

Biodiversity targets and environmental principles

Research Briefing

May 2025



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The Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill (the Bill) is due to be introduced to the Senedd this summer. It is expected to:

- introduce a framework to protect and restore nature, including biodiversity targets;
- introduce overarching environmental principles to underpin future policy decision-making; and
- establish a permanent environmental governance body to ensure public authorities uphold environmental law.

This briefing explores statutory biodiversity targets and the proposed new biodiversity framework, as well as environmental principles, ahead of the Bill's introduction. It looks at what we know so far from the Bill's White Paper proposals and provides a comparative analysis, to learn lessons from other UK countries on these matters.

Establishment of an environmental governance body, the third element of the Bill, is the subject of a separate **Senedd Research briefing**.



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Biodiversity targets

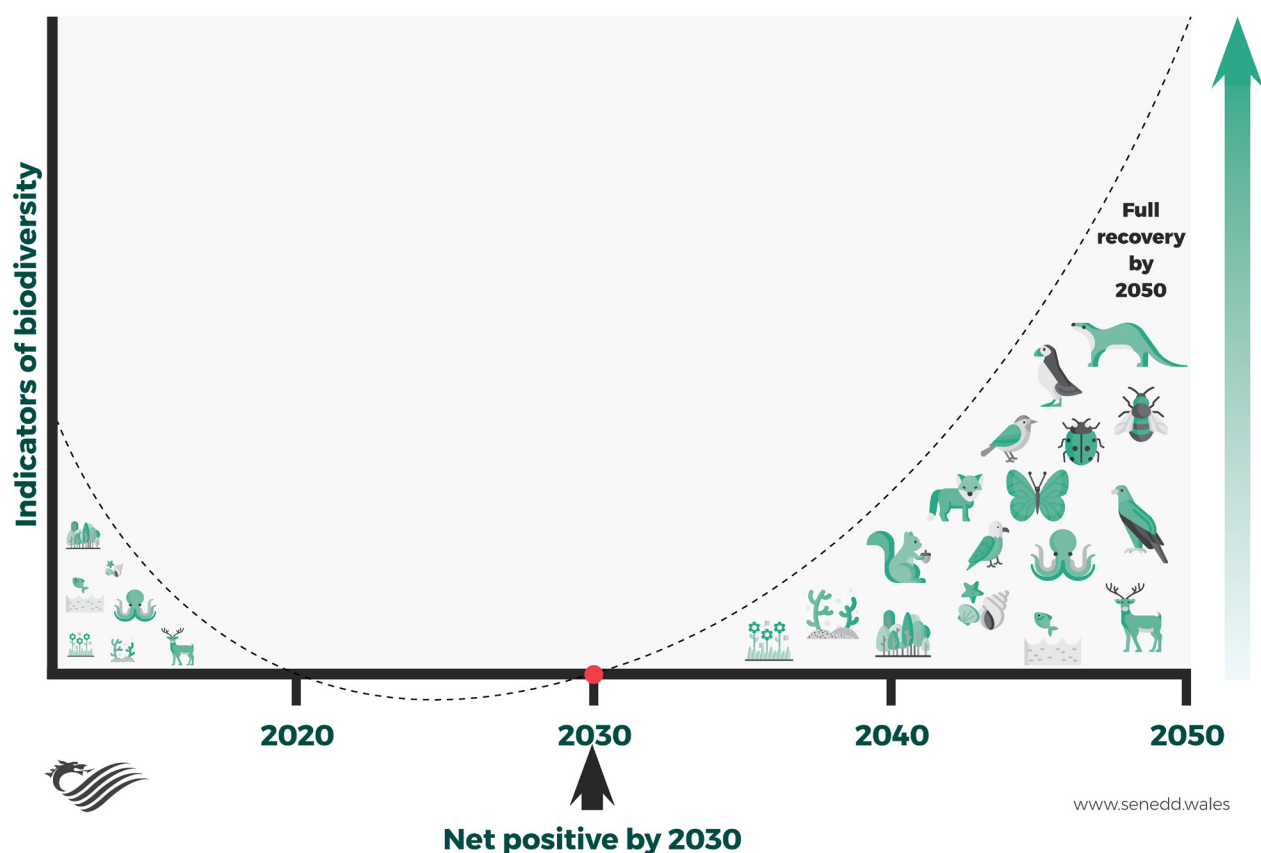
Background

Global biodiversity, defined as the variety of living species, has massively declined in recent decades. **Many scientists believe** we are on the verge of Earth's **sixth mass extinction event** – the first since the non-avian dinosaurs were wiped out 66 million years ago. Past mass extinctions were caused by extraterrestrial impacts and volcanic activity, but the current biodiversity crisis is being driven by human activity. Land use change, soil degradation, deforestation, pollution, overfishing, and climate change have all contributed to declines in the abundance and diversity of wildlife. A 2024 **World Wildlife Fund report** found that the wild global populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish had dropped by 73% since 1970.

Wales saw an average 20% decline in the **population of monitored species** between 1994 and 2023, and ranks 224 out of 240 countries on the Natural History Museum's **Biodiversity Intactness Index** – among the lowest 10% in the world.

In response to this challenge, global governments gathered at **COP15 in 2022** and agreed a suite of 23 targets and 4 goals collectively termed the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (GBF). The **GBF's aim** is a world “living in harmony with nature” by 2050, and to “halt and reverse biodiversity loss” by 2030, relative to a 2020 baseline (Figure 1). A high profile GBF target is '**30 by 30**' – to protect at least 30% of land, inland waterways, and seas by 2030.

Figure 1. The Global Biodiversity Framework target to halt and reverse the loss of nature by 2030 and achieve recovery by 2050



Source: adapted from naturepositive.org

The Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, and UK governments have outlined their approach to meeting the 23 GBF targets in the **UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2030**.

