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BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY TO 2032

1. With the previous Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 now elapsed, you will recall the Executive's agreement to the development of a new document in April 2021. It is intended to develop a new Biodiversity Strategy to meet the challenges faced by the natural environment, and to secure your input to the document.

Background

2. The scientific evidence points to an on-going decline in the world's overall biodiversity; with that trend very much mirrored in Northern Ireland. Internationally the United Nations, through the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is refocusing its intention on reducing the loss of biodiversity through a Global Biodiversity Framework. This framework has been developed internationally with DEFRA representing the UK. Work is ongoing but it is likely that the framework will include the 21 strategic targets set out at **Annex A**.
3. The CBD intends to get international agreement to the framework at the Council of the Parties meeting (CoP15) in May 2022 in China. In the meantime the four UK countries are refreshing their strategies, based on the draft framework.

What is required?

4. The framework is very cross cutting and while the targets focus on many of DAERA's responsibilities including agriculture, forestry, fishing and other marine activities, there are aspects of the targets which are relevant to other bodies, including your



Department. You will also see that there are links within the biodiversity targets to address some of the issues affecting climate change, which is very relevant to the CoP 26 climate conference in Glasgow.

5. In order to assist with development of the new strategy, we would like you to tell us in relation to strategic targets; 3,8,14, and 15.
 - (i) How your area of responsibility relates to biodiversity?
 - (ii) What factors or changes do you intend to put in place that could benefit biodiversity – or possibly be counterproductive?
 - (iii) What do you envisage needs to happen in the medium to long term to assist “turning the curve” in terms of restoring species or habitats to a better overall ecological condition? And
 - (iv) What overall strategic milestones or outcomes do you envisage are required?
6. In addition, is there any other information in relation to other targets outside your direct area of responsibility that you may wish to highlight?

What will we do with the information?

7. We will coordinate all responses, edit and integrate them into an overall part of the strategy document which we will share with you. We would be happy to discuss our thinking with you prior to receiving your input if you think this would be helpful, either on a one to one basis or relevant group.

When do we need your input?

8. While we can progress parts of the document your input is fundamental to DAERA's overall direction in terms of safeguarding and restoring biodiversity. Therefore your input should be with us by Friday 3rd December 2021.
9. Many thanks in anticipation of your response to help ensure we have a strategy document that will help NI to make a positive benefit to our natural environment.

KEN BRADLEY
Regulatory & Natural Resources Policy Division
DAERA

Reducing threats to biodiversity

Target 1. Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas.

Target 2. Ensure that at least 20 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.

Target 3. Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Target 4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Target 5. Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health.

Target 6. Manage pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, preventing, or reducing their rate of introduction and establishment by at least 50 per cent, and control or eradicate invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts, focusing on priority species and priority sites.

Target 7. Reduce pollution from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste.

Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtCO₂e per year to global mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.

Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing

Target 9. Ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Target 10. Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.

Target 11. Maintain and enhance nature's contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people.

Target 12. Increase the area of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces, for human health and well-being in urban areas and other densely populated areas.

Target 13. Implement measures at global level and in all countries to facilitate access to genetic resources and to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, and as relevant, of associated traditional knowledge, including through mutually agreed terms and prior and informed consent.

Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

Target 14. Fully integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, accounts, and assessments of environmental impacts at all levels of government and across all sectors of the economy, ensuring that all activities and financial flows are aligned with biodiversity values.

Target 15. All businesses (public and private, large, medium and small) assess and report on their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, from local to global, and progressively reduce negative impacts, by at least half and increase positive impacts, reducing biodiversity-related risks to businesses and moving towards the full sustainability of extraction and production practices, sourcing and supply chains, and use and disposal.

Target 16. Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make responsible choices and have access to relevant information and alternatives, taking into account cultural preferences, to reduce by at least half the waste and, where relevant the overconsumption, of food and other materials.

Target 17. Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement measures in all countries to prevent, manage or control potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health, reducing the risk of these impacts.

Target 18. Redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, in a just and equitable way, reducing them by at least US\$ 500 billion per year, including all of the most harmful subsidies, and ensure that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity.

Target 19. Increase financial resources from all sources to at least US\$ 200 billion per year, including new, additional and effective financial resources, increasing by at least US\$ 10 billion per year international financial flows to developing countries, leveraging private finance, and increasing domestic resource mobilization, taking into account national biodiversity finance planning, and strengthen capacity-building and technology transfer and scientific cooperation, to meet the needs for implementation, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.

Target 20. Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision-making for the effective management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, education and research.

Target 21. Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth.