

WBP SG10 – Caerphilly 10th Feb 2010
Outputs from the 2010 targets workshop

Workshop Part 1:

The attendees were asked in pairs to consider the following questions. The responses are given below.

- Given the current state of knowledge, threats and constraints, what does Wales need to do differently to halt biodiversity decline?
- Can we adapt what we currently do?
- What are the 3 key areas we need to focus on to halt biodiversity loss; aim to produce three clear messages.

- Thorough and complete monitoring and sharing of biodiversity data
 - maximise the benefits from vested interests
 - promote natural history
 - report all sightings
- Save the bee!
 - vastly increase the amount of wildflower and nectar sources in the landscape
 - stop cutting grass
- Manage food security threats by creating small scale enterprise areas based on small scale mixed farming and related business (e.g. flour mills)
 - also increases diversity of crop and resistance to climate change

- Clarify and simplify land use policy to improve the quality of the broader countryside. Not just designated sites.
- Focus resources to preventing biodiversity loss, rather than increasing stable habitats/species.
- Understand and communicate the value (socio economic) of biodiversity. Policy/land managers need to understand ecosystem services to access new ways of working.

- Strategic aim – need clear strategic overview from the highest level down, that embeds biodiversity into an all Wales framework (one Wales), which is incorporated into all relevant policies, strategies and frameworks, so that biodiversity safeguard is put first (with social and economic aspects too) as part of sustainable development. Need action plan at a high level, based on ‘no net loss’ principle
- Need communication/public relations exercise that sells the benefits of biodiversity to all
- Need resources to achieve direct action on the ground, but also to develop innovative solutions to achieve more with less resource in the future.

- Redirection of resources aimed at agricultural practices to promote biodiversity
- Development of land management fund to promote positive activities (in rural economies) for food, energy, biodiversity.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Address issue of lack of knowledge of the current state of biodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding equal to other comparable EU states specifically for biodiversity conservation (e.g. Belgium, Holland) ▪ Government will to do something seriously! ▪ Education so that the public understand the need for action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensuring that environment is put <u>first</u> in all thinking about policy, cascading down to practical measures e.g. agricultural policies, development policy and resourcing to do this. ▪ Got to accept that there is (in addition to getting policy right) a resource need and this maybe substantial in terms of what we currently spend (need for honesty here) ▪ An effective, fully funded, agricultural support system which puts environment/biodiversity outcomes on a level with food production (this can be transposed to the marine environment too)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide budget – or make biodiversity a real part of everybody’s spending, i.e. consider ecosystem/biodiversity in all actions; redirect resources by raising the awareness of the value of the ecosystem to the survival of the human race. ▪ Better coordination – between all partners so that we focus work and save time and money (invest more wisely), BARS and NBN are the key to sharing information and coordinating our work (and being able to provide evidence based reporting). ▪ State of knowledge – need to improve baseline data (surveys data), better data sharing, ensure it all feeds into reporting, ensure volunteers know where to report their sightings/surveys; needs to improve but will require investment in substantial surveys.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial Incentive – grants for projects (local) ▪ More up to date data for species and habitats ▪ Inadequate protection of locally designated wildlife sites and protected species due to loose legislation, e.g. EIA regs. & Dormouse legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wholly accurate and ground truthed map of priority habitats in Wales ▪ A grant scheme to fully fund (100%) favourable management of all priority habitats (including non-agricultural) – fully resourced/non-reliant on volunteers. ▪ Implement (and take seriously) Wales’s obligation to sustainable land management.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agriculture & fisheries policy: integration with biodiversity (visa versa) ▪ Data: survey, research, impacts etc. etc. ▪ Effective implementation of existing policies, strategies and legislation.

- Greater political commitment – manifesto commitments (need for public campaigning and recognition of the value of wildlife in order to trigger this).
- Significant new and ongoing resources for :-
 - a) Action/outcome delivery for lead partners
 - b) More land under direct conservation management
 - c) Repeat surveys for all S42 priorities (particularly species)
 - d) Research on recovery needs and mechanisms
 - e) Budget to deliver S15 payments on SSSIs
- Commitment to use and enforce the legislation we have e.g. CCW SSSI powers, WAG EIA regs. etc. and publicise this more widely (also more joined up government)

Summary of the above:

Focus/increase resources	9
Fully implement/integrate policy and legislation	6
State of knowledge – data sharing, monitoring, survey	6
Encourage sustainable land use	4
Understand/communicate biodiversity issues	3
Serious political commitment	2

Workshop Part 2:

- Given the outputs of the December workshop, the suggestions made and the results so far, what **two** key practical recommendations would you make?
- For each one:
 - What would you ask WAG to do?
 - What would you and WBP do to help?

Marine and Freshwater

Enable Wales to manage Welsh territorial seas (and other watery places) as ecosystems by:

1. Bringing environment and industry together to work on the long term problem

Lead by example:

- Fisheries and marine WAG departments working together
- Ditto fresh water (Fisheries/NCB) and water resources (Water/NCB)
- Properly enforce consent conditions
- Understand and use powers effectively
- Supported by WBP ecosystem groups

2. Making the best use of public money by better coordinating and collaborating on data/information gathering

- Priority for Environment Hub and Technical Services Division WAG
- Supported by WBP WEIF and data charter

Terrestrial Group 1

1. Prioritise resources towards biodiversity, “sell the benefits” of biodiversity. Make the point that biodiversity is one of the pillars of sustainable development.

Two ways of getting resources:

1. Biodiversity levy etc.
2. better communication/ re-spin the benefits of biodiversity to make it appear more ‘new’ and relevant to all and therefore more of a priority for WAG’s resource allocation. Need to use economic argument, such as invest in biodiversity to save on health care costs.

WAG – where is the money that comes from wind farms on WAG (FCW) land going to? Could we use that? When planning applications are approved, community benefits could be required and a % of this spent on biodiversity.

WBP- could help create the arguments in favour of reallocating resources and help coordinate the allocation of biodiversity resources so they are spent wisely.

LBAP’s, and biodiversity action generally, needs to be properly costed so that we are realistic about how much funding is needed.

2. Ensure that existing policies and legislation are implemented on the ground, and that those responsible for implementing them are fully committed to doing so.

(Currently lack of resources means that some of those responsible for implementation may have differing priorities.)

WAG – can lead where it is responsible for implementing policies/legislation.

WBP – can ensure that partners (WBP members) implement policies/legislation for which they are responsible. WBP can highlight cases of loss to biodiversity through inadequate or ineffective implementation of policy/legislation.

WBP could also highlight where amendments are needed to policy/legislation.

Terrestrial Group 2.

1. Agriculture/land management

a) WAG; properly resources Glastir in terms of payments and staff time to deliver positive promotion.

WBP: continue to ensure that Glastir delivers for biodiversity, using Axis 1 money, from farming connect, to assist this.

b) WAG; Take action on WAGs own estate (FCW, the old WDA land bank etc.).

Lead by example. Why not Biodiversity Champions in each WAG department?

WBP: provide advice to support WAG/FCW etc commitments in their plans and NERC biodiversity duty, e.g. all land in government control should be in favourable condition/management by 2015.

2. Information on habitats and species

WAG: find mechanisms to properly fund this work, e.g. levies, instructions to CCW, increased University’s funding for taxonomic skills and biodiversity research.

WBP: Habitats –update Phase 1 maps to produce maps of priority habitat, condition and trends. Provide proper evidence base, e.g. CCW’s remote sensing work and ground truthing.

WBP: Species – prioritise the species for which work needs to be done. Better use of expert volunteers. Focussed training and transferring skills.