of responses published June 2013. Plan to publish action plan by autumn 2014.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tackling-water-pollution-from-the-urban-environment>

28. We are establishing **ten catchment-level partnerships to develop and implement plans for creating and maintaining healthy water bodies**. We will also support additional groups who wish to take a lead in trialling a catchment approach.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** A total of 62 pilots ran from January to December 2012. On 3 June 2013 Defra launched a Policy Framework to aid wider adoption of the Catchment Based Approach, rolling this out across England.

- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/catchment-based-approach-improving-the-quality-of-our-water-environment>

29. The Environment Agency and Natural England will work together with farmers to **increase the number and appropriate location of Entry Level options under the Environmental Stewardship scheme** where there are diffuse pollution problems.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Working through Catchment Sensitive Farming and Campaign for the Farmed Environment.
- **Further information:** Relates to internal working arrangements.

30. We will **reform the abstraction regime**. The new regime will provide clearer signals to abstractors to make the necessary investments to meet water needs and protect ecosystem function.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** The formal consultation was published on 17th December 2013 with responses requested by 28th March 2014. We published a summary of responses on 9th July 2014.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reforming-the-water-industry-to-increase-competition-and-protect-the-environment/supporting-pages/protecting-our-water-sources-the-future-of-abstraction-reform>

Restoring nature in our towns, cities and villages (Commitments 31-32)

31. We will provide funding to **support the Big Wildlife Garden scheme**. Backed by the Royal Horticultural Society and The Wildlife Trusts, the scheme will support a major national competition for Wildlife Garden of the Year, open to homes, schools and communities. It will also develop a definitive online guide for wildlife gardening, providing advice for gardeners of all levels and abilities.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Competition launched 19 August 2011, awards presented to competition winners at the Hampton Court Flower Show on 6 July 2012.
- **Further information:** <http://www.rhs.org.uk/Gardens/News/%E2%80%98Big-Wildlife-Garden--competition>

32. The government will **work with its transport agencies and key delivery partners to contribute to the creation of coherent and resilient ecological networks**, supported, where appropriate, by organisation-specific Biodiversity Action Plans. We will host a forum with environmental stakeholders to inform future priorities for the enhancement of these green corridors.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** Natural England, Network Rail and Highways Agency worked in partnership to deliver environmental stakeholder workshops (January 2014) in two Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) to discuss and inform future priorities for the enhancement of transport corridors. Two further workshops were held in summer 2014 to develop ongoing pilot initiatives in two NIAs. The pilots will develop new approaches to maximising the potential of road and rail transport networks to deliver biodiversity, ecological connectivity and ecosystem service outcomes, whilst minimising operational risks for the transport operators. The first phase, to complete a literature review which looks at the potential for enhancing transport corridors for the benefit of biodiversity and transport infrastructure resilience, has now been completed, and will be published in Autumn 2014, along with the outputs from the opportunity mapping undertaken in the pilot NIAs.
- **Further information:** Further information can be found on Natural England, Highways Agency and Network Rail websites:
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/evidence/register/evaluationprojects.aspx>

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/our-road-network/environment/environmental-topics/nature-conservation/>

<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/aspx/116.aspx>

Managing our marine environment (Commitments 33-34)

33. The government is committed to **achieving good environmental status across England's marine area**, working in partnership with those who use, enjoy and derive their income from the marine environment.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** Being taken forward through work to implement the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Significant efforts being made within OSPAR to coordinate approaches on monitoring and assessment with other Member States in the North East Atlantic. Marine Strategy Part Two: UK Marine Monitoring Programmes published 5th August 2014. Work now focussed on developing the MSFD Programme of Measures.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-sustainably-using-the-marine-environment/supporting-pages/implementing-the-marine-strategy-framework-directive>

