

40 Days to COP26: No hiding place for failure

We have no time to lose. COP26 starts in 40 days and it is the last serious chance to mobilise global leadership to act on the climate and nature crises.

It is vital that the organisers of COP26 do everything possible to ensure fair and inclusive participation for all delegates because decisions made will determine the future of us all. But the conference is just the start of the UK's year of leadership, which, for this government, is both a grave responsibility and a golden opportunity. The world is watching, and for those with serious leadership aspirations the challenge is clear.

Fortunately, there are nature-based solutions that we can deploy right now, at pace and scale, mitigating climate change by slashing emissions and regenerating landscapes and, importantly, restoring nature. Natural systems, which lock up carbon, are our biggest ally in the race to net zero, and cross-cutting policies for food and sustainable land use are key to delivery. Agroecology, which includes regenerating land by adopting farming practices that are fair and sustainable, is one such integrating approach. If we can fix food, we can fix the planet.

Together, we are calling on the government to take five simple, no-regrets actions including:

- **Committing** to a rapid transition to sustainable farming and land use by 2030
- **Investing** in a net zero transition through innovative financing and development funds which accelerate progress
- **Aligning** policies across departments backing support for farmers with trade deals which uphold high standards, better land-use decision making, and the National Food Strategy
- **Working** with businesses to mainstream nature- and climate-positive supply chains
- **Resourcing** communities to be more resilient and adaptable by creating jobs in nature and other opportunities to level up

There is much to be done, and no time to lose. The responsibilities for this government, with its strong political mandate, are vast. There will be no hiding place for failure.



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