

Subject: Global responsibility, nature and Wales's shared future

Dear Deputy First Minister,

Wales has always understood something fundamental: that our well-being is bound up with one another's, and that care, fairness and responsibility do not stop at our borders.

From the Well-being of Future Generations Act to becoming the world's first Fair Trade Nation, Wales has shown that even a small country can lead with values, not as an abstract ideal, but as a practical way of building safer, fairer futures. That legacy matters deeply at a moment of growing global uncertainty.

A recent UK Government national security [assessment](#) brings renewed urgency to this conversation. It shows that global biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse are no longer distant environmental concerns, but direct risks to people's lives and livelihoods here in Wales and across the UK.

The report is clear that the drivers of ecosystem degradation are approaching known thresholds for irreversible collapse. For example, scientists warn that the Amazon rainforest may reach a tipping point at 20–25% deforestation when combined with rising temperatures and forest fires. It is already at approximately 17%. Critical ecosystems that regulate global climate, food production, water cycles and weather systems — including the Amazon, the Congo Basin, boreal forests, the Himalayas and Southeast Asia's coral reefs and mangroves — are identified as particularly significant for UK national security.

Severe degradation or collapse of these systems would highly likely result in water insecurity, sharply reduced crop yields, a global reduction in arable land, fisheries collapse, the release of vast stores of carbon, disruption to weather patterns and increased risk of zoonotic disease. The consequences would not remain distant. They would shape food prices, supply chains and economic stability here in Wales.

The assessment further recognises that without significant increases in UK food system and supply chain resilience, it is unlikely the UK would be able to maintain food security if ecosystem collapse drives geopolitical competition for food. The UK relies on imports for a proportion of both food and fertiliser and cannot currently produce enough food to feed its population based on current diets. Countries best placed to adapt are those that invest in ecosystem protection and restoration, alongside resilient and efficient food systems.

Crucially, the report also acknowledges that consumption in countries like the UK plays a role in driving this loss — through the food we eat, the goods we buy and the systems we continue to rely on. This is not about blame. It is about recognising connection and shared responsibility.

That connection is visible in Wales.

The State of Natural Resources [Report](#) (SoNaRR 2025) shows that if everyone lived as people in Wales do, we would need 2.08 planet Earths to sustain that level of resource use. Much of this impact is embedded in global supply chains and happens far beyond our borders.

Our food and farming system provides one example. Soy grown in Brazil, often on deforested land, is widely used to feed livestock in Wales. Global demand for soy, beef and palm oil continues to drive tropical deforestation, biodiversity loss and rising emissions overseas. Yet these impacts do not remain overseas. High-protein soy used in animal feed becomes high-phosphorus manure when spread on land, contributing to river pollution that harms wildlife and risks human health. At the same time, tropical deforestation accelerates climate change — a key driver of biodiversity decline, flooding and drought here in Wales.

We cannot nurture a resilient Wales in isolation from the wider world.

A Wales rooted in care, at home and globally

Wales's strength lies in its deep sense of community and fairness. We know that looking after one another means thinking beyond the immediate and the local, and that long-term security comes from prevention, not reaction.

That same principle applies to climate and nature. Protecting ecosystems globally is not only an act of solidarity with communities on the frontlines of climate breakdown, it is also a practical investment in Wales's own future security, food resilience and economic stability.

At the same time, we know that nature is under pressure here in Wales. Natural Resources Wales' State of Natural Resources Report shows the scale of the challenge facing our rivers, soils, wildlife and landscapes. This makes it all the more important that efforts to restore nature at home are matched by responsibility for the impacts of what we consume from elsewhere.

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As we look towards the next Senedd term, there is a real opportunity to build on Wales's proud tradition of leadership, by placing global responsibility, solidarity and a just transition at the heart of climate, nature and rural policy. While footprint measurement work has begun, including analysis commissioned through the Joint Nature Conservation Committee ([JNCC Report 2023](#)) measurement must now be matched by delivery, with clear targets, timelines and accountability.

This means:

- Developing and publishing a comprehensive strategy to reduce Wales's global ecological footprint, building on existing footprint measurement work with clear targets and delivery mechanisms.

- Embedding globally responsible public procurement across government, ensuring supply chains are deforestation-free and aligned with climate and biodiversity commitments.
- Supporting food, farming and land-use systems that reduce reliance on imported deforestation-linked feed and strengthen domestic resilience.
- Engaging with the UK Government to urgently introduce secondary legislation under the Environment Act 2021 to strengthen due diligence requirements for deforestation-linked commodities.
- Standing alongside communities overseas who are protecting critical ecosystems and building resilience.

The national security assessment is clear: countries that invest in ecosystem protection and resilient supply chains are better prepared for the future. Wales has the values, the experience and the public support to be among them.

Imagine a Wales that continues to lead not through size or power, but through care, fairness and foresight. A Wales that future generations can look back on with pride, knowing we chose responsibility and possibility together.

Yours sincerely,
Global Climate Justice Cymru

Global Climate Justice Cymru is a coalition of organisations from Wales with the ambition to accelerate action for global climate justice and to ensure that diverse perspectives and experiences are included in related discussions, policy developments and campaigns. Core to the group, in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, is to ensure that climate action in Wales is grounded in a deep understanding of global responsibility, making a positive contribution to global climate justice.