

**WBPSG2**  
**18<sup>th</sup> July 2007**  
**AGENDA**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group will be held at the Kenfig Nature Reserve Visitor Centre, Near Bridgend, South Wales. Starting at 10.15am.

TIME	ITEM/ PAPER No:	TITLE	LEAD
09.45	<b>Assemble, tea/coffee</b>		
10.15	1	Welcome, introduction and apologies	Mike Dunn, Chair WBP
10.25	2	<b>Presentation:</b> Overview of CCW funding for biodiversity and brief introduction to the grant systems review	Russell De' Ath CCW
10.55	3	<b>Discussion:</b> How can CCW maximise benefit to biodiversity from their grant scheme?	Mike Dunn, Chair WBP
11.15	4	Marine and freshwater actions – principles, policy actions and urgent on the ground actions.	Catherine Duigan; Aethne Cooke; Juliet Hynes
11.30	5	Species and habitats targets and lists update; information sharing between LBAPS and Lead Partners.	Liz Howe (Presented by Julia Korn)
11.45	6	Habitat connectivity/Natural Connections update: expected achievements and delivery mechanisms.	Jim Latham; Tim Stowe
12.00	<b>LUNCH</b>		
12.45	7	<b>Presentation:</b> Department for the Economy and Transport (DE&T) involvement in biodiversity projects.	Alison Smith (DE&T)
13.15	8	<b>Discussion:</b> Alternative funding sources: how can WBP help maximise resources for biodiversity?	Mike Dunn, Chair WBP
13.35	9	WBP planning and budgeting; Wales Biodiversity Week 2008 dates.	Sean McHugh
13.50	<b>Tea/coffee</b>		
14.20	10	LBAP induction pack; update from BARS advisory group meeting.	Juliet Hynes
14.35	11	Stakeholder Analysis and Communications Plan,	Diana Reynolds
14.50	12	Issues from LBAPs	Gareth Ellis and David Cowley
15.05	13	NERC Biodiversity Duty	Michelle Calnan and Diana Reynolds
15.20	14	UK Standing Committee: update the WBP on UK matters	Mike Dunn
15.35	15	Confirm minutes and actions from last meeting	Mike Dunn, Chair WBP

15.45	16	<b>AOB</b> - UK BRAG Country Liaison Subgroup	Mike Dunn, Chair WBP
16.00	<b>Afternoon tea and finish</b>		

## **MARINE AND FRESHWATER ACTIONS**

### ***Background/Progress***

Catherine Duigan (Conservation Council for Wales [CCW]) provided a presentation on 'Challenges of Working in the Aquatic Environment' at WBP12. It was agreed that we should generate a list of the top 20 'on the ground' actions for marine and freshwater biodiversity in Wales.

A draft list of high-level actions was prepared in December 2006, with input from various members of Marine & Freshwater Science Group, CCW and presented to the steering group (SG) at WBPSG1. The SG decided that a more ground level approach was required with specific actions being ascribed at specific locations which could be allocated to members of the WBP for action.

### ***Plan/Proposals***

More specific on the ground actions have now been prepared by Aethne Cooke, Catherine Duigan and Tristan Hatton-Ellis (CCW) and are included in Annex 1.

The Principles presented at WBPSG1 have been redrafted to take into account comments from WBP members, the Actions presented at WBPSG1 are also listed with the recorded level of progress and/or proposed lead for each.

### ***Decision Points***

- a. For steering group members to endorse the proposed principles
- b. To identify relevant organisation(s) to agree to commit effort/resources to fulfil those actions we wish to pursue
- c. To agree to each organisation reporting progress on these actions via BARS (support is available)

## **PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL ACTIONS FOR THE WBP TO CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY IN THE FRESHWATER AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

*Developed from original proposals from the CCW Marine and Freshwater Science  
Group  
Redraft 14-06-07*

### **Proposed Principles for Delivery of Aquatic Actions (redrafted after SG 1)**

1. WBP members to maximise and make best use of resources available towards improving marine and/or freshwater biodiversity.
2. WBP partners to continue to promote the need for, and implementation of local aquatic BAP plans with LBAP partnerships and relevant organisations with a role in aquatic management.
3. WBP to provide a forum for marine and freshwater stakeholders to communicate and share lessons learnt in the development and implementation of BAP actions.
4. WBP members who are public bodies to recognise and ensure the implementation of their statutory powers and duty towards biodiversity (NERC Act 2006), to utilise existing resources that can benefit the maintenance and furtherance of biodiversity and to input into emerging and future legislative changes. NGO WBP partners to support the duty and assist where possible.

