



HM Government

Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

First revision of the
25 Year Environment Plan



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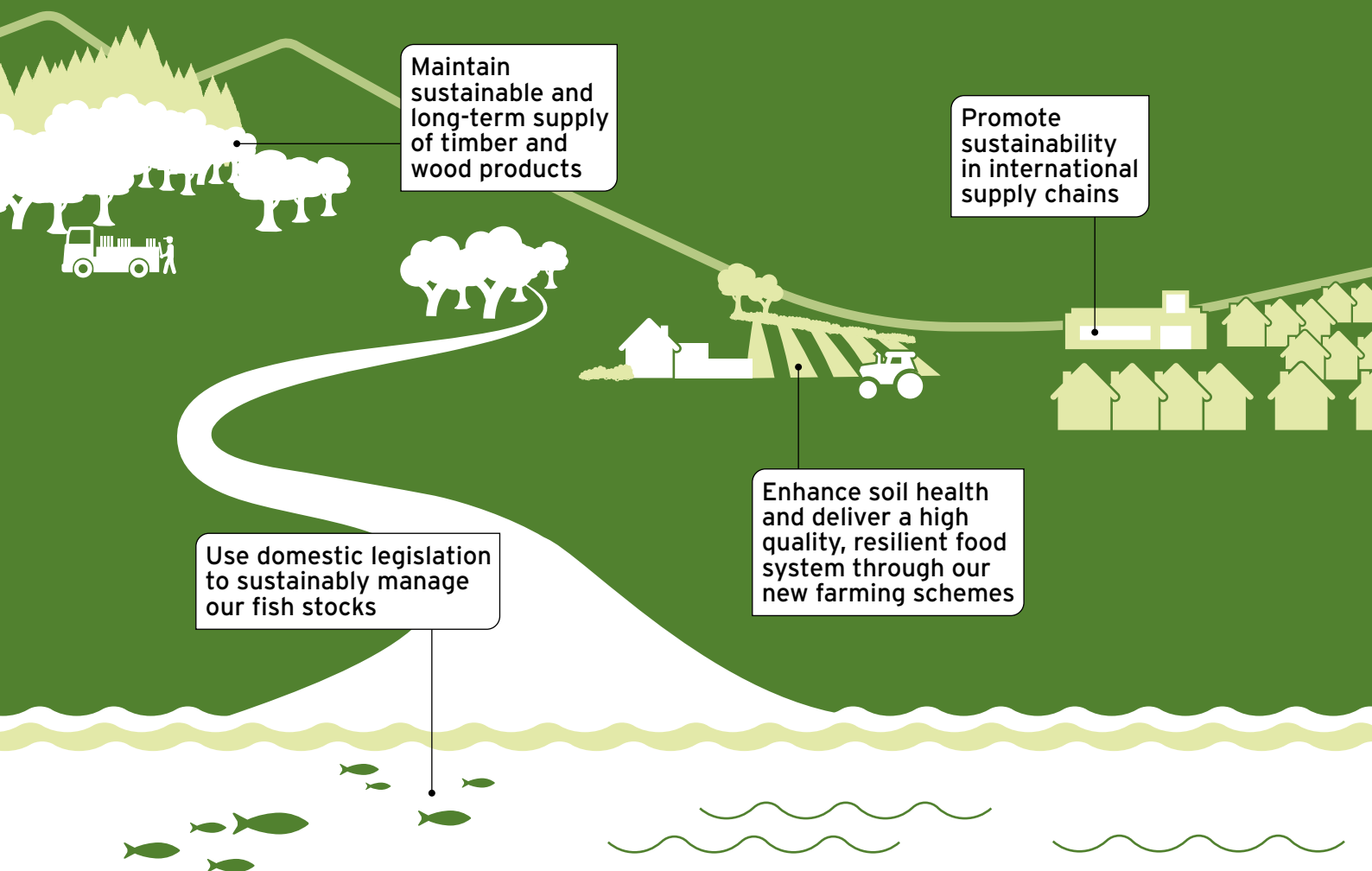
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Goal 6

