

What could the new Restoration Law mean for Amphibians and Reptiles?

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amphibian and reptile
conservation



EU Nature Restoration Law



Key role for:

- Increasing biodiversity
- Mitigating climate change
- Meeting International obligations
- Improving water quality
- Building resilience: preventing natural disasters and reducing risks to food security
- Supporting the economy

EU Nature Restoration Law



Focus for action:

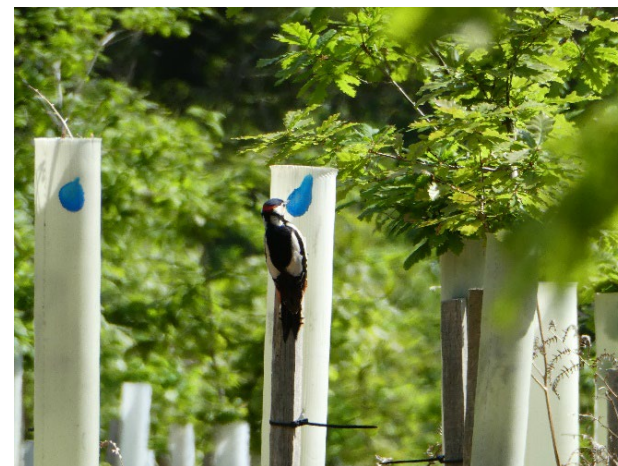
- Targets based on existing legislation (priority to 2030)
 - Nature Directives; Favourable levels
 - Restoration of wetlands / drained peatlands
- Pollinating insects
- Forest ecosystems ;
- Urban ecosystems
- Agricultural ecosystems
- Marine ecosystems
- River connectivity;

Member State restoration plans

EU Nature Restoration Law

Targets:

- 20% of land area restored by 2030
- Targets for restoration of habitats in poor quality to good condition:
 - 30% by 2030
 - 60% by 2040
 - 90% by 2050
- Habitats of priority species to be made favourable in terms of extent and quality
- 3 bn trees to be planted
- Restore at least 25,000 km of rivers



.. Implications for amphibians and reptiles



- Restoration at scale
 - Necessary, but ...
 - Loses attention to detail (e.g. species conservation needs)
- Habitat focus
- Restoration
 - Reduced intervention/ extensive 'semi-natural' management, e.g:
 - Rewilding
 - Or Large scale interventions e.g:
 - Re-wetting
 - Tree planting
- Funding
 - Different criteria
 - Commercialisation – creating markets
- Increased public pressures

UK perspective



- Not covered by EU legislation or Biodiversity Strategy
- Same international obligations
 - CBD, 30x30, Bern Convention, etc
- Similar large-scale ambitions: needs a 'step change'
- Devolved responsibilities (England focus)
 - Legislation & Policy
 - Landscape recovery
 - Funding

Legislative/ Policy context (England)

Species	Great Britain	England	Scotland	Wales
<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern
<i>Pelodytes lessonae</i>	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Near Threatened	Near Threatened	Near Threatened	Least Concern
<i>Epidaleia calamita</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern
<i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern
<i>Anguilla fragilis</i>	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern
<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern	Least Concern
<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	Least Concern	Least Concern	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<i>Coronella austriaca</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<i>Vipera berus</i>	Near Threatened	Vulnerable	Near Threatened	Near Threatened

UK Amphibian & Reptile Red list: Foster et al (2021)



- Environment Act targets
 - Species Abundance
 - Extinction risk (Red-list index)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- Nature Recovery Network
- Environment Improvement Plan (revision of '25 year plan')



Landscape recovery



- Landowner/ partnership funding
- Ecosystem functionality
 - Extensive (not Intensive) management
- Rewilding

Define landscape level goal based around 'Favourable Conservation Status'

Funding (1)