The Senedd has legislative competence for environmental issues in Wales, so meeting GBF targets in Wales is the responsibility of the Welsh Government. In 2021 the **Senedd voted to declare a nature emergency** and called on the Welsh Government to introduce statutory targets to reverse biodiversity loss.

The Welsh Government already has an **array of policies** aiming to restore biodiversity, such as the **Nature Recovery Action Plan, Nature Networks Programme, Local Places for Nature programme** and those of the **Environment (Wales) Act 2016**. However, its approach has come under criticism. The Senedd's Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure (CCEI) Committee **recently expressed** its "fundamental concern" for the resourcing, effectiveness, and implementation of the Welsh Government's biodiversity policies. Audit Wales also found that many public bodies, including the Welsh Government, have **failed to**

comply with their existing biodiversity duties (section 6) under the ***Environment (Wales) Act 2016***.

This summer the Welsh Government will introduce its new Bill. **The 2024 White Paper for the Bill** proposed a new Nature Recovery Framework comprising statutory biodiversity targets, a high-level Nature Recovery Strategy, specific action plans, and an approach to monitoring progress.

Welsh Government proposals

The Welsh Government's proposals for statutory biodiversity targets were set out in Part C of last year's **White Paper** for the Bill. It outlined a suite of biodiversity measures collectively termed the 'Nature Recovery Framework'.

Following the White Paper consultation, the Welsh Government **published a response**. This set out adapted proposals based on stakeholder views. These proposals are the most up-to-date publicly available picture of the approach the Welsh Government may take.

Respondents to the White Paper were generally supportive of the biodiversity proposals, but some had reservations about the planned approach. Senedd Research explored some of these concerns in a **July 2024 article**.

The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, Huw Irranca-Davies MS (the Cabinet Secretary), provided additional detail on the likely contents of the Bill in his **evidence to the CCEI Committee's inquiry** on nature loss, and **his response to its report**. The White Paper proposals, stakeholder comments, and subsequent changes are explored below.

Overarching mission statement

The White Paper's Nature Recovery Framework centred around a headline target, which mirrored the GBF commitment, and the ***Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*** milestone, to:

Reverse the decline in biodiversity with an improvement in the status of species and ecosystems by 2030 and their clear recovery by 2050.

There was general support for the introduction of the headline target, however some consultation respondents were concerned the proposed 2030 target would be unenforceable and unachievable.

