

FURTHERING BIODIVERSITY ACTION IN WALES

**A preliminary investigation into the
establishment of a funding mechanism for
practical biodiversity action**

December 2009

**CCW'S SUMMARY REPORT TO THE WELSH ASSEMBLY
GOVERNMENT ON THE SCOPING STAGE STUDY UNDERTAKEN
DURING 2008-2009**

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A FUNDING MECHANISM FOR PRACTICAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION: RESULTS OF SCOPING STUDY

SUMMARY

CCW undertook a consultation between July 2008 and March 2009 on the establishment of a new all-Wales scheme to deliver biodiversity action on ‘holdings’ that are beyond the reach of agri-environment schemes and other initiatives. The consultation exercise involved a range of public and non-governmental organisations. Drawing on the experience of the participants, key characteristics of such a scheme have emerged.

The consultation revealed unanimous support, amongst those interviewed, for the establishment of a new all-Wales biodiversity land-management scheme.

The main findings in relation to the scope, focus, eligibility and management of the scheme were as follows:

i. Scope and focus

- A long term scheme, focused primarily on delivering biodiversity benefits.
- A scheme that prioritises national and local BAP action towards agreed habitat and associated species targets and supports projects offering the most scope for increased ecological connectivity.
- A scheme suitable for both small positive actions by individuals on their ‘holdings’ but also for large scale collaborative projects on multiple ‘holdings’ where appropriate.
- A scheme that recognises the need to support geodiversity, environmental awareness initiatives and biodiversity research but only if they help achieve direct, site-based biodiversity outcomes.

ii. Eligibility

- Respondents identified the need to prioritise applications in ‘agri-environment scheme gaps’ (i.e. ineligible/non-registered/non-agricultural holdings) but also the need for a scheme that might act as a ‘taster’ for owners/occupiers who might be uncertain about entering a whole farm scheme, or as an ‘interim’ scheme for those on waiting lists.
- Respondents suggested that while the ‘eligibility’ net for potential applicants should be cast wide, clear criteria would be needed to help prioritise applications and to ensure a consistent approach across Wales.
- Suggested criteria fell into 3 main categories:
 - Value for money, (e.g. long term viability of the project, contribution to strengthening habitat connectivity and delivering BAP priorities, whether the project is isolated or part of a cluster);
 - Additional benefit, (e.g. raising public awareness of biodiversity, public participation);
 - Need i.e. is an applicant able to obtain funds elsewhere for the work?

iii. Scheme management

- The majority view was that the management of a new scheme would require an appropriate balance of centralised coordination, for efficiency reasons, and local liaison, to offer advice and knowledge and to facilitate collaboration between different land managers where necessary to deliver maximum biodiversity gain. There was no clear view about which organisation should lead on managing and administering such a scheme.
- The consistent view was that face-to face advice to applicants, rather than just written guidance, is vital, as well as ongoing support and interest to develop a good working relationship. Recruitment of appropriate personnel would be critical to the success of the scheme.
- The conditions associated with any award of funding should include entry onto the land for monitoring and recording purposes. The scheme should link to both BARS, for reporting purposes and LRCs/NBN, for data holding.
- The most appropriate length of time for individual projects was felt to be 5 years.
- The scheme should have the clear backing and involvement of WBP, WAG and CCW.
- Management advice should be aligned with that for agri-environment schemes as far as possible.
- The scheme should be launched with adequate resources, (staff, infrastructure, formalised working arrangements, information and guidance, etc) to begin delivering across Wales.

iv. Issues/concerns

Respondents raised the following issues and concerns, should the scheme be developed further:

- A new scheme should bring in funds additional to those from existing sources for biodiversity work, and not reduce them.
- A new scheme should be simple and flexible and avoid unnecessary bureaucracy.
- A new scheme should balance the need for central coordination with the desirability of using local biodiversity expertise to ensure maximum gain.
- It should involve the new Wales Ecosystem Groups in decision-making about prioritising actions at national and regional levels.
- No additional sources of funding for a new all-Wales scheme were identified during the consultation, although a number of local and national funding sources were flagged up.
- Good quality information needs to be in place and made available to underpin the targeted delivery of a new scheme, such as EConet, the work of the Ecosystems Groups, CCW's updated Phase 1 information. The future role of Local Records Centres in connection with the running of this scheme, (as well as other biodiversity management initiatives and agri-environment schemes), needs to be explored.

CCW recommends to WAG, on the basis of the clear support from stakeholders for the establishment of an all-Wales biodiversity land management scheme, that the concept should be developed further in 2009-10. Key steps in the next development phase are outlined in the report.

MECANWAITH CYLLID I GANLYNIADAU GWEITHREDU BIOAMRYWIAETH YMARFEROL O YSTOD ASTUDIAETH

CRYNODEB

Rhwng Gorffennaf 2008 a Mawrth 2009 cynhaliodd Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Gymru gyfres o ymgynghoriadau ynglŷn â sefydlu cynllun newydd ar draws Cymru a fyddai'n anelu at helpu cyflawni gwaith rheolaeth ar gyfer bywyd gwyllt ar ddaliadau tir sydd y tu hwnt i gyrraedd cynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol a mentrau eraill. Fel rhan o'r ymgynghoriad holwyd barn nifer o fudiadau llywodraethol ac anllywodraethol a thrwy dynnu ar eu profiad hwy daeth yn amlwg pa nodweddion hanfodol y dylid eu cynnwys mewn cynllun o'r fath, pe bai'n cael ei sefydlu.

Drwy'r gwaith ymgynghori gwelwyd bod cefnogaeth unfrydol i'r syniad o sefydlu cynllun rheoli tir newydd ar draws Cymru a fyddai'n fuddiol i fioamrywiaeth.

