

15 January 2020  
Coastal Futures

# COASTAL LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Fernanda Balata, Senior Programme  
Manager  
Environment & Green Transition

# ACTION NOT WORDS

- **EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE.** The climate crisis is already disrupting the status quo and we are already living with increasing ecological, economic and social instability regarding its impact.
- **WE MUST CHANGE EVERYTHING.** Because what is at stake is everything we care about and we are the ones living through it!
- **EVERYTHING MUST CHANGE.** Coastal communities and the coastal and marine environment have been in need of transformative change way before the Brexit vote. They still feel nowhere close to getting it.
- **WE CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.** Policies have not got to the heart of the matter and the economic system is broken. But those are all things in our control; shaped by us. That means they can be changed. But who has the power?

# THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS!

- We know that change is possible. It's already happening.
- But those on the coast already supporting a better, cleaner, greener and bluer economy are struggling.
- What policies still have not been able to address is that the problem for many coastal communities is that they lack the power and resources to address their complex challenges.
- Ultimately, coastal communities alone can't build cross-country railways or raise the level of money needed to restore coastal habitats.
- Top down solutions and incremental change will not do. We need a transformation!

- Map of local councils 'climate emergency' declarations
- [www.climateemergency.uk](http://www.climateemergency.uk)



# THE CONTEXT MATTERS

## England's most deprived areas named as Jaywick and Blackpool

© 26 September 2019

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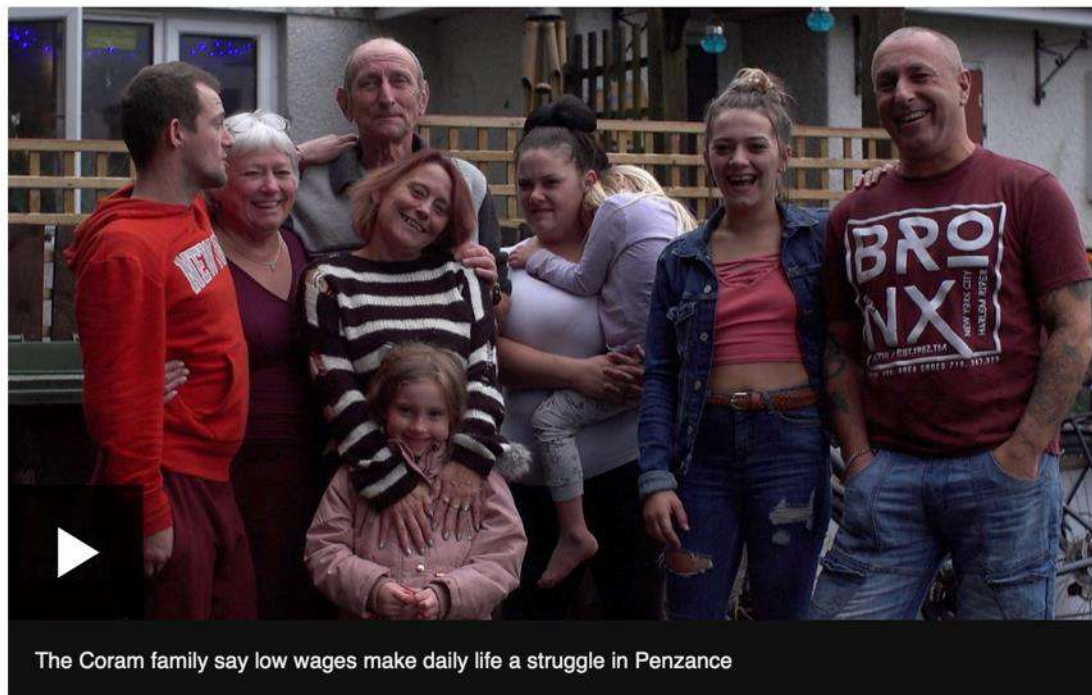


### Coastal communities: Residents earn £1,600 less than people inland

By David Rhodes & Patrick Clahane  
BBC News

© 9 October 2019

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The Coram family say low wages make daily life a struggle in Penzance

Workers living in seaside areas in Great Britain earn on average £1,600 less per year than those living inland, BBC News analysis has found.