## Current Proposed Marine and Freshwater BAP Practical Actions

**Marine Actions:** Produced for Wales Biodiversity Partnership, May 2007. Work co-ordinated by Aethne Cooke, Marine Biodiversity Liaison Officer, CCW.

BAP Habitat/Species at risk	Environmental Issue	Evidence and Rationale	Location	Action required and lead agencies
<p>Maerl beds</p> <p>Native oyster, <i>Ostrea edulis</i></p> <p>Seagrass beds (sublittoral)</p>	<p>Use of mobile fishing gear within maerl and seagrass beds, resulting in long-term physical damage to the habitat.</p> <p>Continued commercial extraction of the native oyster when numbers are much reduced. Limited opportunity for recovery.</p>	<p>Scallop dredges damage through physical disruption, crushing and burial. Maerl habitat in the Milford Haven waterway has been scallop dredged in the past, most recently in the summer of 2006. The maerl bed in the Milford Haven waterway is the only example of a live maerl bed in Wales. It is also under threat from petro-chemical related activities in the waterway.</p> <p>Wales was once a strong-hold for the native oyster. The introduction of oyster dredging in the mid-19th century and the advent of the railway developed the oyster beds into a major fishery.</p> <p>Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, numbers started to dwindle significantly. Overfishing, combined with reductions in water quality, cold winters (poor spatfall), non-native competitors and parasites are blamed for the decline.</p> <p>Where once the native oyster was distributed from North Wales to the Vale of Glamorgan coast, mostly only relict beds remain. There is still a native oyster commercial fishery in the Milford Haven, but numbers are much reduced from what they once were.</p> <p>Seagrass beds are also sensitive to physical damage from mobile fishing gear. There is no protection for the seagrass beds within the Milford Haven estuary from speculative dredging.</p>	<p>Pembrokeshire</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Prevent use of fishing dredges within the Milford Haven waterway.</p> <p><b>Lead:</b> WAG, South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee</p>

		In addition to being priority BAP habitats (the maerl and seagrass beds) and a priority BAP species (the native oyster), these habitats and species form part of the features of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC. The Milford Haven waterway is a relatively sheltered inlet, and as such its habitats and species are sensitive to damage from mobile fishing gear.		
Native oyster, <i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Continued commercial extraction of the native oyster when numbers are much reduced. Limited opportunity for recovery.	<p>See above for native oyster in Pembrokeshire.</p> <p>From about 90 vessels in the Swansea area in 1863, seven years later the number had fallen to 47 vessels. Landing figures in 1873 were 10 million oysters, and by 1894 this had fallen to just over half a million oysters. This fall in oyster numbers was mirrored across the UK and elsewhere in Wales.</p> <p>There is still a native oyster commercial fishery in the Swansea area, but numbers are much reduced from what they once were.</p>	Swansea Bay area	<p><b>Action:</b> Prevent commercial extraction of the native oyster in Swansea Bay.</p> <p><b>Lead:</b> WAG, South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee</p>
<i>Modiolus</i> (horse mussel) beds	There is currently no protection for areas of horse mussel reef from mobile fishing gear where it occurs outside a statutory site. Scallop dredges are prohibited from dredging the horse mussel bed in the Pen Llyn A'r Sarnau SAC, but this does not extend to other forms of mobile fishing gear.	<p>There used to be large area of horse mussel reef on the northeast corner of Anglesey that appears to have been all but destroyed by dredge activity (more work is required to investigate the original size of the beds to compare with what is left).</p> <p>There is an area of horse mussel reef within the Pen Llyn A'r Sarnau marine SAC in which scallop dredges are prohibited. However, other forms of mobile fishing gear are not prohibited from this site.</p> <p>Excluding mobile fishing gear from these areas will protect remaining areas of reef, and also allow recovery of other areas.</p>	Anglesey Gwynedd	<p><b>Action:</b> Prevent use of all mobile fishing gear within areas of horse mussel reef off Anglesey and Gwynedd.</p> <p><b>Lead:</b> WAG, North Wales &amp; North West Sea Fisheries Committee</p>

<p>Mudflats</p> <p>Seagrass beds (intertidal)</p>	<p>Physical damage to mudflat and seagrass habitats at Angle Bay and Pembroke River.</p>	<p>In recent years, Angle Bay and Pembroke River have been used as cockling grounds, particularly when the Bury Inlet cockle beds are closed.</p> <p>In Angle Bay, both mudflat and seagrass habitat have been physically damaged through intensive raking and vehicle movements associated with cockle harvesting. This is in addition to intensive removal of the target species, cockles. There is currently no limit to the number of cockle gatherers in Angle Bay or Pembroke River.</p> <p>In addition to both these habitats being priority BAP habitats, they also form part of the features of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC. Both these sites are SSSIs and are of special interest for the marine biology (including the mudflats and seagrass beds) and migratory waterfowl.</p>	<p>Pembrokeshire</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Prevent further damage to mudflat and seagrass bed habitat in Angle Bay and Pembroke River.</p> <p><b>Lead:</b> CCW, South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee, WAG</p>
<p>Mudflats</p>	<p>Physical damage to mudflat habitat at access point onto Traeth Lafan by vehicles (quad bikes) used in cockle fishery.</p>	<p>Local police have channelled vehicles associated with the cockle fishery at Traeth Lafan into use of a single access point to the shore. This is as a result of health and safety concerns and the alternative of using unmanned railway crossings. The resulting access arrangements have resulted in significant damage to the mudflat habitat at the top of the shore. As this is a wave-sheltered environment, recovery is likely to take a long time, if at all. There is currently no limit to the number of cockle gatherers on Traeth Lafan.</p> <p>In addition to being a priority BAP habitat, the site in which this example of mudflat damage occurs is a SSSI, SAC and SPA.</p>	<p>Gwynedd</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Prevent physical damage to mudflat habitat at Traeth Lafan.</p> <p><b>Lead:</b> CCW, Local Authority (Gwynedd), North Wales &amp; North West Sea Fisheries Committee, WAG</p>

<p>Mudflats</p>	<p>Despite targets *‘to maintain at least the present extent and regional distribution of the UK’s mudflats’, there is a continued loss of and threat of future loss to mudflat habitat in Wales.</p> <p>* Since revised to ‘no further net loss of extent of intertidal sediment ecosystems....’</p>	<p>On a UK level, some 25% of estuarine intertidal sediment habitat has been lost to development. Within Wales, although there is no quantitative data available, estuaries and areas of mudflats have been highly modified by human influences, particularly in those areas that are close to dense population centres and industry. Most estuaries and embayments have experienced loss and/or degradation to mudflat habitat to some degree, primarily due to coastal defence works, land claim, barrage construction and pollution. The most significantly impacted areas include the Milford Haven, the Burry Inlet, Swansea Bay, Tawe and Neath estuaries, the Dee, Glaslyn, Conwy and Pwllheli harbour.</p> <p>Mudflats in Wales remain vulnerable to future developments such as marinas, coastal defence, dredging and barrage construction.</p> <p>In addition to mudflats being important in their own right as areas of immense biological productivity, they are also important as a natural form of coastal protection, as a fish nursery area, as an economic resource (commercial fishing, recreational angling, tourism) and as a natural filter system for coastal seas.</p>	<p>All Wales</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Local Authorities, and other consenting bodies, to ensure that national and local mudflat targets are adhered to prior to consenting development which may result in loss or deterioration of mudflat habitat.</p> <p><b>Lead:</b> Local Authorities</p>
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## Freshwater Actions

Produced for Wales Biodiversity Partnership, May 2007. Work co-ordinated by Tristan Hatton-Ellis, Senior Freshwater Ecologist, CCW.