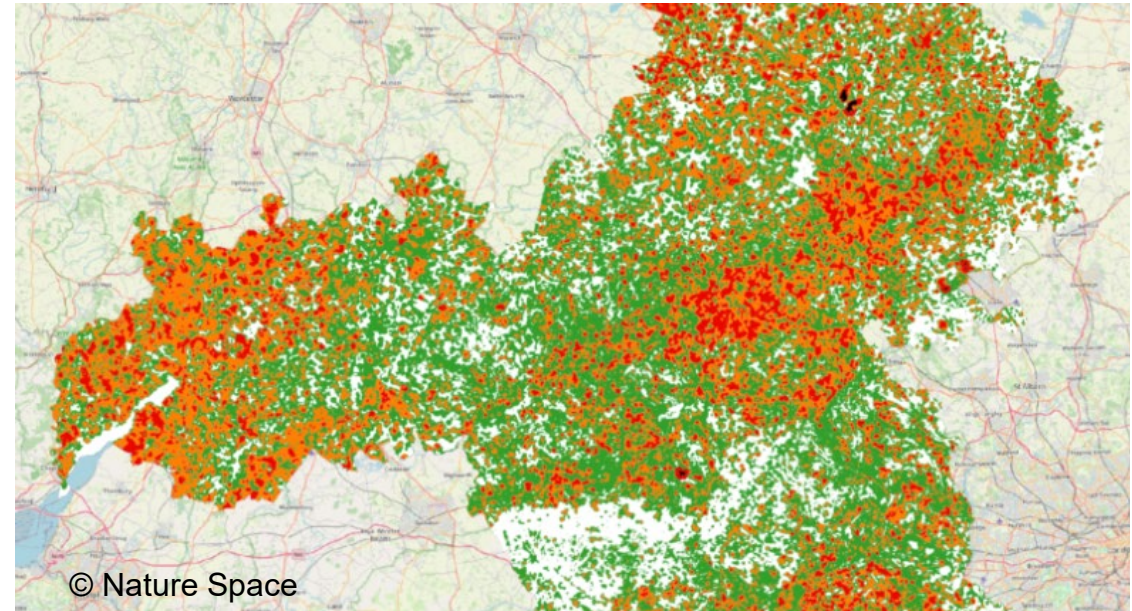
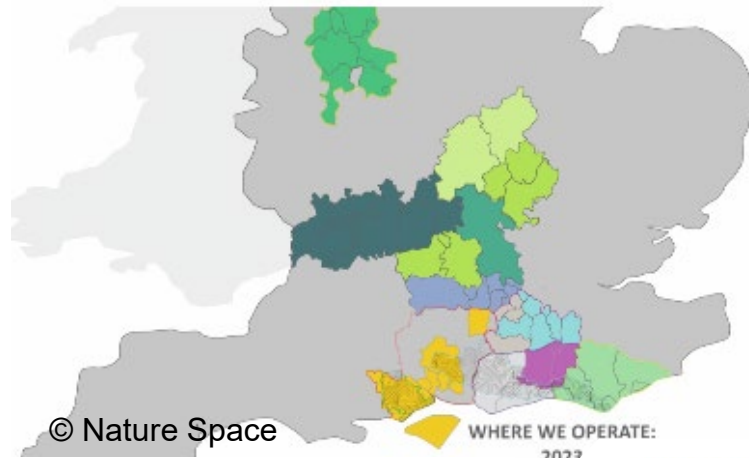


- Biodiversity Net Gain
 - Statutory requirement
 - 10% (20%) uplift
 - Avoid/ reduce
 - Compensate
 - 'Biodiversity metric'
 - Size
 - Quality
 - Location
 - Type

Identify habitat options that benefit reptiles and amphibians

Funding (2)

- Regulation – species protection
 - Outcome focus
 - District Licensing (great crested newts)
 - ‘Species Conservation Strategies’



Funding (3)

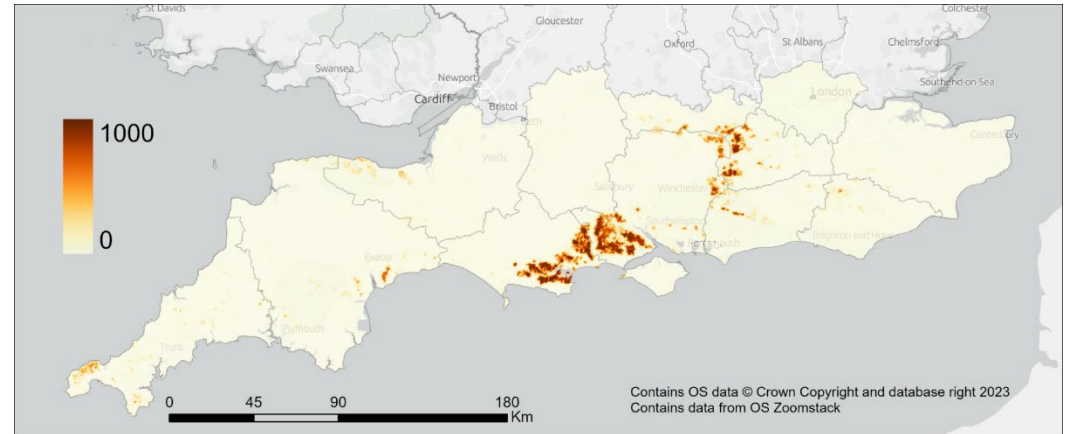
- Corporate Social Responsibility/Green investment
- Evidence of positive biodiversity outcomes

Develop species 'measures' to demonstrate good outcomes and return on investment



Linking to amphibians and reptiles

- Highlighting key species
- Defining conservation goals/ objectives
 - Population
 - Range/ distribution
 - Habitat
- Identifying key actions



Key messages

- Don't lose sight of 'Species'
- Define success criteria that support amphibian and reptile conservation outcomes
- Monitoring

Policy & funding mechanism will focus on the bigger picture, but they must be able to accommodate the needs of species.

It's our job to provide the voice for amphibian and reptiles!



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Thank you for listening

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