34. The first two marine plans to be prepared will be in the East of England Inshore and Offshore marine plan areas and will be completed in 2013. We will **have plans in place for the whole of the English marine area by 2022**.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** The draft East of England Inshore and Offshore marine plans went to public consultation from July to October 2013. The plans were formally adopted and published on 2 April 2014. Preparation of marine plans in the South of England is ongoing and these plans will be completed by 2016. Defra is now working with the MMO to develop a timetable for the preparation of the remaining marine plans. Plans will be in place for the whole marine area by 2021.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/marine-planning-in-england>

Growing a Green Economy

Capturing the value of nature in our nation's account (Commitments 35-38)

35. We will put natural capital at the heart of government accounting. We will **work with the Office of National Statistics to fully include natural capital in the UK Environmental Accounts**, with early changes by 2013. In 2012 we will publish a roadmap for further improvements up to 2020.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** Roadmap published December 2012 with early outputs produced on schedule in June 2013. UK Natural Capital, Initial and Partial Monetary Estimates published in May 2014.
- **Further information:** <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/natural-capital/index.html>

36. The government will **establish an independent Natural Capital Committee** reporting to the Economic Affairs Cabinet Committee which is chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Committee will advise the government on the state of English natural capital.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support the Natural Capital Committee to ensure it has the greatest possible impact through its advice to government.
- **Comment:** The Committee's first State of Natural Capital report was published on 8 April 2013. Its second report was published 11 March 2014. Government response expected summer 2014.
- **Further information:** <http://www.defra.gov.uk/naturalcapitalcommittee/>

37. To support the initial work of the Natural Capital Committee, the government will **take forward a scoping study in 2011 for a natural capital asset check**.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** The final report 'scoping study to develop understanding of a natural capital asset check' has been completed and published. The National Ecosystem Assessment Follow On is undertaking further research to develop and apply an asset check approach.
- **Further information:** <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=18137#Description>

38. Later this year, the government will **publish a ‘Roadmap to a Green Economy’**, to provide business with as much clarity as possible about the future direction of policy.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** ‘Enabling the Transition to a Green Economy: government and Business Working Together’ published 5 August 2011.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/encouraging-green-growth-government-and-businesses-working-together>

Government and business working together in partnership (Commitments 39-42)

39. We will **establish a Green Economy Council** with leading businesses, which will consider natural capital in its terms of reference.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** Green Economy Council is now established and has met five times.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policy-advisory-groups/green-economy-council>

40. The government will **support a new international coalition of businesses and business organisations to follow up on the “TEEB for Business” report**. The TEEB for Business coalition will catalyse and coordinate action by helping participating businesses from the UK and elsewhere, to understand and address their environmental impacts.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** Defra made research contribution to support the coalition; outputs will be published on TEEB for Business Coalition website.
- **Further information:** <http://www.teebforbusiness.org>

41. We will **work with business to consider how voluntary approaches could work on key products or natural assets**, learning from existing voluntary deals on other environmental issues.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** A range of voluntary approaches are in existence and being developed including the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan 2020 Commitment, the UK statement on sustainable palm oil, and the Product Sustainability Forum.

- **Further information:** <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/scap-2020-commitment>, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-production-of-palm-oil-uk-statement> and <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/product-sustainability-forum>

42. We will **work with local authority partnerships through the Total Environment initiative** to identify and address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth, and share the lessons learned.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** 'Lessons learned' paper published June 2013 as a resource for any other local organisations looking at partnership working options. Since this pilot programme was established, partnership working is increasingly being seen by local organisations as an essential part of more efficient and more effective delivery.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/total-environment-progress-report-2013>

Growing business opportunities that pay back to nature (Commitments 43-45)

43. We will **publish an action plan in 2012 to expand schemes in which the provider of nature's services is paid by the beneficiaries**, after undertaking a full assessment of the challenges and barriers. We will **introduce a new research fund targeted at these schemes** and will **publish a best practice guide** for designing them. We will also encourage pilots to develop across a broad spectrum of nature's services and beneficiaries.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** Research fund established and a number of Payments for Ecosystem Services pilots funded. Payments for Ecosystem Services Action Plan and Best Practice Guide published on 22 May 2013.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/payments-for-ecosystem-services-pes-action-plan>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/payments-for-ecosystem-services-pes-best-practice-guide>