## Coastal towns: Britain's forgotten problem areas

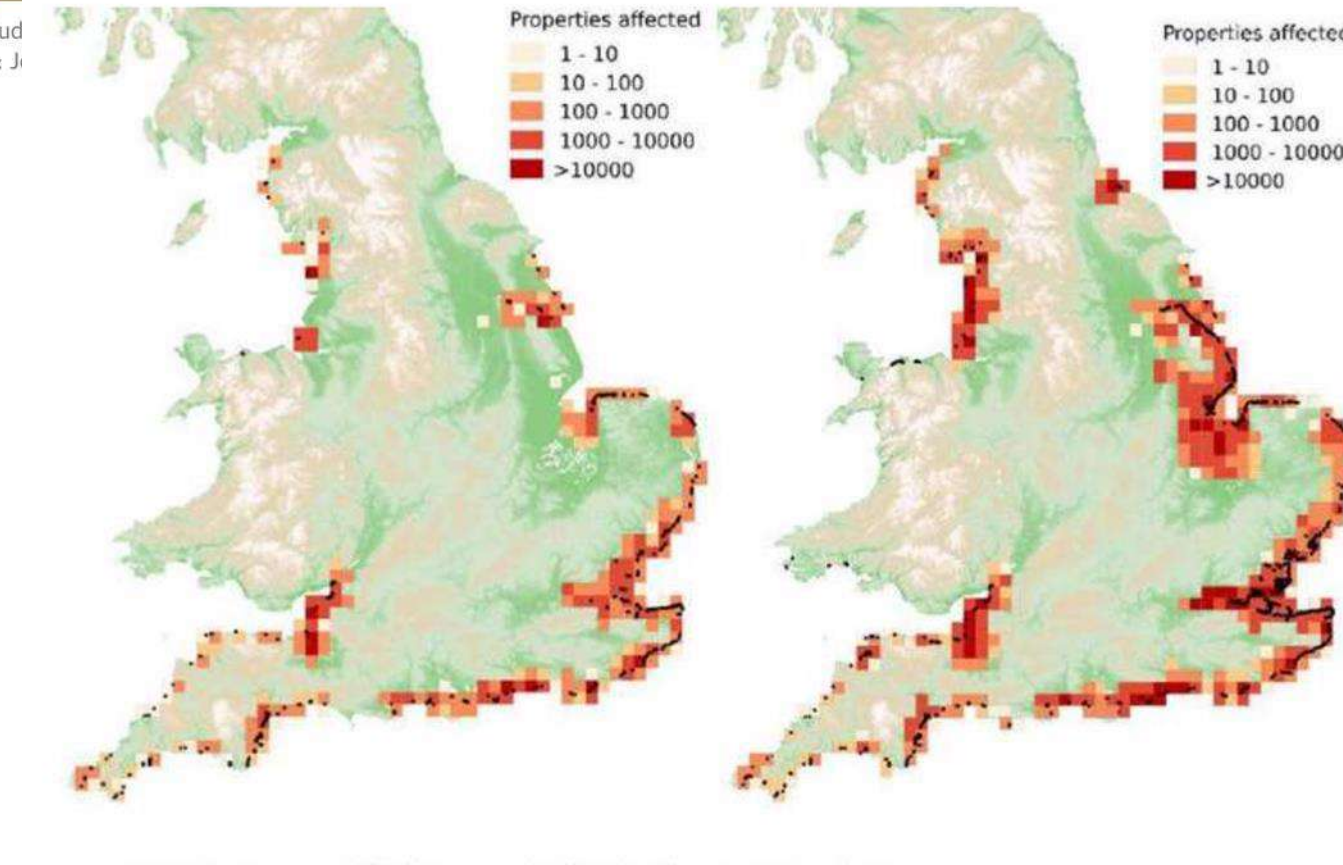
Too many seaside towns suffer from deprivation, seasonality and an ageing population



▲ A 2013 study  
Photograph: J...