BAP Habitat/Species at risk	Environmental Issue	Evidence and Rationale	Location(s) <sup>1</sup>	Action required and lead agencies
<b>Allis and Twaite Shad</b>	Access to spawning grounds.	Shads are relatively poor at negotiating obstacles to migration such as weirs and bridge footings. The SAPs for shad ( <a href="http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=85">http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=85</a> and <a href="http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=84">http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=84</a> ) identify this as a key issue.	River Usk (especially Crickhowell Bridge) River Severn	Obstacles removed or bypassed using a shad-friendly fish pass. <b>Action:</b> CCW, British Waterways, Dwr Cymru, EAW, Natural England, Powys CC, BBNPA, Monmouthshire CC.
<b>Mesotrophic and Eutrophic Lakes</b>	Not enough information to target effective BAP action outside protected sites.	No survey of mesotrophic and eutrophic non-SSSI lakes in Wales has been carried out. Consequently we do not know the distribution or quality of these habitats in Wales.	All Wales	Survey 30 Welsh mesotrophic lakes. <b>Action:</b> CCW, EAW, Dwr Cymru, Local Authorities.
	Stocking of Fish not Native to the Lake.	Stocking of non-native fish species has the potential to cause detrimental ecological shifts in mesotrophic and eutrophic lakes. They uproot plants, stir up sediment and consume aquatic invertebrates, turning previously clear lakes into turbid systems dominated by phytoplankton.	Llyn Bedydd Llyn Maelog Talley Lakes Pysgodlyn Mawr Llyn Eiddwen Kenfig Pool	Carry out risk assessment to identify damaged and at risk sites. Buy fishing rights to at least 5 lakes at risk. Carry out removal of undesirable species on at least 10 damaged lakes. <b>Action:</b> CCW, EAW, RSPB, National Trust, Local Authorities.

<sup>1</sup> All locations mentioned are subject to further discussion and consultation.

<p><b>Running Waters and Standing Waters</b></p>	<p>Eutrophication (diffuse).</p>	<p>Nutrient enrichment, especially from agricultural sources, has caused extensive damage to many Welsh lakes and rivers. Reducing nutrient inputs is essential to achieving favourable condition.</p>	<p>Llyn Tegid Llyn Coron Llyn Dinam Llyn yr Wyth Eidion Llangorse Lake Llyn Eiddwen &amp; Fanod Bosherston Lake Llanbwchllyn Lake Llyn Mawr River Dee River Ithon</p>	<p>1. Continue the catchment sensitive farming project on Llyn Tegid, and extend it to at least 5 new lake catchments. <b>Action:</b> CCW, EAW, Rivers Trusts, WAG. 2. Purchase strategic land parcels or set up management agreements in sensitive catchments. <b>Action:</b> CCW, National Trust, Local Authorities, Rivers Trusts, RSPB.</p>
	<p>Acidification and sedimentation from forestry.</p>	<p>Conifer plantations exacerbate acidification problems by scavenging acid gases from the atmosphere, whilst forestry operations such as clearfelling can cause large inputs of sediment and nutrients to enter lakes.</p>	<p>Afon Eden Afon Teifi Afon Tywi Llyn Cwellyn Llyn Tryweryn Llyn Fach Llyn Bychan Llyn Goddionduon Llynnau Bodgynydd River Wye</p>	<p>1. Ensure the Forest and Water Guidelines are implemented for all forestry operations. 2. Carefully remove conifer plantations from areas of sensitive catchments, ensuring minimal runoff and replacing with broadleaved woodland or other appropriate land use. <b>Action:</b> CCW, Forestry Commission.</p>
<p><b>Freshwater Pearl Mussel</b></p>	<p>Freshwater Pearl Mussels are close to extinction in Wales due to pollution, dredging and other issues.</p>	<p>CCW, EAW, SNPA and others are involved in a collaborative project to rescue the Freshwater Pearl Mussel from extinction in Wales. Large numbers of mussels are currently being reared in captivity, and will be ready for seeding into suitable rivers in the not too distant future. However, more work is needed to identify subcatchments with sufficiently low impacts and a healthy fish population to support pearl mussels.</p>	<p>Various rivers in Wales.</p>	<p>1. Ensure the Pearl Mussel Recovery Project continues to be funded. 2. Initiate work to identify suitable subcatchments for mussel reintroduction. <b>Action:</b> CCW, EAW, SNPA.</p>

