

## Ideas/sentence starters for writing to your MP about the nature and climate crises

### 1: Introduce yourself and what it is you care about

- Tell your MP what you love about wildlife and nature, and why you think it's important to look after nature in the UK.
- Maybe there are animals, plants or green spaces which are special to you which you'd like to tell them about.
- Perhaps there is something you've been doing to help nature, on your own or with your unit, that you could include.

### 2: Tell them what the problem is

- You might want to tell your MP about something which is a problem where you live, such as a green space not being looked after.
- Or you could tell them about something you feel strongly about, like hedgehog numbers declining or climate change.
- Say why you think this is a problem. For example, you might want to say that everyone depends on the natural world or how nature is good for people's wellbeing. You could even mention how important you've found being able to spend time in nature during the lockdowns this year.
- Include some facts or figures on the problems facing nature in the UK, such as:



*"The most recent 'State of Nature Report' showed that almost half of UK wildlife is in long term decline and 15% of species are at risk of extinction."*



*"Even though 28% of the UK's land is in protected areas, only a small amount of that habitat is properly managed for nature (about 5% of the UK's land), which means that our nature isn't being properly looked after. There has been a drop in government spending money to look after nature in the UK over the past decade, with spending dropping by 29% between 2018 and 2012. Only a tiny proportion of the UK's money in its economy is spent on nature (0.02% of the UK's GDP)."*



*"Globally, one in six species faces extinction if we fail to act on climate change, with UK wildlife such as the White-beaked dolphin and the Leatherback turtle, already feeling the effects."*



*"The countries of the world had promised to meet a set of 20 targets to save nature by 2020, and yet not one of these was fully met – nature across the world is in peril, and with it the services which it provides."*



**Tell them that this is an urgent problem, which needs action now! We can't afford another decade of empty promises!**

Working together to give nature a home:



### 3: Suggest things which could solve the problem:

Some ideas are:

- **Make stronger laws to protect nature** - *Setting targets to better care for nature into law drives real action, and means that we can hold the Government accountable for meeting its promises. This year, the Environment Bill will set out how the UK Government plans to protect and improve our natural world. You could add your voice to over 50 nature conservation groups, by asking the government to make sure that the Environment Bill sets a legally binding 'State of Nature' target to halt and begin to reverse the loss of nature by 2030.*

Spring 2021 - Call for nature's recovery by 2030:

<https://e-activist.com/page/76784/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=WCL>

- **Spend more government money on effectively protecting and restoring nature** - *Making sure that there is enough money to protect and restore nature is really important to make sure the Government puts its promises into action so that we can see real improvements on the ground.*
- **Use government money to support farmers to use more nature-friendly practices that store carbon (tackle climate change), save wildlife, and clean our water and air** - *By making sure that Government money encourages and supports farmers to manage their land in an environmentally friendly way, we'll not only be helping nature, but will be contributing to a sustainable farming future for us all. Over the next ten years, a total of £2.9 billion needs to be spent annually across the UK on environmental land management (this is small in comparison to the £5.5 billion spent per year on roads).*

### 4: Ask your MP to do something:

You could ask them to:

- Talk about your issue, or ask a question about it, in the House of Commons, where MPs make the country's laws.
- Use their votes in Parliament to support the development of policies that support nature (like voting for improvements to the Environment Bill).
- Write to, or meet with, the Environment Secretary, who makes important decisions about the environment.
- Raise the profile of and sign (and encourage their constituents to sign) petitions that you think are important – like the State of Nature Petition.
- Make time to listen to the concerns which children and young people have about the nature and climate crises.
- If you are writing to them about a problem where you live, you could ask them to talk to your local council about this.