Roedd y prif ganfyddiadau, mewn perthynas â chwmpas, ffocws, meini prawf cymhwyster a rheolaeth y cynllun fel a ganlyn:

i. Cwmpas a ffocws

- Mae angen cynllun hirdymor, yn canolbwyntio'n bennaf ar sicrhau budd i fioamrywiaeth.
- Cynllun sy'n blaenoriaethu CGB lleol a cheriedlaethol tuag at gynefinoedd a thargeadau rhywogaeth cysylltiedig ac yn cynnal prosiectau sy'n cynrig yr ystod fwyaf ar gfer cynyddu cysylltedd ecolegol.
- Mae angen cynllun sy'n addas ar gyfer gweithgareddau bychain positif gan unigolion ar eu daliadau ond hefyd ar gyfer prosiectau cydweithredol ar nifer o ddaliadau gwahanol lle bo hynny'n briodol.
- Dylai cynllun Cymru-gyfan gydnabod yr angen a chynnig cyfleoedd i gefnogi cadwraeth ddaearegol, gweithgareddau sy'n codi ymwybyddiaeth amgylcheddol ac ymchwil ar fywyd gwyllt ond dim ond os yw'r gweithgareddau hyn, yn eu tro, yn helpu cyflawni canlyniadau uniongyrchol a buddiol i fioamrywiaeth ar ddarnau o dir.

ii. Cymhwyster

- Fe wnaeth y mudiadau a'r unigolion a gymerodd ran yn yr ymgynghoriad adnabod yr angen i roi blaenoriaeth i geisiadau a fyddai'n tacio'r 'bylchau amaeth-amgylcheddol' (h.y. daliadau nad ydynt wedi eu cofrestru neu sydd wedi eu cofrestru ond sydd heb fod yn gymwys ar gyfer cynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol). Ond ar yr un pryd teimlai nifer y dylai'r cynllun fedru gweithredu fel 'cynllun blasu' ar gyfer perchnogion/deiliaid sydd efallai'n ansicr ynglŷn ag ymuno â chynllun amaeth-amgylcheddol, neu fel 'cynllun dros dro' ar gyfer rhai sydd ar restrau aros. Ond roedd teimlad cryf na ddylai cynllun newydd ar gyfer bioamrywiaeth fod yn ffordd o wneud iawn am ddiffygion mewn polisiau a chynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol.
- Roedd bobl o'r farn y dylai'r rhwyd gael ei bwrw'n eang o ran cymhwyster deiliaid a pherchnogion tir i ymgeisio, ond y dylid wedyn sicrhau meini prawf clir er mwyn helpu blaenoriaethu ceisiadau a sicrhau ffordd gyson o weithredu a rheoli'r cynllun dros Gymru.
- Roedd y meini prawf a awgrymwyd yn syrthio i 3 phrif gategori:

- **Gwerth am arian** (e.e. pa mor hyfyw fyddai'r prosiect yn y tymor hir, faint o gyfraniad byddai'n gwneud at gryfhau cysylltedd ecolegol a chyflawni targedau CGB/'BAP', a oedd y prosiect yn ynysedig neu'n rhan o glwstwr);
- **Budd ychwanegol** (e.e. codi ymwybyddiaeth gyhoeddus a fioamrywiaeth, cyfleoedd i'r cyhoedd chwarae rhan);
- **Angen** (h.y. a yw'r ymgeisydd yn gallu dod o hyd i arian o ffynonellau eraill ar gyfer y gwaith?)

iii. Rheolaeth y Cynllun

- Roedd y mwyafrif o'r farn y byddai angen i reolaeth y cynllun sicrhau cydbwysedd priodol rhwng cydlyniad canolog (oherwydd ystyriaethau effeithlonrwydd), a chyd-drafod lleol er mwyn sicrhau cyngor a gwybodaeth berthnasol ac i hwyluso cydweithrediad rhwng gwahanol reolwyr tir, lle bo angen, fel bod cymaint o fudd â phosib i fywyd gwyllt. Ni chafwyd barn glir ynglŷn â pha gorff ddylai arwain ar reoli a gweinyddu'r math yma o gynllun Cymru-gyfan.
- Mynegwyd y farn yn gyson ei bod hi'n angenrheidiol i ddarparu cyngor wyneb-yn-wyneb i ymgeiswyr, yn hytrach na dibynnu ar ganllawiau ysgrifenedig yn unig. Roedd pobl o'r farn hefyd ei bod hi'n bwysig i gynnig cefnogaeth a dangos diddordeb o ddechrau hyd at ddiwedd oes unrhyw brosiect er mwyn datblygu perthynas weithio dda gyda'r deiliad tir. Byddai recriwtio pobl addas, sy'n gallu pontio'n llwyddiannus gyda deiliaid a rheolwyr tir, yn allweddol i lwyddiant unrhyw gynllun.
- Dylai'r amodau a fyddai ynghlwm wrth unrhyw gais llwyddiannus gynnwys yr angen i ddeiliaid/rheolwyr tir roi mynediad i'r safle at ddibenion cofnodi a monitro. Dylai'r cynllun gysylltu gyda BARS, ar gyfer cofnodi, a Chanolfannau Cofnodi Lleol/NBN ar gyfer dal data.
- Ar y cyfan, barnwyd mai 5 mlynedd oedd fwyaf addas o ran hyd cytundeb gydag ymgeiswyr ar gyfer prosiectau unigol.
- Teimlai llawer y dylai'r cynllun gael cefnogaeth a sicrhau rôl i Bartneriaeth Bioamrywiaeth Cymru, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Chyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru.
- Dylid gosod cyngor rheoli gyda chynlluniau amaeth – amgylcheddol cyn welled ag sy'n bosibl.
- Teimlai pobl y byddai'n bwysig i lansio unrhyw gynllun newydd gyda digonedd o adnoddau (staff, gweithdrefnau ffurfiol, gwybodaeth a chanllawiau a.y.b) er mwyn gallu dechrau gweithredu'n syth.

