



States of
Guernsey

2020 Strategy for Nature

July 2020



Guernsey's Strategy for Nature

Nature underpins our Island's economy and the health and wellbeing of our community. Nature includes all the variety of life (biodiversity) that makes up the non-human, non-built world.

This document describes our vision, purpose, shared goals and objectives for managing nature in all landscapes, from our urban centres to our rural and natural environments on land and at sea. It recognises that we all have a role in securing nature as the foundation for our existence.

The strategy sets a framework for the States of Guernsey, private sector and community to strengthen Guernsey's response to the changes facing nature from climate change and other human made pressures. It encompasses the latest advances in mainstreaming biodiversity and horizon scanning for pressures on nature, through to increasing community awareness of nature and promoting its health and wellbeing benefits.

For more information:
www.gov.gg/strategyfornature

The redesigned Strategy aligns with the *Future Guernsey Plan*, *Revive & Thrive Recovery Strategy* and international standards for sustainable nature management, namely the *Convention of Biological Diversity* and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The supporting framework is future proofed to support the delivery of the nature-related components of the *Climate Change Policy*.



Painted Lady Butterfly
 Peacock Butterfly
 Photo: Andy Marquis
 Cliff paths
 Photo: Rod Ferbrache
 Puffin
 Photo: Paul Hillion
 Bottlenose Dolphins
 Photo: Nicky Harris



Our Vision

The vision for the *2020 Strategy for Nature* is **'Guernsey's nature; great today, better tomorrow'** and its purpose is **'to ensure that Guernsey's nature is healthy and resilient to threats, and understood and valued in its own right for its essential contribution to our sustainable economy, community, and health & care.'**



Guernsey's nature;
 great today, better tomorrow

Goals

Goal A

Connect our island community with nature

- **Objective 1:** Encourage everyone to get out into nature
- **Objective 2:** Increase awareness, understanding and support for nature
- **Objective 3:** Ensure the economic, social and environmental value of nature is understood and integrated into local decision making



Goal B

Care for nature to ensure the diversity and resilience of our natural capital and assets

- **Objective 4:** Ensure an integrated, broad-scale approach to the conservation and management of our nature
- **Objective 5:** Maximise the diversity of species and ecosystems
- **Objective 6:** Reduce pressures on nature and ensure the resilience of our natural capital and assets



Goal C

Foster and share knowledge about nature

- **Objective 7:** Bring nature to life through learning
- **Objective 8:** Share and use information effectively
- **Objective 9:** Improve knowledge about nature to inform decision making



Colour schemes and symbols signify their relation to categories of the Future Guernsey Plan, details of which can be found at <https://gov.gg/futureguernsey>

Emperor Moth
Photo: Andy Marquis

A changing world

In the five years since Guernsey's 2015 Biodiversity Strategy was released, the world has seen a seismic shift in public interest and international government action on climate change; in part, in response to new evidence which predicts a 3°C increase in temperature by the end of this century. In parallel, research has shown that nature is declining faster than at any time in human history, with a 60% decline in wildlife populations over the last 40 years alone and current extinction rates at 100 to 1,000 times higher than average over the past several million years.¹

It is therefore not surprising that there is now global acknowledgement of the need to increase efforts at all levels of society to improve environmental sustainability performance and to reprioritise the way that the natural environment is valued and managed in decision making. Or put simply, nature can no longer be relied upon to 'look after itself'. As with any other assets, we need to invest in and maintain our natural assets – e.g. seagrass beds, kelp forests, woodland, grassland, water courses – if we want to rely on them in the future. The value of nature needs to be integrated into all sectors and across sectors: **nature needs to be mainstreamed.**²

“Species are to ecosystems what rivets are to a plane's wing. Losing one might not be a problem, but each loss adds to the likelihood of a disaster.”

(Paul and Anne Ehrlich, 1980)³

Locally, periodic habitat surveys have shown that Guernsey's species and habitats are also in decline due to climate change and other human made pressures – we are losing the rivets of our plane wing.

1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/interim-report-the-dasgupta-review-independent-review-on-the-economics-of-biodiversity>

2 Mainstreaming of biodiversity is the term used for the integration of nature management into decision making and operations using recent developments in natural capital accounting, Net Gain and natural carbon auditing.

3 World Economic Forum. (2020). 'The Global Risks Report 2020', 1-114.



Some of the
50 plants,
18 breeding birds,
11 dragonflies
and 6 butterflies
lost in Guernsey
before 1995

Guernsey's natural environment

Guernsey's position within the Bay of St Malo, with its large (12 metre) tidal range and influence of the Gulf Stream, has resulted in a marine environment that is very diverse, both in species and number of individuals. Many species from the Bay of Biscay reach their northern limit in the Channel Islands and, conversely, there are species in the southern UK that do not make it across the English Channel to Guernsey. Many species stay local to Channel Island waters. Whereas there are also species that are transboundary and protected internationally, which places obligations on Guernsey to ensure their protection whilst

resident within or transiting through the Bailiwick's waters (e.g. Atlantic bluefin tuna, bottlenose dolphin).

The international importance of Guernsey's marine ecology has been recognised by the designation of two Ramsar sites – Lihou Ramsar Site & Herm Ramsar Site – both of which were selected because their inter-tidal and nearshore habitats are characterised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Guernsey's culture and heritage is founded on its close links with the sea and its marine environment.

Guernsey's terrestrial environment is just as diverse and varied as its marine environment, with over 13,000 species recorded to date. Due to location, Guernsey has a different set of species from most of the UK and mainland Europe. For example, the Atlantic scaly cricket, is found in Sark, Alderney and Guernsey but in only four UK sites. Some species, such as the Guernsey vole and Guernsey centaur, are endemic to the island.

Our habitats, however, are being gradually eroded and require careful management to maintain their value and the services they currently provide.

