



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Biodiversity in Wales

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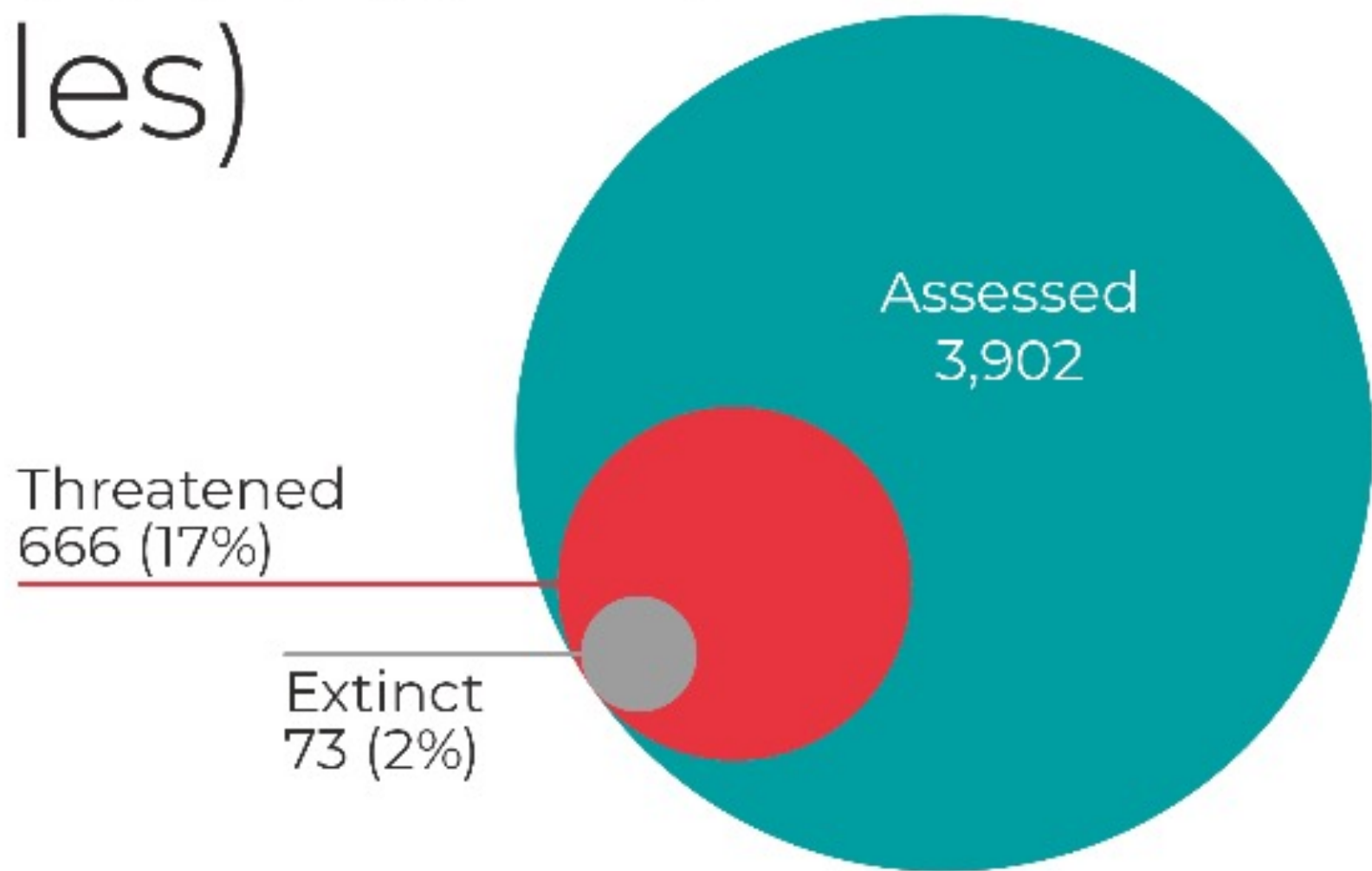
What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of life found on earth. It includes all species of plants and animals, their abundance and genetic diversity.

It is our fascinating wildlife and iconic species and habitats and it is not just important for its intrinsic value, but also for the positive impact it has on all aspects of our lives.



Species extinction risk assessment (Wales)



Source: State of Nature Report 2019 - A Summary for Wales



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Political Commitment

Legislative framework:

- Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act
- Environment (Wales) Act

Political Commitment

- Declaration of Climate and Nature Emergencies
- Minister for Climate Change



Wales' Legislative Framework

Well-being of Future Generations Act

Places seven well-being goals into law, and requiring public bodies to apply the sustainable development principle in five key ways.

