

NATURE

A resilient food system depends on nature – from fresh water and fertile soils to biodiversity. But these ecosystems are under increasing pressure, and the global food system is a major driver of nature loss. Our members have called for action, and we recognise our responsibility to reduce our impact, protect nature and work with suppliers and partners to restore nature in our key sourcing regions.

Our members have told us they care about nature. Taking action helps protect food security, support communities and reduce the impacts of climate change. That's why we've made public commitments to support nature, including being a founding signatory of the WWF Retailers' Commitment for Nature.

Nature is already central to many of our responsible retailing programmes – we're tackling deforestation, responding to the climate crisis and building resilience across our strategic supply chains. Read more [here](#).

In 2025, we partnered with the Soil Association Exchange (SAX) to promote carbon reduction, biodiversity and soil health through sustainable farming practices in key supply chains. To read about

our work with SAX in more detail, see our [Farming and Fisheries section](#).

Other existing nature programmes include our charitable partnership with RSPB (see [case study](#)), our cocoa PIP¹ programme in key cocoa-growing communities in Peru (read more [here](#)), and reforestation and biodiversity research in Malaysian Borneo with Chester Zoo and HUTAN (read more [here](#)).

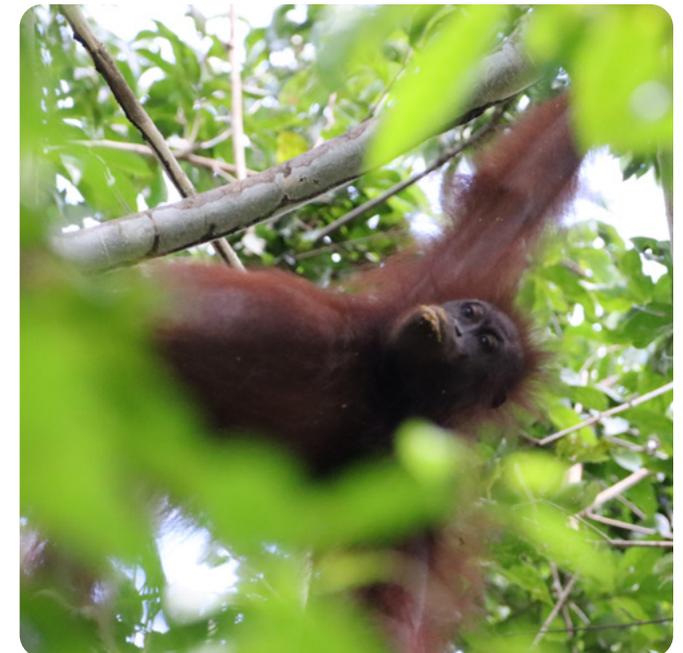


OWNED BY YOU

Our members smashed our target of 50,000 hours in nature this year by completing over 585,000 hours as part of our Summer in Nature campaign and taking 92,000 actions in support of nature. [You joined us for a Summer of Nature | Co-op Blog](#)



Cerniau, Wales 2025. Credit: Daniela Klein



¹ Productivity Improvement Programme.

CASE STUDY



Restoring UK peatlands with RSPB

Through our partnership with the RSPB, we're supporting the restoration of UK peatlands through a three-year project, funded by proceeds from our Co-op carrier bags. We've contributed £2m so far, supporting work on six sites, including Forsinard in the Scottish Highlands and Cerniau in Wales.

We've prevented around 70,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions over the sites' managed lifetimes, tracked and verified through the Peatland Code.

Nature is already returning – sphagnum moss is thriving, water voles have returned and rare birds like hen harriers and golden plovers are nesting.

This work isn't just about climate and biodiversity – it's about people too. The project is creating local jobs, building skills and supporting rural economies. By investing in peatland restoration, we're helping to protect iconic landscapes and contribute to thriving environments.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

We're developing our approach to addressing nature loss and its impacts more holistically.

In 2025, we worked with expert partners to complete a nature risk materiality assessment, giving us a clearer picture of how key ingredients¹ affect nature in our key sourcing regions².

These insights are shaping our Co-op Food Nature Strategy, helping us embed more positive outcomes for nature into our existing programmes and identifying where further action is needed. By focusing on the right interventions, and co-operation with our suppliers and partners, we aim to halt nature's decline and support its recovery across our strategic supply chains.

Our priority for 2026 is to set clear, robust targets that demonstrate how we contribute to a more nature-positive future.



Dunlin and Golden Plover - Lumbister.
Credit: Faye Sherlock

¹ Including milk, beef, chicken, salmon, wheat, cocoa, coffee and fresh produce.

² Including the UK, southern Spain and Lake Naivasha, Kenya.