Using resources from nature sustainably

Key policies to make sure we are using our natural resources sustainably





The natural environment is a valuable asset and a major source of national wealth. It is essential for securing our basic needs, maintaining our biodiversity and sustaining our economy; and, in 2020, the value of the UK's natural capital was estimated to be £1.8 trillion. Protecting and enhancing our natural capital will help deliver benefits, including long-term flood risk reduction, boosts to wildlife, improvements to water and air quality, and opportunities for biodiversity net gain.

Using our precious, finite, natural resources more sustainably and efficiently is an essential part of the action we need to take to meet our environmental challenges. This means maximising their availability in a sustainable way.

The impact of our use of resources extends beyond our borders. We are continuing to develop sustainable supply chains and growing the market for sustainably produced commodities globally.

There is good work underway - but we need to scale up quickly to protect and enhance our natural capital for every generation to come.

Our 25 Year Environment Plan goal

Use resources from nature, such as timber, fish and food, more sustainably and efficiently.

Since 2018, we have:

- Championed international forest protection and restoration and sustainable agriculture, including through the Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forests and Land Use as UN Climate Summit COP26 President, the Policy Dialogue on Accelerating Transition to Sustainable Agriculture, and the launch of the Forest Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) dialogue.
- Published the **England Trees Action Plan** setting out our long-term vision for England's forestry sector to 2050 and the measures we will take to boost tree planting and improve woodland management, including for sustainable timber production.
- Taken back control of our waters, letting us manage our own fish stocks to increase their sustainability through the first UK Fisheries Act 2020 since 1981.
- Published our government **Food Strategy** setting out how we will broadly maintain domestic food production whilst meeting our net zero and other commitments.



We have the following targets and commitments:

- Halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation globally by 2030.
- Ensure that all fish stocks are recovered to and maintained at levels that can produce their maximum sustainable yield.
- Through our new farming schemes, bring at least 40% of England's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028, and increase this to 60% by 2030.
- Deliver a sustainable, nature positive, affordable food system that provides choice and access to high quality products.

To deliver these, we will:

- Implement legislation to make it illegal for larger businesses operating in the UK to use key forest-risk commodities that have been grown on land that is illegally occupied or used.
- Deliver a package of measures to protect forests internationally and support sustainability, in response to by advice from the Global Resource Initiative.
- Implement Fisheries Management Plans to reduce negative ecosystem impacts and help to deliver the recovery of stocks.
- Continue to deliver the agricultural transition to reinvest £2.4 billion per year over the course of this Parliament to incentivise farmers and land managers to improve soil health, restore peatland and establish and restore woodlands and forests, through our new farming schemes.



Introduction

The natural environment is a valuable asset and a major source of national wealth. It is essential for securing our basic needs, maintaining our biodiversity and sustaining our economy; in 2020, the value of the UK's natural capital was estimated to be £1.8 trillion. Protecting and enhancing our natural capital will help deliver benefits, including long-term flood risk reduction, boosts to wildlife, improvements to water and air quality, and opportunities for biodiversity net gain.

The flow of services and products directly obtained from ecosystems such as agricultural biomass, water extraction and timber was £27.6 billion in 2020. Using these precious, often finite, natural resources more sustainably and efficiently is an essential part of the action we will take to meet our environmental challenges. For some resources, such as timber and fish, this means maximising availability in a sustainable way, whilst generating environmental benefits.

For other resources, such as peat, it means reversing historical overuse and restoring and protecting peatlands. There is good work already underway - but we need to scale up quickly to protect and enhance our natural capital for every generation to come. This chapter sets out how we are managing valued natural resources including timber and forestry, fish, food and soil.

The impact of our use of resources extends beyond our borders. So we are continuing to develop sustainable supply chains and growing the market for sustainably produced commodities globally.