<b>White-clawed Crayfish</b>	Spread of non-native crayfish species, especially signal crayfish.	Signal crayfish is an aggressive competitor and spreads crayfish plague, a virulent pathogen.	River Wye River Usk	Eradication of signal crayfish populations using trapping and pesticides. <b>Action:</b> CCW, EAW, Wildlife Trusts, Powys CC, BBNPA, Wye & Usk Foundation, Natural England, Monmouthshire CC.
	Damage to habitat by livestock.	Livestock trampling and sheep dip contamination kills crayfish.	River Wye	Fencing of sensitive tributaries. <b>Action:</b> CCW, EAW, Wildlife Trusts, Wye & Usk Foundation.  Ban the use of synthetic pyrethroid sheep dips (see Running Waters action below).
<b>All Freshwater Habitats and Species</b>	Presence of Topmouth Gudgeon in Llanelli Millennium Park .	Topmouth gudgeon is a highly invasive species that competes with native fish, predated eggs and larvae and spreads fish diseases and parasites. It can live in both standing and running waters and is spreading rapidly in England. Internationally recognised as a pest, it is currently known from only one isolated Welsh site, but if it spreads to others it could have serious environmental and economic consequences.	Millennium Park, Llanelli	Eradication by draining the lake and / or using piscicides. <b>Action:</b> EAW, Llanelli CB.

<b>Running Waters</b>	Use of synthetic pyrethroid (SP) sheep dips.	SP dips are approximately 100% more harmful to aquatic life than other formulations, and there is increasing evidence from around Wales to suggest that these chemicals are too dangerous to use outside of strictly controlled conditions (such as a veterinary clinic). Recent dramatic declines in aquatic invertebrates have been attributed to pollution from these chemicals.	All parts of Wales where sheep farming occurs.	Ban the use of synthetic pyrethroid sheep dips. <b>Action:</b> NAW, EAW.
<b>Ponds</b>	Habitat fragmentation / loss.	Ponds are an important habitat for wildlife, but they have a high turnover, with approximately 1% of the total resource lost annually due to succession and infilling. Therefore, it is essential to create new habitat for pond organisms. The Important Areas for Ponds (IAP) Project has identified several key areas for ponds in Wales, and these should form the focus initially.	Anglesey Brecknock & Radnor Flintshire, Wrexham & Denbighshire Glamorgan Pembrokeshire South Wales Dune systems	Dig 30 new wildlife ponds in Important Areas for Ponds. <b>Action:</b> CCW, EAW, Local Authorities, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust.
<b>Exposed Riverine Sediment (ERS) Invertebrates</b>	Trampling, siltation and dunging of ERS habitat.	Exposed riverine sediment habitat supports a unique invertebrate community, of which many species are nationally scarce. However, trampling and dunging of this habitat by livestock causes widespread damage. Siltation from agricultural, construction and forestry activities further contributes to habitat damage. River regulation alters flows, so winter floods do not clean sediment accumulating over the summer.	Afon Tywi Afon Rheidol Afon Ystwyth River Dee River Wye River Severn River Usk	Extensify livestock management in vulnerable key areas for ERS invertebrates. Implement silt management programmes in vulnerable catchments, including fencing works, riparian corridor management and ensuring that agricultural and forestry codes for good practice are followed. Ensure winter flushing flows are maintained.  <b>Action:</b> EAW, Rivers Trusts, CCW.

**Update:****Original Proposed Practical Actions for the Aquatic Environment; progress since SG 1**

A number of the original proposals will be incorporated into current plans in order to be taken forward for example under the Habitat and Species List Review or via the Non Native Species Strategy. Only those requiring additional action are listed in Table 1, Table 2 is provided for information only as these actions have already been dealt with (numbering corresponds with the numbering of the original actions).