### Flooding: Britain's coastal towns and villages face a design challenge to cope with climate emergency

by Carola Koenig And Philip Collins, The Conversation



Number of properties (residential and non-residential) potentially affected by a future once every 200 years coastal...

## The decline of an industry



Coastal communities depend on fishing for their survival

Fifty years ago Britain's fishing industry employed around 50,000 fishermen. Today there are around 17,000.

Just eight years ago, the UK 229,000 tonnes of fish a year figure had more than halved

### 'Shocking' rise in rubbish washing up on UK beaches

Annual survey by the Marine Conservation Society records 10% rise in litter in 2017 - with much of it plastic



▲ A beach clean on Isle of Eigg, Scotland. Some 20% of the litter was packaging from single-use plastic items.  
Photograph: Will Rose/Greenpeace

# CYCLE OF DISADVANTAGE

- Financial crisis; austerity; negative image.
- Greater vulnerability to climate change; greater costs to already fragile economies.
- More frequent flooding will affect tourist attractions, further discourage investment, and impact people's wellbeing.
- Rising sea levels forcing people to make difficult decisions.

# KNOWLEDGE OF THE COASTAL CHALLENGE



House of Commons  
Communities and Local  
Government Committee

## Coastal Towns

Second Report of Session 2006–07

*Report, together with formal minutes, oral and  
supplementary written evidence*

*Ordered by The House of Commons  
to be printed 26 February 2007*



HOUSE OF LORDS

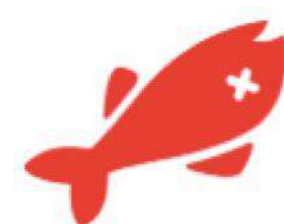
Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside  
Towns and Communities

Report of Session 2017–19

## The future of seaside towns

Ordered to be printed 19 March 2019 and published 4 April 2019

Published by the Authority of the House of Lords



## Nature is in trouble

Using modern Red List criteria, which identify species of the highest conservation concern, **we assessed 8,000 species. Of these, 15% are extinct or threatened with extinction** from Great Britain.

One way of assessing how damaged nature is across the world is the  
**Biodiversity Intactness Index**



## Charting Progress 2

The state of UK seas

## Overview



# THE PROBLEM



# THE SYSTEM



# ECONOMY VERSUS PEOPLE AND NATURE

- Mainstream neoliberal economics has been designed to see nature and people as inputs (resources and labour) into a system geared towards overexploitation and extraction.