iv. Pynciau Ilog/Pryderon

Codwyd y pwyntiau a'r pryderon canlynol ynglŷn â datblygiad posib pellach y cynllun hwn gan y rhai a fu'n rhan o'r ymgynghoriad:

- Dylai cynllun newydd gael cyllid ychwanegol, ar ben yr hyn sydd ar gael o ffynonellau presennol ar gyfer gwaith bioamrywiaeth – hynny yw, ni ddylai arwain at leihad ym maint yr adnoddau sy'n cael eu cyfeirio ar hyn o bryd at waith bioamrywiaeth yng Nghymru.
- Dylai cynllun newydd fod yn syml a hyblyg ac osgoi unrhyw fiwrocratiaeth diangen.
- Dylai cynllun newydd gydbwysu'r angen i gael cydlyniad canolog ar y naill law ac i ddefnyddio arbenigaeth bioamrywiaeth leol ar y llaw arall er mwyn sicrhau'r budd mwyaf.
- Dylai cynllun newydd gynnwys y Grwpiau Ecosystem Cymreig newydd wrth wneud penderfyniadau ynglŷn â blaenoriaethu gweithgareddau ar lefel genedlaethol a rhanbarthol.

- Ni chafodd unrhyw ffynonellau newydd addas o arian ar gyfer cynllun Cymru-gyfan eu hadnabod yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad, er i sawl un dynnu sylw at nifer o ffynonellau lleol a chenedlaethol sydd wedi cael eu defnyddio er budd bioamrywiaeth.
- Rhaid cael gwybodaeth safonol, sy'n hawdd ei ganfod a'i ddefnyddio, er mwyn i bobl fedru targedu gweithgaredd bioamrywiaeth yn y modd mwyaf effeithiol posibl (e.e. gwybodaeth sydd ar gael drwy fentrau fel EConet, gwaith y Grwpiau Ecosystem, gwybodaeth 'Phase 1' diweddar y CCGC). Mae angen ymchwilio i rôl bosib y Canolfannau Cofnodion Lleol yn y dyfodol mewn perthynas â chynllun fel hwn a rhaid ystyried hefyd, fel rhan o'r gwaith datblygu pellach, sut i blethu cynllun fel hwn gyda chynlluniau eraill fel y rhai amaeth-amgylcheddol a mentrau rheoli bioamrywiaeth eraill.

Ar sail y gefnogaeth glir a gafwyd gan fudd-ddeiliaid ar gyfer y syniad o sefydlu cynllun rheoli tir newydd yng Nghymru ar gyfer bywyd gwyllt a chysylltedd ecolegol, mae CCGC yn argymhell i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru y dylid datblygu'r cysyniad ymhellach yn ystod 2009-10. Mae camau allweddol yn y cymal datblygu nesaf yn cael eu hamlinellu yn yr adroddiad llawn.

1. WHAT CCW WAS ASKED TO DO

During 2008-9, the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) instructed the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) to investigate and scope a new potential mechanism to provide enhanced support for Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) delivery in Wales. Specifically, we were investigating the level of support for, and the potential scope of an all-Wales conservation land management scheme that would complement agri-environment schemes and other land management initiatives. The possible need for such a mechanism comes from the growing focus on ecological connectivity and landscape-scale action for biodiversity and from acknowledgement that agri-environment schemes and other environmental enhancement initiatives cannot cover the whole land area of Wales and may need supplementing to achieve 'joined-up' conservation action. The purpose of the scoping study was to assess the level of support for a new conservation land management scheme that would cover 'gaps' in agri-environment schemes and other initiatives, to investigate the potential scope of such a scheme and to identify key attributes that would help ensure its success, should WAG decide to proceed with its further development beyond the scoping stage.

In taking this work forward, both WAG and CCW were conscious of the potential strategic importance of this concept, as a mechanism to assist public bodies and local government to deliver their biodiversity duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and to help partner organisations, groups and individuals take action and contribute to the Wales Environment Strategy Outcomes 19, 20 and 21 and to meet targets for the Natural Environment Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 Section 42 habitats and species, at local and Wales level.

This report summarises the key findings of the scoping study and has been prepared in order to assist WAG to determine whether, and how, to proceed with the development of a new land management scheme.

2. THE APPROACH

The scoping study was planned as a participative process from the outset.

Stakeholder consultation began in July 2008 amongst Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group members. CCW staff formed an internal advisory group to contribute initial ideas and guidance and to help compose the consultation questionnaire.

Between January and April 2009, data was collected from stakeholders in five groups, (central government (including AGSBs), local government including the National Parks, NGOs, advisors to land managers and Wales ecosystem groups); see Annex 1. A series of face-to-face and audio meetings were held around Wales. There was only a limited representation of marine interests on these groups and further consultation should be initiated with marine conservation groups if the concept of an all-Wales scheme is developed further.

Standard questions were addressed to those who had had experience running grants schemes and to those who had not; see Annex 2. Many of the consultations took place with groups of individuals from similar sectors, (such as local authorities), whilst others were done on a one-to-one basis. The information collated from group workshops inevitably represented a summary of the consensus view offered on different issues and did not therefore lend itself to statistical analysis. In addition to the stakeholder research, initial literature and web searches identified biodiversity or land management grant schemes within Wales and elsewhere in the UK; the information would help

identify key learning points and critical scheme attributes as well as criteria useful, in terms of formulating a recommendation to WAG in taking the idea forward into the next development phase.