As a result, the Welsh Government said it was considering replacing the headline

target with a nature positive “purpose or mission statement” to provide the basis for the Nature Recovery Framework. The **Welsh Government said it would** “undertake a targeted programme of stakeholder engagement to gain feedback on our proposal”.

Several environmental groups **told the CCEI Committee** they are concerned with the move away from the 2030 and 2050 headline target, saying it risks undermining the pace of delivery.

Interim and long-term biodiversity targets

As well as the headline target, the White Paper proposed that Welsh Ministers would have a duty to introduce secondary interim and long-term biodiversity targets through regulations “as soon as practicable” after the Bill is passed. These were proposed in three high-level areas:

- species distribution, abundance, and extinction risk;
- habitat protection, management, and restoration; and
- ecosystem health, resilience, and restoration.

Consultees were generally positive about the proposed introduction of targets in secondary legislation, and the high-level topics listed, whilst suggesting additional topics. Responding to the consultation, the Welsh Government said it will introduce an additional duty on Welsh Ministers “to ensure the targets are met”.

Target introduction timescales

The Cabinet Secretary **told the CCEI Committee** that the Welsh Government would bring targets forward “within 36 months of the signing off of the primary legislation”.

The Welsh Government **rejected the CCEI Committee’s recommendation** that *priority* targets should be set within 12 months of the Act receiving Royal Assent. It argued “target development will take at least a year, followed by additional time for the legislative timeline”.

This means Wales would be slower to introduce biodiversity targets compared to other UK nations. In the equivalent English legislation and Scottish draft legislation (discussed in later sections), targets have to be set within a year of the legislation receiving Royal Assent.

The Welsh Government has set up a **Biodiversity Targets Advisory Panel** to inform development of the targets.

Target monitoring

The White Paper proposed biodiversity target monitoring would be supported through the development of indicators to assess progress. Reporting was proposed to be incorporated into Natural Resources Wales's (NRW) State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), which is published every five years (**most recently in 2020** with an **interim SoNaRR in 2024**). The Welsh Ministers would lay a statement before the Senedd on whether the biodiversity targets had been achieved. If the targets were not met, Welsh Ministers would seek independent advice on further action to achieve them.

There was general agreement with the proposal to use SoNaRR to report against the biodiversity targets. However, numerous stakeholders expressed concern about NRW's resourcing. The Welsh Government hopes to minimise the additional data monitoring that will be required, as several GBF indicators are well established, with data already collected at an international or UK level.

Nature Recovery Strategy

The Welsh Government initially proposed to link biodiversity targets to a Wales Nature Recovery Strategy setting out a long-term vision for national biodiversity. A large proportion of White Paper responses supported this proposal to implement a long-term Strategy, developed in collaboration with stakeholders, and building on existing mechanisms.

Rather than creating a new Strategy, the Welsh Government now proposes to deliver a Nature Recovery Strategy by adapting the existing Natural Resources Policy (NRP). Under the *Environment (Wales) Act 2016*, the Welsh Government is required to publish a NRP setting out the key priorities, risks, and opportunities for managing natural resources sustainably across government.

The NRP is supposed to be updated every Senedd term, the current version has not been reviewed since 2018. The CCEI Committee **highlighted environmental stakeholders' belief** that the NRP "has had little material impact" to-date. The **Cabinet Secretary says** an ongoing NRP review should conclude by summer 2025, but rejected the CCEI's recommendation that future reviews should take place no later than 12 months after each general election.

National delivery plans

The White Paper had proposed that the biodiversity targets and Nature Recovery Strategy would be delivered through a Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP). The NRAP would have detailed specific actions and would be published every four years.

Following the consultation, the Welsh Government said it would consider using detailed delivery plans instead of an overarching NRAP. It said it will work with other organisations to deliver biodiversity targets at a local level.

The existing NRAP was supposed to be updated prior to the COP16 conference. The Cabinet Secretary says it is now expected to be launched at the Wales Biodiversity Conference in October 2025.

Local plans

Under the original White Paper proposals, public authorities would have been required to publish their own Local Nature Recovery Plans (LNRPs) to detail what they were doing to achieve the biodiversity targets. There was some support for the LNRPs, although there were concerns around the resource implications and relevance for public authorities.