<http://ekn.defra.gov.uk/resources/programmes/pes-pilots/>

44. The government will **set up a business-led Ecosystem Markets Task Force** to review the opportunities for UK business from expanding green goods, services, products, investment vehicles and markets which value and protect nature's services. It will report back to government in 2012/13, through the Green Economy Council.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Task Force published its Final Report, 'Realising Nature's Value' on 5 March 2013. Follow up work is under commitment 45.
- **Further information:** <http://www.defra.gov.uk/ecosystem-markets/>

45. Following the Task Force report we will **explore how best to drive forward the potential** and help remove barriers to their development.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Government published its response to Task Force report on 5 September 2013, which sets out the actions that government and others will take against the Task Force's recommendations. The Taskforce have now completed their one year on review of progress, which culminated in an event hosted by the Aldersgate Group on 26th March (notes of the event at this [link](#)) bringing the Taskforce's formal role to a close.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-the-final-report-of-the-ecosystem-markets-task-force>

Helping business capture the value of nature through responsible supply chains (Commitments 46-49)

46. We will **develop an agreed approach to water footprinting by December 2012**, working through the Products Sustainability Forum.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Research project completed and published, October 2012.
- **Further information:**
<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=17962>

47. We will **update the Business Link website to provide information on natural capital** including guidance on tools and resources businesses can use to assess their dependencies on environmental assets and services and identify growth opportunities.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Information published August 2011 – Business Link website since discontinued.
- **Further information:**
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20111206083740/http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1096775709&r.l1=1079068363&r.l2=108604845&r.l3=1084033989&r.s=sc&type=RESOURCES>

48. The government will **publish new guidance for businesses** by 2012 on how to measure and report their corporate environmental impacts.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Guidance published in June 2013.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/measuring-and-reporting-environmental-impacts-guidance-for-businesses>

49. We will **work with the EU Joint Research Council to develop evidence on the environmental impacts of products and their supply chains**, and to consider future developments in minimum standards under the EU Ecodesign Directive.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Ecodesign work plan published in December 2012.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/encouraging-businesses-to-manage-their-impact-on-the-environment>

Government leading by example (Commitments 50-53)

50. As part of our approach to mainstream sustainable development the government will **fully consider the value of nature in all relevant Impact Assessments**.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** Long-term commitment, as part of mainstreaming sustainable development. Baseline evaluation assessing use of relevant environment guidance in impact assessments across Departments has been completed and we are now exploring how to take forward the study findings. New Treasury Green Book supplementary guidance published (see commitment 51).
- **Further information:** Guidance to government departments can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-book-supplementary-guidance-environment> and the baseline evaluation can be found at: <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=18604&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=NE0140&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

51. Later in 2011, we will **publish new supplementary guidance to HM Treasury's Green Book** for use by all government Departments on valuing the natural environment in appraisals.

- **Status:** Commitment completed.
- **Comment:** Green Book Supplementary Guidance on Accounting for Environmental Impacts in policy appraisal published online on the Treasury Green Book web pages.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-book-supplementary-guidance-environment>

52. The government will buy products that bring good value for money for the public purse, whilst being more sustainable and efficient. Government will engage with its suppliers to understand and reduce the impacts of its supply chain. We have therefore committed to **embed the government Buying Standards** in departmental and centralised procurement contracts.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** The Government Buying Standards are easy-to-use product specifications enable public authorities to develop tenders which procure sustainably.
- **Further information:** <http://sd.defra.gov.uk/advice/public/buying/>

53. **Government Departments will be open about the steps they are taking to address biodiversity and the needs of the natural environment**, including actions to promote, conserve and enhance biodiversity; and reduce the environmental impacts of food and catering services.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** System in place for government reporting. Second Greening Government Commitments Annual Report published December 2013.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greening-government-commitments-2012-to-2013-annual-report>