Targets and commitments

Sustainable Supply Chains

Halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030, in line with our commitment under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

Implement due diligence legislation for forest risk commodities and support the progress of the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) launched in 2022.



Planting more trees

Planting more trees is critical to achieving net zero, providing more habitat and growing our future domestic timber resource. In the 25 Year Environment Plan we recognised this and committed to increasing woodland cover in England to 12% by 2060.

As set out in the 'Thriving plants and wildlife' chapter, we have gone further in our environmental targets, published in December 2022, and set a target of 16.5% of England to be trees and woodland by 2050. We expect this to include 12% woodland cover, with the remainder made up by non-woodland trees. This is key for our **Net Zero Strategy** and to deliver our manifesto commitment to plant 30,000 ha of trees per year across the UK by the end of this Parliament.

Managing fisheries more sustainably

Develop Fisheries Management Plans as a way of managing fisheries more sustainably and driving progress towards this goal. They will include plans on how to maintain and restore fish stocks to sustainable levels. The timetable for delivery of the 43 Fisheries Management Plans is set out in the **Joint Fisheries Statement**, published in November 2022.

Improving and protecting soil health

Through new farming schemes, bring at least 40% of England's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028, and increase this to 60% by 2030.

A sustainable, nature positive, affordable food system

The government's **Food Strategy** set out our objective to deliver a sustainable, nature positive, affordable food system that provides choice and access to high quality products. This aims to support healthier and home-grown diets for all.



Our delivery plan

Continuing to drive progress towards this goal will require concerted action across a range of sectors, with direction set by government but delivery often in the hands of industry:

- 1 Shifting to more sustainable supply chains** - Global trade has helped countries meet increasing demand while spreading prosperity. Shifting to sustainable supply chains gives us the opportunity to promote and support production that uses lower emissions and better protects the environment.
- 2 Maintaining a sustainable and long-term supply of timber and wood products** - planting and establishing more trees and woodlands will play an important role in supporting the green economy, levelling up rural areas and creating thousands of new jobs.
- 3 Managing fisheries more sustainably** - the fishing industry forms the foundation for, and contributes significantly to, the continued prosperity of coastal communities around the UK. The industry prides itself on delivering valuable employment opportunities to otherwise remote or rural areas and providing healthy, sustainable food to the UK as a whole.
- 4 Improving and protecting soil health** - healthy soil will provide natural protection against the impacts of climate change, such as flooding and drought and will increase the diversity of our plants and animals and their ability to thrive.
- 5 Supporting a prosperous, healthy and nature positive food system** - our food system is dependent on maintaining a healthy and sustainable natural environment, providing us with the inputs we need to continue to grow, rear and produce food domestically. This is complemented by international trade to provide our high level of food security.



1. Shifting to more sustainable supply chains

Tackle deforestation in international supply chains

Around 90% of global deforestation is driven by agriculture, much of it to produce the commodities which are internationally traded and which we use daily. So action we take at home and support we can provide abroad can make a real difference.

We have:

- Championed international forest protection and restoration and sustainable agriculture, supporting partnerships, dialogues, and trade between producer and consumer countries that will support the transition to sustainable supply chains and protecting forests. This includes the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue, Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD), and Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP).
- Signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with Indonesia in March 2019, a bilateral agreement between a timber-producing country and the UK. VPAs aim to reduce illegal logging by strengthening the sustainability and legality of forest management, improving forest governance, and promoting trade in legally and sustainably produced timber. We expect to progress other VPAs with partners such as Ghana and Vietnam.
- Convened the Global Resource Initiative (GRI) independent taskforce to provide advice on how we could reduce the global environmental footprint of our supply chains. Their recommendations focused on the issue of addressing forest loss. In our response, we have set out how we are now delivering a package of measures on this. Our approach to taking forwards the recommendations of the GRI includes:
 - Supporting producers to shift to more environmentally and economically sustainable land use including through Overseas

We championed international forest protection and sustainable agriculture during our COP26 Presidency



Development Aid (ODA) programming and the development of markets for sustainably produced agricultural products.