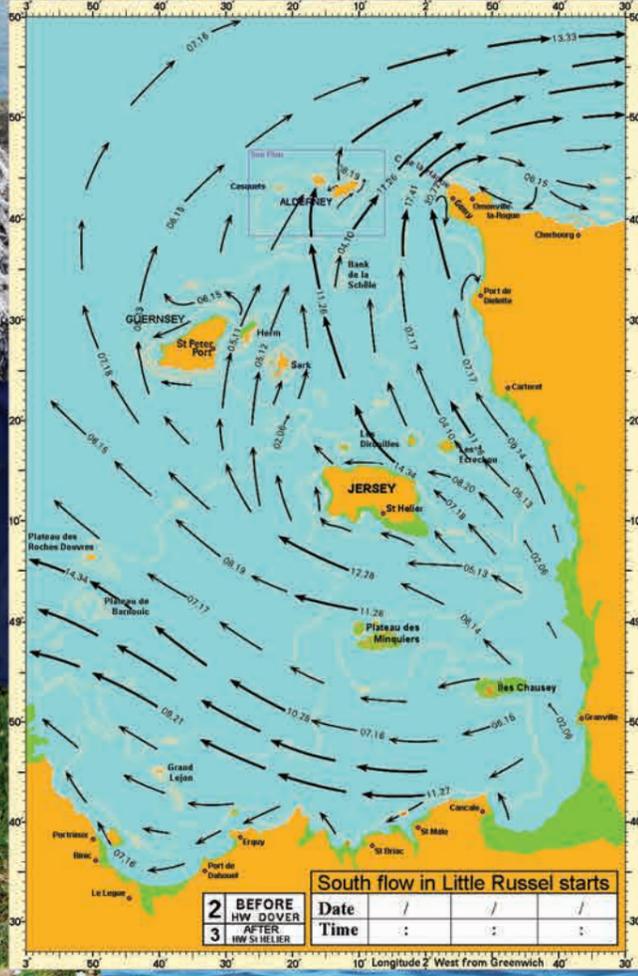
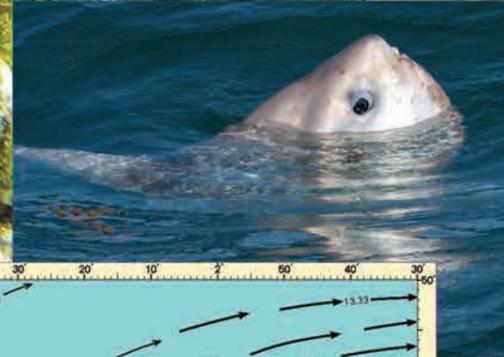


Photo:
 Laura Bampton
 Stef Bampton
 Tom Coule
 Nicky Harris
 Tim Harvey
 Paul Hillion
 Michelle Hooper
 Andy Marquis



Value of nature



(Source: <http://www.naturallogic.org>)

The World Economic Forum's 2020 *Global Risk Report* has ranked nature loss as the third most likely risk to the global economy in the next decade.⁴ So why is nature loss considered such a threat? In short, nature provides the foundations that underpin our economy, society and environment.

When cared for proactively, our natural assets – e.g. seagrass beds, kelp forests, woodland, grassland, water courses – provide essential services and benefits called natural capital – e.g. flood prevention, coastal defence, air and water filtration, soil fertilisation, pollination, and carbon sequestration. A healthy natural environment also helps to maintain our stunning scenery which benefits our wellbeing, boosts tourism and attracts people to relocate to the Island. It is therefore important to ensure that the value of Guernsey's natural capital is visible in decision making to halt its gradual

degradation due to climate change and other human made pressures, which if not proactively managed shall lead to irreversible (and costly) impacts on the economy, society and environment.

The benefits of conserving nature and the cumulative effect of the benefits and services that nature provides outweighs the costs to repair or replace those services; conservation is less expensive than restoration.

⁴ <https://www.climateforesight.eu/global-policy/global-risks-report-2019-environment-related-risks-account-for-three-of-the-top-five-risks-by-likelihood-and-four-by-impact>

⁵ <https://www.weforum.org/reports/nature-risk-rising-why-the-crisis-engulfing-nature-matters-for-business-and-the-economy>

“Nature loss has been calculated to be 7.5% of global GDP and 50% of global GDP has been found to be moderately or highly dependent upon nature.”⁵

Nature is a balancing act

Ecological systems are complex and dynamic. Our most effective means of protecting nature is by maintaining functioning ecosystems and the species and habitats they contain in a healthy state. This is the aim of sustainable and effective nature management, using a combination of the precautionary approach with adaptive management that uses science and practical experience. The precautionary approach requires that, where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing a measure to prevent degradation of the environment.

To protect nature and control pressures on our wildlife and habitats, we must use science to inform management. Management should involve collaboration and engagement from all sectors, public and private, in partnership. We must manage threats at the landscape and seascape level in an adaptive management approach. Adaptive management includes assessing risk, measuring outcomes, reviewing and using approaches that maintain and restore the resilience of our terrestrial and marine ecosystems.