3. RESULTS

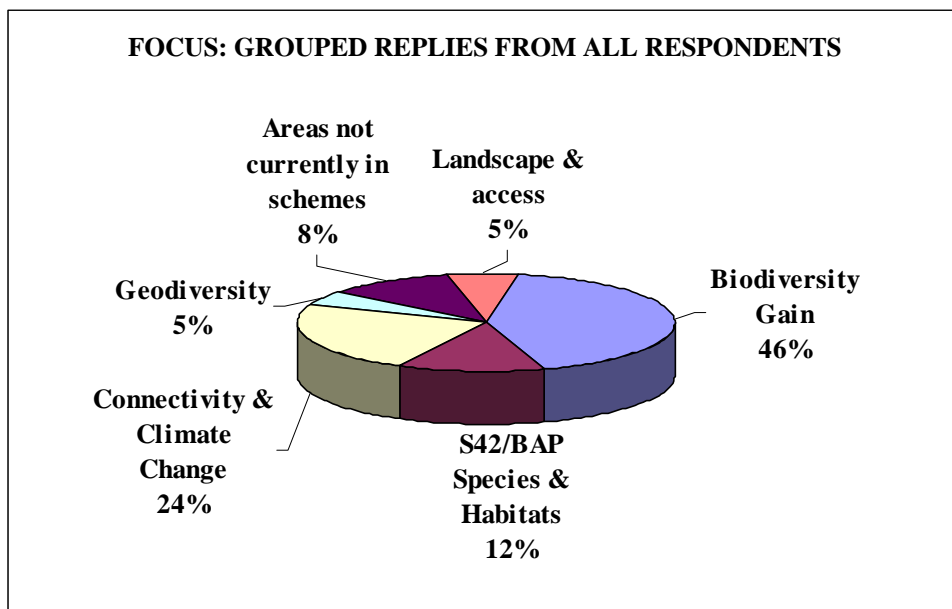
3.1. Assessing need

- Very few environmental schemes focus primarily on biodiversity gain – increasing focus on multiple benefits can dilute resources for conservation land management.
- Few schemes are available for individuals for small scale projects on land with habitat mosaics, for work on non-designated land, for non-registered holdings and for smallholdings below the required size criterion for entry into agri-environment schemes.
- Recently, funding for biodiversity has been geographically confined and time-limited, (e.g. Objective 1 projects, lottery funded projects).
- As well as filling ‘agri-environment gaps’, (i.e. ineligible/non-registered/non-agricultural holdings), respondents recognised the potential need for a scheme to act as an ‘taster’ for owners/occupiers of holdings eligible for agri-environment schemes who might be uncertain about entering a whole farm scheme, for farms that may have some ‘connectivity value’ but insufficient habitat to be eligible for a whole-farm agri-environment scheme or as an ‘interim’ scheme for those on waiting lists.
- There are calls for funds to cover management of land that has not received any funding in the past, in both rural and urban areas. In fact, there is a need for funds to manage land which is not eligible for other types of funding. Funding for work to promote ecological connectivity was requested repeatedly.
- Many felt that the scheme should cover biodiversity research, as there was so little support available for this in Wales. They acknowledged, however, that this might have to be a separate scheme or programme, unless the research was directly focused on refining practical management proposals as part of a phased approach to delivering projects under a new biodiversity grant scheme.
- Four out of five stakeholder groups confirmed the need for a scheme focusing on biodiversity action to meet national and local targets. They justified this by confirming that there are, and have been, waiting lists for biodiversity-focussed schemes, that all such schemes are over-subscribed and some, such as the popular Species Challenge Fund and Ceredigion Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme, are now closed. Those in local government and in other organisations such as CCW said that they are regularly contacted by people seeking funds and advice to help them manage ‘non-designated’ and unregistered land holdings, although records are generally not kept of such contacts.
- There is a shortage of funding available to individuals, small voluntary groups and land managers that is easy to apply for, is specifically for biodiversity action and is backed by sound advice and continuing support. Many applicants are keen to see how they contribute to collective and wider goals for habitat improvement and species recovery.

- A long term pot of funding for practical conservation action was perceived as being potentially valuable in terms of forging stronger and more positive relationships with land managers of local wildlife sites and other locally important sites and for encouraging support for conservation among the wider population.

3.2. Scope, focus and eligibility for a new scheme

- There was overwhelming support from all groups for the focus to be biodiversity gain which is linked to the connectivity/climate change response. S42 habitats and species were mentioned repeatedly as the priorities. There were mixed views about including geodiversity - some suggesting a separate scheme. Similarly there were mixed views about including landscape features, engagement activities and recreation within the scope of a new scheme. While many recognised the desirability of achieving multiple benefits, there was concern that this could detract from the overall biodiversity gain. Others cited, from experience, the need to use judgement on a case by case basis and to allow the scheme to accommodate a range of activities if this facilitates delivery of biodiversity/connectivity gains.



- In general, those consulted felt that biodiversity outcome should be the main criterion for determining applications. Therefore there should be no constraints on potential applicants, such as land holding type or size. However, respondents also recognised the need to target and prioritise applications and to ensure that the scheme would complement rather than compete with other initiatives. A rigorous set of scoring criteria should, therefore, be developed to ensure transparency and consistency of approach across Wales. Such criteria might include size of holding, eligibility for other schemes, viability of a proposed project and its contribution to delivering BAP priority actions and ecological connectivity.

3.3. Attributes of successful schemes

All the schemes cited as being successful:

- had dedicated staff with the appropriate skills and background to engage effectively with applicants,
- had clear information and guidance – but most importantly the staff capacity to advise applicants on a face-to-face basis,

- used a flexible approach towards funding ‘packages of work’ that would ultimately deliver biodiversity outcomes,
- made it easy to identify real biodiversity gain,
- could fund research and survey works as long as these were linked specifically to developing and implementing a good project on the ground,
- were simple for scheme applicants and managers,
- had the ability (and flexibility) to award grants at differential rates to ensure delivery of conservation actions, (lower intervention rates where works would be of benefit to land manager and scheme outcomes and higher rates where there was no benefit to the land manager as a result of delivering the action),
- allowed time and other in-kind contributions to be considered eligible for matching grants.

