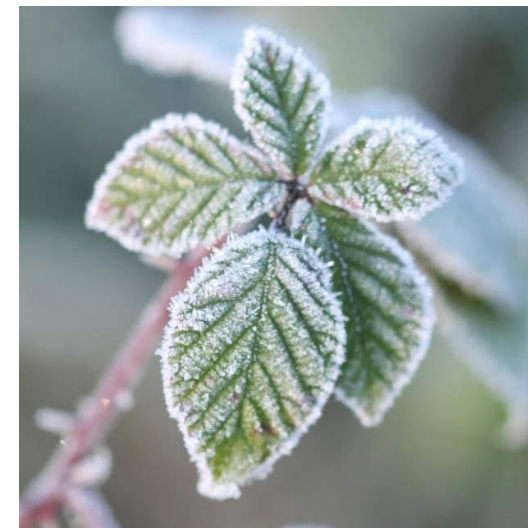


The Importance of Biodiversity

**Colin Cooper,
Chief Executive,
Habitats & Heritage**

Habitats & Heritage is a new charity, a result of a merger between Environment Trust and South West London Environment Network combining the resources and competencies of each charity.



The Importance of Biodiversity

What is biodiversity?

"... the variability among living organisms from all sources ... terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and ecological complexes of which they are part, this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems

UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



The Importance of Biodiversity

Why is biodiversity important?

- Integral to the ecosystem
- Biodiversity is an essential part of the solution to climate change
- Biodiversity is good for the economy
- Biodiversity is an integral part of culture and identity
- Biodiverse helps humans stay healthy



The Importance of Biodiversity

Integral to the ecosystem



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Biodiversity is an essential part of the solution to climate change



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Biodiversity is good for the economy



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Biodiversity is an integral part of culture and identity



The Importance of Biodiversity

Biodiversity helps humans stay healthy:

- **Biodiverse ecosystems intact helps humans stay healthy**
- **Good human health and well-being**



The Importance of Biodiversity

Some statistics of the loss:

- 40 million less birds than in 1966
- Between 1970 and 1990 we lost 20 million pairs of farmland birds
- Between 2002 and 2013 more than half our protected species declined
- In 2016 Government assessed the population of 152 priority species are still declining. We are in imminent danger of losing 10-15% of our species overall
- The number of Britain's most endangered species have more than halved since 1970 with one in ten species overall threatened with extinction
- Moths declined 88%
- Beetles declined 72%
- Butterflies declined 76%
- Using the Biodiversity Intactness Index, the UK had lost significantly more biodiversity over the long term than the world average. Ranked 189th out of 218 countries.



The Importance of Biodiversity

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