Some respondents identified an opportunity to build on the existing collaborative work between local authorities and Local Nature Partnerships in the development of LNRPs.

Section 6 of the *Environment (Wales) Act 2016* already requires public authorities to publish plans setting out their proposed actions to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, and to report on progress. Audit Wales recently found that almost half of assessed public authorities had not complied with these requirements, and a quarter had never produced a biodiversity report.

In its White Paper consultation response, the Welsh Government said it will not take forward the proposal to require public authorities to produce LNRPs, but will consider providing detailed statutory guidance and support to strengthen their delivery of targets at a local level. A duty on public authorities to contribute to delivery of statutory biodiversity targets was proposed. The Welsh Government said, once the Bill becomes law, it will update its Section 6 duty public authority guidance to align with the new legislation.

Biodiversity targets in the other UK nations

England

The UK **Environment Act 2021** (the UK Environment Act) provides the statutory basis for introducing biodiversity targets and a wider framework for England.

The UK Environment Act gives the Secretary of State (SoS) powers to set long-term targets in regulations relating to the natural environment or people's enjoyment of it. It requires the SoS to set a suite of targets related to specific issues, including:

- a long-term (at least 15 years in the future) biodiversity target; and
- a “species abundance target” with a target date of 31 December 2030.

Draft targets had to be laid before UK Parliament within 12 months of the Act receiving Royal Assent.

Long-term and 2030 targets

The Environmental Targets (Biodiversity) (England) Regulations 2023 satisfy the Act's requirement to introduce the long-term biodiversity and 2030 species abundance targets. The following targets were set:

- halt the overall decline in species abundance by 2030;
- reduce the risk of species' extinction by 2042, compared to the risk in 2022;
- restore or create at least 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042;
- have higher species abundance in 2042 than in 2022; and
- ensure species abundance in 2042 is at least 10% higher than in 2030.

Additional targets for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) were set in **The Environmental Targets (Marine Protected Areas) Regulations 2023**. These set the following targets for 2042 to ensure:

- at least 70% of protected features in MPAs are in a favourable condition; and
- all other protected MPA features are in a recovering condition.

The SoS must review targets set in regulations every 5 years to decide whether they “would significantly improve the natural environment in England”, and lay their findings in a report before the UK Parliament.

Environmental improvement plan and interim targets

Under the Act, the SoS also has to prepare an environmental improvement plan (EIP) detailing how the government intends to improve the natural environment.

The SoS is required to prepare annual reports on the progress of the EIP, and to review it every 5 years. New interim targets, including biodiversity targets, must be set at each of these reviews. The **most recent EIP review** took place in 2023 and set the following interim biodiversity targets to be achieved by 31 January 2028:

- increase tree canopy and woodland cover by 0.26% of land area;
- have up-to-date condition assessments of all Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs);
- for 50% of SSSIs to be on-track to achieve favourable condition; and
- for 48% of designated features in MPAs to be in favourable condition, and the remainder in recovering condition.

The EIP review also set interim targets across a range of other topics, including clean air, water, and resource management. The current UK Government has said it **intends to update the EIP** in 2025.

A **House of Lords Library research briefing** contains further information on the UK Government's approach to biodiversity in England.

Scotland

In its **Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045**, the Scottish Government sets the ambition for Scotland to be 'Nature Positive' by 2030, and to have "restored and regenerated biodiversity across our land, freshwater and seas" by 2045.

The Scottish Government must report on progress towards the strategy's ambitions every three years under the **Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004**. It also publishes biodiversity delivery plans detailing specific actions to meet the strategy's objectives, and reviews these every six years. Its **first delivery plan** covers 2024 to 2030.

In February 2025, the Scottish Government published an **investment plan for biodiversity and climate adaptation** that details financial mechanisms to facilitate nature recovery, supporting the Biodiversity Strategy.

The Scottish Government intends to introduce biodiversity targets through its **Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill**. This Bill was introduced on 19 February 2025

and is currently undergoing Stage 1 scrutiny in the Scottish Parliament.