Small Elephant Hawk Moth
Photo: Andy Marquis

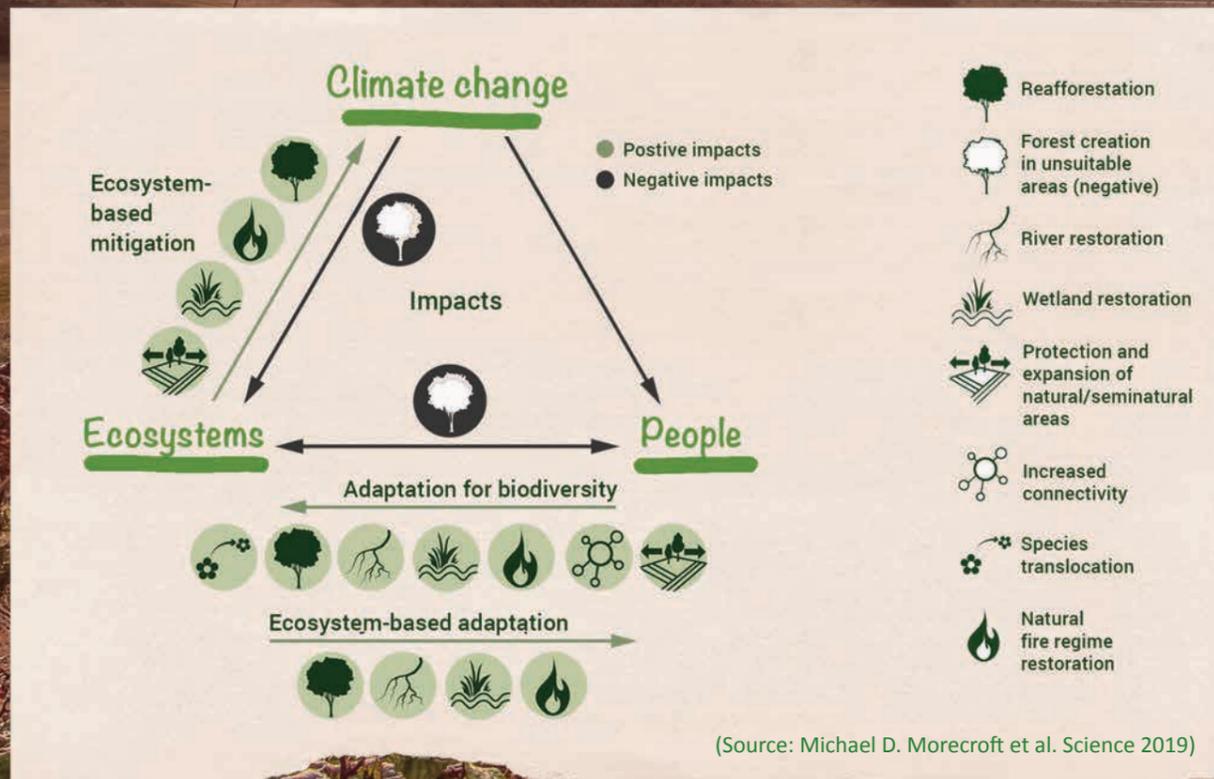
Threats to nature

Climate change is a global issue and all jurisdictions need to play their part to mitigate the effects by reducing greenhouse gas emissions within their jurisdiction; nature loss however, is a local (and regional) issue. How human made pressures to nature – i.e. development and land use change; lack of knowledge, understanding and will; invasive non-native species; exploitation of marine resources; and pollution – are managed at a local scale ultimately translates into the level of resilience of our local species and habitats to adapt to the longer-term threat of climate change.

We must work together

Overcoming the challenges and threats to Guernsey's nature is not achievable by one team or Committee within the States or conservation organisations alone. All of Guernsey must recognise that our natural world is continually changing and there are many ways we can, and must, work together to care for it, now and into the future. The wider States through to parishes and individual land owners – we all have a role to play.

Working together in a coordinated way to build connectivity of fragmented ecosystems, increase the use of nature-based solutions, protect important habitats and reduce invasive species and other pressures are critical to build the resilience of our unique nature. Building and applying our knowledge about how nature responds to climate change will ensure our interventions are more effective.



L'Ancrese
Photo: Rob Ferbrache

International commitment

Convention on Biological Diversity

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)

Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context (ESPO)

International Plant Protection Convention

Convention on Migratory Species (BONN): EUROBATS, ASCOBANS, AEWA

STRATEGIC VISION OF THE STATES, AS SET OUT IN THE POLICY & RESOURCES PLAN:

To make Guernsey 'one of the **happiest and healthiest** places in the world' with a 'safe and inclusive community that nurtures its **unique heritage and environment**, underpinned by a **diverse and successful economy**'.

REVIVE & THRIVE SUSTAINABLE ACTION PLAN:

Sustainable Economy

Health & Care

Our Community

FUTURE GUERNSEY THEMES:

OUR ECONOMY

OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

OUR COMMUNITY

OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

INTERNATIONAL NATURE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS:



What we do at a local scale to preserve and enhance our nature contributes to global efforts to conserve and protect our living world. By becoming a signatory to nature related conventions (through the UK) Guernsey has already recognised the necessity of working alongside our international community.

