



**The one hundred and forty-fourth meeting of the
Joint Nature Conservation Committee held on 9 and 10 September
2025 in Peterborough**

**Paper JNCC 25 40I: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
7th National Report**

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<https://jncc.gov.uk/resources/1773a5f6-b6be-42fa-a224-9b697d434846>.

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Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 7th National Report

Paper by Ian Mitchell

1. Overview of the production of the UK's 7th National Report to CBD

- 1.1 Joint Committee is invited to note progress being made to produce the UK's 7th National Report to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. This 7th National Report is significant because it is the first opportunity for Parties to report on progress being made towards achieving the 2030 targets and 2050 goals within the Kunming-Montreal [Global Biodiversity Framework \(GBF\)](#).
- 1.2 The UK report is being compiled with submissions of evidence from Governments of the four countries, UK Overseas Territories (UK OTs) and Crown Dependencies (CDs), as well as inputs from stakeholders. JNCC's role is to manage the collation of this evidence and to formulate a coherent and balanced report.
- 1.3 The report will be agreed and signed off by all governments within the UK who are party to the obligations of CBD. Defra is the lead government department responsible for fulfilling the UK's commitments under CBD. The report is currently in its second draft (as of 01/08/25). Joint Committee are invited to view the [second draft report](#). However, we are not seeking formal comment or sign-off of the report from Joint Committee. Members of Joint Committee are encouraged to submit comments as part of our Call for Evidence to Stakeholders (see details in section 5.2 below).

2. Background

- 2.1 The 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is due by 28 February 2026.
- 2.2 The report is a primary mechanism for tracking progress towards the GBF's goals and targets. The information in the 7th National Reports will be used to conduct a global review of progress at CBD COP17, allowing for an assessment

of collective action towards the goals and targets of the GBF. The CBD requires Parties to report on their implementation efforts, ensuring accountability and transparency in meeting international commitments. The [UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan \(NBSAP\)](#), lays out our national targets, equivalent to each of the 23 GBF targets. The UK's 7th National Report will assess progress towards these national targets and towards the GBF 2050 goals. The report will identify areas where progress is strong and where more effort is needed, guiding future actions and resource allocation for biodiversity.

3. Structure and content of the UK 7th National Report

3.1 The structure and content of the 7th National report is different from the sixth, which was focused on progress made towards achieving the Aichi 2020 Targets. These targets have now been replaced by the four 2050 Goals and 23 2030 targets that are included in the GBF. The report is divided into the following four sections:

- Section I. Brief overview of the process of report preparation
- Section II. Status of the revised or updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
- Section III. Assessment of progress towards national targets
- Section IV. Assessment of national progress contributing towards the goals of the GBF

3.2 Sections I and II have been drafted. Regarding section II, the UK's NBSAP was published in February 2025. It contains the UK's 23 national targets which align with the targets in the GBF. Progress towards these 23 UK targets is covered under Section III of the report.

3.3 Section III is the most detailed; for each UK target it provides the following information:

- i. **Action Taken:** A UK summary and information on legislation adopted, policies developed, and funding provided.
- ii. **Current level of progress towards the target:** Assessed as 'Achieved', 'On track to achieve target', 'Progress made but at an insufficient rate', 'No significant progress', 'Not applicable', or 'Unknown'.
- iii. **Summary of progress towards the target, including the main outcomes achieved:** A UK summary of progress as indicated by the results of indicators included under questions iv-vi.
- iv. **Results from Headline Indicators used for assessing progress towards the target:** Progress towards most of the GBF targets have been assessed using one or more Headline Indicators as agreed in the GBF Monitoring Framework.
- v. **Binary Indicator responses:** Eight targets have been assessed via categorical responses to a series of questions, following advice from the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) that was convened after COP15.

