



2016: The Royal assent was given to the "Environment (Wales) Act" (Wales)

The Environment (Wales) Act

Wales has incredibly rich wildlife with many birds and animals to see. Mid Wales is home to the red kite, a bird of prey that was once on the verge of extinction. On Skomer Island one can find puffins, coloured birds easily observed during cruises. Cardigan Bay is home to dolphins and porpoises. In Wales, you can also find grey seals, dragonflies, black grouse, seabirds, and lapwings – whose numbers have dropped dramatically. To preserve this incredible wildlife, the *Environment (Wales) Act* passed in 2016. Its goal was to promote sustainable management of natural resources, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and avoid the pollution of fields, forests and oceans to stop extinctions.



In 2011, Wales became the first country in the United Kingdom to make people pay at least 5p for a single-use carrier bag in order to reduce their consumption. The *Environment Act* added an obligation to direct these charges towards charitable purposes. It also created powers for ministers to serve site protection notices on marine sites or fisheries if the well-being of animals was not respected. Finally, it prohibited the discharge of food waste into public sewers.

This Act, *among others*, paved the way for the *Environment Act 2021*, following recommendations of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Teaching ideas

★★★ LYCÉE – Sauver la planète, penser les futurs possibles

- Organise a discussion in class: Why is it important to protect and conserve nature and wildlife? Have pupils list potential threats (climate change, pollution, introduction of non-native species, etc.) and list the solutions/measures that could be taken to avoid them.
- Ask pupils to do some research on the *Environment Act 2021* in the United Kingdom. What is it? What are its main functions? What are its main measures (in areas such as: air quality, water, nature and biodiversity, waste and resource efficiency, etc.)?