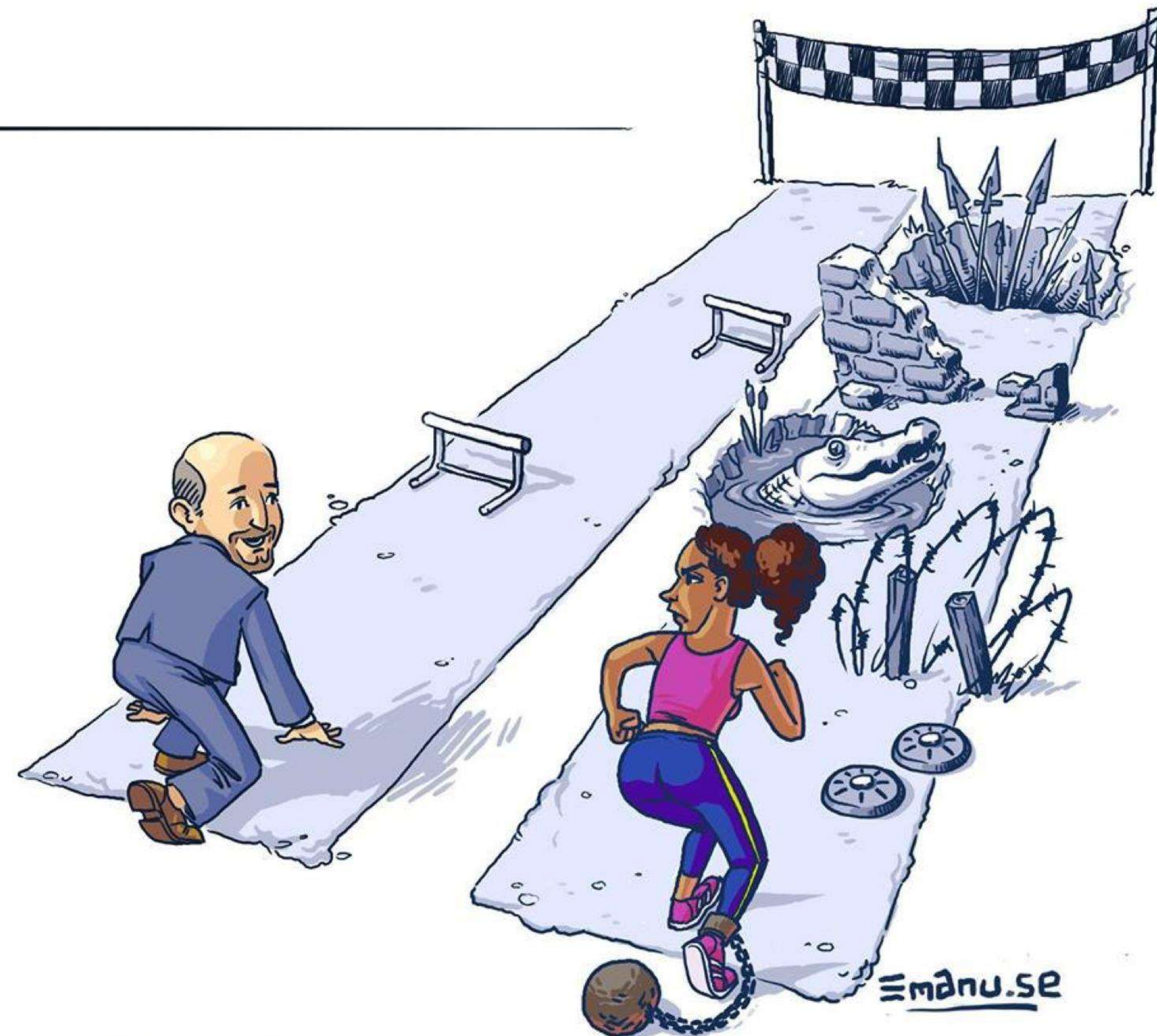


# PEOPLE VERSUS NATURE

- Nature conservation has been historically removed from people, communities and local economies – in reservations and protected areas.



# PEOPLE VERSUS PEOPLE



"What's the matter?  
It's the same distance!"



# SOCIETY VERSUS INDIVIDUAL



*There is no such thing as  
society: there are  
individual men and  
women, and there are  
families.*

# WHAT IS THE VISION FOR THE COAST?

- More and better jobs, sustainable and decent livelihoods, increased wellbeing, fair and resilient economies.
- Coastal communities in control of defining what matters to them and what kind of place they want to live in.
- A common understanding that the starting point for a sustainable coastal society and economy must be healthier coastal and marine ecosystems.