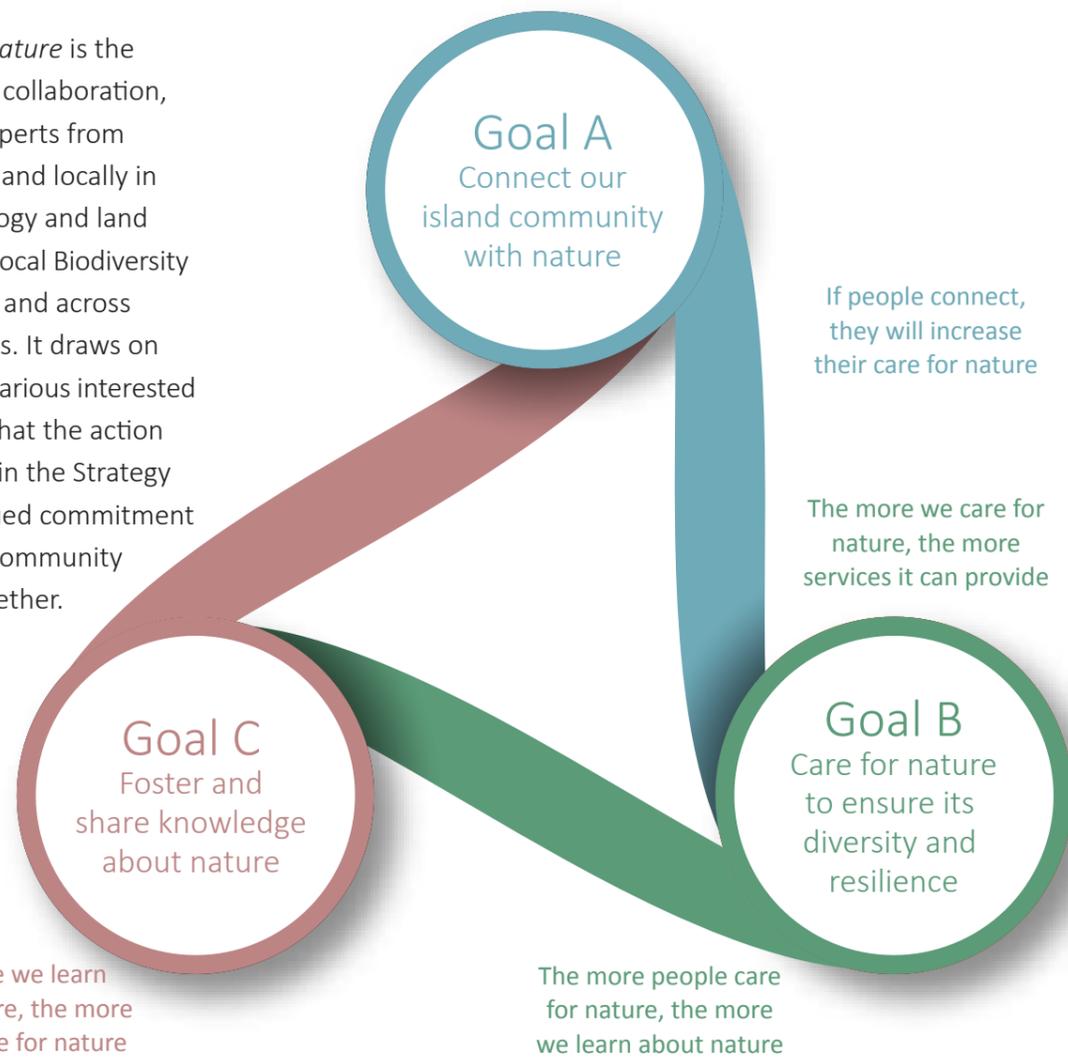
Guernsey's *Strategy for Nature* coordinates the delivery of Guernsey's commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Aichi Targets, and other international agreements including the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Migratory Species.

A sustainable new world

As the island starts to plan for how to rebuild the economy post-COVID-19, the threat to our economy, society and environment from climate change and nature loss remains unchanged. Placing environmental management, sustainable development, and climate change adaptation and mitigation at the heart of the 'Revive & Thrive' Recovery Strategy, and therefore the *Strategy for Nature*, shall help build a resilient economy for the future.

A new approach

This *Strategy for Nature* is the result of extensive collaboration, with input from experts from other jurisdictions and locally in conservation, ecology and land management, the local Biodiversity Partnership Group and across States service areas. It draws on consultation with various interested parties to ensure that the action planning included in the Strategy represents continued commitment of the States and community to work better together.



(Source: Adapted from Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030)

The Strategy framework provides a structure to support and inform the selection, justification and prioritisation of projects within an operational level *Nature Action Plan*.

The overarching focus being to ensure a locally relevant and fit-for-purpose action plan with the mechanisms needed to horizon scan, monitor and proactively address the pressures facing nature locally, so that our natural heritage can be preserved and enhanced for future generations.

The strategy has three priority focus areas, or goals, underpinned by nine objectives. The goals work together in continuous loops

designed to reinforce each other. By connecting people with nature, we enhance their desire to care for nature, which in turn builds knowledge that can be shared to improve our care for nature and the benefits we receive from connecting with nature. Each objective has a number of progress measures, which will be used to track and report on the success of the strategy.



Science in the strategy

Species have evolved to adapt to 'normal' fluctuations in our environmental conditions, but to be able to survive accelerating climate change species need to be able to maintain large, genetically diverse populations to adapt in place or move to more suitable habitats.

Each species within an ecosystem is interconnected and often dependent on each other. Microbes help maintain soil quality, healthy soils help plants to grow, insects carry pollen from one plant to another, animals eat the plants, and habitats provide a home for animals. Losing one species in this chain may not seem like much but each loss weakens the connections that benefit us all.

Building resilience of our species and the health of our marine and land environments to adapt to climate change is therefore no longer a 'nice to have', it is a key strategic need for the Island. This intrinsic link between climate change and biodiversity loss requires an integrated policy approach to enable the successful delivery of objectives in both policy areas.

Canary Shouldered Thorn
Red Shield Bug
Photo: Andy Marquis

Given the complexity of ecosystems, the management of nature is best supported by an evidence-based approach built on sound knowledge; data on our nature is however limited. We need to better understand what species we have and how they interact. Knowing more about nature helps us make better choices about its management for long-term preservation and resilience.

Scientific thinking and research approaches will likely change, and an adaptive management approach must be used to adjust priorities as required.

Goal C focuses on working to fill knowledge gaps about Guernsey's nature. The underpinning objectives, progress measures and information in the action inventory can inform effort in areas where new attention is needed. This will assist decision makers in choices across policy and project development and funding distribution.



Guiding principles

This framework is comprised of three goals and nine objectives to guide Guernsey's efforts. The goals and objectives are underpinned by six supporting principles, all of which underpin the Revive & Thrive key components: Sustainable Economy, Community and Health & Care.

