



**The one hundred and forty-fifth meeting of the
Joint Nature Conservation Committee held on 3 December 2025
online via Teams**

Paper JNCC 25 62P: JNCC's Nature Narrative

All available papers for the one hundred and forty-fifth meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee can be found at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/resources/a49a5da4-1507-4b77-8a8d-332b8373120b>.

To view other information about the Joint Committee, including papers and minutes from other meetings, go to: <https://jncc.gov.uk/about-jncc/who-we-are/joint-committee/>.

To find out more about JNCC, go to: <https://jncc.gov.uk/about-jncc/who-we-are/>.

JNCC's Nature Narrative

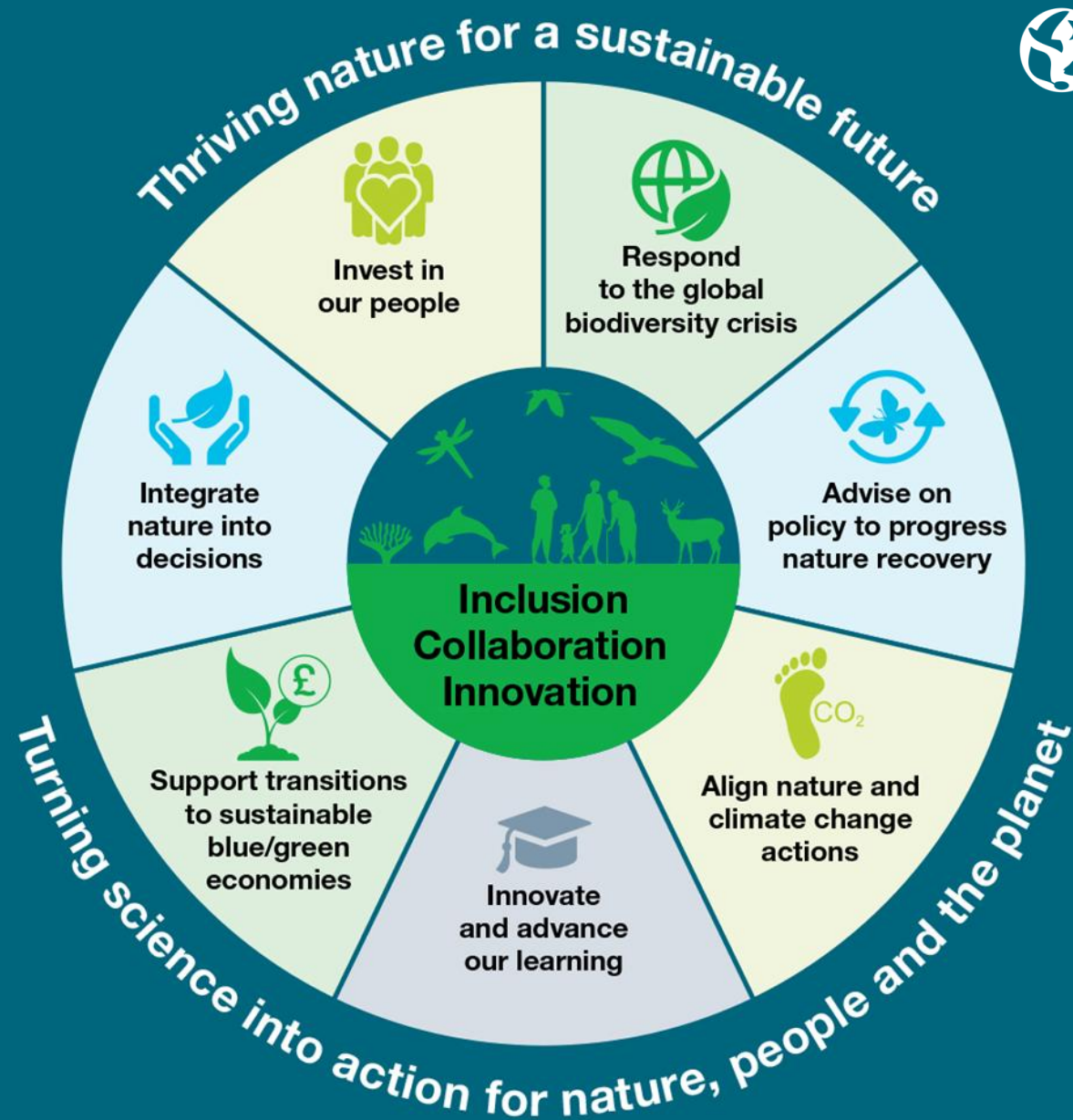


Vision

Thriving nature for a sustainable future.

Mission

Turning science into action for nature, people and the planet.

