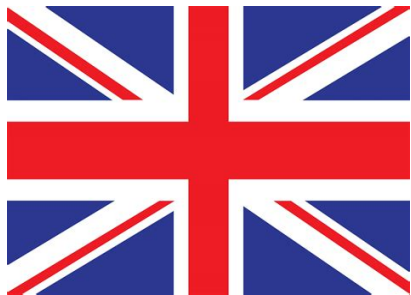


UNITED KINGDOM



This analysis compiled by Nature4Climate Coalition (N4C) is generated by GreenSearch AI and the result of voluntary contributions from its members. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, N4C and its members do not assume responsibility for any errors, omissions, or misinterpretations. The comments and analyses provided are based solely on the content of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and do not reflect any external sources. Readers are encouraged to review the original NDC documents for further clarification and provide N4C with any corrections to support our efforts to constantly learn and improve as an organisation.

General Information & Overview

NDC UNFCCC Submission: [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution](#)

Date of NDC submission/update: 30th January 2025

Summary of quantified targets:

- **Headline target (if present):** at least 81% reduction in total net GHG emissions and removals in 2035 compared to base year of 1990
- **Long-Term Goals:** (Commitments to net-zero or carbon neutrality and relevant deadlines) Net Zero by 2050
- **Quantified target(s) concerning NbS:**
 - Create or restore at least 45,000 miles of managed hedgerows in England by 2050.
 - Restore '100,000s of hectares' of peatlands.
 - Increase woodland and tree canopy cover to 16.5% of land area in England by 2050.

NDC Scope:

- **Sectors:** Mitigation: Energy, Industrial Processes and Product Use, Agriculture, Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF), Waste
- **Thematic areas:** Mitigation
- **NbS Ecosystems covered/ prioritized:** Forest restoration, peatland restoration, saltmarsh and seagrass protection and sustainable management.
- **Indication to use Article 6:** UK NDC states (on page 62) that it currently does not intend to use Internationally Traded Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) under Article 6.2 towards its NDC but that it reserves the right to use cooperative approaches under Article 6 such as Article 6.4 Emission reductions.

Key updates from previous NDC

- The mitigation target under the previous NDC (updated 2022) was for an at least 68% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. Under the current NDC the mitigation target is for an at least 81% reduction in GHG emissions by 2035. Both the previous and current NDC outline how the Environment Act (2021) will underpin the role of nature in delivering the NDC but the updated NDC provides greater detail on specific NBS measures. Finally, the updated NDC does not pledge further finance but does confirm that £3 billion of the £11.6 billion currently pledged for international climate finance between 2021 and 2026 will be for nature, including £1.5 billion forest protection and restoration.

Key conclusions

- In the updated NDC, the UK includes greater detail on how both terrestrial and marine NBS will be used for climate mitigation and adaptation, with new specific time-bound targets.
- In the updated NDC, the UK is more explicit on how its work to deliver against multiple international commitments will support delivery of the NDC. For example, the NDC outlines how action to protect and restore peatland habitat to deliver against the CBD's Global Biodiversity Framework will support delivery of the mitigation target in the NDC.
- The updated NDC the UK reiterates its commitment to £11.6billion of international climate finance by March 2026, providing further detail on the UK's pledge for £3 billion of this to be spent on nature, 50% of which on forest protection and restoration.