Reconnecting people and nature

Connecting through nature's health service (Commitments 54-60)

54. **Local Nature Partnerships and the Health and Wellbeing Boards should actively seek to engage each other in their work.** Forthcoming guidance will make clear that the wider determinants of health, including the natural environment, will be a crucial consideration in developing joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Local Nature Partnerships referenced in published guidance on joint strategic needs assessments and joint strategic wellbeing strategies – further action reliant on local engagement with Health and Wellbeing Boards which is beginning to happen.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-at-home-and-abroad/supporting-pages/local-nature-partnerships>

55. To ensure local health professionals and others have the information they need, we have committed **Public Health England to provide clear, practical evidence about how to improve health by tackling its key determinants including access to a good natural environment.**

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Public Health White Paper makes explicit reference to value of access to natural environment, Public Health England established on 1st April 2013. Links being made at delivery level to support implementation.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

56. Public Health England and NICE will form a strong relationship in the future to **enhance and promote use of these resources by Directors of Public Health within local authorities.**

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Following initial delays due to Public Health England establishment, information is being made available to inform action at the local level.
- **Further information:** <http://www.nice.org.uk/localgovernment/PublicHealthBriefingsForLocalGovernment.jsp>

57. In July we will launch a **new Change4Life summer campaign** through newspapers, the supermarkets, schools and on TV. This will inspire children and their families to get more active and eat more healthily over the summer holidays. Outdoor activities will be a big part of this, with ideas and tips for games in the park and healthy picnic options.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Major multi-media campaign.
- **Further information:** <http://www.nhs.uk/change4life/Pages/change-for-life.aspx>

58. In June 2011 we will **consult on plans for meeting limits on nitrogen dioxide** in the shortest time possible.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Consultation completed, plans finalised and submitted to European Commission in September 2011. The Commission accepted 13 of 24 applications for time extensions where the plans demonstrated that the limit values would be met by 1 January 2015 at the latest.
- **Further information:**
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/88428/110919-air-quality-summary-responses.pdf

59. We will **investigate a national framework for Low Emission Zones**, to assess their potential to improve air quality in our urban centres.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** We have 1) published a report of an investigation into the feasibility of developing a certification scheme for pollution abatement equipment for heavy duty vehicles 2) published an impact assessment for a low emission zones framework to hasten compliance with nitrogen dioxide limit values and 3) provided funding to several local authorities to carry out feasibility studies into low emission zones locally and these are ongoing. We are also working with Department for Transport on transport measures to improve air quality.
- **Further information:** http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/reports/cat09/1111241413_29600_DeNOx_Final_Report_i4.pdf
<http://www.archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/airquality/docs/ia-no2.pdf>

60. In May 2013, we will **consult on measures to reduce reporting burdens for local authorities and improve how air quality is controlled** and monitored through Local Air Quality Management duties.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Consultation took place July and August 2013 and summary of results published 13 December 2013. Next stage is to develop and publish a regulatory consultation by mid-2014 in furtherance of changes to the LAQM system by 2015.

- **Further information:** https://consult.defra.gov.uk/communications/https-consult-defra-gov-uk-laqm_review/supporting_documents/Consultation%20doc%20%20LAQM%20review.pdf
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265819/laqm-sum-resp-20131213.pdf

Connecting through education – in and about the natural environment (Commitments 61-64)

61. Schools should be able to teach outdoors when they wish to do so. We will **work with the Health and Safety Executive to remove unnecessary rules and other barriers to learning in the natural environment.**

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** The Health and Safety Executive issued new guidance in June 2011 on how health and safety law is implemented to help address perceived barriers. Further to this, the Department for Education published new advice on the health and safety law that relates to schools. Department for Education policy on pupil safety continues to develop and it is planning to continue to reduce the bureaucracy that impedes schools from taking students on educational visits and activities.
- **Further information:** <http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/school-trips.htm>
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/healthandsafety/f00191759/departamental-health-and-safety-advice-on-legal-duties-and-powers-for-local-authorities-headteachers-staff-and-governing-bodies>