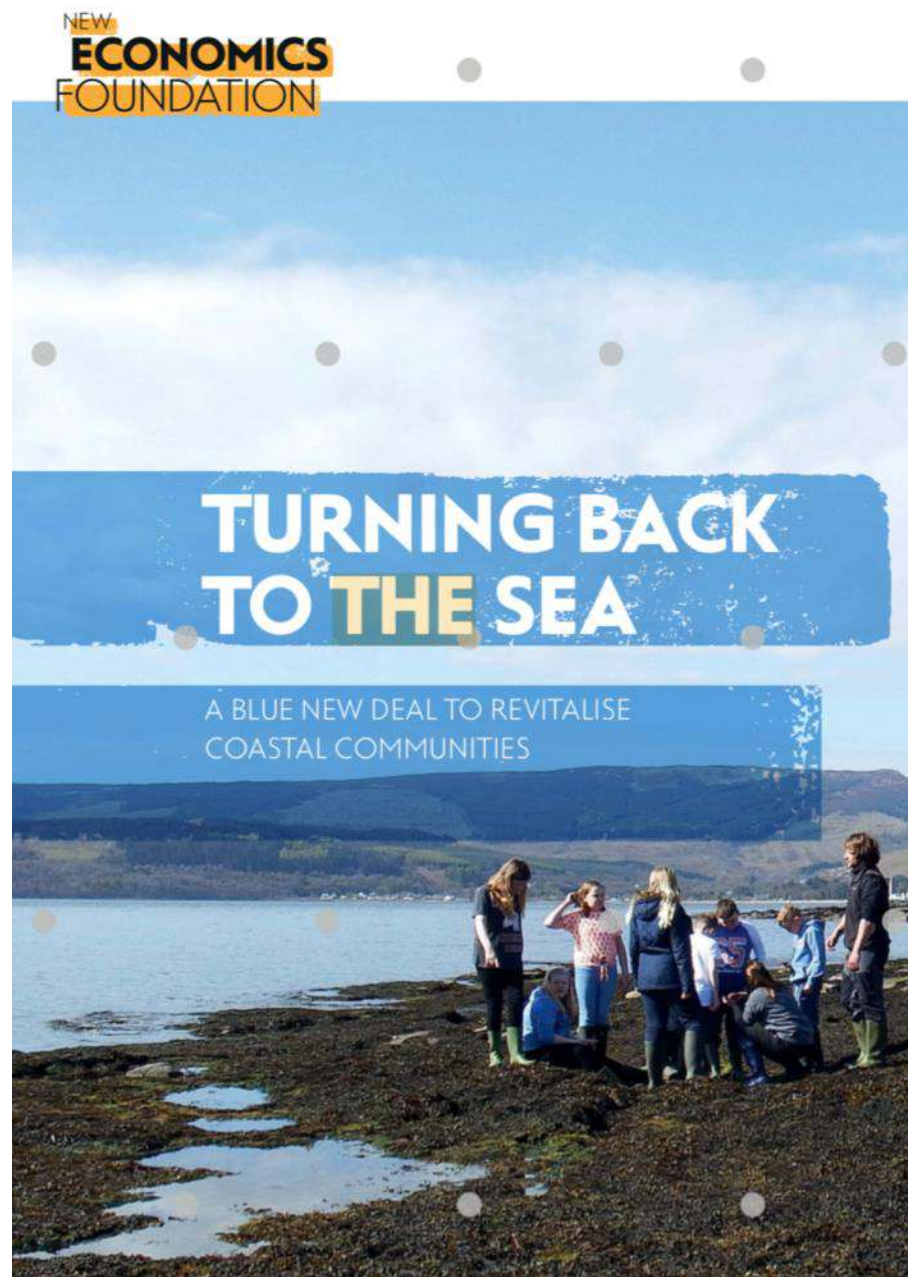
# COASTAL SOLUTIONS

- COAST (the Community of Arran Seabed Trust) is a community marine conservation organisation set up in 1995 by two Arran divers who saw the need to reverse the damage in Arran's marine habitats.
- This damage was a direct result of the removal of the ban on bottom trawling and scallop dredging that had been in operation until 1984,. The decline of the fish stocks had a direct impact on Arran's community.
- UK's first community-led Marine Protected Area in 2008 — Lamlash Bay No Take Zone,
- Building on ecological restoration over the years to build a more sustainable local economy, they opened the Octopus Centre — a visitor centre to promote and celebrate the local community and marine environment.
- The project has only come together thanks to over 100 volunteers and through many generous donations and grants.



WHAT IF WE CAN INJECT  
NEW INVESTMENT, JOBS AND HEALTHIER LIVING  
INTO AREAS MOST IN NEED  
BY DECARBONISING THE ECONOMY AND  
SUPPORTING AND RESTORING  
THE HEALTH OF ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS?

