



## **Eight MP species champions meet Sir David Attenborough at the launch of the second State of Nature report.**

Some of the species champion MPs were present to hear the findings of the second State of Nature report first hand. Species champions were invited to a breakfast meeting prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> September launch and were given a brief presentation by Dr Mark Eaton, one of the report authors, followed by a question and answer session.

The eight species champions who attended were Oliver Colvile, Charlotte Leslie, Kerry McCarthy, Rachael Maskell, Rebecca Pow, John Pugh, Kelly Tolhurst and Daniel Zeichner and each was presented with a briefing summarising the findings of the report and an update on their own species.



Species champion MPs, together with species champion partners, meet Sir David Attenborough at the launch of the second State of Nature report. Layton Thompson (rspb-images.com)

The State of Nature 2016 report is a detailed new look at how nature is doing across the UK and in its seas, Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. As well as an overarching assessment of UK nature, there are separate reports for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales to look at each country in more depth.

This cutting-edge report was the result of research conducted by the State of Nature partnership, which comprises 53 environmental and research organisations, and shows more clearly than ever that nature is in serious decline across the UK. The report showed that over the last 50 years, 56% of species have declined, while more than one in ten are at risk of disappearing from our shores altogether.

Many factors have resulted in changes to the UK's wildlife over recent decades, but, according to this research, policy-driven agricultural change was by far the most significant driver of declines.