



Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Crisis: Declaration and Call to Action

September 2019



Our Declaration

We declare that the climate emergency *and* biodiversity crisis are inextricably linked, cannot be addressed in isolation, and require urgent and immediate action. We support all those who have acknowledged that ambitious and urgent action is required to address the climate emergency.

The prominence of climate change and biodiversity loss awareness in the media, and in the public consciousness, in recent months is an important and potentially game-changing step forward. The UK Governments' commitments to new legislation and policies aimed at halting declines in biodiversity, delivering net gains and enhancements for biodiversity, and enshrining commitments to net zero greenhouse gas emissions into law, and the Irish Government's Climate Action Plan and recognition of a biodiversity emergency are testament to this increasing awareness and understanding.

Every government, every business, every organisation and every individual must play a role – in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, assisting in the adaptation to climate change, halting biodiversity loss, and restoring habitats and species – through changes in laws and regulations, policies, behaviours and lifestyles at both local and national levels.

Governments must lead by example to provide the regulatory frameworks that give businesses the confidence to change on a level playing field and that provide incentives to innovate new solutions. Individuals and businesses must step up, through altering our behaviours and lifestyles, in ways that clearly indicate to Governments that we support robust changes in legislation and policy.

It is vital, as never before, that the work of CIEEM, its members and our professions continue to be at the forefront of targeted action.

Nature-based solutions must play a key role in mitigating against and adapting to climate change. Restoration of habitats such as degraded peat bogs, wetlands, mangrove forests, seagrass habitats and woodlands will increase carbon sequestration and storage potential and will have significant benefits for the human population, for example by creating barriers against flooding and providing refuge from extreme heat. These solutions provide an opportunity to tackle both the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis.



Biodiversity must be restored and enhanced both for its intrinsic value and for the tangible benefits that it has for society and the economy. Biodiversity and ecosystem services contribute to clean air, fresh water, crop pollination, food production, soil regeneration, fuel and fibre production, physical and mental health and well-being, and many, many more goods and services. Intact ecosystems (i.e. that have a complete assemblage of species) are more resilient to change and are therefore better at providing ecosystem services upon which human life and livelihoods depend.

Adaptation and mitigation for climate change must be embedded across all objectives in policies for nature recovery and vice versa. Ecological networks require defining and implementing nationally and regionally to allow species to migrate as the climate changes and for populations to recover.



The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) is the leading professional membership body representing and supporting ecologists and environmental managers in the UK, Ireland and abroad. Our mission is to raise and promote the highest standards of professional practice for the benefit of nature and society.

CIEEM members work for a wide range of employers in many varied roles, from surveying and analysing field data to authoring environmental policy and best practice. Our members are in a prime position to be at the forefront of operational change at every level, and more broadly, be visible champions for change in wider society.

It is an ethical paradox for our professions that, as ecologists and environmental managers who are protecting and enhancing the natural environment, there are often operational issues associated with the fulfilment of our employment obligations. We need to be more aware of how we can reduce these impacts, and the opportunity that we have to be role models for others in how we can reduce and manage our personal impact on our natural environment.

CIEEM is committed to leading the way for our professions in taking urgent action to address the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. We will be working to set more challenging targets for our organisational impact on climate and biodiversity as we work towards our own net zero emissions and net gains for biodiversity targets; and supporting our members to do the same.





Action Plan

To achieve our mission, we are committed to:

- Setting up a focus group by December 2019, to devise ways in which we, as a profession, can avoid or reduce our operational impacts on the climate and biodiversity when we undertake our roles, and subsequently to provide and promote guidance, training and other support for practitioners.
- With immediate effect, reviewing the operational impacts of CIEEM's offices, activities and procurement, and continuing to monitor and report on its implementation.
- Continuing to review the latest research on the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis and updating the summary briefing paper to inform members.
- Continuing the work led by our Policy Team, Strategic Policy Panel and Country Policy Groups to influence policy and secure timely commitments to ambitious, robust targets and action on both the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis.
- Continuing to work in collaboration with other like-minded organisations to share best practice, speak with a common message and to increase the effectiveness and urgency of our climate emergency and biodiversity crisis action agenda.
- Providing regular updates on action we are taking to meet our own targets and influence policy surrounding the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis through our *In Practice* Policy Updates and Sector News eBriefing.

This declaration has been adopted by the CIEEM Governing Board. The Governing Board are the elected representatives of the CIEEM membership who provide strategic leadership and direction whilst also ensuring good governance.



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