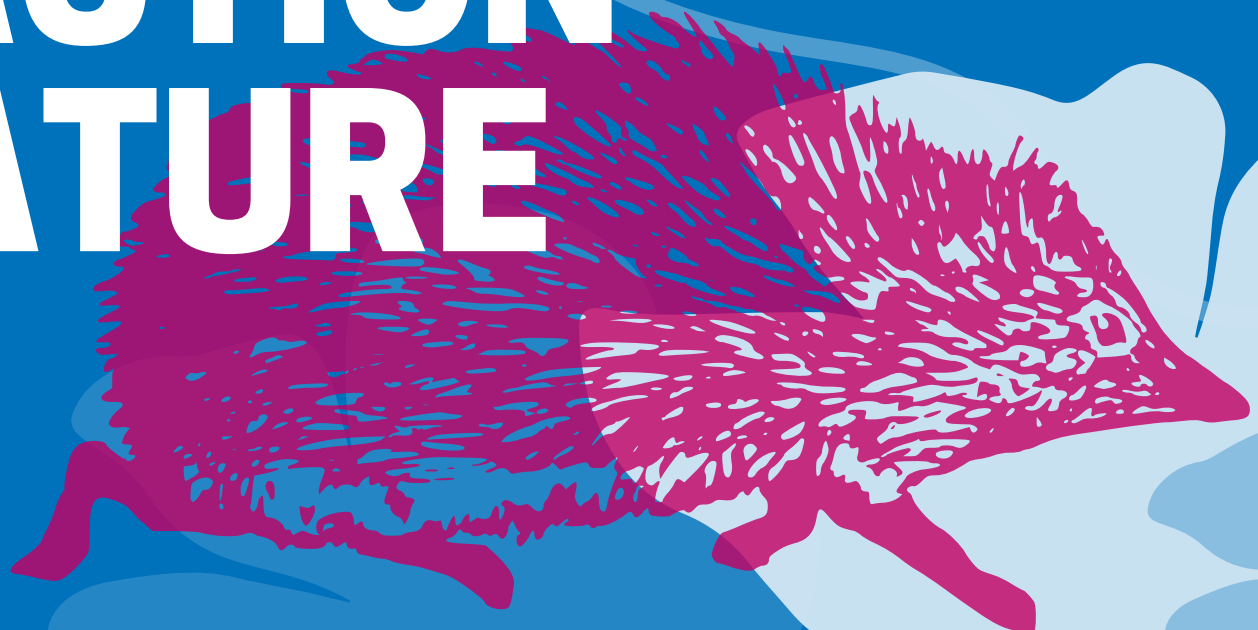


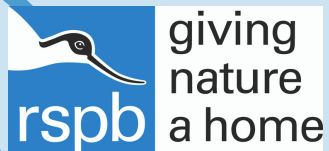
Working together to give nature a home:



GUIDES TAKE ACTION FOR NATURE



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About this meeting pack

What is it?

Take Action for Nature is a resource developed for leaders as a partnership between Girlguiding LaSER Champions and RSPB. This is for leaders to use in online or face-to-face unit meetings to learn about some of the threats to nature in the UK and encourage your unit to take action for nature.

When you have completed the activities you will:

- Understand some of the threats to nature in the UK.
- Be able to identify at least two animals/birds/insects at risk.
- Know what you can do to help outdoors or in the local community.

How do I use the meeting plan?

This meeting plan is aimed to be used by leaders and is designed to be done over the course of one meeting but can be split into two. Not all activities will be suitable for everyone and might need to be adapted.

Complete one activity from each section; Starter, Hands on, Use your voice, How did it go.

COVID Safety

Please follow the current guidance for your area.

Who are the LaSER Champions?

The Girlguiding LaSER Champions are a group of 16-26 year olds who ensure girl-led advocacy and campaigning is at the heart of what we do.

We create, plan and deliver campaigns about issues we feel passionate about.