**Table 1.** Actions from WBPSG1 presentation requiring additional attention

<b>Proposed Action form CCW Marine and Freshwater Science Group December 2006</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>
6. Identify appropriate funding streams that will: 1) enable the implementation of local aquatic plans and 2) support LBAP partnerships in undertaking pilot projects relating to aquatic BAP.	Support team will identify and inform WBP about available funding streams including EU funding options. WBP have provisionally budgeted 5k for biodiversity projects annually, plus 5k for post conference projects.
7. WBP members to promote the inclusion of measures to protect and enhance biodiversity within the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) process, and to encourage and provide support to SMP group members that respond positively to their biodiversity duty under the NERC Act 2006, as well as to European and national protected sites and species.	Target the Coastal Cell groups directly (includes relevant reps from CCW, EAW, LAs etc) to ensure that all present are at least aware of NERC duty, what it means, BAP priorities in Wales – so that biodiversity duty and BAP interests feature in the ongoing review of SMPs in Wales.
10. WBP to review emerging marine legislation, particularly with respect to the Marine Bill and advise WAG of implications to aquatic biodiversity.	WAG have agreed to provide Marine paper to November WBP Steering Group meeting. This should provide an opportunity for WBP members to input into Wales measures under Marine Bill through guidance to WAG
11. WBP to assist in the production and implementation of further local aquatic habitat and species plans in Wales (requiring commitment of funding and other resources).	Seek engagement from other organisations e.g. EA, Academia, Sea Fisheries Committees, not just CCW
13. WBP to raise awareness of the impacts of human activities on the freshwater and marine environment	Action for all
14. WBP to review whether species identified for protection under the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals are currently sufficiently protected both within and outside existing marine protected areas.	The Convention offers protection to all migratory species, irrespective of whether or not the species, is inside or outside of a marine protected area. This is what the law says but is it actually carried out, are they being sufficiently protected? CCW or JNCC then WAG can act on it.
16. WBP to investigate the establishment of further accreditations from the Marine Stewardship Council for Welsh fisheries. The only MSC accredited fishery in Wales (indeed of its type - molluscs- in the world) - that being the Burry Inlet cockle fishery - has just had its accreditation extended for another 5 years.	WBP and Wales Coastal Marine Partnership members to encourage and inform fisheries on best practice to achieve further accreditations.

18. WBP members to make available historic or otherwise unavailable datasets for documenting reference conditions and distribution of habitats and species.	To be agreed/confirmed as an action for ALL following SG2. To be done through LRCs, may require outreach to encourage the feeding of the information into LRCs
19. WBP to facilitate workshops (including field visits) that link specialists and/or UK BAP species and habitat working groups with LBAP partnerships.	Following release of new priority habitat and species lists very important to link LBAP partnerships to specialists (Diana Reynolds been in discussion with JNCC)
20. WBP members to contribute to the creation of a Freshwater Biodiversity Liaison Officer post (at CCW).	Post not yet created – ongoing

**Table 2.** Actions from WBPSG1 presentation that have already been dealt with by WBP

<b>Proposed Action from CCW Marine and Freshwater Science Group December 2006</b>	<b>Progress achieved</b>
5. WBP membership to be revised to include the full range of marine and freshwater related organisations.	Attendance agreed for at least one representative of the Wales Coastal Marine Partnership at each SG meeting
8. WBP website to provide contact details for all those involved in marine and freshwater biodiversity in Wales, and to include links to UK BAP habitat and species sites e.g. <a href="http://www.LakesHAP.org.uk">www.LakesHAP.org.uk</a>	Part of the ongoing WBP website development.
9. WBP partners to establish 'best practice forums' on the WBP website for contentious actions e.g. habitat restoration, thus providing a consultation point for future similar projects.	Part of the ongoing WBP website development.
12. The WBP to develop an online resource of Welsh biodiversity images, to ensure that access to good quality material does not hinder the promotion of the aquatic environment.	Part of the ongoing WBP website development.
15. WBP to investigate occurrences of biodiversity loss / failure to meet national and local BAP targets in Wales and identify causes and solutions.	Will be addressed by Emily Dicks' analysis of Wales' reporting from BARS
21. WBP to establish task and finish group from WBP member representatives on the Welsh River Basin Liaison Panels to coordinate biodiversity objectives taken to RBPs.	Task and Finish Group established
17. WBP too promote the awareness raising, monitoring and if appropriate, the removal of non-native species.	Non native task and finish group will discuss these issues

