



# AN INVESTMENT IN NATURE

## FORESIGHT NATURE RECOVERY AMBITION STATEMENT

**Foresight**  
FOR A SMARTER FUTURE

**eden project**

We want to be as **ambitious** about **nature recovery** as we are about developing our business.

This statement outlines our approach to **supporting nature** using our assets and the wide reach of our investment portfolio. The ideas within this statement will refine and develop over time but for now the most important step is to **make a start**.

## AN INVESTMENT IN NATURE

### Foresight Nature Recovery Ambition Statement

According to the World Economic Forum, over half of the world's GDP – \$44 trillion of economic value generation, is at moderate or severe risk due to nature depletion. A fifth of nature's ecosystems are on the verge of collapse.

At Foresight, we are looking beyond nature depletion to nature recovery – actively restoring and improving natural assets – while increasing prosperity. And we want to be as ambitious about nature recovery as we are about developing our business. This statement outlines our approach to supporting nature using our assets and the wide reach of our business portfolio. To achieve this, we form partnerships with key players in the world of ecology and habitat restoration while we bring the necessary business acumen to capture the economic value of sustainability initiatives.

A thriving natural environment is the bedrock of a healthy and prosperous society. Our economies rely on nature for resources – the raw materials that make up our food, clothing, technologies and building materials – and the services that allow us to prosper – clean water, crop-pollination, waste disposal, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, and a stable climate.

Yet around the world, nature is in crisis. The damage to our natural environment is close to the point of no return: we are living beyond our limits and have caused irreversible damage to some of the planet's most valuable natural assets. If we want to harness the power of nature to help us tackle climate change and improve human health and prosperity, then **we need to act to help nature recover.**

The key to delivering successful nature recovery at scale is connectivity. We need to create and restore the links between fragmented habitats that allow species to grow and move.



**This cannot be achieved by one sector or organisation – it can only be delivered through partnership, collaboration and innovation.**

We are well-placed to harness the complementary capabilities of the financial sector and turn shared ideals into lasting environmental impacts.

We need a nature-recovery response that delivers outcomes in addition to preserving existing protected areas. Every space counts.

Over the last two years, nature recovery has received more traction than ever before. It is now common to refer to the state of nature globally as in crisis – much in the same way as many of us have now come to describe climate change. Many global institutions now advocate the prioritisation of nature recovery through policy and investment. This is the moment to turn words into action.



**“The risks associated with biodiversity loss - reductions in the productivity and resilience of ecosystems along supply chains - have significant macroeconomic and financial implications. Far more global support is needed for initiatives directed at enhancing the understanding and awareness among financial institutions of such nature-related financial risks, learning and building on the advances on climate-related financial risks.”**

**THE ECONOMICS OF BIODIVERSITY: THE DASGUPTA REVIEW**

The scale of the challenge demands new ways of working that make the best use of our skills and assets. This initiative offers a new model that locksteps financial and environmental growth.

There is a huge role for the business sector to maximise nature recovery using the land that they own or rent to create habitats that have a positive impact on biodiversity, and it also has an opportunity to advocate nature-positive decision making and environmental investment from a position of authority.

# What can Foresight do to address the nature crisis?

Our forestry assets under management cover over 16,000 hectares of land in the UK alone, with our solar portfolio covering over 3,000 hectares internationally. We manage large amounts of land across our infrastructure portfolio and many of the other assets under our management. In the face of this crisis, Foresight is thinking differently and creatively about how we manage and make the most of the opportunities our land affords. In the future, we also intend to expand the areas of nature we will invest into beyond forestry and into soil and oceans for example. Foresight recognises that businesses must collaborate in order to tackle both the climate and nature crises. As a leading investor in natural capital, we plan to demonstrate and give visibility to the role of business in

supporting global nature recovery. In our pursuit of profits with a purpose, we will mobilise capital and realise returns for investors and nature through creation of investment products with higher social and environmental value.

In 2021, Foresight Group joined the Natural Capital Investors Alliance (NCIA). This group was formed in recognition of the need to mobilise investment in nature-based economic opportunities and raise awareness of Natural Capital as an investment theme. At COP26, the NCIA announced a commitment to mobilise at least USD 10 billion in investment into Natural Capital assets in 2022, with an ambition to scale that investment in the coming years.

Foresight has now formed a partnership with the Eden Project to deliver positive sustainable impacts across the Foresight Group portfolio with a focus on nature recovery. The Eden Project is an educational charity and successful social enterprise that builds relationships between people and the natural world to demonstrate the power of working together for the benefit of all living things. Through this partnership, Foresight and the Eden Project will create opportunities to deliver positive impact that could not be possible without collaboration. This partnership will combine our diverse skills and strengths to help create new opportunities for nature to thrive.



# The Foresight – Eden Project partnership will inspire and deliver nature-recovery by:

- Demonstrating how business can support nature recovery.
- Contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals specifically SDG 13 Climate action and SDG 15 Life on Land and regional plans for nature recovery and protection.
- Advocating for and advising on opportunities for nature with our land managers and investment networks.
- Supporting small to medium businesses (SMEs) in how they can contribute to nature recovery.
- Driving innovation around the climate emergency through cross-sector collaboration.
- Making our investments more resilient by contributing to the overall sustainability agenda of Foresight Group.
- Developing ‘blueprints’ for nature recovery across our asset portfolio.
- Facilitating environmental investment into natural capital alongside nature recovery.
- Baselining all forestry assets and continue baselining other parts of the portfolio.
- Maximising opportunities to increase biodiversity in the Foresight portfolio through habitat creation, restoration and active management.
- Enabling the creation of green jobs and skills especially ecology and forestry.
- Increasing the potential for carbon sequestration, nutrient neutrality and reducing the risk and impact of floods.
- Engaging with local communities and improving access to wellbeing through nature connection.

Nature recovery is also about people and their relationship with the planet. If nature prospers, so will business. Foresight is in a strong position to take action in an organised way, through utilising the land and our contacts to deliver nature recovery and meaningful biodiversity enhancements.


Our partnership with Eden will also enable us to engage with people at every level. We will engage with local communities, SMEs in our portfolio that wish to deliver their own biodiversity enhancements, asset managers, operations and maintenance contractors, financial and biodiversity-led organisations. We will also seek to align this work with government-led nature-recovery initiatives in all of the countries we operate in.

Foresight commits to being at the forefront of nature-related regulation and to align with best practice and monitoring of our impacts on the natural environment. We will continue to establish robust baseline ecological assessments of all our assets and work with specialists and a range of tools such as the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric to maximise opportunities for nature.

We have built our reputation on our ability to look ahead. An investment in nature recovery is an investment in the resilience of our business and a positive future for the planet.

Signed on behalf of Foresight Group:

**David Hughes**  
*Chief Investment Officer*  
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