Factors which have militated against successful delivery:

- Those listed included lack of dedicated staff, poor targeting, cash limited, bureaucracy which deterred individuals and smaller NGOs, disagreement amongst partners and no requirement to use BARS. Some schemes have been cumbersome, with poor enforcement and monitoring.

3.4. Scheme management

- There was widespread support for establishing a management approach that struck an appropriate balance of centralised coordination, for efficiency reasons, and local liaison, to offer advice and knowledge and to facilitate collaboration between different land managers, to deliver maximum biodiversity gain.
- The consistent view was that face-to face advice to applicants, rather than just written guidance, would be vital, as well as ongoing support and interest to develop a good working relationship. Recruitment of appropriate personnel would be critical to the success of the scheme.
- The conditions associated with any award of funding should include entry onto the land for monitoring and recording purposes. The scheme should link to both BARS, for reporting purposes and LRCs/NBN, for data holding.
- The most appropriate length of time for individual projects was felt, in general, to be around 5 years. There was suggestion that using a formal agreement mechanism, such as S39, Countryside Act 1968, would ensure habitat maintenance for 5-10 years post-completion.
- The scheme should have the clear backing and involvement of WBP, WAG and CCW. There were suggestions that organisations such as Coed Cymru and FWAG might be used as advisors to applicants and that the Wales ecosystem groups should be involved in helping to guide and determine priorities for action at a national and regional level, with local biodiversity staff helping to target action at local level. However, no clear, single view emerged over who should lead on managing and administering the scheme.
- Any management guidance should be aligned with those for agri-environment schemes as far as possible.

- Opinions varied as to whether sufficient information existed, or was sufficiently accessible, to allow a new scheme to be strategically targeted. There were calls for environmental information to be collated and expressed spatially, in a way that would help those developing and assessing projects, under a new scheme, to deliver biodiversity gain. Respondents, in general, felt there could be an enhanced future role for Local Record Centres, to provide ecological information at both local and regional scales to underpin scheme delivery.
- The scheme should be launched with an adequate numbers of skilled staff and good supporting information and infrastructure, (accommodation, IT, publicity, guidance, scheme literature, information, partnership agreement, advisory networks, etc.), to begin delivering across Wales.

3.5. Strategic issues flagged by respondents

- As BAP is inclusive, any new scheme needs to bring in dormant partners and empower them, particularly LBAP officers and partnerships.
- Any new scheme and funding mechanism needs to be ‘set in context’ and connect to the Sustainable Development Scheme, the One Wales agenda and make links to those delivering Local Development Plans and the Wales Spatial Plan, (e.g. through the concept of Networked Environment Regions).
- The Wales Biodiversity Framework should make explicit the links to the Wales Environment Strategy, Sustainable Development Scheme and Planning Policy Wales.
- There needs to be clarity about the definition of *functional connectivity*, which is different for marine, coastal and terrestrial situations.
- Grant-aid is just one mechanism for ‘*making biodiversity action happen*’; changes in policy and improvements to legislation are still needed.
- The emergence of a new all-Wales biodiversity funding mechanism should not be viewed as a way of compensating for weaknesses in agri-environment policy and practice. All respondents recognised the importance of strong agri-environment policies and schemes as vehicles for delivering biodiversity action on the ground and a new scheme must complement rather than replace these.
- If a new scheme is to be developed, environmental information needs to be of high quality and made readily accessible, in a way that helps target actions and funding to achieve maximum biodiversity/ecological connectivity gain. Better synchronisation is needed between any work to improve the quality and sharing of environmental information and efforts to deliver effective biodiversity action on the ground.
- Any funding directed towards the establishment and running of a new biodiversity land-management scheme should not be at the expense of resources already directed towards current biodiversity activity in Wales.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

In light of the clear support amongst stakeholders for establishing a new biodiversity-focused scheme to complement Glastir and other environmental initiatives, it is recommended that the scheme be developed further in 2009-10. The key areas of development work include identifying strategic linkages with other schemes and plans, (e.g. Glastir, Spatial Plans, Networked Environment Regions); establishing a sound information base that can underpin the scheme delivery; establishing roles and management structures and identifying sources of funding for a minimum of 5 years. The following specific projects should be pursued in the next 12 months:

- Identify and collate information on sources of biodiversity information required to underpin the scheme,
- Undertake a desktop study of similar schemes in Wales and in other parts of the UK to identify best practice/prescriptions that could be adopted for an all-Wales biodiversity scheme,
- Develop a preferred and costed option for the management of the scheme,
- Develop detailed scheme criteria to assist a national, standardised approach,
- Develop application and support materials for scheme applicants and scheme managers,
- Develop promotional material with a view to launching in 2010, (subject to availability of funding),
- Define roles and working relationships of all key players, (e.g. WBP, Local Partnerships, ecosystem groups etc.),
- Identify resources to launch and manage a scheme for years 1-5,
- Ensure WBP website provides a one-stop shop for sources of advice on habitat and species management by the end of 2009.

