

Educator Factsheet: What is the State of Nature Report (2023)?

The State of Nature report uses the latest and best data from biological monitoring and recording schemes to provide a benchmark for the status of wildlife in the UK.

What are the key messages in the State of Nature Report (2023)?

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth:

- **There are big changes in where wildlife is found:** for example, invertebrates such as insects, spiders and millipedes have been found, on average, in 13% fewer places now than in 1970.
- **There are big declines in flora:** since 1970 more than half of our flowering plants, mosses and their relatives have been lost from areas where they used to thrive.
- **There are changes to species in UK seas:** 13 species of seabird have fallen by an average of 24% since 1986, but grey seal numbers have increased as they recover from historical hunting.

The greatest causes of the change over the last 50 years:

- Climate change
- The way we manage our land for farming
- Unsustainable fishing
- Marine development

The UK's targets to address nature loss:

- Improve species status by creating and restoring wildlife-rich habitats
- Increase nature-friendly farming, fisheries and forestry
- Expand and manage protected areas
- Increase ecosystem restoration
- Coordinate our response to the nature and climate crisis

What is the key message to learners?

It is important to highlight that by having a better understanding of the state of nature in the UK, we can have a better idea of what is needed to fix it.



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