The Scottish Bill would give Scottish Ministers powers to issue regulations setting targets on:

- the condition or extent of any habitat;
- the status of threatened species;
- environmental conditions for nature regeneration; and
- any other matter relating to the restoration or regeneration of biodiversity they consider appropriate.

The Bill says Scottish Ministers must set at least one target in each of the first three areas listed above. Similar to England, Scottish Ministers would be required to lay these targets before the Scottish Parliament within 12 months of the Act coming into force. They would have a duty to ensure that these targets were met.

To measure progress, the Scottish Ministers would be required to prepare a report on progress towards meeting targets at least every 3 years, and review the targets at least every 10 years. Unlike England's Act, the Scottish Bill does not include an obligation to introduce a statutory 2030 target.

Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Executive published its first **Environmental Improvement Plan** in 2024, as required by the UK *Environment Act 2021*. It includes non-statutory targets to protect 30% of land, freshwater, and seas for nature by 2030; increase woodland cover by at least 9% by 2030; and to publish and implement a Nature Recovery Plan. The Executive's **Programme for Government** also includes a commitment to publish a Nature Recovery Plan before 2027 to align Northern Ireland with the GBF's targets.

Unlike the other UK nations, the Northern Irish Executive has not set out any plans to introduce statutory biodiversity targets. Its environmental governance body, the **Office for Environmental Protection**, says there is "an urgent need to establish targets, indicator(s) and a monitoring framework for biodiversity in Northern Ireland, accompanied by a resourced delivery plan."

Mark H Durkan MLA is **proposing a Private Members' Bill** (the Environment and Nature Restoration Bill) in the Northern Ireland Assembly that seeks to introduce a framework for legally binding environmental targets, including targets in relation to biodiversity. The proposed Bill underwent a 12 week consultation between February and May 2025.

Environmental principles

Background

Calls for domestic environmental principles, to guide policy making, were raised in the context of EU-exit. This is because the EU environmental principles have not been carried over into UK law.

EU environment policy is grounded in its environmental principles which aim to ensure high environmental standards and integrate environmental protection across EU policies and activities.

Article 191(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) lists the four core EU environmental principles as:

- the prevention principle;
- the principle that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source;
- the polluter pays principle; and
- the precautionary principle.

The European Commission and the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) apply these principles in the development and interpretation of EU legislation. Rather than applying directly to Member States, the EU environmental principles instead flow through the EU's policies and laws.

While the principles are undefined in the TFEU, the European Commission has **issued guidance** on the application of the precautionary principle. The principles are also defined elsewhere, including in international law and case law.

The integration principle is enshrined in **Article 11 of the TFEU** as “environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union's policies and activities, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development”.

Post-EU withdrawal, the EU Treaties and the environmental principles do not apply in the UK.

The UK has converted EU environmental legislation into domestic law via the **EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018** (but not the Treaties). This legislation is now referred

to as ‘retained EU law’ and was originally developed in the context of the EU environmental principles whilst the UK was a Member State.

The EU environmental principles therefore apply indirectly through retained EU law, but the principles themselves were not directly carried over into domestic law from the Treaties.

The EU principles also take effect where they have been referenced in **retained EU case law**.

The **previous Welsh Government committed** to continue to apply the four core EU environmental principles in policy development in the absence of legislation post-Brexit.

The Welsh Government’s intention has been that it would legislate to fill the post-EU gap with its own domestic environmental principles (discussed below). In developing these, the Welsh Government highlighted the importance of considering international and EU principles. In addition it emphasised the need to consider the Welsh context e.g. the existing sustainable management of natural resources principles of the **Environment (Wales) Act 2016** and the Sustainable Development principle of the **Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015**.

The Welsh Government **sought views** on the potential principles and their application in 2019, and also established a Task Group to explore these matters, **which reported in 2020**.

The Task Group recommended that the four core EU principles should be provided for in Welsh legislation. It said these should be supported by an overarching objective setting out environmental ambitions in Wales, including integration of environmental policy considerations across government. The Task Group recommended a duty for the Welsh Ministers to apply these principles in the development of policy and legislation.

This work culminated in the proposals found in Part A of last year’s **White Paper** for the anticipated Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill, which is expected to introduce domestic environmental principles.