- vi. **Component, complementary or other national indicators used for assessing progress towards the target:** Progress towards some of the UK targets has been assessed using one or more additional indicators that are intended to add value or detail to the Headline Indicator assessments.
 - vii. **Case studies to illustrate the effectiveness of the actions taken to implement the target:** 33 case studies from across the four countries and UK OTs / CDs to reflect the diversity of ecosystems.
- 3.4 Section III is currently being drafted. In the latest draft of the report (2nd Draft – 01/08/25), content has been added under of all the questions listed above. JNCC have incorporated comments received on the first draft from England, Scotland, all Crown Dependencies and participating UKOTs. Comments were received from Northern Ireland and Wales. These were too late to be incorporated in the current draft, but will be included in the third draft of the report (due 10/10/25).
- 3.5 Section IV (an assessment of progress towards each of the four GBF goals) is to be drafted by the four countries, with input from UK OTs / CDs where possible. The first iteration of section IV will be included in the third draft of the report.
- 3.6 In Section V (Conclusions on the national implementation of CBD and the GBF) JNCC will synthesise a UK-level narrative based on input from the four countries summarising their implementation of the GBF more broadly, and the CBD in general. The most important elements of this section are the main achievements so far, the challenges encountered and likely solutions. It will also contain a statement on how the UK is supporting progress towards relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

4. Process for production of the UK 7th National Report

- 4.1 JNCC's International Advice Team has established a project team which is leading the production of the report, involving other teams on UK co-ordination and co-ordination of input from UK OTs / CDs. JNCC's project team is responsible for:
- Collating and incorporating information from the four countries and UK OTs / CDs including providing guidance and summary assessments.
 - Running a call for evidence from stakeholders and incorporating any further evidence into the report, as required.
 - Uploading the final report onto the CBD online reporting tool and the UK's [National Clearing House Mechanism](#) (CHM) which is part of the Global Clearing House Mechanism established under the Convention.
- 4.2 The governance structure for the report production is shown in Annex I.
- 4.3 Input from the UK OTs / CDs is facilitated directly by JNCC. Input has been received from all the Crown Dependencies and the UK OTs party to CBD.¹

¹ Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, St. Helena, Falkland Islands, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and British Virgin Islands.

4.4 Stages of report production and the timeline are shown in Annex 2.

5. Stakeholder Call for Evidence

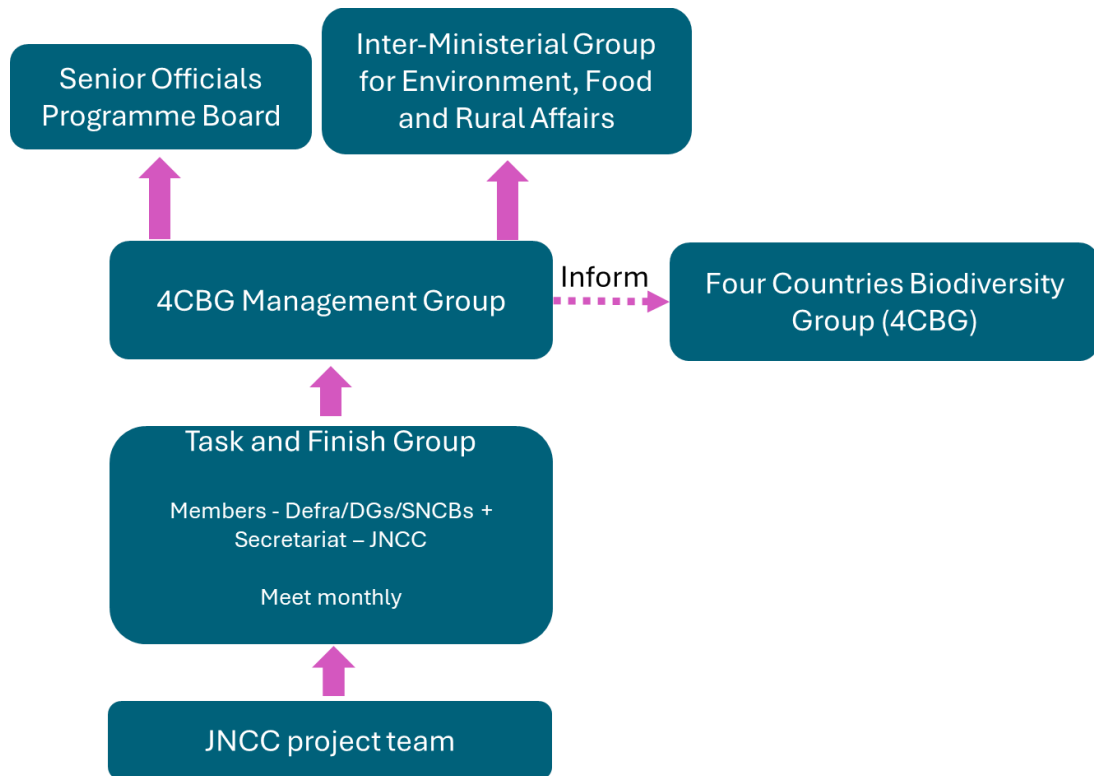
- 5.1 Under the CBD national reporting mechanism, parties are encouraged to involve relevant stakeholders and collaborate with other reporting processes in preparing their reports. This is aimed at promoting a broader understanding and ownership of the process.
- 5.2 JNCC has worked closely with the four countries via the 7th National Report Task & Finish Group (see Annex I) to develop a call for evidence from a list of 79 stakeholder organisations (listed in Annex 3). The call for evidence seeks stakeholder's assessments, supported by evidence, on the UK's current level of progress in implementing the UK national targets, together with their views on key challenges, solutions and opportunities. Individuals from each organisation have been asked to respond to three questions regarding each UK target via the following link: [7NR Call for Evidence Webform](#). They are not expected to respond for all 23 targets or all elements of individual targets.
- 5.3 The call for evidence was issued on 04/08/25 and responses have been requested by the end of Friday 12 September 2025. At the September Joint Committee a verbal update will be provided on the extent of engagement by stakeholders and nature of the submissions.
- 5.4 In February 2025, the CBD adopted a decision² to further encourage non-state actors to communicate their own commitments towards the UK national targets and GBF directly to the CBD. This section of the online reporting is currently under development (<https://ort.cbd.int>).