22. WBP partners to support the improvement, restoration and creation of wetland and other freshwater habitats.	Not necessarily WBP remit, may come under broad terms reference through WBP support to others
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## **UK Priority Species and Habitats List**

### *Background/Progress*

#### **1) UK Priority Species and Habitats List**

The draft list and report were put to the UK Standing Committee in April. The final tweaks to the list were completed by the Priority Review Group on 18<sup>th</sup> May and it has now been put on the UKBAP web site

(<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/bapgroupage.aspx?id=112>) prior to sign off by the relevant Ministers. Once this has happened, it will be put out for public consultation for 6 months. Meanwhile, it is envisaged that further developments will be undertaken to identify the three most urgent actions required for each species, along with indications for grouping the species plans (taxonomically, ecologically, by habitat or by policy), for signposting the necessary activities required for each taxa and habitat along with the development of success criteria. It is envisaged that BRIG will set up a new sub group to take the list through these next stages.

#### **2) Section 42 task and finish group**

WBPSG1 agreed to the setting up of a task and finish group to develop the Welsh Section 42 list from the new UK Priority Species and habitats list. Volunteers have come forward and details of the group is attached as Annex 2. The group should have agreed the scope of the Welsh subset of UK species and habitats and the criteria for the proposal of any additional species or habitats by the time of this meeting.

### *Plan/Proposals*

1) WBP members should note the proposed new habitats and species, and also those that are currently on BAP, but have been recommended for removal. As part of the development of the new Section 42 list, we will identify those taxa and habitats that occur in Wales as an aid to LBAP work.

2) The task and finish group will conduct most of its business via email, but will need to meet at least once face to face. The WBP Secretariat will service the group. The group hope to complete their draft list during summer 2007 and present it to WBPSG3 in November for endorsement, prior to Ministerial submissions.

### *Decision Points*

- a. To endorse the UK Priority Species and Habitats List.
- b. To endorse the next steps approach to ensuring that Welsh biodiversity action can rapidly adopt the new UK list and new delivery approach.
- c. To agree the method of working and timetable for the task and finish group.

## **Welsh BAP action- next steps?**

### ***Background***

In the past, UK biodiversity action for species and habitats has been mainly led from the UK level through a network of Lead Partners. For habitats these have been the Country Agencies, but for species, many NGOs and other agencies have taken the lead role. The consequence is that a variety of approaches to implementation, co-ordination and communication have been developed and we want to make sure that the new generation of BAP action takes forward the best and most appropriate mechanisms for delivering both UK and Welsh targets. At the local level of delivery, it is widely acknowledged that the Welsh LBAP movement is leading the way, and again we want to ensure that where UK and LBAP contacts are working well, they are maintained and strengthened.

There are currently three main methods of organising BAP action via the Lead Partnership approach:

- i) A UK Steering Group composed of all the relevant organisations, with expertise and representation from across the UK, carry out joint work, pool resources and funds, apply for big grants and meet face to face a couple of times a year- especially true of habitats and widespread species or grouped species e.g. heathland, great crested newt, Aculeates, arable plants.
- ii) A virtual UK Steering Group of similar composition, perhaps less members that share ideas, information, but tend to work less as a group and don't often meet e.g. *Dianthus armeria*, common scoter, black grouse, belted beauty moth.
- iii) An individual organisation or person does everything for a species that is very restricted e.g. *Odontomyia hydroleon*, *Cotoneaster intergerrimus*, glutinous snail.

Many groups have morphed from type i to type ii over time or even been abandoned. All should engage with the relevant LBAPs.

We know that plans for the delivery of the new BAP are being based around 'signposting'- grouping species with habitats where sensible, initiating policy action where more benefit can be gained and encouraging local or regional action where this is more efficient. There will be also be success criteria and Country targets to achieve through a higher level of Country delivery where this is relevant to the species or habitat. Whilst this process is still underway, we want to ensure that we do not stand still in Wales.

### ***Plan/Proposals***

- i. Identify the new Welsh list of species and habitats from the UK list to see what we have to encompass.
- ii. Identify the relevant current Lead Partners at UK level for those that are working well, where the species or habitat is likely to require a grouped plan or single species plan.