# THE BLUE NEW DEAL



## TWENTY PRIORITIES TO REVITALISE COASTAL COMMUNITIES

### HEALTHIER AND MORE PRODUCTIVE SEAS CAN BE AN ENGINE FOR MORE AND BETTER JOBS INTO THE FUTURE.

Focusing on these 20 priorities, through innovation and greater investment in building expertise and capacity in our coastal communities, has the potential to support around 160,000 additional jobs and add about £7.2 billion to the coastal economy.

#### PUT LOCAL PEOPLE IN CONTROL

1. **Communities want the power to define what economic success looks like for their areas.** Community-led plans should be taken far more seriously within the wider decision-making system. The economic progress they work towards should be defined by locally felt economic benefits, rather than simply by contribution to the area's gross value added (GVA) or short-term financial returns.
2. **People need the capability and opportunities to play active roles in influencing their local place and economy.** This includes offering local training in technical and financial skills to build local expertise; providing forums and events for people to meet and interact; and rekindling people's connection with their local natural environment.
3. **People and communities want greater control over the public goods and services they rely on, such as housing, energy, land, and transport. Inward investment needs to add value to a place without pricing local people out.** Innovative models of common ownership can help harness assets like land and energy for the good of the community.

#### PLAN FOR COASTAL CHANGE

4. **Coastal areas have unique planning challenges and they need confidence to plan robustly and innovate for the future.** A regional planning tier should be re-established to integrate land, coastal, and marine planning, and make it easier for different areas, authorities, and economic sectors to work together.
5. **Coastal communities need support to face the difficult decisions imposed by a rapidly changing climate and coastline, including relocation.** Innovative approaches to adapting to coastal change need to be seen as an equally important measure as just defending the coast, and should be reflected as such in planning policies.
6. **Experimentation is crucial to help build the evidence needed to prioritise alternative solutions to managing our coast.** Government should support coastal areas in funding innovative approaches in their locality.

#### INVEST IN A COASTAL TRANSFORMATION

7. **Government should treat the coast as a unique case in its national approach to both industrial strategy and infrastructure development.** There should be a coastal industrial strategy and targeted public investment to build the capabilities of places, people and communities on the coast.
8. **Local projects need better access to finance than the big banks are able or willing to provide.** Government should encourage a more diverse network of local and regional banks to channel investment into sound local businesses.

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# POLICY IS NOT GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

- We've had 20 years of coastal policy, why is it that they are not delivering the transformative change we need?
- Systemic barriers: market vs state, short term vs long term, GVA/GDP dominance vs people and nature, private vs public or common ownership, the inequality of POWER
- Coastal policy is a) policies that affect communities everywhere in the country; b) coastal specific policies

