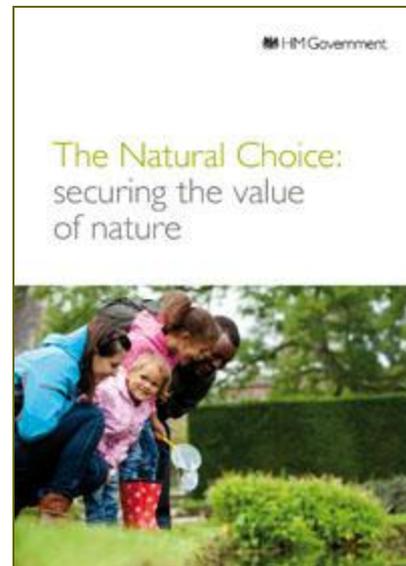


The Natural Choice: *securing the value of nature*



- A healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. This is why **we must properly value the economic and social benefits of a healthy natural environment** – as well as nature’s intrinsic value.
- **This requires us all to put the value of nature at the heart of our decision-making by:**
 - Facilitating **action to protect and improve nature**;
 - **Creating a green economy**, in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other;
 - Strengthening the **connections between people** and nature to benefit both.
 - **Showing leadership** in the European Union and internationally, to protect and enhance natural assets globally.

The case for an integrated, landscape-scale approach

- Two major pieces of evidence significantly informed the NEWP:
 - **The UK National Ecosystem Assessment** shows that
 - ecosystems services are critically important for our economy and wellbeing but are consistently undervalued in decision-making.
 - over 30% of our ecosystem services are in decline and underlines the importance of managing ecosystems in a more integrated way to achieve a wider range of services and benefits.
 - **The Lawton report, *Making Space for Nature***, found that nature in England is highly fragmented and unable to respond effectively to new pressures, such as climate and demographic change.

The case for an integrated, landscape-scale approach

Key asks from stakeholders

- Introduce a framework to facilitate local action for the natural environment (LINK)
- Governance that empowers local partnerships to deliver for biodiversity (RSPB)
- That the White Paper links clearly to other priorities such as climate change and outlines an integrated response (NFU)

The White Paper sets out **a new institutional framework** responding to both the NEA and the Lawton Review:

- **Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs)** to enable local leadership and operate across administrative boundaries, supported by a £1 million fund to build capacity for joint working.
- **Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)** to enhance and reconnect nature on a significant scale, supported by £7.5 million.
- Protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of **the planning system**.
- A new voluntary approach **to biodiversity offsets**, tested in a number of pilot areas.
- More **integrated action** across our terrestrial and marine environments.

Sustainable economic growth relies on services provided by the natural environment but these are not properly valued in the prices customers pay, the ways markets operate, or in Government accounting.

Action we are taking to address this:

- Including natural capital within the UK **Environmental Accounts**;
- An independent **Natural Capital Committee** to advise the Government on the state of natural capital in England;
- Action to **expand markets** and schemes in which payments are made by the beneficiary of a natural service to the provider of that service;
- A business-led **Ecosystem Markets Task Force** to review opportunities from expanding the market for green goods and services;
- New **guidance for businesses** on how to measure and report corporate environmental impacts.

Re-connecting people and nature

High-quality natural environments foster healthy neighbourhoods; green spaces encourage social activity and reduce crime. Contact with nature can support children's learning. The White Paper sets out action in the health and education systems and in our communities:

- Public Health England will publish practical evidence about **improving health** through access to a good natural environment;
- Remove barriers to learning outdoors and **increase schools' abilities to teach outdoors** when they wish to do so;
- A new local **Green Area Designation** to allow people to protect the green areas that are important to them;
- A **Green Infrastructure Partnership** with civil society to support the development of green infrastructure;
- Action to help environmental NGOs **boost environmental volunteering** (through funding to help capacity building)

Showing leadership internationally and in the EU

To advance the approach and principles set out in this white paper internationally and within the EU we will:

- Press for effective **implementation of the 2010 Nagoya agreement**;
- **Promote the green economy** in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication **at the UN Conference on SD in 2012**.
- **Green the Common Agricultural and Common Fisheries Policies** to improve environmental benefits, while achieving our other policy goals;
- **A new EU biodiversity strategy**, to put into effect what was agreed at Nagoya ;
- An EU2020 Strategy that achieves **low-carbon, resource-efficient growth**; and
- An **EU Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe**.

- **We will:**
 - **Develop a set of key indicators by spring 2012 to track progress on the White Paper.**
 - **Publish periodically a single, concise and integrated report about the state of the English environment.**