ANNEX 1

Organisations and individuals contacted

ANNEX 2

Questionnaires

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Date of final version: 10 December 2009

** Grouped responses are available on request from CCW. Please contact Gaynor Ainscough at: g.ainscough@ccw.gov.uk*

ANNEX 1

Organisations/Individuals Contacted

Category	Organization	Respondent	Date of contact	Method of contact	Person making contact	
Government and Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies AGSBs	Welsh Assembly Government	Kevin Austin	11/03/09	Telephone	Joanna Robertson	
	Welsh Assembly Government	Diana Reynolds	12/03/09	Telephone	Joanna Robertson	
	CCW	Aethne Cooke	24/03/09	E-mail	Joanna Robertson	
	CCW	Brian Pawson	04/03/09	Telephone	Hazel Drewett	
	Environment Agency (most answers are personal, not EA)	Nick Bialynicki-Birula	18/03/09	Telephone	Joanna Robertson	
	CCW South and East Region	David Mitchell	18/03/09	Questionnaire	Joanna Robertson	
Local Authorities (including National Parks) Numbers in final column used when assessing 'weight' of group responses.	Swansea Neath Port Talbot Rhondda Bridgend Vale of Glamorgan	Deb Hill, Catrin Evans, Richard Wistow Aditee Mitra, Richard May,	05/03/09	Group meeting	Elinor Gwynn	3
	Newport Cardiff Caerphilly Torfaen Blaenau Gwent	Sinead Lynch Laura Palmer Margaret Iles/Alison Jones Kris Roberts Claire Pooley	06/03/09	Group meeting	Elinor Gwynn	3
	Flintshire Denbighshire Wrexham	Sarah Brown Kate Taylor Emma Broad	11/03/09	Group meeting	Elinor Gwynn	2
	Conwy Snowdonia NPA	Barbara Owsianka Rhys Jones	12/03/09	Group meeting	Elinor Gwynn	2
	Gwynedd	Rhys Jones	13/03/09	Face to face	Elinor Gwynn	1
	Powys Monmouthshire Ceredigion	Emma Durward/Stuart Mackintosh, Danielle Fry, Leanne Bird	13/03/09	Group meeting	Elinor Gwynn	2
	Anglesey	David Cowley	16/03/09	Telephone	Elinor Gwynn	1
	Menter Mon	Hugh Knott	16/03/09	Face to face	Elinor Gwynn	1
	Pembrokeshire NPA	Jane Hodges/Mike Howe	17/03/09	Face to face	Elinor Gwynn	1

Non-Governmental Organisations	British Association of Shooting and Conservation	Ian Danby	20/03/09	Face to face	Joanna Robertson	
	NT	Hannah Pitt	02/04/09	Face to face	Elinor Gwynn	
	Welsh Wildlife Trusts	Howard Davies	03/03/09	Telephone	Pete Williams	
	Butterfly Conservation	Russell Hobson	25/03/09	e-mail	Joanna Robertson	
	RSPB				Elinor	
Ecosystem Groups	CCW- Wetland group	Pete Jones	18/03/09	Questionnaire	Julia Korn	
	National Trust- Lowland heath and Grassland group	Helen Buckingham	17/03/09	Questionnaire	Julia Korn	
Advisors to Land Managers	CCW (Tir Gofal)	John Taylor	07.04.09	Questionnaire	Joanna Robertson	
	NFU Cymru	Dylan Morgan	07.04.09	Questionnaire	Joanna Robertson	
	Coed Cymru	David Jenkins	03.04.09	Questionnaire	Joanna Robertson	
	FUW	Rhian Nowell-Phillips	19.05.09	Telephone	Joanna Robertson	
Organisations unable to participate	Forestry Commission	Chris Tucker				
		Michelle Bromley				
	Plantlife Wales	Trevor Dines				
	Organic Centre Wales	Sue Fowler				
	Carmarthenshire	Isabel Macho				
	Brecon Beacons NPA	Gareth Ellis				
	Pembrokeshire	Bethan Cox				
Confederation of Forest Industries (CONFOR)	Kath McNulty					
Marine stakeholders not contacted at this stage	Sea Watch Foundation					
	Sea Trust					
	Marine Conservation Society					
	Bangor University					
	National Museum of Wales, Cardiff					
	North and South Wales Sea Fisheries Committees					
	MarLin					

ANNEX 2.1

ASTUDIAETH GWMPASU AR GYFER CYNLLUN CEFNOGAETH ARIANNOL I FIOAMRYWIAETH / SCOPING SURVEY FOR A NEW ALL WALES BIODIVERSITY FUNDING SUPPORT SCHEME

**Cwestiynau ar gyfer cynnal cyfweiliadau â sefydliadau/awdurdodau lleol nad oes ganddynt brofiad o redeg cynllun grant bioamrywiaeth. /
*Questions for interviews with organisations/local authorities that have not had experience of running a biodiversity grant scheme.***

Lleoliad y cyfweiliad:
Interview location:
Dyddiad y cyfweiliad:
Interview date:
Y bobl sy'n bresennol:
People present:

Cwestiynau / Questions:

Cwestiwn 1: A ydych erioed wedi ystyried sefydlu cynllun grant bioamrywiaeth, neu wedi rhoi un ar waith yn aflwyddiannus? Beth oedd yn eich rhwystro rhag gwneud cynnydd?

Question 1: *Have you ever considered or attempted unsuccessfully to establish a biodiversity grant scheme? What were the barriers to the initiative's progress?*

Cwestiwn 2: Yn eich barn chi, beth ddylai'r cynllun ei gynnwys (nodweddion tirwedd, bioamrywiaeth, daeareg ac ati)?

Question 2: *What should a scheme cover in your view (landscape features, biodiversity, geology, etc)?*

Cwestiwn 3: Pa feini prawf cymhwysedd y dylid eu defnyddio?

Question 3: *What eligibility criteria should be used?*

Cwestiwn 4: Sut y dylid blaenoriaethu'r ceisiadau?

Question 4: *How should applications be prioritised?*

Cwestiwn 5: Pa gyngor neu ganllawiau y dylid eu rhoi i'r ymgeiswyr – canllawiau ysgrifenedig, cymorth wyneb yn wyneb? (Ar gyfer yr olaf, pwy allai ei gynnig?)

Question 5: *What kind of advice/guidance should be provided for applicants – written and in person (and for the latter, who could provide this)?*

Cwestiwn 6: A ddylid cyfyngu ar swm y grant (o ran y cyfanswm fesul daliad a'r gyfradd ymyrraeth)?