In the fifth Senedd, the Climate Change Environment and Rural Affairs Committee carried out two inquiries into environmental principles and governance. The first inquiry (**summer 2018**) was an initial look at the issues. The second inquiry (**summer 2019**) followed the Welsh Government’s 2019 consultation. The

Committee heard strong support for the four core EU environmental principles to be retained in Welsh law, but also the need for flexibility to ensure that the principles can evolve and be added to, for example the principle of non-regression was suggested.

Welsh proposals

The principles

The Welsh Government's White Paper proposed the following principles for the Bill, reflecting the four core EU environmental principles plus 'integration':

- precautionary;
- prevention;
- rectification at source;
- polluter pays; and
- integration.

It proposed the environmental principles would be supported by an overarching objective to ensure a high level of environmental protection, in particular to contribute to sustainable development. **The Welsh Government's response** to the White Paper says it will further consider how to align the overarching objective with other existing Welsh policies.

Guidance

The Welsh Government proposed the Bill would include a duty on the Welsh Ministers to publish guidance on interpretation of the environmental principles. There would be a requirement for consultation on this guidance. **The Welsh Government's response** to the White Paper highlighted stakeholder views that guidance must be produced in draft form before the legislation is commenced.

Application of the principles and guidance

The White Paper proposed a duty requiring the Welsh Ministers to have "due regard" to the environmental principles and the accompanying guidance during the development of policy and legislation.

The Welsh Government's response to the White Paper highlighted stakeholder concerns around the term "due regard" and that it would not be strong enough to achieve the objectives of the principles.

The Welsh Government considered whether the duty to apply the principles and guidance should be placed on other Welsh public bodies, in addition to Welsh Ministers. It concluded that since the Welsh Ministers would apply the principles to the strategic policy-making stage, their effect would cascade into operational policy and therefore it would be disproportionate to place the duty on other public bodies.

There was a **mixed response** from stakeholders on the extent of the duty to apply the principles. **The Welsh Government responded** saying although it is minded not to extend the duty to public bodies widely it would explore the possibility of extending the duty to certain bodies in specific circumstances, for example, when considering major plans which are likely to have significant environmental impact.

The environmental governance body to be established under the same Bill, which is the subject of **another Senedd Research briefing**, would have oversight and enforcement powers to ensure that the duty regarding the principles is applied.

Environmental principles in other UK nations

England and Northern Ireland

The UK Environment Act introduced a duty on the SoS to prepare a policy statement on environmental principles, with the objective of contributing to environmental protection and sustainable development. Ministers of the Crown must have “due regard” to the policy statement when developing policy in England. The duty was originally to “have regard to” but was changed to “have due regard to” in aims to strengthen it.

The five environmental principles listed in the UK Environment Act are the same as those proposed for Wales:

- the principle that environmental protection should be integrated into the making of policies;
- the prevention principle;
- the precautionary principle;
- environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source; and
- the polluter pays principle.

There are some policy areas exempt from application of the policy statement including those relating to: the armed forces, defence or national security; and

taxation, spending or the allocation of resources within government. **During scrutiny of the UK Environment Bill** (which became the UK Environment Act) opposition Members attempted unsuccessfully to remove these exemptions.

In developing the policy statement, the SoS must consult on a draft statement, and lay the draft before UK Parliament. The UK Government published a **Draft Environmental Principles Policy Statement** on 10 March 2021, while the Bill was still passing through UK Parliament.

Prior to the UK Environment Bill's formal introduction, the first part of the Bill, including the principles, was published as the **draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill** in December 2018. The draft Bill was scrutinised by the Environmental Audit Committee. The **Committee reported** that all public bodies should have a duty to apply the principles, in addition to Ministers of the Crown. The duty only applies to the Ministers of the Crown in the Act.

The UK Environment Act also includes a statutory duty on the Northern Ireland **Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs** (DAERA) to publish a policy statement on the environmental principles. NI departments and UK Government Ministers (when making policy for Northern Ireland) have a statutory duty to have due regard to the statement.

Mark H Durkan MLA's Northern Ireland Private Members' Bill **is proposing** "additional environmental principles that must be followed by public bodies".