- 1 Don't take nature for granted; once gone, natural heritage and genetic diversity cannot be replaced.**
- 2 Nature management and sustainable development makes good business and economic sense.**
- 3 The economic 'value' of nature can tip the balance during decision making.**
- 4 'Insignificant' losses of habitat at a development scale can add up to a significant loss to our natural heritage.**
- 5 Climate change adaptation and mitigation and the resilience of nature go hand in hand.**
- 6 Healthy ecosystems equal a sustainable economy for future generations.**

For more information:
www.gov.gg/strategyfornature

Goal A

Connect our island community with nature

- **Objective 1: Encourage everyone to get out into nature**
- **Objective 2: Increase awareness, understanding and support for nature**
- **Objective 3: Ensure the economic, social and environmental value of nature is understood and integrated into local decision making**

Goal A provides the first link in the chain – **the more we can connect people with nature, the more we enhance their desire to care for it** – which aligns closely with, and delivers on, the Health & Care component of the Revive & Thrive Strategy. Studies suggest that people (particularly children and young people) are becoming increasingly disconnected – physically, spiritually or emotionally – from wildlife, the countryside and nature. Seven out of ten people in a recent UK survey admitted they felt they were losing touch with the natural world, while a third said they did not know enough about the subject to teach their own children. One in three people could not identify an oak tree. Reasons for this disconnect may range from increasing urbanisation and a ‘loss of respect, humility, and empathy with nature’ through to the relative attractions of indoor sedentary

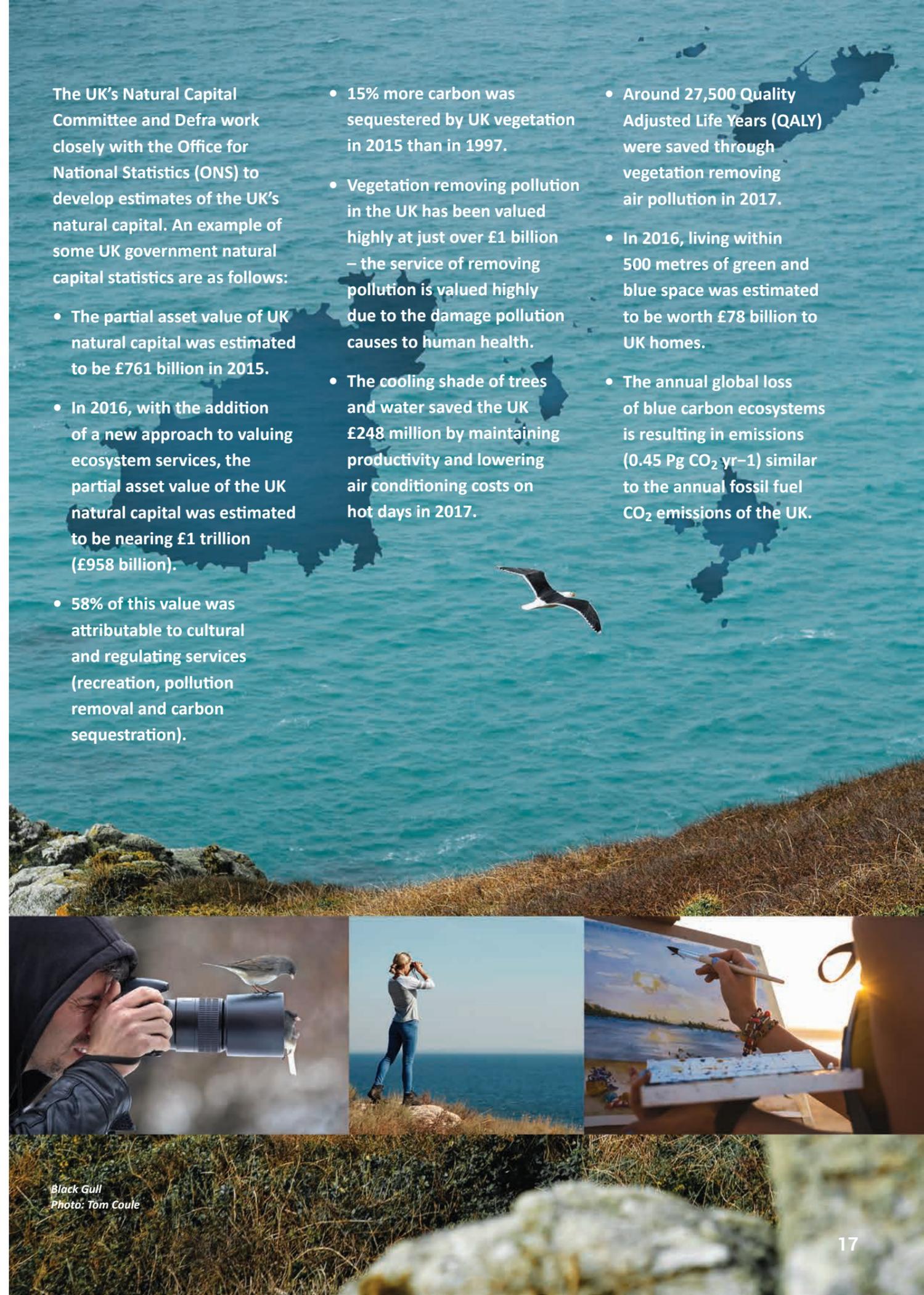
entertainment and a lack of childhood experience of nature.⁶ Connecting our community with nature is essential to the long-term mental and physical health of our society and island culture.

This first goal provides the mechanisms to connect our island community with nature by promoting initiatives to encourage people into nature. Experiences of nature can have multiple benefits, including:

- enriched health and wellbeing;
- increased awareness and understanding of nature’s role, which in turn can lead to a deeper appreciation of its value and contribution to our livelihoods;
- behavioural change to become more mindful of the impacts of our broader actions and decisions that affect nature, directly and indirectly;
- increased community stewardship of nature; and
- strengthen the health and resilience of our society, businesses and economy.