62. We have created a **Pupil Premium, intended to help raise the attainment of children from low-income families.** This can give fairer access to nature for pupils from deprived backgrounds, for example, funding school trips to experience the natural environment.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** The Pupil Premium has been established and schools are able to choose to use this to support outdoor learning in the natural environment. From April 2013, the Pupil Premium will increase to £900 per pupil.
- **Further information:** <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/premium>

63. Natural Connections (supported by Natural England) will **provide an online ‘one stop shop’ and direct support and advice for teachers, children and parents interested in learning outdoors.** Thousands of local volunteers will be recruited to help schools.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** Demonstration project established, with Defra-funding of £584k over three years. Project progressing well, including official launch in Bristol on 2nd July 2013 and launch of 'growing schools' website.
- **Further information:** <http://www.growingschools.org.uk/>

64. The government will continue to support Open Farm Sunday, and to fund farmers in agri-environment scheme agreements providing educational visits to farms by schoolchildren up to the age of 16 and 'care farm' visits for supervised farming related activities for vulnerable groups of people.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** Defra sponsored Open Farm Sunday 2012, 2013, and 2014, each with Ministerial attendance. Open Farm Sunday 2013 included a novel "Open Farm School Days" (OFSD) pilot, and this initiative was successfully enlarged in 2014. More than 250,000 schoolchildren participated in educational visits to farms in agri-environment schemes in 2013. Visits will continue to be available at approximately 1100 farms in agri-environment scheme agreements in 2014, and will continue to be available through the successor scheme to Environmental Stewardship, first agreements for which are expected to start on 1 January 2016.
- **Further information:** <http://www.farmsunday.org/ofs12b/home.eb>

Connecting through better neighbourhood access to nature (Commitments 65-71)

65. We will **consult later this year on proposals for a new Green Areas Designation** that will give local people an opportunity to protect green spaces that have significant importance to their local communities and aim to introduce the Designation by April 2012.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** National Planning Policy Framework published and provides for a Local Green Space designation, which is available for local areas to use.
- **Further information:**
<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-green-space-and-rights-of-way-2/local-green-space-designation/>

66. We will **continue to support the Green Flag Award scheme** in promoting quality space management as an ambition for all green space managers and to create more opportunities for wildlife to flourish in our green spaces, contributing to local biodiversity and enriching the experience of people spending time there.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** In October, 2012, it was announced that the current operator will be continuing to deliver Green Flag under licence for the next 5 years. Natural England continues to work within the Awards Management Group on rewrite of the Green Flag Handbook and enhancement of accompanying Biodiversity Advice Pack.
- **Further information:** <http://greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org/>

67. The government will **establish a Green Infrastructure Partnership** to support the development of green infrastructure in England. This will consider how green infrastructure can be enhanced to strengthen ecological networks and improve communities' health, quality of life and resilience to climate change.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits.
- **Comment:** The Green Infrastructure Partnership has been successfully established and now brings together over 300 organisations. From April 2014, this is being managed by the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA).
- **Further information:**
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130123162956/http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/green-infrastructure/>

68. We are working with Keep Britain Tidy, businesses, local authorities and community groups to develop **a new initiative called Love Where You Live** which will be launched this summer (2011).

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Defra Secretary of State launched Keep Britain Tidy's Love Where You Live Campaign on reducing litter in 2011.
- **Further information:** <http://www.lovewhereyoulive.org/>

69. We will **work with local authorities to establish mechanisms for formally identifying and protecting urban Quiet Areas**, so that people living in cities can benefit from access to areas of relative quiet for relaxation and contemplation.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Noise Action Plans have been published, which include details of the mechanism for identifying and protecting quiet areas in large urban areas (agglomerations).
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noise-action-plans-large-urban-areas-roads-and-railways>

70. We will **work with industry and other bodies to reduce the negative impacts of artificial light and protect existing dark areas**.

