

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Westminster
London
SW1A 2AA

28 March 2017

Dear Prime Minister,

We are a group of leading environmental organisations with membership support of more than 8 million from across the UK. We believe that clean air, unpolluted water, a stable climate, humane treatment of animals, healthy seas, thriving wildlife and access to the beautiful landscapes we love are fundamental to the prosperity and well-being of our country.

The triggering of article 50 has significant environmental implications but also provides an opportunity to give UK citizens the best environmental systems in the world, making the UK a place where people are proud to live and do business. It is therefore critical that strengthened environmental protection is a priority as the UK moves towards exiting the EU and negotiating a new relationship with our neighbours. This view is supported by polling that has shown 80 per cent of people believe environmental protections should be the same or stronger when we leave the EU.

We therefore welcomed your recent commitment in the Article 50 white paper to transpose EU environment law into domestic law. We have also been heartened by your early environmental ambition such as the ratification of the Paris agreement and the manifesto commitment to leave the natural environment in a better state for the next generation. Environmental concerns such as air pollution and clean water do not respect administrative borders and, as such, meeting these objectives will require close collaboration with the devolved governments to achieve effective environmental protection and nature's recovery across all countries of the UK.

To ensure that the UK maintains its environmental and animal welfare protections as it exits the EU and lays the foundations for enhancing them in the future, the first step is to ensure that the proposed Great Repeal Bill and the processes it establishes provide regulatory certainty for the environment and its



stakeholders, including businesses, and lays the groundwork for future environmental co-operation with the EU. As such, we believe the bill needs to:

- convert all existing EU environmental law, including principles, into domestic law on the statute books;
- confine any ministerial powers to create statutory instruments to the purpose of faithful transposition. Any changes to these laws should be made by primary legislation only, giving a full and proper role to the Westminster parliament and, where relevant, the devolved parliaments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland;
- introduce new governance arrangements that ensure the continued provision of robust regulatory, monitoring, enforcement and other functions currently provided by the EU institutions.

In committing to the above, we believe your Government will have laid the foundations needed to meet its environmental and economic ambitions. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further with you and explore how together we can create a thriving natural world for the people of the UK.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Helen Ghosh, Director General, National Trust

Mike Clarke, Chief Executive, RSPB

Stephanie Hilborne OBE, Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trusts

Tanya Steele, Chief Executive, WWF

Dr Stephen Marsh-Smith OBE, Chief Executive, Afonydd Cymru The Rivers Trusts of Wales

Dr Tony Gent, Chief Executive Officer, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Dominic Dyer, Chief Executive Officer, Badger Trust

Kit Stoner, Joint Chief Executive, Bat Conservation Trust

Dr Hazel Norman, Executive Director, British Ecological Society

Dave Turnbull, Chief Executive Officer, British Mountaineering Council

Matt Shardlow, Chief Executive, Buglife

Gill Perkins, Chief Executive Officer, Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Julie Williams, Chief Executive, Butterfly Conservation

Stephen Joseph, Chief Executive, Campaign for Better Transport

Fiona Howie, Chief Executive, Campaign for National Parks

Shaun Spiers, Chief Executive, Campaign to Protect Rural England



E3G



Dr Stephanie Wray CEng CEnv FCIEEM, President, CIEEM

James Thornton, Chief Executive Officer, ClientEarth

John Harold, Director, Cymdeithas Eryri the Snowdonia Society

Karen Whitfield, Director, Cyswllt Amgylchedd Cymru Wales Environment Link

Nick Mabey, Chief Executive, E3G

Jennifer Lonsdale OBE, Director, EIA

Dr Jeremy Biggs, Director, Freshwater Habitats Trust

Craig Bennett, Chief Executive Officer, Friends of the Earth

Leah Davis, Acting Director, Green Alliance

John Sauven, Chief Executive, Greenpeace

Philip Mansbridge, Director, IFAW UK

David Bunt, Executive Director, Institute of Fisheries Management

Sandy Luk, Chief Executive, Marine Conservation Society

Marc Stears, Chief Executive, The New Economics Foundation

Craig McGuicken, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Environment Link

Kate Ashbrook, Chief Executive, Open Spaces Society

Marian Spain, Chief Executive, Plantlife

Vanessa Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, The Ramblers

Olivia Bowen, Chair of Trustees, The Real Farming Trust

Prof Alastair Driver, Director, Rewilding Britain

Arlin Rickard, Chief Executive, The Rivers Trust

Paul Knight, Chief Executive Officer, Salmon and Trout Conservation

Jen Anderson, Chief Officer, Scottish Environment Link

Kath Dalmeny, Chief Executive, Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming

Julie Hirigoyen, Chief Executive Officer, UK Green Building Council

Chris Butler-Stroud, Chief Executive Officer, Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Dr Elaine King, Director, Wildlife and Countryside Link

Dr Andrew Salisbury, Chair of Trustees, The Wildlife Gardening Forum

Beccy Speight, Chief Executive Officer, Woodland Trust

Martin Spray CBE, Chief Executive Officer, WWT

Ralph Armond, Director General, ZSL



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