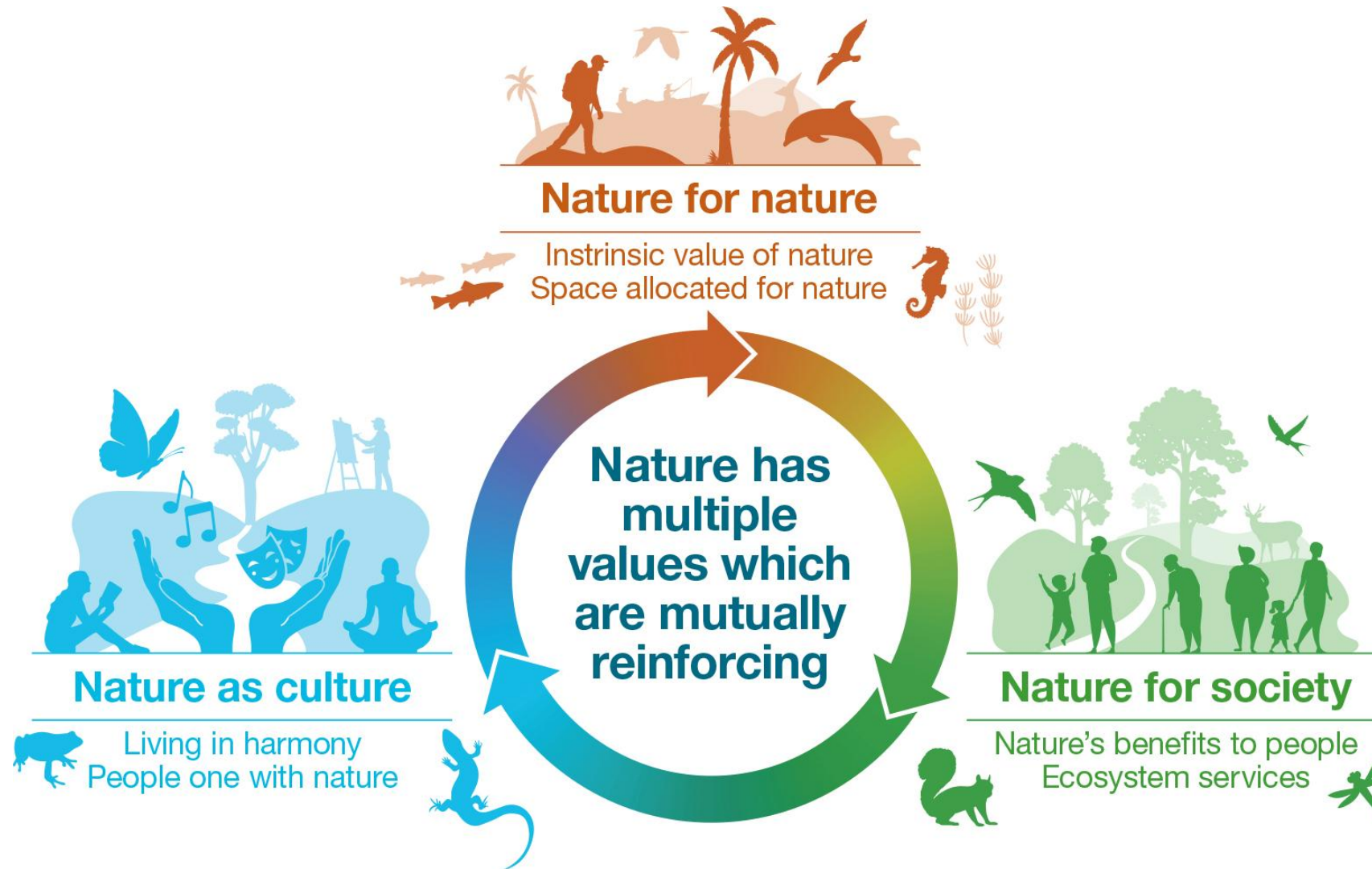


What is 'nature'?

Nature embraces everything in the natural world: from wildlife to woodlands, landscapes to rivers, ocean to air.



What does 'nature' mean to people?



Adapted from IPBES
Nature Futures
Framework (2023)
[Nature Futures
Framework](#)

Nature is the foundation of:

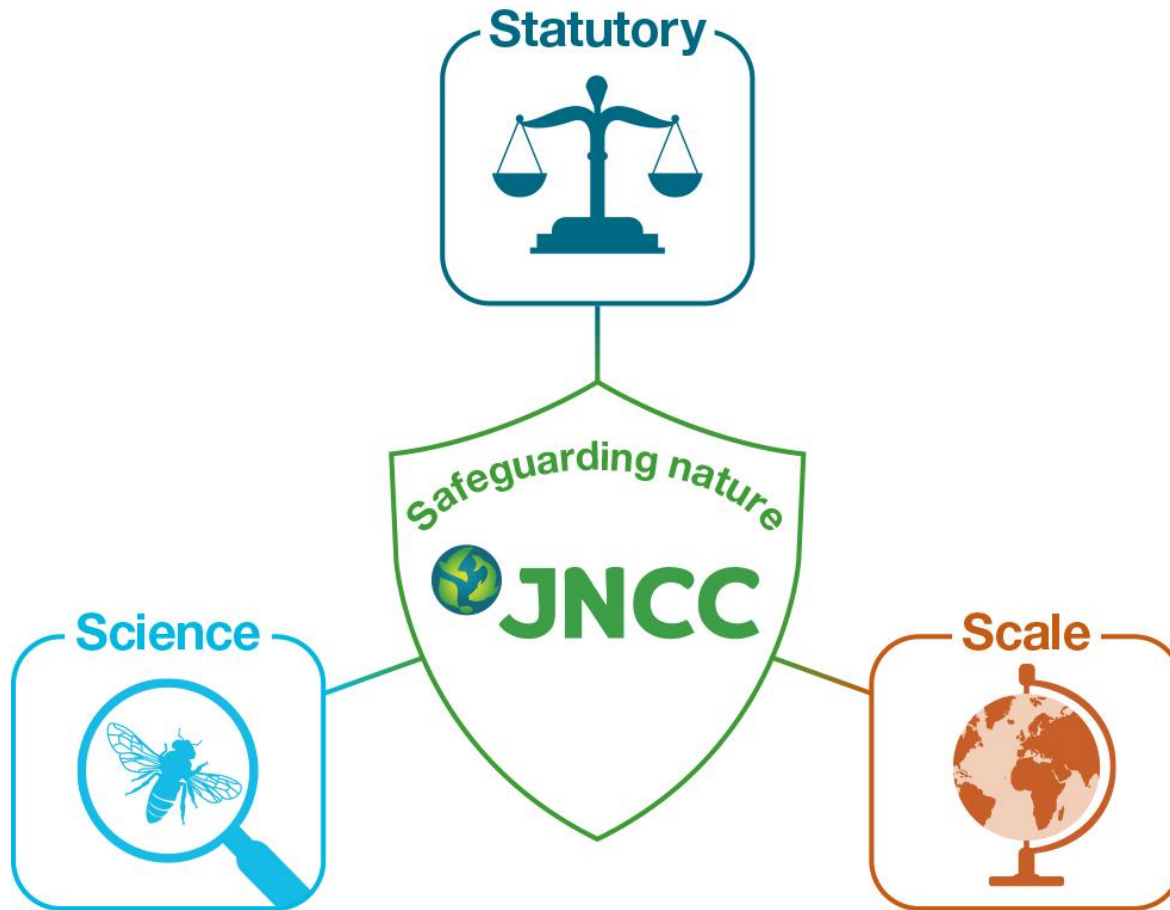
NATIONAL SECURITY
CLIMATE RESILIENCE
JUST TRANSITION
ECONOMIC GROWTH
SOCIETAL WELLBEING

JNCC plays a pivotal role in **safeguarding nature** by combining **statutory authority** with **scientific expertise**.

We convene the **four countries of the UK** (each with their own environmental policies) - and work with the **UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies** - to fulfil UK-scale statutory nature responsibilities and report on global environmental commitments.

From the local to the global scale, we are a trusted partner to shape and evaluate policies to safeguard nature.

Our combination of USP and products is powerful:



- ✓ Official Statistics
- ✓ Inter-disciplinary Evidence
- ✓ Applied Science
- ✓ Common Standards
- ✓ Expert Advice
- ✓ Public Record

Our scientific expertise is critical to the UK's:



Food security: Nature makes our food production possible.

Healthy soils and on-farm nature help crops grow, control pests, pollinate crops and keep livestock healthy. Thriving seas provide abundant seafood.



Water security: Through natural engineering, nature provides clean and reliable water and can reduce flood risk.

Well-managed forests, peatlands and wetlands moderate water flows and improve water quality helping to provide clean and reliable water.



Culture and livelihoods: Nature anchors national identity, rooting people in their community & traditions.

Nature holds profound significance for many, supports livelihoods such as fishing, forestry, and farming, and contributes to local economies by driving tourism and recreation.



Health and wellbeing: Nature enhances people's quality of life and saves lives.

Time in nature lowers stress boosting physical and mental well-being, reducing the burden on health services. Healthy nature cleans the air we breathe and reduces the risk of future pandemics.



Climate mitigation and energy security: Nature provides our best tools to tackle climate change. Nature that is well connected and diverse is more resilient and acts as a long-term sink and store for greenhouse gases. Wind, flowing water, sunlight, and waves provide unlimited home-grown renewable energy, reducing reliance on fossil fuel imports.



Climate adaptation and resilience: Nature acts as natural sandbags, sponges, and air conditioning units, safeguarding property, livelihoods and lives. Healthy nature mitigates extreme weather events such as flooding and drought and cools the air during hot weather.

Our evidence and advice enables, drives and JNCC protects growth



Green finance

JNCC convenes stakeholders from all four UK countries to shape nature markets. We support Defra in measuring outcomes from green finance to boost investor confidence and deliver better returns on public investment.



Strategic environmental assessment

JNCC's UK Air Pollution Assessment Service tool will save developers time and money, supporting the growth mission. By providing consistent, high-quality, accessible data and modelling capability to assess impact of aerial nitrogen pollution on sensitive habitats. This will help ensure economic growth and nature recovery, as highlighted by the Corry Review.



Optimal land and sea use

JNCC's data identify where land use can be adjusted to meet UK policy targets for sustainable growth. With land providing a significant contribution to UK net worth, smarter, multi-functional use is essential; JNCC's evidence is a vital tool for decision-makers.