

Appendix 1: Letter from Welsh Government

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Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change
Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Dear

I am writing to invite you to join me in supporting the Edinburgh Declaration: the greater inclusion of the role of local authorities and cities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework - ensuring transformative change for nature over the coming decade.

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is currently developing a post-2020 framework for global biodiversity and new global targets. We are moving into the next decade with a stepped up ambition to deliver for nature, and there is increasing recognition of the role of local authorities and cities in translating global targets into local delivery.

On behalf of the CBD, the Scottish Government has been leading the “Edinburgh Process” – an online, global engagement and consultation for subnational, regional and local players – with the aim of securing greater reference to the role of subnational and Local Authorities, including cities, in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Welsh Government supports the Edinburgh Process for biodiversity, and in particular the Edinburgh Declaration, a political statement setting out commitments to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework locally. It will ensure people who live in local authorities across Wales can live in harmony with nature and protect valuable local ecosystems for future generations.

Now, more than ever, it is essential to have a healthy and safe natural environment and Welsh Government recognises the vital role local authorities are playing in addressing the impacts of climate change and habitat loss. This framework recognises the increasingly valuable role of subnational governments and local authorities in translating global targets into local delivery.

Through the Edinburgh Declaration we support the call upon CBD Parties to:

- Take the transformative action required to halt biodiversity loss
- Recognise the vital role of subnational and local governments
- Support a dedicated decision on a new Plan of Action for subnational governments, city and local authorities. A decision to be taken at COP15: the Conference of Parties, who signed the UN Convention on Climate Change, and are meeting in China in Autumn 2021 ; and
- Develop a multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of the post-2020 framework.

I recognise the key role of local authorities in taking forward local level actions for nature and am writing to request your backing for the principles set out in the Edinburgh Declaration. This will demonstrate the global will for a dedicated decision and renewed plan of action for subnational governments and local authorities to be adopted within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP15.

Further information about how to sign up to pledge your support for the Edinburgh Process and Edinburgh Declaration is available at [Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Edinburgh-Declaration-on-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework)

I believe that it is important to encourage a greater involvement of subnational and local authorities internationally within the new framework. I would therefore very much welcome your support.

Yours sincerely

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Minister for Climate Change