- Increasing market demand and strengthening price signals for sustainably produced commodities.
- Supporting the development of strong partnerships between commodity producer and consumer countries and the private sector to support collective global action.

We will continue to deliver our package of measures on addressing forest loss, including:

- Using our trade agreements and trading relationships to support UK ambition on forestry, nature and sustainable supply chains to support the UK's strong environmental and climate commitments.
- Leveraging our role in global food supply chains to achieve greater sustainability of commodity production and trade, which will support halting and reversing forest loss.

Tackle illegal deforestation in our supply chains

A significant proportion of deforestation is illegal, around 95% in some key forests. Globally, recent research estimates that at least 69% of tropical deforestation for commercial agriculture between 2013 and 2019 was conducted in violation of national laws.

The Environment Act introduced new provisions to make it illegal for larger businesses operating in the UK to use key commodities that have been grown on land that is illegally occupied or used.

We will now operationalise these provisions through secondary legislation. Businesses in scope will also be required to undertake a due diligence exercise on their supply chains, and to publicly report on this exercise every year, or risk fines and other civil sanctions. The government has committed to implementing these regulations at the earliest opportunity.



Ensure high levels of environmental protection in our approach to trade

The government has been clear that it will not weaken our current environmental protections and will continue to ensure a high level of protection of the environment in new trade agreements.

We will:

- Use our trade agreements and our bilateral and multilateral trading relationships, as well as Multilateral Environmental Agreements, to support UK ambition on forestry, biodiversity nature, and sustainable supply chains.
- Seek to include provisions to deepen cooperation on natural resources and ozone depleting substances through our trade agreements.
- Encourage trade on a sustainable footing that contributes to the delivery of global environmental targets at the World Trade Organisation. The UK is an active Member in three trade and environment forums: the permanent multilateral Committee on Trade and Environment; and the plurilateral Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions and Dialogue on Plastic Pollution.



2. Maintaining a sustainable and long-term supply of timber and wood products

Encourage productive planting to increase supply of domestic timber

In 2021 Defra published the **England Trees Action Plan** setting out our long term vision for England's forestry sector to 2050 and the measures we will take to boost tree planting and improve woodland management, including for sustainable timber production.

Defra will work in partnership with the commercial forestry sector and others to boost tree planting and overcome barriers to this activity by:

- Creating guidance on how to encourage more well-designed multi-functional woodland creation aligned with the UK Forestry Standard, such as continuous cover forestry. This will support the planting of a mix of conifer and hardwood species in a way which maximises the benefits of our woodlands for carbon, nature and for timber.
- Funding a £1 million project to better understand the financial implications of woodland creation, to help build the evidence base and economic case for planting trees.
- Improving regulatory processes to make tree planting a simpler, quicker and more attractive option for land managers on lower productivity land, while retaining strong environmental and biosecurity safeguards.
- Delivering the mechanisms set out in the 'Thriving plants and wildlife' chapter to boost woodland creation rates in England. This aims to increase the long-term availability of soft and hardwoods.



Make best use of our domestic timber resource

Our timber supports sustainable wood product markets, rural jobs and timber processing sectors. We will encourage greater rates of sustainable woodland management and timber harvesting across England, while supporting natural regeneration and restocking of existing woodlands. We will also work with other government departments and industry to support the safe and sustainable use of timber in the built environment and in public procurement.

Since 2018, Defra has:

- Supported farmers and land managers with the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Management Plan grant to support sustainable management of their woodlands in line with UK Forestry Standard requirements.
- Awarded £4.27 million to support the purchase of large items of forestry equipment under the previous Countryside Productivity scheme.
- Introduced a new Timber in Construction Innovation Fund, which will provide £1.5m of funding to increase and facilitate the use of homegrown wood and wood fibre in construction from sustainably managed English woodlands. The fund will support projects which aim to increase the volume of carbon stored in the built environment, better utilise our hardwood resource and bring novel or improved wood-rich products, systems and/or processes to market.