Objective 3 builds on the need to connect our island with nature by supporting the integration of nature into the economic decision making for the island, which in turn aligns with the Green Finance focus for Guernsey and Deputy St Pier’s recognition of the need to “walk the walk” as a Green Island. A Natural Capital Account for the island gives a very clear external message that we are putting Environment on the island’s ‘balance sheet’.

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/nature-connection-index-nci-dataset>



The UK’s Natural Capital Committee and Defra work closely with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to develop estimates of the UK’s natural capital. An example of some UK government natural capital statistics are as follows:

- The partial asset value of UK natural capital was estimated to be £761 billion in 2015.
- In 2016, with the addition of a new approach to valuing ecosystem services, the partial asset value of the UK natural capital was estimated to be nearing £1 trillion (£958 billion).
- 58% of this value was attributable to cultural and regulating services (recreation, pollution removal and carbon sequestration).

- 15% more carbon was sequestered by UK vegetation in 2015 than in 1997.
- Vegetation removing pollution in the UK has been valued highly at just over £1 billion – the service of removing pollution is valued highly due to the damage pollution causes to human health.
- The cooling shade of trees and water saved the UK £248 million by maintaining productivity and lowering air conditioning costs on hot days in 2017.

- Around 27,500 Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALY) were saved through vegetation removing air pollution in 2017.
- In 2016, living within 500 metres of green and blue space was estimated to be worth £78 billion to UK homes.
- The annual global loss of blue carbon ecosystems is resulting in emissions (0.45 Pg CO₂ yr⁻¹) similar to the annual fossil fuel CO₂ emissions of the UK.



Black Gull
Photo: Tom Coule



connect
our island
community
with nature



Chris Packham and students
Photo: Stef Bamptom
Lihou Island Causeway
Photo: Tom Coule



Objective 1:
Encourage everyone
to get out into nature

Research has shown that a connection with nature has direct associations with happiness indicators, positively affect autonomy and personal growth (aspects of wellbeing), reduced levels of cognitive anxiety, and higher levels of academic achievement in children. The degree to which one feels a connection to nature may be associated with the frequency and type of visits made to the natural environment and may be one of a variety of factors which influence certain pro-environmental behaviours and beliefs.

Indicators:

- 1A Extent of initiatives to promote engagement with nature and nature-based activities, which in turn promote people's health and wellbeing.
- 1B Nature Connection Index scoring for Guernsey.



Objective 2:
Increase awareness,
understanding and
support for nature

Public understanding and opinion on the value of nature has strong implications for the acceptance and adoption of nature protection and enhancement measures. The greater the likelihood that individuals, organisations and businesses perform actions to support and protect nature.

Indicators:

- 2A Extent of private land managed under effective conservation measures (wildlife gardens, privately managed protected areas, conservation covenants).
- 2B Update of biodiversity considerations into business activities within Guernsey.

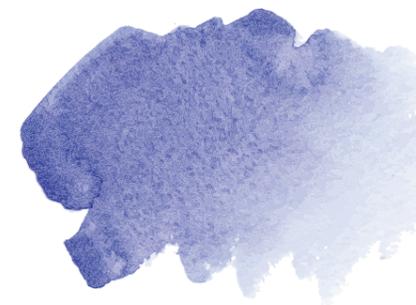


Objective 3:
Ensure the economic,
social and environmental
value of nature is
understood and
integrated into local
decision making

The management of nature has interdependencies and implications across a broad range of areas including economic development, health and well-being, climate change, planning, land management, natural resource management and environmental health. The integration of biodiversity into mainstream social, economic and environmental processes is pivotal to allow us to continue to enjoy the benefits of nature that we currently achieve.

Indicators:

- 3A Progress towards integrating nature into decision making across the States.
- 3B Expenditure on nature (broken down into public sector and NGO expenditure on conservation)



Goal B

Care for nature to ensure the diversity and resilience of our natural capital and assets

- **Objective 4: Ensure an integrated, broad-scale approach to the conservation and management of our nature**
- **Objective 5: Maximise the diversity of species and ecosystems**
- **Objective 6. Reduce pressures on nature and ensure the resilience of our natural capital and assets**

Goal B links with Goal A – **the more people care for nature, the more we learn about nature and the more services it can provide**, which in turn supports the ethos of the Revive & Thrive Community component. Our air, land, water, wildlife, plants and soil – our natural assets – provide us with our primary basic needs, including food, energy, health and enjoyment – our natural capital – so it is important that we value and care for nature.

But our natural environment is coming under increasing pressure from climate change, pollution, development challenges and land use change. Species have evolved to adapt to ‘normal’ fluctuations in our environmental conditions, but to be able to survive accelerating climate change and other indirect effects, species need to be able to maintain large, genetically diverse populations to adapt in place or move to more suitable habitats. This basic need is further challenged by other pressures such as a reducing population size due to invasive species or habitat loss, or the loss of connectivity of suitable habitat which make it harder for those species to recover.

Sustainable development requires an understanding of the basic needs of species and their interactions to be able to ensure their resilience. Ecosystems, by their nature, are very complex and all species are dependent on each other. Losing even one species from this complex network weakens those connections and so the services that benefit us all. Building resilience of our species and the health of our marine and land environments therefore takes careful management. It is important that our community cares for our natural environment so that it in turn can look after our natural heritage, people and support our economy for future generations.

This goal promotes a multi-pronged approach to reducing pressures and enhancing resilience, through the implementation of a broad-scale approach to land and marine resource management to ensure an ecologically viable habitat network, identifying threats and horizon scanning for future pressures (e.g. invasive species monitoring plan), managing trade-offs in the use of natural resources (e.g. proportionate and sustainable development through the use of Biodiversity Net Gain), and the integration of natural capital accounting into decision making.