Scotland

For Scotland, the **UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021** ('Continuity Act') includes the same five principles.

Originally the Scottish Government only proposed the four core EU environmental principles in the Bill which would become the Continuity Act, but integration was added during the legislative process. Commentary on this can be found in a **Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing**. Additional principles suggested in **evidence to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee**, during Bill scrutiny, included the principle of 'high-level of environment protection' and 'environmental equity'.

Scottish Ministers can, by regulations, add to, remove, amend or further define the listed principles, but only when necessary to reflect changes to the equivalent principle in EU law. This relates to the **Scottish Government policy commitment**

to continue to align with EU standards “where appropriate”.

The Scottish Ministers must have “due regard” to the five principles in policy development. However this duty excludes any policy relating to either national defence/civil emergency or finance/budgets.

In addition, a “responsible authority”, as defined in the ***Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005***, must have due regard to the principles when making policy covered by the requirement to hold an environmental assessment under the 2005 Act. This is therefore a wider application than the Welsh proposals and UK Environment Act provisions where the principles/policy statement are only applied by Ministers.

The overall purpose of the duty to have due regard to the principles is to protect and improve the environment, and contribute to sustainable development.

The Continuity Act requires Scottish Ministers to publish guidance on the principles. It must include the interpretation of the principles and how the principles relate to each other and to other environmental duties. Before publishing guidance, the Scottish Ministers must consult and lay the draft guidance before the Scottish Parliament.

Questions for Bill scrutiny

With the Welsh Bill anticipated this summer, key questions arising from exploring the comparable legislation elsewhere in the UK, and the White Paper proposals, include:

- Whether the biodiversity framework will be built around a time-bound headline target, a broader mission statement, or something else?
- How will the framework and targets relate to existing GBF commitments?
- Which high-level areas will Welsh Ministers be required to set secondary targets in?
- How long will it take, post Royal Assent, for secondary targets to be introduced?
- How will long-term and interim targets be defined?
- To what extent will the proposed nature recovery strategies and action plans emerge from existing reports, such as the NRP and NRAP?
- How will the Bill address biodiversity action at a local level to achieve the targets?
- Which environmental principles will be listed on the face of the Bill?
- Will the environmental principles apply to Ministers only, or other public bodies?
- Will the principles be applied to all areas of policy?
- Will the duty to apply the principles be strong enough?
- Will draft guidance on the principles be available for scrutiny by the Senedd before the legislation commences?

Further reading

Senedd Research has published a range of articles and briefings exploring environmental and biodiversity issues. A selection of relevant recent articles are listed below:

- **Establishing an environmental governance body: a comparative analysis**, May 2025 – a research briefing on the Welsh proposals for environmental governance and what’s happening elsewhere in the UK.
- **The nature emergency: halting biodiversity loss by 2030 will be an “extraordinary challenge”**, April 2025 – an article published ahead of a Senedd debate on the CCEI Committee’s report scrutinising the Welsh Government’s progress in tackling nature loss.
- **COP16: Biodiversity from Cali to Cymru**, December 2024 – an article on what was agreed at COP16 and Wales’s progress towards meeting the GBF agreed at COP15.
- **A critical time for agricultural policy: how is the Welsh Government fielding concerns?**, October 2024 – a summary of the Welsh Government’s plans for the Sustainable Farming Scheme, which includes incentives for farmers who manage land to support biodiversity.
- **Next steps on the path to nature recovery**, July 2024 – a summary of the Environmental Principals, Governance, and Biodiversity Targets White Paper, including comments from stakeholders.
- **Biodiversity 2023**, November 2023 – a research briefing giving an overview of the state of Welsh biodiversity, existing policies to protect it, and what additional action stakeholders would like to see.
- **Tackling the nature and climate emergencies: Is more progress needed to achieve government commitments?**, September 2023 – an investigation of the Welsh Government’s progress towards its well-being objective “Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do”.
- **COP15: what’s been agreed, and what it means for Wales**, January 2023 – an article summarising COP15’s outcomes, most notably the GBF agreement.
- **COP15: Time to tackle the nature emergency**, December 2022 – an article prior to the COP15 conference outlining why stakeholders were urgently calling for an agreement.