Environment (Wales) Act

Puts in place a modern statutory process to plan and manage our natural resources in a joined and sustainable way

Planning (Wales) Act

Improves the existing Planning process to ensure the right development is located in the right place

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015



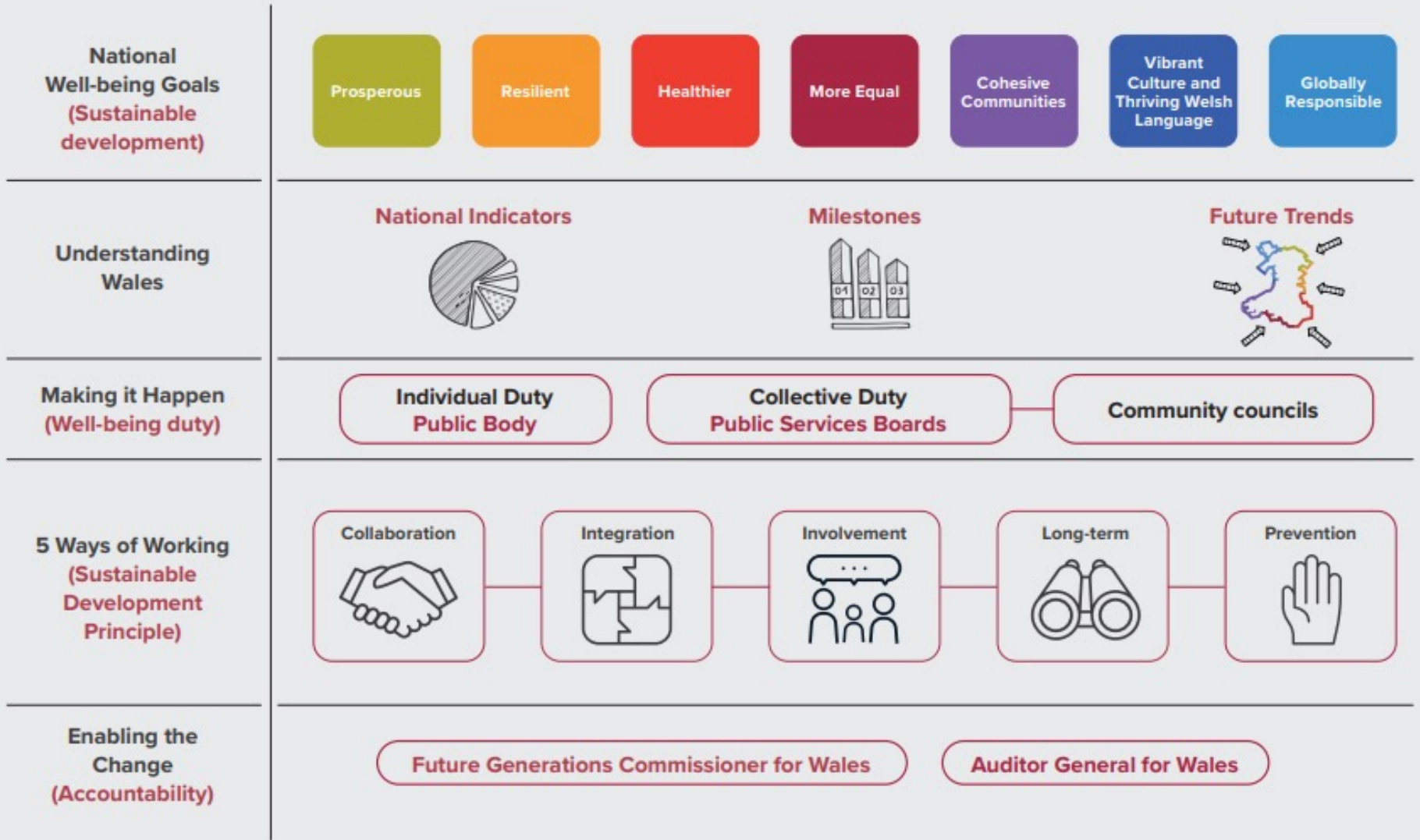
In this Act, any reference to a public body doing something “in accordance with the sustainable development principle” means that the body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Part 2 ‘Improved well-being, section 5 ‘the sustainable development principle, paragraph (1)’.