The LaSER Champions are always looking for new recruits. If you're interested in joining us please head to:

<https://www.girlguidinglaser.org.uk/what-we-do/champions>

The RSPB Partnership

The RSPB exists to help our birds, other wildlife and natural places survive and thrive. Since 2015, the RSPB has been working in partnership with Girlguiding LaSER to increase opportunities for girls to interact with, enjoy and learn about nature. The partnership also aims to empower girls and young women to take action and speak out for nature.

Take Action and tell us!

We've had great fun creating this resource and hope you'll have fun using it too. We would love to hear what you think and how you have taken action for nature.

We have a feedback form on the website or you may prefer to email us via chairofchampions@girlguidinglaser.org.uk. You can also find us on social media:

- Instagram: @Girlguiding_LaSER_Champions
- Facebook: @LaSERChampions
- #TakeActionForNature

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5 Key facts on nature under threat:

- 1) Major threats to nature include modern farming practices (such as the use of chemicals to kill bugs and weeds), climate change, pollution, and the destruction of habitats to house and road building.
- 2) House sparrows, starlings and song thrushes are all birds which we might see in towns and gardens, but their numbers have greatly reduced. The loss of hedgerows, woodland and some grassland has meant fewer places for thrushes to nest and feed.
- 3) In the past ten years, we have lost over a half of hedgehogs from the countryside and a third from towns and cities. In towns, gardens and grassy parks provide food for hedgehogs, like worms, beetles and slugs. When these areas are built on or paved over - or when grass is well cut and weeded - there is less for hedgehogs to eat.
- 4) Moths, like the Garden Tiger moth, are being affected by climate change. The caterpillars, known as woolly bears, are adapted to survive long frosty winters, so they don't do well in the mild wet winters and warmer springs of recent years.
- 5) Plastic rubbish in our seas is broken down into small particles by sunlight, wind, and wave action. These 'microplastics' are harmful to animals (like seabirds) when they eat it. The plastic can make them feel 'full up' so that they don't eat enough food and they can starve. Seals, whales, turtles, and other animals can also be harmed when they become trapped in plastic rubbish.

Nature in decline and threats to nature:

Nature needs our help. 41% of wildlife and plants in the UK are declining and one in seven is at risk of being lost from the UK altogether.

There are many threats to nature such as: the way land is farmed; climate change; pollution; and the destruction of habitats to house building.

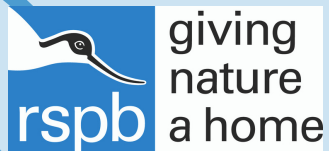
The good news is that, throughout the UK and across the world, there are people working hard to restore habitats and care for wildlife. We can all do our bit to help nature.

References for further reading:

- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/>
- <https://butterfly-conservation.org/>
- <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>



Working together to give nature a home:



Starter activity

Take our Threats to Nature Quiz Questions for Guides and Rangers to test your knowledge!



Download our ready made quiz from the Girlguiding LaSER website.

Discuss some of the threats you think nature faces and what you think needs to be done to help nature.



TOP TIP: You could use the whiteboard function for online meetings.

Hands on activity

Fundraise

As a unit, or individually, fundraise for RSPB or another wildlife charity.

Wear it

Decorate an item of clothing with a message or slogan to encourage people to be a champion for nature.

Seed Packets

Create a packet to hold birdseed. Decorate it with a message or slogan to encourage people to be a champion for nature. Give out the seed packets to members of your community.



Use your voice!

Write

Write to an MP, to a local newspaper, or for The Hive explaining one of the issues that currently faces UK wildlife and what we can do to help.



You may like to use our Sentence Starters sheet on the resources page to get you started.

Craftivism

Complete the Craftivism Guide Badge focusing on the threats that UK wildlife face.

How did it go?

- Were you already doing things to help nature?
- What will you start doing after today's meeting?
- Did you learn anything that surprised you?