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The Research: An Investigation into How the Outcomes of Specific Actions for Species and Habitat Plans are Recorded and Reported

Introduction

In 1992 the then UK Prime Minister signed the Biodiversity Convention at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Later, in 1994, he announced the establishment of the UK Biodiversity Steering Group.

In the same year the UK Government published *Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan*.

The overall goal of the UK Action Plan is:

To conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK

To contribute to the conservation of global Biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms.

From this came targets, set by the UK Steering Group, for maintaining or increasing the populations or distribution of species and habitats. In turn action plans for key species and habitats were produced. For national targets to be implemented, a means was required to translate these into effective action at a local level. Thus Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) were created and have been in progress since that time.

It is not, however, totally clear how, at a local level the outcomes of actions, determined by definite issues, will be recorded. There is a need to link local action to national reporting.

The aim of this research is to explore the links between LBAP action outcomes in Gwynedd, including the Snowdonia National Park (SNP), and how this information is communicated to the UK level. Two model examples with a known Habitat Action Plan (HAP) and a Species Action Plan (SAP) have been used:

Lowland heaths

The water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*).

The objectives of the research were:

Determine from workers on the ground the outcomes of specific LBAP actions.

Identify where the actions have been/could be recorded.

Determine how the workers would like the information to be recorded in the future and what feedback they would like.