- **Status:** Commitment completed

- **Comment:** Report on local authority street lighting trails published September 2011. Information included in the Well-lit Highways November 2011 publication.
- Research into impacts of street lighting on biodiversity (at population/ecosystem level) commissioned February 2012. Worked jointly with Campaign to Protect Rural England, Campaign for Dark Skies and the Institute of Lighting Professionals to produce a leaflet designed to clearly and simply inform consumers how to install their security lights effectively to reduce light pollution; published July 2013.
- **Further information:**
[http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=LAStrreetLightingInitiatives\(Final140911\).pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=LAStrreetLightingInitiatives(Final140911).pdf)
<http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/UKRLG-and-boards/uk-lighting-board/welllit-highways.cfm>;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/getting-light-right>

71. In 2011 we will **consult relevant organisations on whether the exemptions from artificial light statutory nuisance continue to be appropriate** and then take action if necessary.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Consultation completed. Summary of responses and government response published June 2012, proposing that the exemptions are retained but that the issue is kept under review.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/artificial-light-statutory-nuisance-continued-utility-of-the-current-exemptions-for-certain-premises>

Connecting by improving access to coast and countryside (Commitments 72-73)

72. We will **consult on simplifying and streamlining the processes for recording and making changes to public rights of way**, based on proposals made by Natural England's working group on unrecorded rights of way.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** Public consultation closed on 6 August 2012.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improvements-to-the-policy-and-legal-framework-for-public-rights-of-way>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-improving-people-s-enjoyment-of-the-countryside>

73. The government's £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund will **help local transport authorities do more to encourage walking and cycling, improve public transport and make better connections** between different forms of sustainable transport.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** The Local Transport White Paper *Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon*, published in January 2011, placed localism at the heart of the transport agenda in order to cut carbon emissions and create local growth. In total, the Department for Transport awarded funding to 96 packages enabling 77 authorities to deliver their schemes between 2011 and 2015. Along with local contributions provided by all funded project teams, over £1 billion is now being invested in local sustainable travel.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/creating-growth-cutting-carbon-making-sustainable-local-transport-happen>

Connecting by 'paying back' to nature in our most visited landscapes (Commitment 74)

74. **Visit England will act as a source of best practice**, identifying and sharing advice with Destination Management Organisations and others in the tourism industry who wants to develop payback schemes.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** The destination managers online resource has been launched and includes guidance and support information relating to destination management along with supporting materials and case studies for payback schemes and visitor gifting and on how to manage the impacts of tourism with local tourism income.
- **Further information:** <http://www.visitengland.org/england-tourism-industry/DestinationManagersResources/index.aspx>

Connecting through voluntary action – good for us and good for nature (Commitments 75-76)

75. To boost volunteering further, we will **launch a new phase of the Muck In4Life campaign**. It will help improve the quality of life in towns, cities and the countryside. It will offer volunteering opportunities for all. We are committed to working with national and local partners to develop the new scheme. We will together explore ways it could engage people who are less likely to have the opportunity to enjoy the natural environment.

- **Status:** Commitment completed (though in a different form than originally envisaged, after further discussion with volunteering organisations on how best this

work could support environmental volunteering); work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits

- **Comment:** In April 2013, we awarded a £200k grant to The Conservation Volunteers to deliver a two year project that will build the capacity of the environmental volunteering sector to manage volunteers and support local communities to take action themselves.
- **Further information:** <http://capacitybuilder.tcv.org.uk/>