6. Next steps

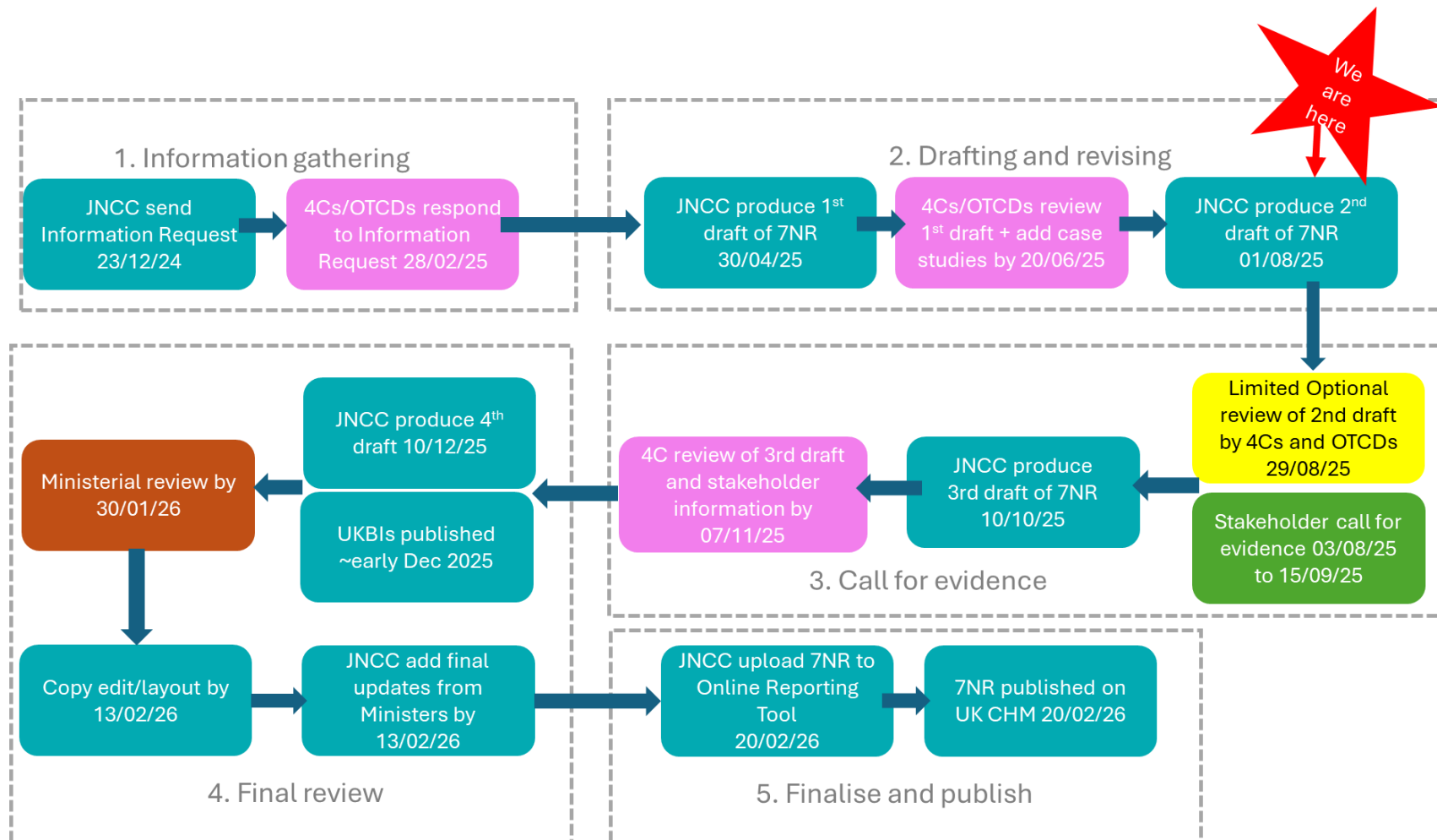
- 6.1 The fourth and final draft of the report will be out to ministerial review by the time of the December 2025 Joint Committee Meeting. We will present a summary of the key conclusions from the report at that meeting.

