

# CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM

We're fighting to reform our food system, to halt nature loss and ensure the UK leads a global transformation to sustainable production and consumption of food.



## 1 2023-24 TARGET

We'll continue to hold the UK retail sector to account against WWF's Retailers' Commitment for Nature. We'll drive progress on deforestation, climate and agriculture outcomes by continuing to convene businesses.

Retailers are the bridge between those who produce our food and the consumers who eat it, and have an essential role to play in making the food system more sustainable.

This year we continued our work with food retailers with the aim of supporting and challenging them to reduce their impacts – through direct business intervention, driving sector collaboration and advocating for policy change. We were instrumental in securing informal guidance from the Competition and Markets Authority that gives the grocery sector a benchmark from which to develop collaboration proposals that enable real progress towards net zero commitments.

We welcomed Aldi as a signatory to WWF's Retailers' Commitment for Nature. Aldi has pledged (alongside existing signatories Co-op, Lidl, Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose) to take action for nature and to work with us to halve the environmental impact of UK shopping baskets by 2030.

We published our second What's in Store for the Planet report, based on data received from 10 UK food retailers, which together represent more than 90% of the UK market share. Retailers showed greater transparency in their operations by supplying more data this year. The report also shows that during the year they made some progress on palm oil supply chains and scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions (those a company produces either directly or from the generation of the energy it uses). But they need to go much further and faster if they are to meet their commitments under our 2030 goal. Responsibility sits with the retailers, but also requires action from across the supply chain. There is a vital role for the government to set the regulations, standards and policy that drives a sustainable food system transition.

The signatories to our Retailers' Commitment worked with us to engage the UK government on the need for legislation to ensure food that ends up on supermarket shelves is not linked to deforestation. The retailers also helped us build momentum for the new measures announced by the government in December to be locked into law.

**50%**

**SIGNATORIES TO OUR RETAILERS' COMMITMENT FOR NATURE HAVE PLEDGED TO WORK WITH US TO HALVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF UK SHOPPING BASKETS BY 2030**



## 2 2023-24 TARGET

**We'll promote greenhouse gas reduction strategies and nitrogen budgets for agriculture and land use, to ensure the climate and nature impacts of land use in England, Scotland and Wales become a political priority.**

The way we use – and waste – nitrogen is one of the key drivers of pollution of our land and rivers in the UK, and has consequences for human health. Nitrous oxide emissions also have 273 times the climate warming potential of carbon dioxide. Tackling this issue is a priority for WWF.

This year, we created a balance sheet for nitrogen use in the UK. It complements an existing measure in Scotland, tracking flows of nitrogen across the economy, including agriculture. It identifies and visually highlights the biggest pollution sources to help prioritise action to address the problem.

We've presented it to more than 300 farming, business and government stakeholders. This will help us persuade the new UK government to introduce into law a comprehensive package of measures to halve nitrogen waste by 2030, helping to meet national commitments under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. We secured objectives in most party manifestos related to nutrient pollution ahead of the general election.

We continued to challenge the UK government on its lack of greenhouse gas reduction strategies for agriculture. We also published a report with the RSPB that showed the government's reliance on bioenergy, carbon capture and storage would have substantial negative impacts on nature and food production.

We launched a report on extreme weather and its impact on farming viability in Wales, which gained national media coverage. The report concluded that climate-induced extreme weather is costing farmers tens of millions of pounds each year, and the solution is to support farmers to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Welsh government has since expanded support to farmers and launched a landscape-scale climate adaptation fund.

Scotland passed its Agriculture and Rural Communities Bill, which sets out the framework for land use payments and support. Campaigning by WWF Scotland and coalition partners ensured the legislation was strengthened to provide a framework for nature-friendly and lower-emissions farming. Also in Scotland, we published our Vision for Agriculture to inspire the decision-makers responsible for implementing the new legislation to rebalance funding towards regenerative farming and land use. We also called for an increase in investment in skills for farmers, along with changes in production that will guarantee nutritional security.

# 2030

**WE CREATED A BALANCE SHEET FOR NITROGEN USE IN THE UK, IDENTIFYING THE BIGGEST POLLUTION SOURCES. IT WILL HELP US PERSUADE THE UK GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE MEASURES TO HALVE NITROGEN WASTE BY 2030**

