

# Ecology Bill [HL]

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[AS BROUGHT FROM THE LORDS]

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[AS BROUGHT FROM THE LORDS]

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# B I L L

TO

Require the Secretary of State to achieve the nature target for the United Kingdom; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the King’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

## 1 Duty of the Secretary of State: nature target

- (1) The Secretary of State must achieve the objective in subsection (2) (“the objective”).
- (2) The objective is to ensure that the United Kingdom halts and reverses its overall contribution to the degradation and loss of nature in the United Kingdom and overseas by—
  - (a) increasing the health, abundance, diversity and resilience of species, populations, habitats and ecosystems so that by 2030, and measured against a baseline of 2020, nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery, and
  - (b) fulfilling its obligations under the UNCBD and its protocols and the commitments set out in the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature,
 (“the nature target”).
- (3) The Secretary of State may fulfil the duty in subsection (1) by acting on matters of devolved legislative competence subject to section 2.

## 2 Approval by devolved legislatures

- (1) The target in section 1 applies to matters of devolved legislative competence if the condition in subsection (2) is met.
- (2) That condition is—
  - (a) in relation to Scotland, that the Scottish Parliament has passed a motion of the form “That this Parliament agrees to the nature target in section 1 of the Ecology Act 2023”;
  - (b) in relation to Wales, that Senedd Cymru has passed a motion of the form “That the Senedd agrees to the nature target in section 1 of the Ecology Act 2023”;

- (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, that the Northern Ireland Assembly has passed a motion of the form “That this Assembly agrees to the nature target in section 1 of the Ecology Act 2023”.

### 3 Interpretation

In this Act—

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“nature” includes (a) the abundance, diversity and distribution of animal, plant, fungal and microbial life, (b) the extent and condition of habitats, and (c) the health and integrity of ecosystems;

“ecosystems” includes natural and managed ecosystems and the air, soils, water and abundance and diversity of organisms of which they are composed;

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“UNCBD and its protocols” means the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, which entered into force on 29 December 1993, and all subsequent agreements and protocols arising from it;

“the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature” means the agreement of the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity of 28 September 2020.

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### 4 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Ecology Act 2023.

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Require the Secretary of State to achieve the nature target for the United Kingdom; and for connected purposes.

*Brought from the House of Lords on 24th April 2023*

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be  
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