



UK nature is in trouble

That is the conclusion of a groundbreaking report published today by a coalition of leading conservation and research organisations.

Scientists working side-by-side from 25 wildlife organisations have compiled a stock take of our native species – the first of its kind in the UK. The report reveals that 60% of the species studied have declined over recent decades. More than one in ten of all the species assessed are under threat of disappearing from our shores altogether.

The State of Nature report will be launched by Sir David Attenborough and UK conservation charities at the Natural History Museum in London this evening (Wednesday, May 22), while simultaneous events will be held in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

Stark warning

Sir David Attenborough said: "This groundbreaking report is a stark warning – but it is also a sign of hope.

"For 60 years I have travelled the world exploring the wonders of nature and sharing that wonder with the public. But as a boy my first inspiration came from discovering the UK's own wildlife.

"Our islands have a rich diversity of habitats which support some truly amazing plants and animals. We should all be proud of the beauty we find on our own doorstep; from bluebells carpeting woodland floors and delicately patterned fritillary butterflies, to the graceful basking shark and the majestic golden eagle soaring over the Scottish mountains.

"This report shows that our species are in trouble, with many declining at a worrying rate. However, we have in this country a network of passionate conservation groups supported by millions of people who love wildlife. The experts have come together today to highlight the amazing



nature we have around us and to ensure that it remains here for generations to come."

Nature is in trouble

Dr Mark Eaton, a lead author on the report, said: "This report reveals that the UK's nature is in trouble – overall we are losing wildlife at an alarming rate.

"These declines are happening across all countries and UK Overseas Territories, habitats and species groups, although it is probably greatest amongst insects, such as our moths, butterflies and beetles. Other once common species like the lesser spotted woodpecker, barbastelle bat and hedgehog are vanishing before our eyes.

"Reliable data on these species goes back just fifty years, at most, but we know that there has been a historical pattern of loss in the UK going back even further. Threats including sweeping habitat loss, changes to the way we manage our countryside, and the more recent impact of climate change, have had a major impact on our wildlife, and they are not going away."

Source: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/news>

GREENScene

Benchmarking & Supporting Good Practice

IOL has been asked by emerging areas of the outdoor sector to benchmark and support good practice in the course design and delivery of outdoor Continuing Professional Development (CPD). During 2010-11 the Institute has therefore developed and piloted an Approved CPD Provider/Course process.

Why have an Approved Provider?

- To celebrate high standards of CPD, (it's not just about creating another hoop to jump through!).
- To enable practitioners to have a "kitemark" of good practice to help them when choosing CPD courses.
- To provide developmental support for Providers going through it; they can benchmark their systems and CPD design against good practice.
- To offer marketing benefits to Approved Providers and courses.

IOL Approvals for Providers and courses last 3 years and are renewable.

Scope

The IOL Approval Service checks that providers have the Quality Assurance processes in place to ensure high standards of teaching and learning, trainer training and ethical, safe and environmentally responsible procedures. The approval scheme does not retest or certify a provider's or trainer's competence in the subject area; it asks the provider to provide evidence of its research into best practice, and that its trainers have been assessed/have acquired the necessary experience elsewhere.

Benefits for Approved CPD Providers

- Providers/trainers can use logo 'IOL Approved Training Provider' in their publicity material relating to CPD/Training provision
- Listed in the Courses/Events area of IOL website as an IOL Approved CPD Provider, together with names of courses approved
- Highlighted Course listing on IOL website events pages
- Highlighted listing on Outdoor Source section of Website (in progress)
- Reduced rates for Conference Trade Exhibit Stands
- A listing in the IOL Approved Provider courses section of the monthly IOL Newsletter
- Reduced rate for Horizons Advertising

Find out more about becoming IOL Approved Provider

- Follow this link to the IOL web pages on Approved Provider: <http://www.outdoor-learning.org/Default.aspx?tabid=234>



Forestry Commission launches its new National Learning Strategy

To mark World Forestry Day 2013, the Forestry Commission launched its new National Learning Strategy with a series of education events at woodlands across the public forest estate in England. "Our ambition is to strengthen the connections between people and nature. We want to see every child in England given the opportunity to experience and learn about the natural environment."

Definition of a learning activity

Forests are wonderful places to learn, and every visit can be a learning experience. However, for the purposes of this strategy, where we want to evaluate progress towards achieving our vision, a learning activity is defined as: an activity in which the primary aim is to increase knowledge and understanding of trees and forests, with particular emphasis on promoting the themes within our learning message.

Source blog: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-94vdmn>



400ppm carbon milestone caused barely a ripple

Newspapers were mostly uninterested. On the 10 May readings taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii were made public. They showed that the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere had passed 400 parts per million (ppm). A twitter feed, from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, had been daily counting-up to this point.

To put the number into perspective, James Hansen (2008) said: "If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted ... CO2 will need to be reduced ... to at most 350ppm." No centenary or diamond jubilee then, just a clear round number on a path leading away from the climate which was the nursery to civilisation to a future, if unchanged, of certain greater chaos and upheaval.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2013/may/30/carbon-milestone-newspapers>



Minister attacks 'blinkered' climate change sceptics

Energy Secretary Ed Davey makes an unprecedented attack on climate change sceptics. In a speech, the Lib Dem minister complains that right-wing newspapers are undermining science for political ends. He accuses climate sceptics of nimbysism, publicity-seeking, and "blinkered... bloody-mindedness". His speech came ahead of a crucial Energy Bill vote, during which Mr Davey will be accused by backbenchers of betraying his party's green credentials. Mr Davey gave way last year to demands from the chancellor to drop a commitment in the bill for almost all electricity to be generated from low-carbon sources like wind and nuclear by 2030. The Chancellor insisted that a decision on 2030 should be delayed until 2016 at the earliest (after the election) but many Lib Dem and Conservative MPs are expected to join Labour in voting for an amendment to introduce the target immediately.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22745578>

IOI Approved Providers & Courses

Who is an IOI Approved Provider and the courses on offer...

- Follow this link to the IOI web pages on Approved Provider: <http://www.outdoor-learning.org>

IOI Approved CPD Providers

- Belfast Activities Centre (internal course)
- Calvert Trust
- Training Expertise
- Nature's Work
- Jack Raven Bushcraft Ltd
- Mountain and Bushcraft Ways
- Bilbins
- World Challenge Expeditions (internal course)
- Woodland Survival Crafts
- Woodland Ways
- Forestry Commission Scotland: Branching Out

IOI Approved Open CPD

Bushcraft Courses

- 3 day Foundational Bushcraft Skills
- Woodland Survival Crafts
- Woodland Ways
- Biblins
- Jack Raven Bushcraft Company
- Mountain and Bushcraft Ways

Expedition Training

- 2 day Expedition Leadership Weekend
- Training Expertise
- 6 hour Fieldwork Safety Course
- Training Expertise

Disability Awareness

- 1 day Disability Awareness Course
- Calvert Trust, Lake District

IOI Approved CPD Courses open to internal staff only

- Belfast Activities Centre - 1 Day Building Blocks (Facilitation Skills) Course
- World Challenge Expeditions-1 Day Facilitation Skills Course
- Mountain & Bushcraft Ways

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