

Saving our Forgotten Forests

Protecting the World's Temperate Rainforests Through Important Plant Areas (IPAs)

Temperate rainforests are among the world's rarest and most biodiverse ecosystems. And, yet, despite their ecological importance, they remain largely overlooked in global conservation efforts.

Plantlife is leading an ambitious global initiative to identify, protect and restore temperate rainforests using the internationally recognised Important Plant Area (IPA) framework.

The Case for Temperate Rainforests

- **Ecological Significance:** Ancient ecosystems supporting species dating back over 400 million years, including rare ferns, fungi, mosses, and lichens
- **Climate Resilience:** High carbon storage capacity, flood mitigation, and climate buffering
- **Community Value:** Provide water, food, medicines, and livelihoods to local populations
- **Global Decline:** Temperate rainforests are disappearing faster than tropical rainforests. In the UK, coverage has dropped from 20% to less than 1%. Globally, 68% could be lost by 2100*

Identifying temperate rainforest sites as IPAs helps to secure investment and the broad engagement needed to restore and protect these unique and special habitats.



Plantlife's Approach

Plantlife is the UK's leading charity for wild plants and fungi, with over 30 years of experience in habitat restoration, policy advocacy and public engagement.

Important Plant Areas (IPAs)

The IPA programme identifies critical sites for global plant diversity, facilitating conservation efforts to restore, safeguard and sustainably manage species and habitats for their long-term survival.

Developed by Plantlife in 2001, the IPA assessment method uses three criteria:

1. Presence of globally threatened species
2. Exceptional botanical richness, including socially, economically and culturally useful species
3. Irreplaceable or threatened habitats

Plantlife is expanding its IPA programme to identify, protect and restore plant diversity while supporting livelihoods, climate resilience, and equitable development.

Global Importance

As the lungs of the planet, all the world's rainforests must be protected and restored for the vital services they provide

Biodiversity Emergency

We depend on plants for our survival, yet two in five plant species face extinction

Global Targets

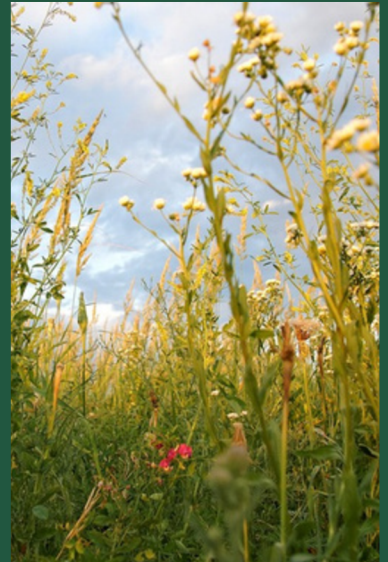
Global biodiversity commitments & frameworks must include areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services

Climate Vulnerability

Temperate rainforests exist in narrow climatic zones, making them highly sensitive to climate change

Is your country ready for an IPA Programme?

Plantlife is seeking countries with the desire, data and networks to roll out a new IPA programme. This is an exciting opportunity to bring plants to the forefront of conservation attention.



An IPA approach will:

- Identify the most critical sites for plant and fungi diversity
- Help to secure legal protection and local stewardship
- Strengthen national capacity and partnerships
- Develop a replicable blueprint for global conservation focusing on plants and fungi

The value of IPAs:

1. Enhanced data / knowledge on species and sites and their threats
2. Greater inclusion of plants in conservation planning / protected area designations
3. Stimulate opportunities for sustainable development in remote, marginalised communities
4. IPAs included in site-based in national and international policies, frameworks and plans

Global Impact

Global plant and fungal diversity is effectively recognised, so it can be prioritised, conserved, restored and sustainably managed. This impact will be achieved by:

- Strengthening the evidence base for plant species and habitat protection
- Provides a replicable model for identifying and conserving critical sites of high biodiversity worldwide
- Contributes to national and global biodiversity commitments
- Elevates plants and fungi in global conservation discourse, policy and decision-making

Call for Partnership

The IPA programme succeeds through inclusive, bottom-up collaboration with scientists, local organisations, and communities. Plantlife invites visionary partners and donors to join this transformative effort.

Together, we can:

- Safeguard the world's most overlooked plant and fungi species
- Protect irreplaceable biodiversity
- Build resilient ecosystems for future generations
- Create opportunities to improve human livelihood and wellbeing, climate resilience and sustainable development