Well-being of Future Generations Framework



LLUNIO DYFODOL CYMRU
DANGOSYDDION • CERRIG MILLTIR • TUEDDIADAU
SHAPING WALES' FUTURE
INDICATORS • MILESTONES • TRENDS



National Indicators for Wales - Biodiversity



13 Healthy soils 1 2 7

14 Global footprint 1 2 7

43 Healthy ecosystems 1 2 3 5 6 7

44 Biological diversity 1 2 5 6 7

45 Water quality 2 3 5 6 7

Environment (Wales) Act 2016



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Environment (Wales) Bill 1

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS
Explanatory Notes and an Explanatory Memorandum are printed separately.

Environment (Wales) Bill
[DRAFT]

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DRAFT 5 December 2014

- Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
- Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty
- Policy and reporting framework

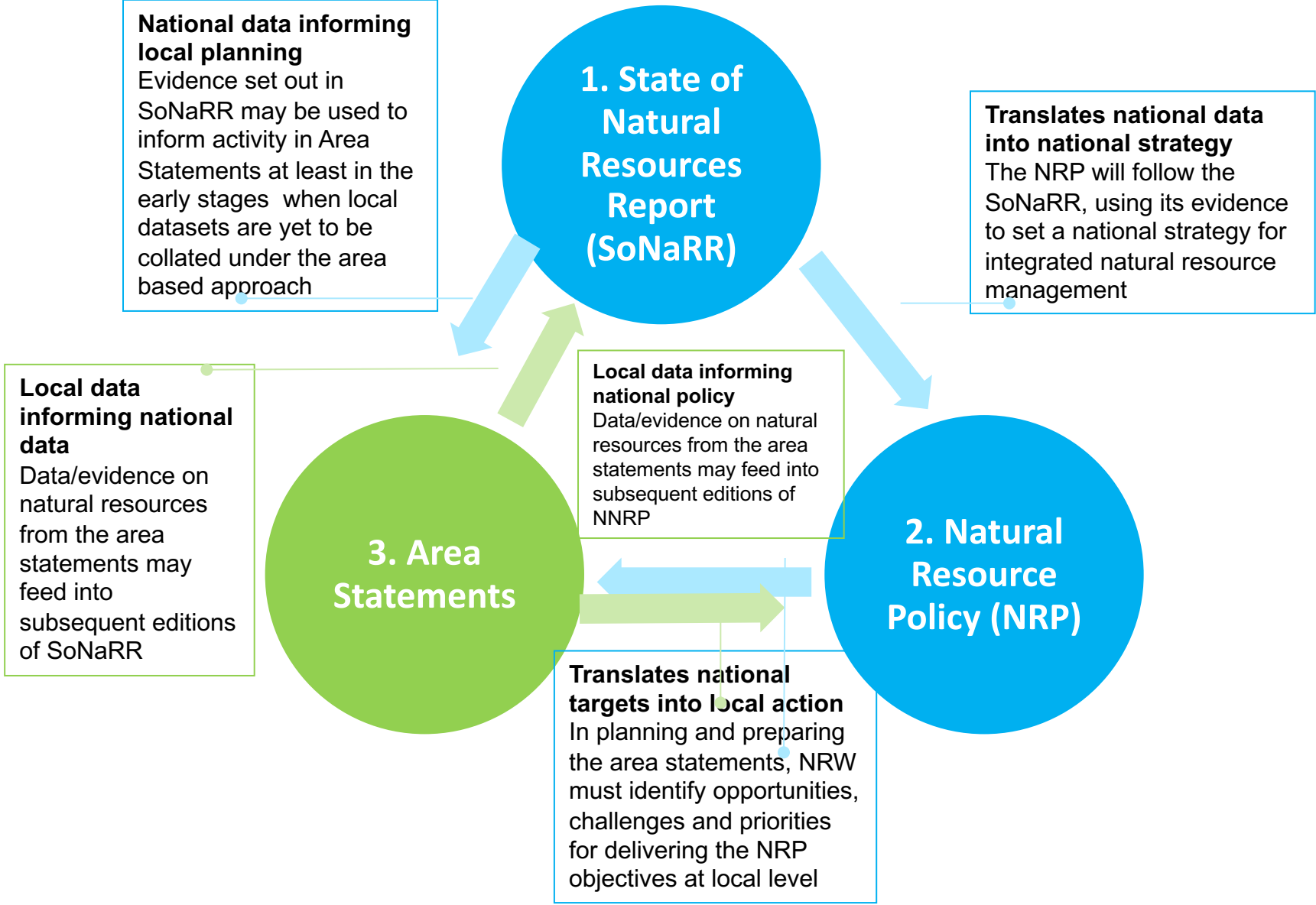
Sustainable management of natural resources

Using natural resources in a way and at a rate that promotes the achievement of the following objective, including taking and not taking action which achieves that objective.