Defra will:

- Provide grants through the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund to enable land managers to purchase forestry equipment, such as forwarders, tree shears, forestry grabs, trailers and winches. As of November 2022, 490 pieces of forestry equipment with a value of over £890,000 were supported under the first round of FETF.
- Open new rounds of the Woods into Management Forestry Innovation Funds through the Nature for Climate Fund. This will stimulate the development and testing of new ideas to help improve the ecological



condition of woodlands and their resilience to climate change through increased demand for wood and increased levels of woodland management. For example:

- The £4.5 million Regional Woodland Restoration Innovation Funds supports innovative projects to encourage and broaden innovation in the forestry sector. This aims to improve the ecological condition of existing woodlands and create a market pull for locally sourced timber and coppice products.
- The £1.25m Routes to Market for Ash Timber Innovation Fund supports projects to develop new uses for ash timber from trees felled due to ash dieback. This includes the delivery of new furniture supply chains for ash boards and plywood. The fund has already supported research into the use of rotary veneer technology to add value to small diameter ash logs from small woodlands, helping to improve potential revenue opportunities and make more efficient use of this felled ash timber resource.
- The Temporary Infrastructure Innovation Fund is making up to £1.25 million available to support projects exploring innovative means to overcome vehicle access barriers to neglected or under managed woodland.
- The Timber in Construction Innovation Fund is providing up to £1.5 million to support the development of innovative timber products, supply chains and ways of working with wood.
- Finalise development of the Timber in Construction Policy Roadmap, to outline the steps required to safely increase the use of timber in construction in England.
- Work across government to increase demand for sustainable timber products by identifying opportunities in public procurement policies and reviewing the government's timber procurement policy.
- Continue to support delivery of Nature for Climate Fund funded land acquisition to accelerate tree planting and secure a future supply of timber, including by introducing a freehold element to run alongside existing leasehold and grant offers.



Enhance tree nursery capacity to give us a pipeline of healthy and diverse seeds and saplings

The nursery sector is currently able to deliver 150 million trees per year, which needs to increase significantly to enable the sector to fully deliver on our targets and commitments. Defra will deliver investment through:

- The £1.2 million Seed Sourcing Grant, which is supporting the sector in increasing the quantity, quality and diversity of Seed Stands and Seed Orchards in England.
- The Tree Production Innovation Fund, which is investing £5.7 million in projects to encourage innovation in the nursery sector and overcome tree production barriers by increasing seed germination and establishments rates, automating labour-intensive processes and developing sustainable weed control solutions.
- The £8.8 million Tree Production Capital Grant, which is supporting nurseries and seed suppliers to modernise their facilities to improve the quantity, quality, diversity and biosecurity of planting stock available for planting in England, for example by adopting mechanisation and automation.

In the UK in 2022, 245,000 thousand people were working in agriculture, forestry and fishing

Support the skills, technical knowledge to build capability for the future

Our tree planting ambitions will require thousands of new jobs in the forestry sector to plant and manage our current and future treescapes. This is a huge opportunity to contribute to levelling up rural areas across the country.

Defra will:

- Deliver a Forestry Training Fund to unlock access to practical forestry training courses for new entrants to the sector and provide upskilling opportunities for the existing workforce.
- Expand the Professional Forester scheme, so that individuals can “earn and learn” via a three-year degree level apprenticeship.
- Continue to work with industry to support increased



opportunities for apprenticeships, T Levels and other technical training routes into the forestry sector, while looking to resolve barriers to education and training provision.

- Scope options for a digital skills hub to bring together key resources on forestry education, careers and skills opportunities, and work with the Department for Education to explore how best to connect schools with careers in nature-based sectors, such as forestry.