Detailed Assessment

Topic	Assessment
Does the NDC indicate that a whole-of-government approach was utilized?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) is introduced (on pg 8) as the responsible ministry for strategic oversight of the UK's international and domestic climate and energy policy. The NDC introduces the role of the independent advisory body, the UK Climate Change Committee, of supporting the DESNZ to identify the 'highest possible ambition target'. The NDC introduces how the DESNZ Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) collaborate to ensure coordination on plans to implement international conventions. Regarding Nature-based Solutions, the Environment Act is the principle framework for mainstreaming terrestrial and marine NBS for climate at the UK level. The NDC details how the legislation facilitates mainstreaming of NBS into agriculture (pg16-17) and fisheries (pg39), with further detail on the role of the Fisheries Act on pg38. Further detail is provided on pages 36 and 39-41 on the frameworks employed by each devolved administration to mainstream terrestrial and marine NBS. Outlined below are the NBS measures mentioned in the NDC with information on the target and implementing ministry where provided (see page 16-17 and 33 for further background): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and restore at least 45,000 miles of managed hedgerows by 2050, Restore 100,000s of hectares of peatlands and develop a long-term delivery mechanism for peatland restoration, Increase woodland and tree canopy cover to at least 16.5% land area in England by 2050 (led by a National Tree Planting Taskforce), Protect and restore approx. 90% of saltmarsh and 70% seagrass habitats within the marine protected area network. 	
Does the NDC indicate that a whole-of-society approach was utilized?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding the NDC's development, the NDC details how briefings from a wide range of civil society actors were consulted in the development of the NDC and the setting of the 2035 target (further detail on page 28 and 31). Regarding the NDC's implementation, the NDC introduces (on page 27) how a "Net Zero Public Participation Strategy" will be published to provide members of the public opportunity to share views on policy design to deliver net zero. Regarding engagement with the private sector on NBS and nature, page 16 details how delivery of 	

terrestrial NBS will involve collaboration with private landowners, whilst page 38 provides detail on how private investment will be mobilised to deliver coastal NBS in saltmarsh and seagrass habitat.	
Do the NDC targets include nature/ecosystems?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The priority ecosystems included in the NDC's economy-wide target are forest and peatland ecosystems. The targets for nature included in the economy-wide target are under the AFOLU sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the national level these targets are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and restore at least 45,000 miles of managed hedgerows by 2050, Restore 100,000s of hectares of peatlands and develop a long-term delivery mechanism for peatland restoration, Increase woodland and tree canopy cover to at least 16.5% of land area in England by 2050 At the international level, the UK also affirms its 'steadfast' commitment to halt and reverse deforestation and degradation by 2030 (page 57). Nature-based solutions are also explicitly highlighted within the NDC (pages 34-35) The NDC specifies that all LULUCF pools are included within it: above ground biomass, below ground biomass, litter, deadwood soil organic carbon and stocks of harvested wood products (page 7). There are actions included in the NDC under the non-AFOLU sector (specifically, coastal ecosystems) that are outlined in contextual matters. These prioritise protection and restoration of the 70% of seagrass and 90% of saltmarsh ecosystems covered by marine protected areas, to deliver blue carbon sequestration. 	
Does the NDC include information about the methods and data used to develop nature-related targets?	Partial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDC follows the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands was used for estimating Greenhouse Gas Emission removals (see page 60 for details). No data is provided on the detail of the specific data sources used to define the NBS targets e.g., the targets on hedgerows or forest cover. The NDC mentions that spatial planning tools will be used by devolved administrations in the UK to plan the implementation of blue carbon management plans (see page 40-41 for details). 	
Are NbS included in the economy-wide target?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDC integrates NBS into the economy-wide GHG Emission reduction target but there are no specific measurable sectoral targets, or emission reduction targets from those sectors. See pages 16-17 and page 33 for further detail. 	
Are mitigation targets defined for the AFOLU sector, including in wetlands and coastal areas?	Partial

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the NDC mentions specific, measurable, time-bound targets for NBS in the AFOLU sector, these cover the area restored and do not include emission reduction. These targets are listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and restore at least 45,000 miles of managed hedgerows by 2050, Restore 100,000s of hectares of peatlands and develop a long-term delivery mechanism for peatland restoration, Increase woodland and tree canopy cover to at least 16.5% land area in England by 2050 The NDC also provides a description of management measures to be undertaken by devolved administrations to deliver blue carbon sequestration (on pages 39-40) but there are no targets associated with expanding restoration or protection or on the specific mitigation potential of these activities. 	
Do adaptation measures include NbS and/or EbA approaches?	Partial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK states it will release an adaptation communication in due course and that it expects to publish its next National Adaptation Programme in 2028. NBS for mitigation measures in the NDC, namely, the restoration of peatlands, forest cover, and hedgerows, are mentioned as having adaptation co-benefits. 	
Does the NDC integrate NbS into mitigation and adaptation targets for non-AFOLU sectors?	Partial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDC outlines on page 39 how the fisheries management policy has integrated climate mitigation and adaptation measures to deliver 'climate adaptive fisheries measures' that will contribute to the UK's commitments under the Global Biodiversity Framework. No detail on targets or on the specifics of these measures are provided. 	
Is nature integrated as an essential component in addressing loss and damage?	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDC makes no mention of Loss and Damage. 	
Does the NDC align with other national and international agendas?	Yes
<p>National Agendas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDC outlines on pages 13-20 national agendas through which the NDC will be implemented across energy (including transport), industrial processes and product use, agriculture, land use, land use change and forestry, waste and trade. Regarding this, the NDC outlines co-benefits of forest and hedgerow restoration actions for agriculture and for biodiversity (page 16-17) The NDC outlines on pages 20-24 how the NDC is aligned with devolved policy agendas and strategies in each of the UK's devolved administrations, crown dependencies and overseas territories. 	