The objective is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide

1. Being Adaptable
2. Applying Scale
3. Working together
4. Engaging with the public
5. Using Evidence
6. Understand the benefits we receive from our natural resources
7. Considering the Long term
8. Being preventative
9. Building the resilience of ecosystems

National Resource Policy Framework:





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The Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Recognising the central role that biodiversity plays and therefore the need to integrate and embed its protection and enhancement across the public sector in Wales, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced the section 6 biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty.

The duty requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

To comply with the duty public authorities should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as their day to day activities.



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Programme Delivery

Nature Networks

Completing the Marine Protected Areas Network

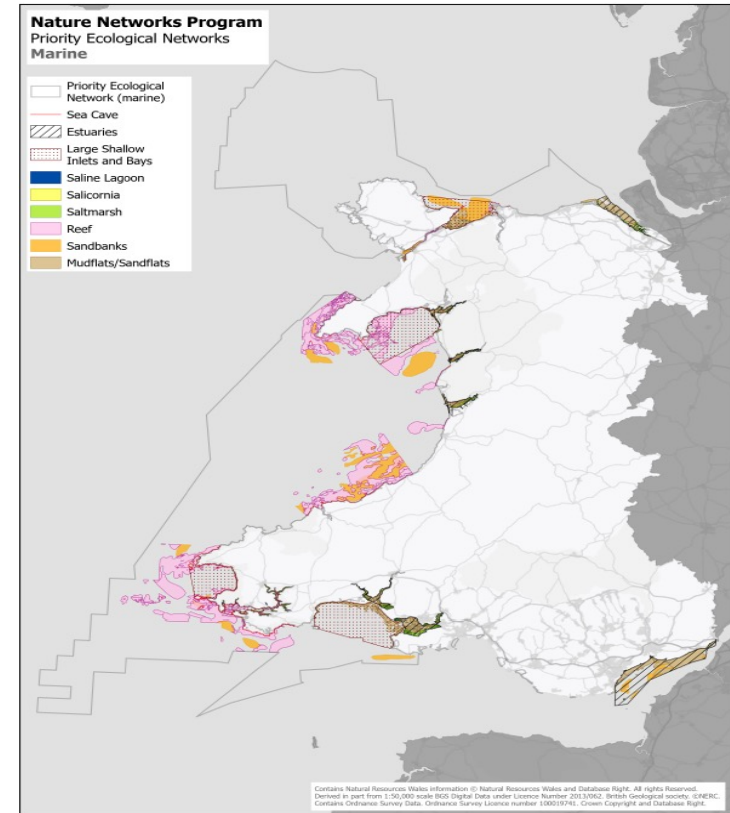
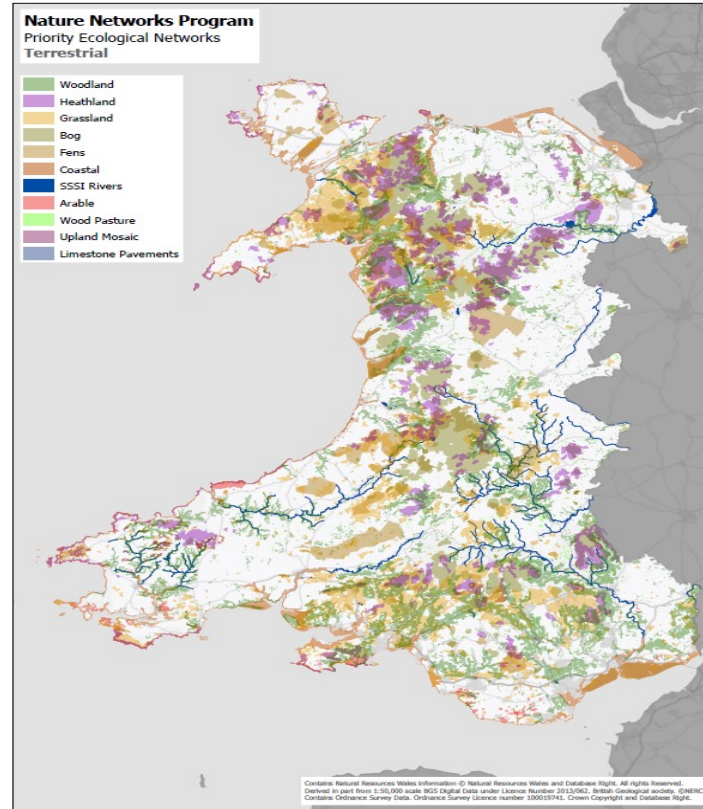
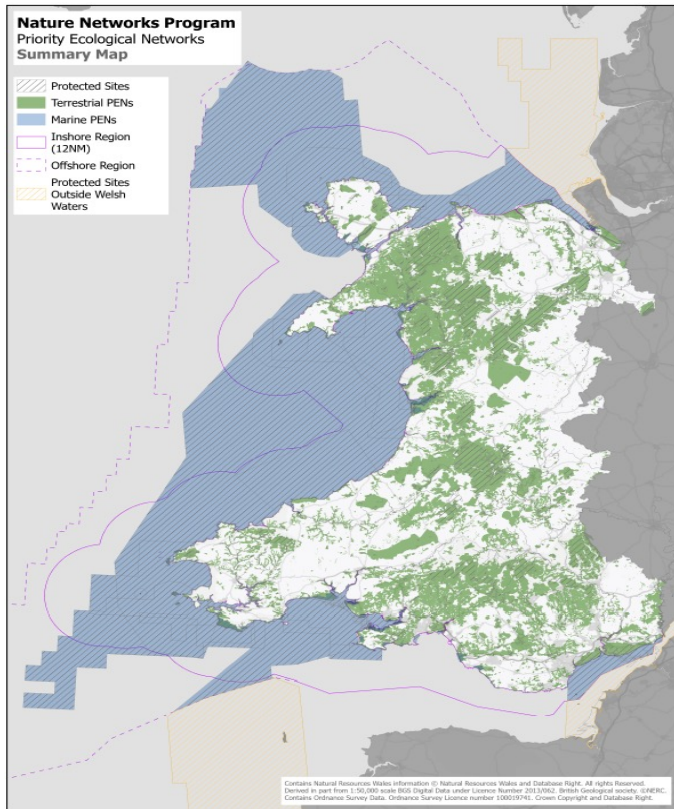
Nature Networks

