

# Environment Emergency

## Motion on Notice, tabled by Councillor Lisa Ingwall-King

Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history – and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world. One million species are now at risk of extinction (IPBES 2019).

The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide (Robert Watson, Chair of IPBES 2019).

The State of Nature report (2016) highlights that one in seven species in UK is threatened by extinction and more than half (56%) of species are in decline. It further states that the UK is among the most nature depleted countries in the world, ranking 189 of the 218 assessed.

*This Council resolves to:-*

- 1. Declare an Environment Emergency (Appendix 1).*
- 2. Pledge to provide leadership and ensure that we work with all service areas, partners and communities to deliver measurable biodiversity net gain within West Suffolk and the wider region.*
- 3. Commit to strengthen local protection of species, habitats and ecosystems services, to reduce the loss of biodiversity and natural capital.*
- 4. Commit to enhance and restore the Green spaces in West Suffolk.*
- 5. Commit to reduce the pollution of the environment in West Suffolk.*
- 6. Minimise the impact on the global environment caused by unsustainable supply chains and consumption.*
- 7. Work with partners to set up a stakeholder engagement and education programme on the environment to ensure support and encourage action to achieve biodiversity net gain.*
- 8. Work with government to deliver its 25-year Environment Plan and seek to increase powers and resources available to local authorities in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.*

*I seek to move this motion.*

*Lisa Ingwall-King*

## APPENDIX 1

- 1.1 The Global assessment (2019) by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) clearly establishes that nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history — and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world. One million species are now at risk of extinction. IPBES Chair, Sir Robert Watson said “The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.” But the report also tells us that it is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global.
- Citation:  
Diaz et al. 2019. Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).  
:[https://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/downloads/spm\\_unedited\\_advantage\\_for\\_posting\\_htn.pdf](https://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/downloads/spm_unedited_advantage_for_posting_htn.pdf)
- 1.2 The Global Living Planet Index, calculated using available data for all species and regions, shows an overall decline of 60% in the population sizes of vertebrates between 1970 and 2014.
- Citation: *Living Planet Report, 2018*.  
[http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge\\_hub/all\\_publications/living\\_planet\\_report\\_2018/](http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/all_publications/living_planet_report_2018/)
- 1.3 A global review of insect numbers finds that 40% of species are undergoing "dramatic rates of decline" around the world.
- Citation: Sánchez-Bayo, F. and Wyckhuys, K.A., 2019. Worldwide decline of the entomofauna: A review of its drivers. *Biological Conservation*, 232, pp.8-27.
- 1.4 Global Wetland Outlook (2018) states;
- Up to 87% of the global wetland resource has been lost since 1700.
  - Wetland-dependent species are in serious decline. Since 1970, declines have affected 81% of inland wetland species populations.
  - We lose wetlands three times faster than natural forests.
- Citation: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. (2018). *Global Wetland Outlook: State of the World’s Wetlands and their Services to People*.  
<https://www.global-wetland-outlook.ramsar.org/>
- 1.5 The State of Nature report (2016) highlights that one in seven species in UK is threatened by extinction and more than half (56%) of species are in decline. It further states that UK is among the most nature depleted countries in the world, ranking 189 of the 218 assessed. Citation:  
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/stateofnature2016/>
- 1.6 British ancient wildflower meadows have declined with 97% since the 1930s.
- Citation:  
[https://www.plantlife.org.uk/application/files/4614/8232/2916/Road\\_verg\\_e\\_guide\\_17\\_6.pdf](https://www.plantlife.org.uk/application/files/4614/8232/2916/Road_verg_e_guide_17_6.pdf)