Objective 4: Ensure an integrated, broad-scale approach to the conservation and management of our nature

Habitat connectivity maximises genetic diversity and complexity of ecosystems, which in turn reduces pressures and enhances resilience of our species. Cumulatively, even ‘insignificant’ losses of habitat at a development scale add up to significant rates of biodiversity loss overall. Biodiversity net gain resolves the gradual erosion of lower value habitats and provides a more efficient means to implement planning policy whilst addressing local environmental priorities.

Indicators:

- 4A Number of planning & FEPA licence applications that include Biodiversity Net Gain.
- 4B Extent and condition of designated areas and functional habitat connectivity – e.g. SSS, ABI, vegetation corridors and stepping stones.



Objective 5: Maximise the diversity of species and ecosystems

Horizon scanning for pressures on nature is a vital component of a proactive Strategy, and provides the mechanism to detect and control a pressure within a realistic timeframe; which in turn may result in cheaper more cost-effective solutions. An integrated approach to horizon scanning action plans are essential given the complexity and species interdependencies within ecosystems.

Indicators:

- 5A Changes in the Living Planet Index for Guernsey.
- 5B Status of key species and habitats – relative changes in abundance and distribution of priority groups and indicator species to Guernsey including:
 - Pollinators, ii. Butterflies,
 - Protected species, iv. Key habitats.



Objective 6: Reduce pressures on nature and ensure the resilience of our natural capital and assets

Climate change is a global issue and all jurisdictions need to play their part mitigate the effects by reducing greenhouse gas emissions within their

jurisdiction; nature loss however, is a local (and regional) issue. How human made pressures on nature – i.e. development and land use change; lack of knowledge, understanding and will; invasive non-native species; exploitation of marine resources; and pollution – are managed at a local scale ultimately translates into the level of resilience that our local species and habitats have to adapt to the longer-term threat of climate change. Sustainable fisheries will help to ensure our marine ecosystems remain diverse and resilient, and provide a long-term and viable fishing industry. Targeted agri-environmental schemes promote environmental management aimed to: help to safeguard and support healthy resilient habitats and better quality arable land.

Indicators:

- 6A Extent of explicit consideration and inclusion of biodiversity mitigation in climate change, biosecurity and INNS, pollution control and land management related regulation, policy and plans.
- 6B Progress towards implementing sustainable fisheries, shore gathering and agriculture practices that includes a biodiversity and ecosystem approach.



Goal C

Foster and share knowledge about nature

- **Objective 7: Bring nature to life through learning**
- **Objective 8: Share and use information effectively**
- **Objective 9: Improve knowledge about nature to inform decision making**

Goal C provides the final link in the chain – **the more we learn about nature, the more we can care for nature.** The goal supports the old maxim ‘you can’t manage what you don’t measure’ and the importance of fostering and using knowledge to improve our care for nature and the benefits we receive from connecting with nature.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, the management of nature is best supported by an evidence-based approach built on sound knowledge. However, a **lack of data** to inform nature-related decision making is a specific and very real threat to nature in Guernsey.

We need to better understand what species we have and how they interact. Knowing more about nature helps us make better choices about its management for long-term preservation and resilience. Sharing and using information can improve effectiveness of planning and management and reduce duplication of effort. Making information publicly available and developing stronger relationships among information users can lead to collaboration, coordination and a shared sense of stewardship and ultimately, better outcomes (*Australia’s Strategy for Nature, 2019*).



This goal focuses on ensuring that the strategy has a centralised and focused approach to data collection, collation and sharing, so that the data obtained to inform the strategy is tailored to inform key decision making and help foster knowledge in the wider community.

Another weak link in the nature asset management chain is the availability in Guernsey of skilled resources – ecologists, applied scientists, environmental impact assessment practitioners and environmental sustainability advisors. Maintaining and developing the technical specialist skills within our community to ensure succession planning and the future success of the Strategy is key to the action plan and included under this goal.



Objective 7: Bring nature to life through learning

The introduction of citizen science and nature conservation in schools has both educational and health and wellbeing benefits. Students develop an understanding of their local natural environment, to develop a sense of stewardship, and the confidence and experience in making scientific observations, collecting data, and exploring the natural world, which helps recruit the ecologists of the future; of which there is a massive shortage of locally.

Indicators:

7A Extent and success of initiatives to integrate biodiversity into schools and further education curriculum.

7B Extent and success of Citizen science programmes providing data to achieve the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy



Objective 8: Share and use information effectively

A large volume of nature information has been gathered in Guernsey over the years by various organisations and individuals. Most of these people are volunteers who organise themselves through local charities, such as La Société or are members of the public that submit sightings to organisations or via social media. A coordinated approach to collating, reporting and sharing data gives confidence that decisions are made with the best available evidence and transparency.

Indicators:

8A Accessibility of data – cumulative number of:
i) electronic records in the GBRC, and
ii) publicly accessible records.

8B Extent of collaboration and coordination between jurisdictions and research agencies in the collection, collation and publication of data targeted to achieve the Strategy & international conventions.



For more information:
www.gov.gg/strategyfornature

Objective 9: Improve knowledge about nature to inform decision making

Good policy making and decision making is based on evidence. A lack of data is a very real threat to biodiversity in Guernsey. The focus of this objective is to ensure that any data collected is tailored to delivery on the priority needs of the Strategy and/ or other cross-Committee policy and operational services areas, is centralised so as to ensure ease of access, and is scheduled appropriately to avoid duplication in time and costs.

Indicators:

9A Completeness of data set to inform decision making.

9B Extent and success of integrating robust biodiversity data and knowledge into States decision making.