Question 6: *Should there be a limit on grant awarded (in terms of total per holding and intervention rate)?*

Cwestiwn 7: Pa wybodaeth sydd ei hangen er mwyn sicrhau y byddai'r cynllun yn arwain at fuddion amgylcheddol o bwys? Sut y gellid dwyn yr wybodaeth yma ynghyd yn effeithiol?

Question 7: *What information is required to help target a scheme for greatest environmental gains and how could this information be pulled together effectively?*

Cwestiwn 8: Beth fyddai'r ffordd orau o reoli cynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth ar gyfer Cymru gyfan (swyddogaethau, cyfrifioldebau, staff, atebolrwydd ac ati)?

Question 8: *How do you feel an all-Wales biodiversity support scheme would be best managed (roles, responsibilities, staffing, accountability etc.)?*

Cwestiwn 9: Pa ffynonellau posibl sydd ar gael ar gyfer arian cyfatebol?

Question 9: *What are the potential sources of match funding?*

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Cwestiwn 10: Beth fyddai cynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth ar gyfer Cymru gyfan yn ei gynnig i chi, a beth allech chi ei gyfrannu tuag at gyflawni'r cynllun yn llwyddiannus?

Question 10: *What would an all-Wales biodiversity funding support scheme offer to you, and what could you offer towards the successful delivery of a scheme?*

Cwestiwn 11: Pa amodau a ddylai fod ynghlwm wrth unrhyw grant o fewn cynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth ar gyfer Cymru gyfan?

Question 11: *What conditions should be attached to any grant under such an all-Wales biodiversity funding support scheme?*

Cwestiwn 12: Faint o ofyn/angen sydd yna ar hyn o bryd am gael cynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth yn eich ardal? Beth yw'r dystiolaeth sydd ar gael?

Question 12: *What are the current demands/needs for a biodiversity funding support scheme in your area – what is the evidence for this?*

Cwestiwn 13: Contract o ba hyd y dylid ei sefydlu dan gynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth ar gyfer Cymru gyfan?

Question 13: *What length of contract should be secured under an all-Wales biodiversity funding support scheme?*

Cwestiwn 14: A fydddech chi a'ch cyflogwr yn cefnogi'r syniad o gael cynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth ar gyfer Cymru gyfan?

Question 14: *Would you and your employers support the establishment of a new all-Wales biodiversity funding support scheme?*

Cwestiwn 15: Pe bai'r cysyniad yma'n datblygu ymhellach, beth fyddai eich prif bryder?

Question 15: *What would be your main concern if and when this concept develops further?*

Cwestiwn 16: A fydddech yn fodlon bod yn rhan o grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen er mwyn datblygu'r cysyniad ymhellach yn ystod 2009-10?

Question 16: *Would you be willing to participate in a task and finish group to develop the concept further in 2009-10?*

Diolch yn fawr ichi am gymryd rhan yn y cyfweiliad
Thank you very much for participating in this interview

Os hoffech gael gwybod am ddatblygiadau pellach o ran creu cynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth ar gyfer Cymru gyfan, nodwch eich manylion cyswllt yma:

If you wish to be kept informed about the further development of an all-Wales biodiversity funding support scheme please write your contact details here:

Enw/Name

Swydd o fewn y sefydliad/Post in organisation

E-bost/E-mail

Rhif ffôn/Phone

**ASTUDIAETH GWMPASU AR GYFER CYNLLUN CEFNOGAETH ARIANNOL I FIOAMRYWIAETH / SCOPING SURVEY FOR A
NEW ALL WALES BIODIVERSITY FUNDING SUPPORT SCHEME**

Cwestiynau ar gyfer cynnal cyfweiliadau â sefydliadau/awdurdodau lleol sy'n rhedeg cynlluniau grantiau bioamrywiaeth ar hyn o bryd, neu sydd wedi gwneud hynny yn y gorffennol. / Questions for interviews with organisations/local authorities that are currently running biodiversity grant schemes or have done so in the past.

Lleoliad y cyfweiliad:

Interview location:

Dyddiad y cyfweiliad:

Interview date:

Y bobl sy'n bresennol:

People present:

Cwestiynau / Questions:

Cwestiwn 1: I ba raddau y llwyddodd y cynllun i arwain at fuddion amlwg a mesuradwy o safbwynt bioamrywiaeth/geoamrywiaeth? Hefyd, i ba raddau y llwyddodd i gyfrannu'n uniongyrchol at Ganlyniadau 19, 20 a 21 Strategaeth Amgylcheddol Cymru neu dargedau eraill yn ymwneud â Chynlluniau Gweithredu Bioamrywiaeth Lleol?

Question 1: *To what extent did the scheme deliver identifiable and measurable biodiversity/ geodiversity benefits and contribute directly to Outcomes 19, 20 and 21 of the Environment Strategy for Wales or other LBAP targets?*

Cwestiwn 2: Pa ddangosyddion llwyddiant a gafodd eu defnyddio?

Question 2: *What success indicators were used?*

Cwestiwn 3: Sut y cafodd y cynllun ei fonitro a'i werthuso, a sut y cafodd adroddiadau'u llunio? A ddefnyddiodd y cynllun System BARS?

Question 3: *How was the scheme monitored, evaluated and reported on; did the scheme make use of the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)?*

Cwestiwn 4: Pa ardal a oedd yn rhan o'r cynllun, a sut y cafodd hon ei dewis?

Question 4: *What area was covered by the scheme, and how was this selected?*

Cwestiwn 5: Beth oedd cwmpas y cynllun o safbwynt rhywogaethau, cynefinoedd a nodweddion tirwedd, a beth oedd sail resymegol hyn oll?