Ecological Networks, with protected sites at their core, on land and sea are well defined and are under sustained and effective management which improves their ability to recover, resist and adapt to foreseen and unforeseen pressures and demands. These networks make a significant contribution to wider ecosystem resilience and to halting biodiversity decline - becoming nature positive by 2030. They are managed collaboratively and the broad range of associated ecosystem benefits that these networks provide are widely understood and valued.



Priority Ecological Networks

- Part of the vision and prioritisation tool for the programme
- Seen as an initial step towards the development of Resilient Ecological Networks





Provisional priority actions

Marine

- Marine fisheries investigations
- Marine litter
- Climate change
- Climate change coastal adaption
- Marine INNS

Terrestrial and freshwater

- Improving the resilience of sites outside their networks
- Grazing (quantity, type, timing) for lowland semi-natural features e.g. grassland, heathland and non-peat-based fen, saltmarsh
- Terrestrial INNs

Marine Protected Areas



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Lesley Griffiths, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

First published: 2 May 2017

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“The Welsh Government is committed to fulfilling its national and international obligations which require us to contribute towards an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the UK. I recognise the value of and benefits to the marine environment and to society of creating a network of MPAs and ensuring the network is well-managed and ecologically coherent.”



Welsh MPA Network Assessment

MPAs in Wales make a substantial contribution towards ecological coherence in that they:

- **Represent** the majority of habitats and species
- Where possible, **replicate** features to provide resilience
- Are well **connected**

But there are a **small number of shortfalls** in the Welsh contribution to the UK network, and a lack of MPAs protecting deeper offshore waters



**Assessing the contribution of Welsh MPAs
towards an ecologically coherent MPA network
in 2016**

Hannah Carr, Hugh Wright,
Alice Cornthwaite, and Jon Davies

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

2016

Welsh MPA Network Principles

Principle	Criteria	Justification
Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Each feature on the MPA feature list for Wales is represented▪ A minimum of 10% by area of each broad-scale habitat feature is protected within each region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ensures that the full range of habitats and species are represented within the network.▪ Ensures an appropriate amount of each habitat is represented within the network for it to be effective and ecologically viable.
Replication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Two examples of each broad-scale habitat feature are protected within each region.▪ Three examples of OSPAR/section 7 features are protected within each region (where distribution allows).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The provision of replicates builds in resilience from impact.▪ Ensures that all broad-scale habitats and rare/or threatened species and habitats are represented and afforded protection within the network.
Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ MPAs with similar habitat types are no more than 80km apart.▪ Adequate representation of each habitat across varying depths (where appropriate).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Applying a basic distance separation within the network increases the likelihood that sites with similar features are ecologically connected to each other.▪ Providing adequate representation across varying depths ensures the MPA network is well distributed, taking into account links between marine ecosystems.

What's next?

- Sustainable Farming Scheme
- Development of biodiversity targets
- National Forest



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Diolch / Thank you