

# From Evidence to Opportunity

## A Second Assessment of the State of Northern Ireland's Environment





# Ministerial Foreword



Our rich and varied natural environment and built heritage lie at the heart of our lives and are central to building a strong economy and sense of well-being.

This second report on the State of the Environment in Northern Ireland brings together recent information on how our environment is performing across land, water, sea and air. The indicators and emerging trends show complex interactions between different parts of our environment and how our activities in one area can impact on another.

In some areas, such as in water quality and recycling, we are making steady progress whilst in others, such as reversing the decline in our biodiversity, significant challenges remain. We recognise that there are shortfalls and gaps in our knowledge but the evidence highlights how we need to respond.

A better understanding of the pressures we face will help us to make the right decisions in creating a healthy and prosperous society which is resilient to change. This report will make a valuable contribution to this process.

The challenges identified in our first report on climate change, biodiversity and land use have been brought into even sharper focus as we adopt new approaches to stimulate growth following the global economic downturn. To address these challenges we need to recognise in all our decision-making the full value of the services our natural environment and built heritage provide in underpinning a healthy economy, prosperity and well-being.

All of us have a role to play in shaping the environment we want for our future. Working together I believe we can realise the opportunities to deliver the right conditions for the benefit of the economy, the environment and the people of Northern Ireland.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Durkan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mark H Durkan MLA**  
Minister of the Environment

December 2013



# Acknowledgements

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## A Second Assessment of the State of Northern Ireland's Environment 2013: Executive Summary



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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_9141](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_9141)

