



JNCC Bulletin October/November 2022

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Action for nature recovery

The UK Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) – JNCC, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, and the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside – have set out the need for action to recover nature, both in the UK and globally.

A [Joint Statement](#) – *Nature Recovery for Our Survival, Prosperity and Wellbeing* – was launched at an event organised by JNCC at The Royal Society, attended by government, NGOs, and other key stakeholders.

Published prior to the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties ([COP15](#)) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Statement stresses the need to deliver on the ambitions of the new Global Biodiversity Framework, highlighting that it is not too late to recover nature, and that we cannot risk any further damage to the nature that supports us all by failing to act now.

The Statement highlights the critical role of nature recovery in our survival, prosperity and wellbeing; along with the contribution that the SNCBs can make in achieving the recovery of the UK's nature. It builds on the [Nature Positive 2030](#) report produced in September 2021.

JNCC at CITES COP19

Members of JNCC's International Advice Team attended the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([COP19](#)) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of fauna and flora ([CITES](#)) in Panama City, Panama. Our staff formed part of the UK delegation; were seconded to the CITES Secretariat's team of rapporteurs; and our International Advice Co-Team Leader, Vin Fleming, was elected as chair of Committee I.

More than 2,500 delegates, observers and journalists attended. Delegates adopted 46 of the 52 proposals put forward to increase or decrease controls on international trade in wildlife and wildlife products. This brought many species of sharks, lizards, turtles, fish, birds, frogs, and more than one hundred tree species under CITES control to ensure their sustainability in the wild while allowing their international trade.

In addition, a record 365 decisions were adopted to advance protection of threatened wildlife species while at the same time allowing international trade. This was an exceptional COP, following a global pandemic that severely hampered Animals and Standing Committee meetings in the run-up and the usual through flow of work. The Conference reinforced the importance of face-to-face meetings and the UK Delegation proved itself as hard-working, enthusiastic, visible and respected in this key international forum.

Environmental impacts of consumption

JNCC and partners have developed an [experimental statistic and accompanying interactive dashboard](#) to help us understand the environmental impacts of what we eat, use and buy.

The experimental statistic estimates the global environmental impacts of UK consumption of various commodities and forms one the UK Biodiversity Indicators, as

well as feeding into reporting for the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan Outcome Indicator Framework. **Breaking news from COP15:** We are proud to announce that it has also been adopted as a component indicator as part of the monitoring framework for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, welcomed at the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties 15 (CBD COP15).

The dashboard can be used to 'hotspot' commodities and countries with the highest impacts related to UK consumption. This can inform policies and delivery mechanisms in a range of areas and help us identify where to focus action for supply and demand side measures. Following its initial release this time last year, the experimental statistic has recently [been updated](#).

No show for UK's rarest bird of prey

The [annual report](#) of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP), funded by JNCC, RSPB and BTO and published in the journal *British Birds*, tracks the progress of the UK's rarest breeding birds by compiling data from conservationists, scientists and thousands of volunteer birdwatchers. The latest report includes 101 scarce or rare native bird species, and 12 non-native ones. Data collated by the RBBP play an important role in underpinning conservation in the UK. The calculation of population estimates and trends for many rare breeding bird species are used to set conservation priorities in the Birds of Conservation Concern process, and used in wider assessments of biodiversity such as governmental wild bird and priority species indicators.

The recent report shows that Montagu's harrier, a close relative of the also rare hen harrier, has failed to breed in the UK for the first time since 1975. Only three females and six males were reported, and none of these formed a pair. The report also shows record highs for 12 species including common crane and white-tailed eagle – the latter has moved from the Red to Amber list of Birds of Conservation Concern, recognition of the success of the reintroduction of this species to Scotland that began nearly 50 years ago.

Butterfly trend statistics published

Butterflies provide a good indication of the broad state of the environment because they respond rapidly to changes in environmental conditions and habitat management, occur in a wide range of habitats and are representative of many other insects. Official Statistics for combined trends in butterflies in the UK between 1976 and 2021 were [recently published](#) by Defra showing how habitat specialist species and species of the wider countryside are faring. The statistics are produced from data gathered through the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) – organised and funded by Butterfly Conservation, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, British Trust for Ornithology and JNCC. The UKBMS is indebted to the thousands of dedicated volunteers who contribute data to the scheme.