# We have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, warns UN

**Urgent changes needed to cut risk of extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty, says IPCC**

- **Overwhelmed by climate change? Here's what you can do**



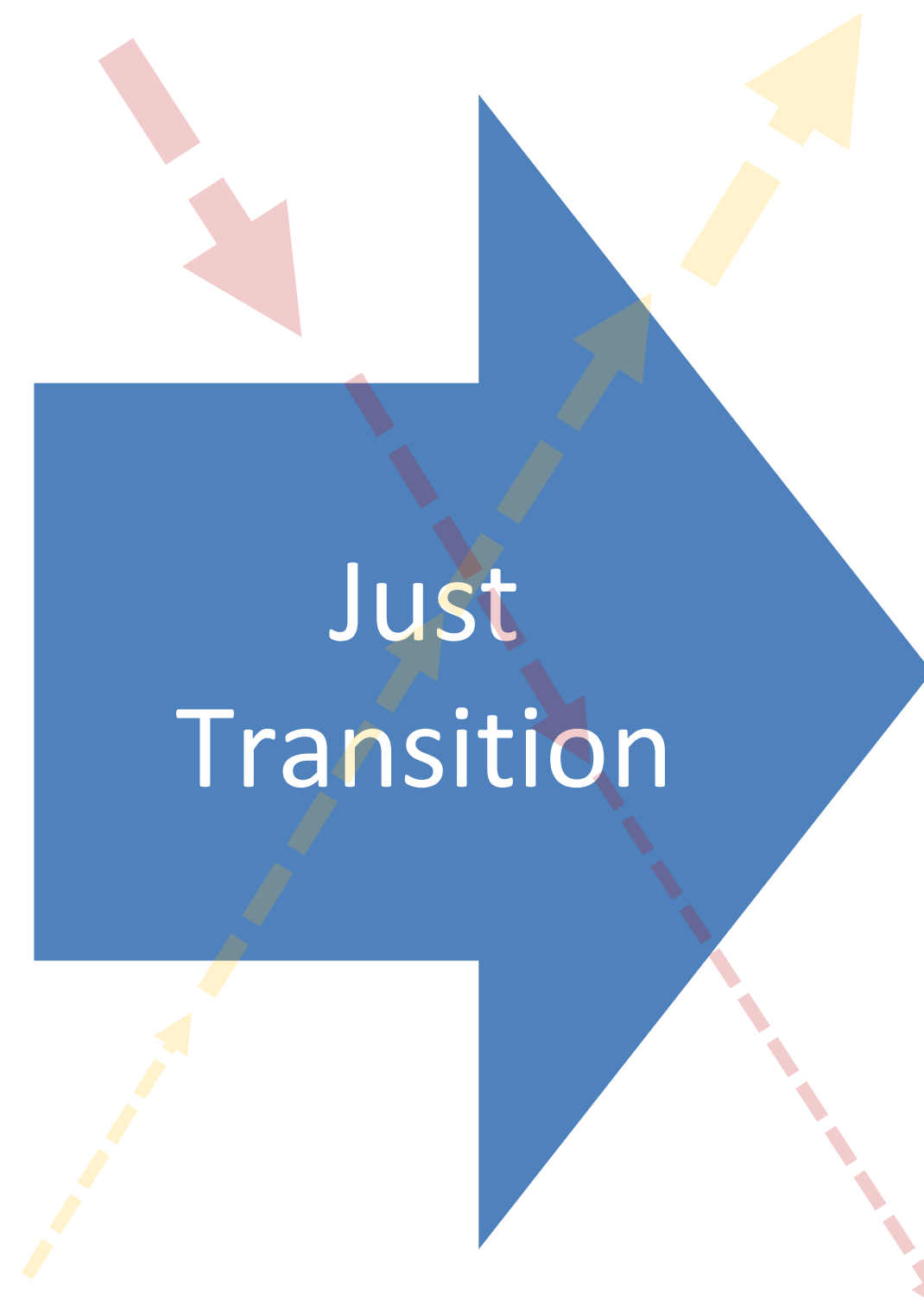
# THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

- Demands deep and fast changes to how we organise our economy and our lives.
- Changes must restore ecological balance, support and invest in a new economy capable of delivering prosperity for people and nature everywhere in the country.
- We need a new way approach to policy design, development and implementation to tackle the complexity and urgency of the crisis.

PRESENT



2020-20XX



'NEAR' FUTURE



# ALL POLICY IS CLIMATE POLICY!

- It must radically and exponentially decarbonise society
- It must be people-led
- It must address the inequalities of privilege and power
- It must restore nature
- It must rebalance the UK economy to spread its benefits more widely and more fairly
- It must support and strengthen collective action

# BUILDING POWER FOR CHANGE

- Democratised policy-making and make the goal of policies to deliver social justice. Reach out widely and convene. Take into account who is most affected and how you can develop process that will genuinely ensure their participation. Go beyond the usual suspects!
- Demystify the economy and aim for greater economic democracy. Deliver climate goals by leading an economic transformation. The transition to a post-carbon world must be quick, fair and democratic. Just transition whilst building the new economy where the ownership of resources and means for change are not only held by few people.
- Decarbonise AND advocate. 'Systems change, not climate change'. Local action to kick start decarbonisation and collaboration to build the power needed to demand national policy change. National policy change that benefits all areas in delivering change.

# THERE'S A GROWING MOVEMENT DEMANDING IT!

**Tourism  
Declares a  
Climate  
Emergency**



**UK Architects  
Declare Climate  
and Biodiversity  
Emergency**

**Construction  
Declares Climate  
and Biodiversity  
Emergency**