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The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
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8th June 2021

Recommendations for the upcoming G7 summit (Carbis Bay, Cornwall on 11-13 June 2021)

Prime Minister,

I am writing in my capacity as co-Founder and Executive President of the international non-Government wildlife protection organisation Born Free Foundation in the UK, and as President of Born Free USA, in relation to the upcoming G7 summit meeting, due to take place Carbis Bay, Cornwall, on 11-13 June. I would like to congratulate the United Kingdom for its leadership in organizing this important meeting, and for prioritising the tackling of climate change as a central theme for the meeting.

Over the last 37 years, Born Free has sought to have a positive impact on animals in the wild and protect their ecosystems in perpetuity, for their own intrinsic value and for the critical roles they play within the natural world.

According to the 2019 Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, compiled by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the natural world is facing unprecedented decline, with a million species at risk of extinction, as a result of human activities. If the degradation and exploitation of nature and wildlife is allowed to continue, ecosystems will collapse, with catastrophic consequences for the natural world and humanity alike. The Covid-19 pandemic, with all its devastating and long-term human and economic costs, is just one example of such consequences.

The biodiversity crisis and the climate crisis are also inextricably linked. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss is critical to meeting our targets on global warming, while limiting climate change will help reduce negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems.

Experts tell us that it's not too late to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity, although to do this, transformative changes to our relationship with nature are urgently required. Bold decisions must therefore be taken, at local, national, regional and global levels, in order to mainstream biodiversity protection across all areas of policy and provide innovative and progressive economic solutions to the biodiversity crisis.

To this end, Born Free was joined by 19 of the world's leading conservation organisations (the WC20) in authoring a Declaration calling on world leaders to invest in nature to protect biodiversity, avoid future pandemics and safeguard the long-term well-being and security of current and future human generations, and all life on Earth. This was presented to the G20 summit in December 2020. A copy of the Declaration can be found at: <https://www.bornfree.org.uk/storage/media/content/files/WC20%20Declaration.pdf>.

Co-Founder Virginia McKenna OBE | **Executive President** Will Travers OBE | **Managing Director** Karen Botha

Registered office: 71 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4BE

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Born Free has also published its Global Nature Recovery Investment Initiative (GNRII) which sets out measures aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss and wildlife over exploitation and delivering enhanced and sustainable ecosystem viability and services, while also mitigating climate change and promoting public and animal health, sustainable livelihoods, and food and societal security. A copy of the GNRII can be found at: <https://www.bornfree.org.uk/publications/invest-in-nature>.

Born Free is also a founding member of the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime, which seeks to secure a global agreement on tackling illicit wildlife trafficking, and to amend international wildlife laws and wildlife trade protocols to incorporate considerations of human and animal health, widely known as a 'One Health' approach. Details of the initiative and its objectives can be found at www.endwildlifecrime.org.

We congratulate the United Kingdom for its recognition of the need to reform the way nature is valued and its recovery resourced, through its commissioning of the Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity, the recommendations from which were published earlier this year. We also commend the UK for its leadership in promoting the need for stronger protection of global oceans within the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People and the Global Ocean Alliance. We encourage your Government to continue to pursue this ambitious agenda by seeking the adoption of strong economic commitments during the G7 summit to prioritize the mainstreaming of nature in our global economic systems and the mobilisation of the resources necessary to secure its protection and recovery.

It is critical that governments, businesses and society as a whole look beyond GDP as a narrow measure of economic success, and 'biodiversity-proof' budgets in order to maximize our wealth, health and well-being, and that of future generations. The OECD estimates that US\$500 billion per year of public finance is spent in support for activities that are potentially harmful to biodiversity. Negative subsidies must be reinvested in activities that benefit nature conservation. Debt forgiveness and debt for nature schemes must be used to support developing countries in their efforts to protect and reverse nature's decline. Together with an assessment of the true value of the resources that ecosystems deliver, resource mobilization mechanisms must prioritize investment in ecological resilience to ensure ecosystem services are protected and maintained through the strengthening of biodiversity protection measures, including by securing and protecting at least 30% of the planet (marine and terrestrial) by 2030.



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Our planet is in crisis. We can halt and reverse the decline in the natural world, we can secure a viable future for ourselves and for all life on earth, but we need our leaders to act now, and act boldly. There is no time to waste.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We stand ready to discuss these issues and provide further information.

Sincerely,

Will Travers
Executive President Born Free Foundation

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