How we will get there

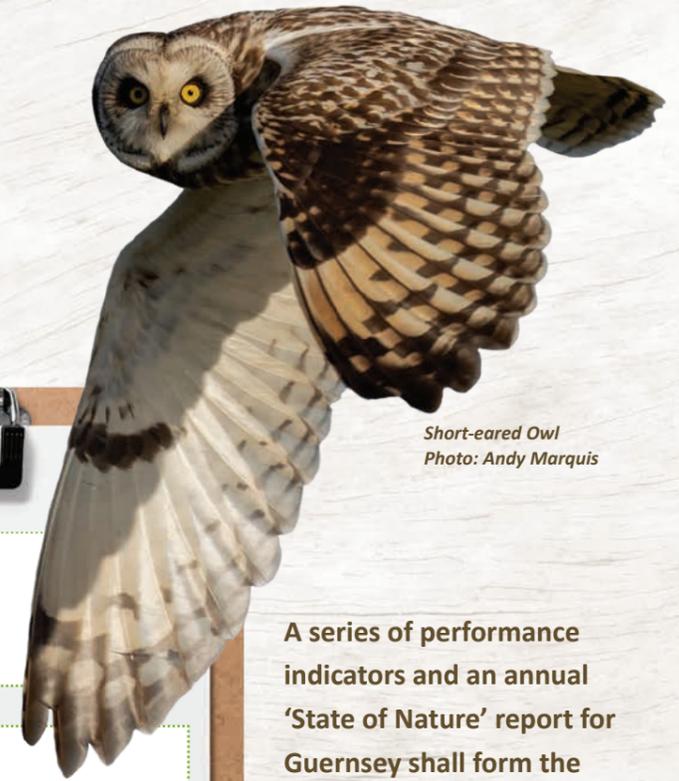
Achieving the goals and objectives in *Guernsey's Strategy for Nature* will take a combined effort. The strategy provides a framework for everyone. Contributions big and small, from all sectors and walks of life, will make a difference.



(Source: Adapted from *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030*)

Picqueral Point
Photo: Rob Ferbrache

Evaluation and reporting



Short-eared Owl
Photo: Andy Marquis



A series of performance indicators and an annual 'State of Nature' report for Guernsey shall form the primary mechanism for reporting on the goals and objectives in the strategy.

The Biodiversity Working Group will track the strategy's implementation through the progress measures outlined for each objective. Drawing on both qualitative and quantitative information, these measures are a mechanism to test each of the objectives and highlight where positive outcomes are being realised, and where more work may need to be done.

As a living document, the strategy must meet changing national and international priorities, drawing on emerging evidence and science. Public reporting on the implementation of the strategy against its performance measures shall ensure the transparency on the effectiveness of implementation.



Lunar Hornet Moth
Photo: Andy Marquis

In summary

To realise the ambition of this strategy, the States, non-government organisations, business and industry, scientists and individuals need to work to identify the areas where they can best contribute, whether through action or influence. This strategy sets priorities, goals and objectives to achieve the level of sustainable nature management needed to slow down our rate of nature loss and to build the resilience needed to respond to climate change.

“To succeed, it will be important for the goals and objectives to be embraced as an investment in Guernsey’s future.”

White Clover
Photo: Andy Marquis

Glossary

Term / Abbreviation	Definition
Aichi targets	Aichi Targets are 20 targets identified to deliver the aims of the Convention of Biological Diversity, the targets are divided into 5 sections to address the causes of biodiversity loss, to reduce the direct pressure on biodiversity and promote sustainable use, to ensure that biodiversity benefits all, and to promote participatory planning and capacity building.
ACLMS	Agriculture, Countryside & Land Management Services, States of Guernsey
Adaptation	Adaptation is the term given to actions or measures taken to reduce the impact of something (e.g. to reduce the vulnerability to the effects of climate change).
Biodiversity	The variety of all life forms – the different plants, animals and micro-organisms – and the ecosystems of which they are a part.
BEO	Biodiversity Education Officer, now retitled Biodiversity Officer
Biodiversity Net Gain	The process that applies a standardised biodiversity unit metric to habitat types based on automatic ‘generic’ calculations. This process is used to inform the planning and marine licencing of developments.
BPG	Biodiversity Partnership Group, made up of representatives of organisations with a mandate for nature conservation, the BEO, and individuals with specialist areas of interest associated with nature conservation and management.
Blue carbon	Calculations carried out to assign a carbon intensity figure to carbon stored in coastal and marine ecosystems.
Ecosystem Services	Term given to how people use and benefit from the natural environment (e.g. fisheries, agriculture, tourism, clean water, fertile soil)
E&I Committee	Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure
FEPA	The Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (Guernsey) Order 1987
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GBRC	Guernsey Biological Records Centre
Mainstreaming Biodiversity	Term given to the integration of biodiversity and its value into all sectors and across sector decision making. Mainstreaming techniques include natural capital accounting, Net Gain & Natural carbon accounting.
INNS	Invasive non-native species that have reached Guernsey by accidental human transport, deliberate human introduction, or which arrived by natural dispersal from neighbouring non-native population to the detriment of native wildlife or ecosystems.
Mitigation	An intervention to reduce negative or unsustainable uses of biodiversity and ecosystems.
Nature	The variety of all life forms — the different plants, animals and micro-organisms – and the ecosystems of which they are a part.
Natural Asset	Naturally occurring living and non-living parts of the Earth, together comprising the bio-physical environment - include trees, land, beaches, fish stocks, carbon stores, oceans.
Natural Capital	Term used to describe the stock of natural resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people, both directly (e.g. by delivering clean air) and indirectly (e.g. by underpinning the economy).
Natural Capital accounting	Provides estimates of the financial, societal and environmental value of natural assets and natural resources to people, businesses and jurisdictions to inform decision making.
Offsetting	Biodiversity offsetting is a form of compensation that typically aims to achieve an outcome in which there is ‘no net loss’ of biodiversity as a result of a particular development.
Strategy	Strategy for Nature, in the context of this document.
UN SDGs	The UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.



Five-spot Burnet
Photo: Andy Marquis

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*South coast cliffs
Photo: Visit Guernsey*