

ASK YOUR PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES TO SPEAK UP FOR WETLANDS

With a General Election taking place on Thursday 4 July, the next few weeks will see lots of parliamentary candidates out and about across the country trying to win your vote.

This is a critical moment to ask them what they and their party would do to restore wetlands across the country, and reverse nature's decline.

If a candidate knocks on your door, here are some potential questions you could ask:

- 1.** I love nature, but I'm worried about pollution, the decline of wildlife and the loss of our wetlands and forests. Even the Government's own nature advisors don't think we'll meet the legal target to stop wildlife decline by 2030. **What would you and your party do to stop nature's decline by 2030 at home and around the world?**
- 2.** Wetlands are weapons of mass creation; they're mood-boosting, flood-busting, water-purifying, carbon-storing ecosystems that offer a home to 40% of the world's species. But in the UK, we've lost 75% of our wetlands in the last 300 years. **What would you and your party do to help create and restore 100,000 hectares of wetlands across the country?**
- 3.** In the UK, we're already seeing the severe impacts of flooding, water pollution and the climate crisis. But wetlands are being overlooked despite storing carbon at tremendous rates and providing natural solutions to water quality issues and flood-management. **Are you and your party considering how wetlands can help tackle these multiple crises?**
- 4.** I'm aware of the political priorities this election, but wetlands are a crucial solution to so many of our pressing issues. They can be used as part of preventive mental and physical healthcare, relieving pressure on the NHS and save money while restoring biodiversity through creating natural flood defences. **How are you and your party integrating wetlands and nature-based solutions across your core policy areas?**
- 5.** I love my local wetlands – they provide me with so much peace of mind. Just 10 minutes in a wetland can boost positive feelings, but not everyone in the country has access to wetlands, or other natural habitats at all. **What are you and your party doing to ensure wetlands are included in all local plans and major developments?**
- 6.** Politicians have signed a global deal to protect at least a third of our land and sea for nature by 2030. We're way off track – even the Government thinks we're at less than 10%. The UK is also a signatory to the Ramsar convention on wetlands, but we are yet to introduce a UK wetlands strategy as recommended by the convention. **What would your party do differently to make sure that the UK keeps its promise to protect 30% of our landscape? Would you introduce a UK wetlands strategy to protect and restore our existing wetlands?**

Don't forget to let us know how you got on. You can send us any feedback [here](#).