Case study - Stourhead (Western) Estate - Owned by Nick Hoare

Stourhead (Western) Estate is an example of how sensitive woodland management can support productive forestry alongside the delivery of environmental benefits and improved resilience to pests, diseases and climate change. Located within Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the site contains over 650 hectares of forest which produces around 6,500m³ of timber each year. The estate is managed using innovative continuous cover forestry (CCF) practices to maximise the delivery of biodiversity benefits while still continuing to generate a competitive income from timber sales.

The estate is one of the best examples of permanently irregular, mixed coniferous stands in the UK, with species including Douglas fir, cedar and spruce. It consists of interspersed conifer and broadleaf planting where CCF has been practiced for the last 20 years. CCF is not suitable for all types of woodland or for all locations but where it can be used it helps to create a structurally, visually and biologically more diverse woodland capable of delivering quality sustainable timber and a wide range of ecosystem services. The irregular structure enables the estate to support a wealth of biodiversity, including 248 moth species, 13 bat species (including both Lesser and Greater Horseshoe and Barbastelle), 26 bird species and 128 plant species. This holistic approach to forestry also makes the woodland more resilient to pests, diseases and climate change.



The Estate is preparing positively for the future. By widening the range and genetic diversity of the UK-grown tree species being planted and adopting modern approaches to woodland management, it is developing forest stands with a high resistance to pests, diseases, extreme weather and climate change. The Estate expects to plant nearly 80 hectares of additional trees in 2023 to expand the woodland and further increase the economic and nature benefits it provides.

3. Managing fisheries more sustainably

Sustainable management of fisheries requires appropriate management of our diverse stocks. The economic sustainability of our seafood sectors and of fishing-dependent communities can only be built on environmental sustainability.

Apply an ecosystem-based approach to marine and fish stock management

Since 2018, Defra has:

- Delivered a new legal framework for fisheries management which commits us to balancing environmental, economic and social considerations when managing our fisheries.
- Published the **Joint Fisheries Statement** with the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Recognising that action on fisheries and the marine environment can be most effective when we take coordinated action across our sea, the statement sets out our policies for achieving, or contributing to the achievement of, the Fisheries Act's eight fisheries objectives.
- Put in place fisheries agreements with our partners across the North-East Atlantic, including the EU, Norway and the Faroe Islands. These are important parts of unlock sustainable fishing across all of our seas, setting

The Fisheries Act 2020 gives the UK full control of its waters for the first time since 1971, allowing us to sustainably manage our seas



shared goals and catching limits regardless of nationality of boat. To further support this, we have joined 5 priority Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, as well proactively arguing in organisations like the Food and Agriculture Organisation for stronger ocean governance measures globally.

- Committed to maintain funding to EU levels over this Parliament. In England a significant proportion of this money is part of the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme, a grant scheme which is investing in safeguarding the long-term sustainability, resilience and prosperity of the seafood sector.
- Established the £100 million UK Seafood Fund funding infrastructure, science and innovation, and skills and training projects throughout the UK seafood industry. This includes funding to reduce carbon emissions through electric boat engines, solar panels and new technology as well as improving sustainability through better research into fish stocks. In the first round of the Infrastructure scheme this included nearly £9 million to processors in Scotland and over £10 million to processors in Grimsby and Cornwall.

Defra will:

- Deliver Fisheries Management Plans, with the first plans coming in 2023. We will work closely with the fishing sector and other stakeholders. In addition to sustainably managing stocks, these plans will seek to support the delivery of the appropriate objectives from the **UK Marine Strategy**. These plans will promote selectivity, reduce negative impacts on the ecosystem and help to deliver the recovery of stocks.
- Publish each year a transparent and scientifically robust assessment of the sustainability outcomes of our annual fisheries negotiations. This assessment will analyse our performance in the quota-setting process against scientific advice. Once all negotiations for 2023 are complete, we will publish this year's report.
- Continue to invest in the multi-year Marine Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment Programme (mNCEA). This will build a robust evidence base which



brings together ecological, societal, and economic information. This is already being put to use in considering how best to use our forage fish, including sand eels and Norway pout, to support the wider ecosystem.

