

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

## **Biodiversity Targets Advisory Group**

**Title:** Biodiversity Targets Advisory Group Minutes

**Meeting Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Attendees:** Rosie Hails --(Chair), Mel Austen, Charlies Godfray, Ian Hodge, Penny Johnes, James Wood, Defra group officials.

### **1. Terrestrial Update**

- 1.1. UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) are reviewing species weighting in more detail and potential to extend the indicator to include wider taxonomic groups such as freshwater and pollinator species.
- 1.2. Defra updated on an approach to use national level data on the abundance of all species to measure at national scale.
- 1.3. Current focus is understanding how the indicator may change in future, including understanding potential pathways and actions needed to deliver improvement. This is estimated to be complete by the end of September.

### **2. Marine Update**

- 2.1. Defra stated they are hosting a protected sites workshop in the next couple of months.

### **3. Cost Benefit Analysis**

- 3.1. Progress of the development of Cost Benefit Analysis for the targets was presented.
- 3.2. Further research will be commissioned to capture the benefit of policy interventions targeting species abundance and species extinction risk to ensure that such policy interventions are evidence based.
- 3.3. Defra gave an overview of the proposed approach for the Impact Assessment for the Biodiversity targets and other proposed targets.

### **4. Wider Habitats targets**

- 4.1. An update was provided on the proposed wider habitats statutory target and how it would be a driver for actively creating and restoring wildlife-rich habitat. It will require clarity on the type and quality of habitat that will qualify to be counted. Further work is underway to agree exactly what habitat will be included within the target.