Question 5: *What was the scope of the scheme in terms of species, habitats, landscape features and what was the supporting rationale for this?*

Cwestiwn 6: Beth oedd y meini prawf cymhwysedd a'r sail resymegol dros eu dewis?

Question 6: *What were the eligibility criteria and the rationale behind their selection?*

Cwestiwn 7: Sut y cafodd y ceisiadau eu blaenoriaethu? A wnaethpwyd ymdrech i dargedu elfennau penodol neu ardaloedd daearyddol?

Question 7: *How were applications prioritised and was there an attempt to target specific elements or geographic areas?*

Cwestiwn 8: Pa amodau a gafodd eu defnyddio ar gyfer y rhannau'n ymwneud â rhywogaethau, cynefinoedd a gwyddorau'r ddaear? (A allwch gynnig gwybodaeth at ddibenion tasgau bwrdd gwaith?)

Question 8: *What prescriptions were used for species, habitats and earth science components (can you provide information for desk top work)?*

Cwestiwn 9: Beth oedd costau uned gwahanol rannau'r cynllun (er enghraifft, y gost o reoli rhododendron fesul hectar, cyfraddau'r bugail gwartheg fesul awr/diwrnod, y gost am ffensio fesul metr)?

Question 9: *What were the unit costs for scheme components (e.g. cost per hectare of rhododendron control, hourly/day rate for stockman, cost per metre of fencing)?*

Cwestiwn 10: Nodwch sut y cafodd cyfraddau ymyrraeth y grant eu gosod. Pa awdurdod oedd ei angen i'w pennu?

Question 10: *Describe how grant intervention rates were determined. What authority was required to set them?*

Cwestiwn 11: A allwch grynhai beth oedd adnoddau'r cynllun – y gyllideb gyffredinol, y cyfraniadau cyfatebol, y rhaniad rhwng costau rhedeg y cynllun a'r costau cyflawni (y grant)?

Question 11: *Could you summarise the resources for the scheme – overall budget, match contributions, relative split between scheme running costs and delivery costs (grant)?*

Cwestiwn 12: A allwch grynhai'r lefel a'r math o gefnogaeth a gynigiwyd i'r ymgeiswyr (er enghraifft cymorth wyneb yn wyneb, canllawiau ysgrifenedig)?

Question 12: *Could you summarise the level and type of support offered to applicants (e.g. support in person, written guidance material)?*

Cwestiwn 13: Disgrifiwch y broses ymgeisio. Sut a phryd y cyflwynodd yr ymgeiswyr eu ceisiadau? Pwy a benderfynodd ar lwyddiant y ceisiadau, a pha wybodaeth a ddefnyddiwyd i hwyluso'r penderfyniadau?

Question 13: *Describe the application process – how and when did applicants apply? Who determined the success of the applications, and what information was used to help decision making?*

Cwestiwn 14: Nodwch hyd unrhyw gytundeb a sut yr aethpwyd ati i sicrhau'r canlyniadau yn yr hirdymor?

Question 14: *Describe the length of any agreement and how outcomes were secured in the longer term.*

Cwestiwn 15: Pa amodau grant a ddefnyddiwyd a pha amodau a ddylai fod ynghlwm wrth y cynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth newydd ar gyfer Cymru gyfan, pe bai un yn cael ei greu?

Question 15: *What grant conditions were used and what conditions do you suggest should be attached to a new all-Wales biodiversity funding support scheme, if it were established?*

Cwestiwn 16: A gafodd safonau gwasanaeth arbennig eu llunio ar gyfer y cynllun? Os felly, a wnewch chi eu nodi.

Question 16: *Were any specific standards of service drawn up for the scheme? If so please describe them.*

Cwestiwn 17: Nodwch sut y cafodd y cynllun ei reoli (staff, swyddogaethau, rheolaeth ariannol, gweithdrefnau adrodd ac ati).

Question 17: *Could you describe how the scheme was managed (staffing, roles, financial management, reporting procedures etc)?*

Cwestiwn 18: Nodwch sut y cafodd y cynllun ei hyrwyddo a pha arferion da a rannwyd.

Question 18: *Could you describe how the scheme was promoted and how good practice was shared?*

Cwestiwn 19: Faint o ofyn/angen sydd yna ar hyn o bryd am gael cynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth yn eich ardal? Beth yw'r dystiolaeth sydd ar gael?

Question 19: *What are the current demands/needs for a biodiversity funding support scheme in your area – what is the evidence for this?*

Cwestiwn 20: Contract o ba hyd y dylid ei sefydlu dan gynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth?

Question 20: *What length of contract should be secured under a biodiversity funding support scheme?*

Cwestiwn 21: A fydddech chi a'ch cyflogwr yn cefnogi'r syniad o gael cynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth newydd ar gyfer Cymru gyfan?

Question 21: *Would you and your employers support the establishment of a new all-Wales biodiversity funding support scheme?*

Cwestiwn 22: Pa bai'r cysyniad yma'n datblygu ymhellach, beth fyddai eich prif bryder?

Question 22: *What would be your main concern if and when this concept develops further?*

Cwestiwn 23: A fydddech yn fodlon bod yn rhan o grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen er mwyn datblygu'r cysyniad ymhellach yn ystod 2009-10?

Question 23: *Would you be willing to participate in a task and finish group to develop the concept further in 2009-10?*

**Diolch yn fawr ichi am gymryd rhan yn y cyfweiliad /
Thank you very much for participating in this interview**

Os hoffech gael gwybod am ddatblygiadau pellach o ran creu cynllun cefnogaeth ariannol i fioamrywiaeth ar gyfer Cymru gyfan, nodwch eich manylion cyswllt yma:

If you wish to be kept informed about the further development of an all-Wales biodiversity funding support scheme please write your contact details here:

Enw/Name

Swydd o fewn y sefydliad/Post in organisation

E-bost/E-mail

Rhif ffôn/Phone