Tackle illegal, unregulated and unregistered (IUU) fishing activity

Illegal, unregulated and unregistered fishing activity results in a loss globally of between \$10-23 billion a year in illicit catches, as well as severely impacting our ability to manage our stocks sustainably.

We have established the IUU Fishing Action Alliance with the USA and Canada. It will drive action to implement international agreements, improve monitoring control and surveillance and promote data sharing.

We will also:

- Continuing to promote effective monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement internationally.
- Advocate for increased data sharing so we can more effectively manage our shared resources. This helps third countries to manage UK vessels when they are in their waters, as well as making sure that the product they have on board is legal.
- We are taking action to improve the robustness of our seafood supply chains by requiring all licensed vessels fishing in English waters, regardless of nationality or size, to report their location, speed and direction via Vessel Monitoring Systems devices in 2023. This will provide positional data for all licensed fishing vessels for the first time, improving our ability to control, enforce and manage their activity.



4. Improving and protecting soil health

Support farmers and land managers

Approximately 70% of England's soil is agricultural. So Defra has introduced the arable and horticultural soils standard and improved grassland soils standard under the Sustainable Farming Incentive. Farmers are being rewarded for actions that protect the soil from erosion, increase soil organic matter, and enable the plants and organisms that live in the soil to function effectively. This includes the introduction of herbal leys and the use of grass-legume mixtures or cover crops.

Defra will continue to incentivise farmers and land managers under our new agri-environment schemes to manage land in a way that improves and protects the overall health and structure of the soil.

By 2028 we will bring at least 40% of England's agricultural soil into sustainable management through our new farming schemes, increasing this to up to 60% by 2030.

Establish comprehensive baseline data

We monitor soil health as part of the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA), but on top of this Defra will:

- Establish a soil health indicator under the 25 Year Environment Plan Outcome Indicator Framework.
- Publish a baseline map of soil health for England by 2028.
- Support farmers and land managers to establish their own soil health baseline, so they can best manage the health of their soil.
- Provide a methodology and tools to collect consistent information about the health of the soil under all land uses.
- Share current guidance and best practice with farmers and land managers to improve their knowledge and work with them on how to improve soil health.

We are supporting our farmers to bring 60% of England's soils into sustainable management by 2030



Prevent valuable soil resources from being sent to landfill

In 2016, soil made up 58% of material sent to landfill in the UK. In construction projects, the careful re-use of soil can avoid soil being designated a waste material and to bring it back to beneficial use, helping create more green spaces and increasing biodiversity. We are working to:

- In 2023, publish a revised Code of Practice for the sustainable use of soil on construction sites, which will help to reduce the amount of soil sent to landfill.
- Begin development of a Soil Re-Use and Storage Depot scheme to help prevent soil that would otherwise be classified as waste going to landfill, and encourage remediation and re-use of soil. We will start piloting this by 2026.

Secure the integrity of future soil carbon codes

There are several proprietary soil carbon codes and growing interest in an agricultural soil carbon market. However, there are concerns around the additionality and permanence of increases in soil carbon storage for climate change mitigation benefits. Any soil carbon code must be underpinned by scientifically robust methodologies to protect buyers and sellers and ensure the integrity of the market.

Defra will support the development of high-integrity markets for ecosystem services. This includes minimum requirements that carbon codes should adhere to.



5. Supporting a prosperous, healthy and nature positive food system

Our new farming schemes are designed to support the foundations of food production and the natural environment, recognising the key role that farming and food supply have to play in restoring our natural environment. Food production relies on long-term environmental foundations such as access to water, the presence of pollinators and fertile soil; a healthy environment will help us to improve our food security.