76. We will **invest a further £1.2 million to support the development of the national biodiversity network** and to create a new fund for biodiversity recording in the voluntary sector.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** Funds distributed through the Defra Fund for Biodiversity Recording and through separate contracts established with a wide range of organisations including the Field Studies Council, Local Record Centres, National Recording Schemes and the National Biodiversity Network Trust to help them increase the quality, relevance and availability of volunteer data to support decision making, conservation planning and research. Two research contracts have been awarded that are piloting and evaluating new approaches to biodiversity surveillance in the voluntary sector, supporting the design of volunteer schemes for long-term monitoring biodiversity trends.
- **Further information:** <http://www.nbn.org.uk/>

<http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/Surveys/PondNet>

<http://www.envirobase.info/search/SearchDetail.aspx?ID=1651499&PUB=RES32011>

Connecting through better access to environmental information (Commitments 77-81)

77. From summer 2011 **Directgov will provide information on actions people can take to help the natural environment** such as purchasing choices and making the most of green spaces.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Information made available on Directgov until website discontinued.
- **Further information:**
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121015000000/http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/Greenerhomeandgarden/Greenershopping/index.htm>

78. We will bring together web-based government information on the natural environment and make this available through a single **'My Environment' web portal**, including facilities to search by post code for environmental features such as local nature reserves.

- **Status:** Closed
- **Comment:** A prototype website launched in February 2013 and closed in October 2013. Following user feedback, broader government digital policy and Defra's own Open Data strategy, Defra and partners are focusing on the provision of environmental information through the government open data portal data.gov.uk and specific environmental information services focused around identified user needs at GOV.UK.
- **Further information:**
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/advice/myenvironment/default.aspx>

79. We will bring together key insights about sustainable behaviour and **publish a revised sustainable lifestyles framework**, together with supporting practical tools, in summer 2011.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Framework published July 2011 and workshop series provided in September and October 2011.
- **Further information:**
<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/economy/documents/sustainable-life-framework.pdf>

80. We will work with retailers, civil society organisations and communities in a new phase of the initiative to **encourage the consumption of underutilised, sustainable fish species** that would otherwise be discarded; incorporate biodiversity into retail spaces (such as green playgrounds); and make it easier for customers to choose eco-labelled and sustainably certified products.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** To encourage the consumption of underutilised sustainable fish species, communities in Brighton and Chichester have been chosen to take part in a Community Supported Fishery.
- **Further information:** <http://www.catchbox.coop/>

81. We are **developing the UK's negotiation position on an EU eco-label for food**. This will help us assess the possible impact of such a label on UK industry, and the potential for using eco-labels to achieve environmental benefits.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** EU is not proceeding with extending the EU eco-label initiative to cover food or feed at present, following feasibility study undertaken by the Commission.

- **Further information:**

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/Ecolabel_for_food_final_report.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/environmental-claims-and-labels-guidance-for-businesses>

International and EU Leadership

International leadership (Commitments 82-86)

82. The UK will be pressing for **implementation of the Nagoya agreement at the international level**, and through leading by example at home.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** The UK actively participated in the negotiation of an EU Regulation to implement those parts of the Nagoya Protocol that fall within EU competence. Once the EU Regulation has been finalised, we will introduce domestic implementing legislation that will enable the UK to ratify the Protocol. The UK has also taken an active role in other international fora seeking to stop biodiversity loss, illegal trade in endangered species, deforestation and illegal logging and has offered funding and shared expertise to conservation and biodiversity projects through the Darwin Initiative. The UK provided leadership to address the upsurge in poaching and illegal trade in wildlife through hosting an international conference, the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife trade, in February 2014.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-at-home-and-abroad>

83. We are **supporting the World Bank's Global Partnership on Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES)** which will enable eight to ten developing countries build the value of natural resources into their own national accounts.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** The Department for International Development has committed a further £1.9m (2012 - 2015) to the implementation phase of the World Bank's Global Partnership on Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services.
- **Further information:** <http://www.wavespartnership.org/waves/>