International Agendas:

- The NDC outlines how the UK recognises the need for joined up approaches and improved coordination regarding the delivery of commitments under international conventions such as the UN Biodiversity and Desertification Conventions ([Page 33](#)).
- The NDC outlines how measures undertaken to deliver against the Global Biodiversity Framework in the UK, specifically target 3 on protected areas and target 8 on minimising impacts of climate change, will support the UK deliver against its NDC and Net Zero target ([Page 34](#)).
- The NDC outlines how efforts to integrate the scaling-up of climate and nature finance will support aligning financial flows with the delivery of the Paris Agreement and GBF ([Page 35](#)).

Are adaptation and mitigation targets complementary of each other?

Partial

- The NDC does not detail specific adaptation targets, and outlines that mitigation measures in the NDC such as hedgerow and forest restoration deliver adaptation co-benefits ([page 16-17](#)).
- The NDC outlines how devolved administrations, crown dependencies and overseas territories will be developing management plans for blue carbon that will outline how marine NBS measures will promote carbon sequestration and restore ecosystem service delivery ([pages 40-41](#)). The NDC does not detail mitigation/adaptation trade-offs and how these will be managed.
- There is a general recognition that adaptation actions can provide co-mitigation benefits, especially in the LULUCF section (footnote 10 on page 7).

Are climate justice and equitable approaches applied across NDC targets?

Partial

- The NDC details on [pages 28-29](#) how youth have been included in the development of the NDC and wider climate policy as part of the UK's commitment to implement the Glasgow Climate Pact's measure to ensure meaningful youth participation.
- The NDC emphasises on [pages 26-27](#) the role the UK has played in supporting gender mainstreaming within the UNFCCC and in its programmes. Domestically, the UK commits to strengthen collection and use of data on gender inclusion and climate.
- The NDC outlines how the UK will work with local communities to support implementation of the NDC and relevant policies delivering a green transition (page 10). The NDC provides specific mention ([page 38](#)) of how the government will work with coastal communities to build their resilience and support their adaptation to climate change.
- Pages 63-64 also outline how the NDC reflects fairness and equity considerations.

Are means of implementation (MOI) needs for NbS implementation clearly communicated?

Partial

- The NDC outlines how existing legislation namely the Environment Act and the Fisheries Act are the key pieces of legislation for delivery of the NBS for climate the NDC includes. The NDC does not provide details on financing for the NBS measures enacted under this legislation.
- The NDC outlines on [page 65](#) the intention to honour an existing commitment to spend £11.6billion on climate finance from April 2021-March 2026 including at least £3 billion on nature from which

£1.5billion would be dedicated to protecting and restoring forests. The NDC also introduces plans to treble adaptation finance to £1.5billion in 2025.

Are there defined roadmaps and accountability structures for NbS implementation?

Partial

- The NDC outlines on [page 9](#) how the UK Climate Change Committee provides progress reports to Parliament on the implementation of the NDC which include recommendations for how the UK can make further progress in climate adaptation and against the mitigation targets in the NDC.
- The NDC outlines on [pages 11-13](#) how devolved administrations are held accountable for implementing the NDC in their context.
- The NDC does not outline in detail the accountability structure for the implementation of the NBS measures specifically.