Our food security is dependent on strong domestic production, balanced with sustainable international trade. The government **Food Strategy** set the objective to deliver a sustainable, nature positive, affordable food system, as well as to broadly maintain the current level of food we produce in England.

We have made several commitments in the government **Food Strategy** to help us deliver a sustainable and resilient food system:

The government food strategy set out our ambition to deliver a sustainable and resilient food system

We are developing Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) as a way of managing fisheries more sustainably and driving progress towards this goal. Lobsters are a species included as one of the 6 'frontrunner' FMPs.





- We will publish a **Land Use Framework** for England in 2023.
- To drive more sustainable practices across the entire food system we have committed to deliver a new food data partnership. This will ensure a level playing field so that food businesses can more effectively compete in the areas of health, sustainability and animal welfare.
- Through the food data partnership, we will also develop a mandatory methodology for eco-labels. This aims to provide a consistent approach across industry where eco-information is voluntarily used, mitigate any potential greenwashing; and promote accurate information to consumers around the environmental impact of their food.
- We are investing in agri-food innovation across the supply chain, including joint investment with UK Research and Innovation in food systems research and innovation, as well as in farming and seafood innovation. We will work with farmers and growers to ensure regulation supports this innovation to support better outcomes for the environment.
- The **International Development Strategy** confirmed our commitment to promoting climate-resilient, sustainable food systems globally. We will continue to work internationally to promote sustainable food supply chains. For example, under our Presidency of the UN Climate Summit COP26 we took forward the Agricultural Breakthrough to make sustainable agriculture the most attractive and widely adopted option for farmers by 2030 through the Policy Dialogue on Accelerating Transition to Sustainable Agriculture.
- We will consider options to address risks of carbon leakage within the food system. Our reporting on the environmental and health impacts of the food system will include an assessment of our global environmental impact.
- We are developing an updated approach to public sector food and catering. We have consulted on the sourcing of public sector food, menu choices, and catering practices. This includes proposals around on the sustainable sourcing of products, new standards for caterers to measure and minimise food waste, and to remove waste.



Monitoring and Evaluation

We will monitor progress towards delivering the EIP23 through the Annual Progress Report and the Outcome Indicator Framework. The framework contains 66 indicators, arranged into 10 broad themes. The relevant indicators for using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently are:

- J2** Raw material consumption
- C10** Productive seas: fish and shellfish stocks fished sustainably
- C11** Productive seas: status of sensitive fish and shellfish stocks
- D3** Area of woodland in England
- E1** Area of productive agricultural land
- E2** Volume of agricultural production
- E3** Volume of inputs used in agricultural production
- E4** Efficiency of agricultural production measured by Total Factor Productivity
- E5** Percentage of the annual growth of trees in English woodlands that is harvested
- E6** Volume of timber brought to market per annum from English sources
- E7** Healthy soils
- E8** Efficient use of water
- E9** Percentage of our seafood coming from healthy ecosystems, produced sustainably

For **timber and forestry**, the Forestry Commission's Key Performance Indicators also report on "Percentage of woodland that is sustainably managed". Increasing the area of woodland that is sustainably managed is likely to support an increase in domestic timber supplies. Forest Research also publish forecasts of expected future softwood and hardwood availability through the National Forest Inventory.



To further support this in **fisheries**, we have committed to have robust and transparent processes in place to ensure UK-produced fish is legal, including requirements around vessel monitoring for all boats.

For **soil**, our new soil health baseline will help track soil health. We are also developing a voluntary soil structure monitoring scheme, to help those that actively manage soil. This will focus on farmland initially and develop to consider other habitats, including urban. The Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment will also include soil monitoring.

For **food**, we will monitor delivery of the **Food Strategy** including drawing together evidence on the impacts of individual policies to determine the overall progress of the strategy. The government must also report on food security to Parliament at least once every three years. The next food security report is due in 2024.