84. The government will **fund a £210,000 project to undertake case studies to help apply TEEB principles** to the development of National Strategic Biodiversity Plans, further enhancing our reputation as global leaders in the field of biodiversity.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Project funded and final report published in June 2013.
- **Further information:** http://www.unep-wcmc.org/road-map-for-incorporating-biodiversity-and-ecosystem-service-values-into-nbsaps_1027.html

http://www.unep-wcmc.org/guidance-for-incorporating-biodiversity-and-ecosystem-service-values-into-nbsaps_1026.html

85. Following the announcement of our continued financial support for the National Wildlife Crime Unit, we will ensure that it plays an active role on the international stage as well as at home.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Defra and the Home Office have announced they will continue to fund the NWCU until 2016. The National Wildlife Crime Unit continues to deliver against the six UK wildlife crime priorities and has continued to actively participate in EU and International wildlife crime work.
- **Further information:** <http://www.nwcu.police.uk/>

86. Within the International Whaling Commission **we shall continue vigorously to support a moratorium on commercial whaling** and promote the welfare and conservation of whales.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** Upheld moratorium at 64th International Whaling Commission Meeting, July 2012. Ongoing work to prepare for International Whaling Commission's 65th meeting in 2014.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-sustainably-using-the-marine-environment/supporting-pages/protecting-the-most-threatened-marine-species>

Conclusion, monitoring and reporting progress

(Commitments 87-92)

87. We will **establish an Ecosystems Knowledge Network**. Run by an independent organisation, this network will involve our environmental bodies and include local projects, drawing on practical experience to share learning and good practice.

- **Status:** Commitment completed; work is ongoing to support this commitment and maximise benefits
- **Comment:** Ecosystems Knowledge Network established. The Network has now reached over 1000 members throughout the UK, representing a range of private, public, charity and academic sector organisations with interests in an ecosystems approach. In 2013, contract to run Ecosystems Knowledge Network extended for a further year, to run until October 2014.
- **Further information:** <http://ekn.defra.gov.uk/>

88. In line with the approach taken by the National Ecosystem Assessment, we will be **joining up the government's environmental monitoring**, to enhance our understanding of the state of ecosystem services.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** The One Business Monitoring Programme has improved the join up between Defra network partners. Also, through the UK Environment Observation Framework (UKEOF) partnership, there is greater coordination and knowledge of environmental monitoring across the environment sector.
- **Further information:** <http://www.ukeof.org.uk/>

89. The **new measures of national wellbeing** which are in development will reflect our dependency on the natural environment for the quality of our lives.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** The Office for National Statistics included access to the natural environment and a range of other environmental measures in its Measuring National Well-being indicator set. The Office for National Statistics has also published an article exploring in more detail the aspects of the natural environment that are considered important for measuring national well-being.
- **Further information:** <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/wellbeing/measuring-national-well-being/natural-environment/art-the-natural-environment.html>

90. We will **develop a set of key indicators by spring 2012 to track progress on the ambitions of this White Paper**. These will include a new, compact set of biodiversity indicators for *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services*. We will consult on them and finalise them by spring 2012.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** Natural Environment White Paper indicators Indicator set published on May 2013. Biodiversity 2020 Indicators published on May 2012, updated May 2014.
- **Further information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-natural-environment-indicators>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-biodiversity-indicators>

91. By Spring 2012, we will **review how indicators and other environmental statistics are reported** and the extent to which existing reporting meets the needs of government and other key audiences.

- **Status:** Commitment completed
- **Comment:** The UK Statistics Authority's assessments team reviewed Defra's environmental statistics in late 2012, and awarded them National Statistics status.
- **Further information:**
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/confirmation-of-designation-letters/letter-of-confirmation-as-national-statistics---assessment-report-173.pdf>

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/report-173---statistics-on-sustainability-and-the-environment-in-england-and-the-uk.pdf>

92. The government, through its environmental bodies, will periodically **publish a single, concise and integrated report about the state of the environment on land**.

- **Status:** In progress
- **Comment:** On hold due to other pressures.
- **Further information:** Not available yet