² see the [Decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 27 February 2025](#)

Annex 1: Governance structure for the production of the 7th UK National Report to CBD.



Annex 2: Stages of production and timeline for the 7th UK National Report to CBD.



Annex 3: List of stakeholders invited to contribute to the Call for Evidence for the 7th UK National Report to CBD.

The Royal Society
Aldersgate Group
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Bat Conservation Trust
Bioindustry Association
Birdlife international
Blue Marine Foundation
British Ecological Society
British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
Broadway Initiative
Buglife
Butterfly Conservation
Cambridge Conservation Initiative
Campaign for Nature
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
ClientEarth
Country Land and Business Association
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Environmental Industries Commission
Environmental Justice Foundation
Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland
Farmer's Union of Wales
Fauna & Flora
Finance for Biodiversity Foundation
Friends of the Earth
Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society (GONHS)
Global Youth Ambassador Project
Global Youth Biodiversity Network - UK
Green Alliance
Green Finance Institute
Greenpeace
H. Lavity Stoutt Community College
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)
IUCN National Committee UK
Kew Gardens
Manx Wildlife Trust
Marine Conservation Society
National Farmers' Union
National Farmers' Union Scotland
National Oceanography Centre
National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands
National Trust
National Trust for Jersey
National Trust for the Cayman Islands
National Trust Scotland
Nature Friendly Farming Network
Nature Positive

New Island Conservation Trust
Northern Ireland Environment Link
Oceana
Plantlife
Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Rewilding Britain
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS)
Scottish Environment Link
Scottish Land and Estates
South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute
South Georgia Heritage Trust
St Helena National Trust
Surfers Against Sewage
The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT)
The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA)
The Cornish Fish Producers Organisation (CFPO)
The Mammal Society
The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)
The Natural History Museum
The Nature Conservancy
The Royal Society of Edinburgh
The UK Association of Fish Producer Organisations (UKAFPO)
The Wildlife Trusts
UK Business and Biodiversity Forum
UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH)
UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
Ulster Farmer's Union
Women's Environmental Network.
Woodland Trust
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) UK
Zoological Society of London (ZSL)