- iii. Identify those species where it is likely that policy action will be the only requirement.
- iv. Consider whether a Welsh Lead Partner is needed either in addition to or instead of current UK system.
- v. Look for new Lead Partners where necessary.

Some of the analysis of lists and Lead Partners could be done by JNCC and CCW. WBP members can assist in the assessment of current Lead Partners.

## Annex 2

Species and Habitats Priority Lists Task & Finish Group			
Purpose: To produce new section 42 list once the new priority lists are agreed by UK Standing Committee			
Name	Organisation	Contact e-mail	Contact Phone No
Liz Howe	CCW	<a href="mailto:L.Howe@ccw.gov.uk">L.Howe@ccw.gov.uk</a>	01248 385669
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Liz Howe  
19.6.07



## Habitat connectivity/Natural Connections update

### *Background/Progress*

CCW, with partners, is promoting action to improve ecological connectivity in Wales. Briefly, the rationale for this is that the combined effects of habitat fragmentation and climate change are likely to have major impacts on biodiversity and particularly on many of the priority BAP habitats and species. Devising a longer term conservation strategy to deal with these pressures, as well as other issues such as inappropriate management or invasive species, is particularly needed if we are to ensure biodiversity can cope with the anticipated increased pressures upon it. A range of actions at different scales in the landscape may be able to relieve some of these effects. Understanding where such actions would bring most biodiversity benefit is especially important.

The principles for this project were presented to CCW Council in September 2006, and an overview presented to WBP in February 2007. Since then, there has been considerable activity to promote and consult on this work, notably including the 'Natural Connections' conference held in March.

**Mapping ecological connectivity.** Functional networks for woodland, grassland and heathland habitats (with wetlands in progress) have been modelled and mapped in a collaborative project with Forestry Commission and Forest Research. The methodology is consistent with that being used elsewhere in the UK, and the results provide an objective indication of ecological connectivity for these habitats throughout Wales. These can be applied in various ways to help guide biodiversity action. A more detailed mapping study is being carried in Southeast Wales.

**Technical reports.** CCW's Terrestrial Science Group (TSG) is preparing a technical report on connectivity. This will describe the mapping work and give more detailed consideration to species. Consultants for CCW have also drafted a report on socio-economic aspects.

**'Natural Connections' conference, March 2007.** A questionnaire to all speakers and delegates was circulated for feedback, and key points can be summarised as:

1. Strong support for the general approach and CCW's lead.
2. Emphasis on the importance of protected sites within any plans, and that connectivity should not be seen as a replacement for them.
3. Concerns that corridors may be inappropriate and that they have been over-emphasised.
4. The need to include species more within plans, and for more research.
5. The importance of better involvement with stakeholders and the need for a communication strategy.

6. Funding and resources (although this point was not strongly made in written feedback, it featured prominently in discussion).

The concerns of points 2-4 will be addressed within the forthcoming TSG report; points 5 and 6 require more general consideration by CCW and partners.

### ***Plan/Proposals***

A further paper is proposed, prepared by CCW, and other partners from the NGO and University sectors, setting out the approach in more detail, especially the need to make biodiversity more robust to the impacts of climate change.

Much species data are now available in spatial form (eg atlas of birds, butterflies, etc) and it is hoped that a further development of this project will be to incorporate these data with the habitat information already in the model. This could be used to identify biodiversity hotspots where improvements in connectivity could have the greatest benefit, and improve resilience.

Actions to improve ecological connectivity can operate across a wide range of spatial scales, from management of individual sites, through buffers, habitat networks to areas of regional connectivity. There is a need to place these with an organised structure so they that can be seen in context, prioritised for their impact on biodiversity and so that delivery mechanisms for each level and the relationships between them can be assessed.

The table in Annex 1 is an attempt to place this information within a hierarchical structure. It is provisional and only partially complete, and it is hoped that feedback from the current meeting will help refine it. If this structure proves helpful, it could be expanded to include other information, for example, on which species groups may be most benefited by action at each scales, research needs, monitoring requirements etc. It could be used particularly to identify and agree actions to target the most threatened species and habitats, to ensure the best possible conservation strategy for Wales wildlife.

### ***Decision Points***

- a. To endorse and note the actions reported.
- b. To endorse and comment on the table presented.
- c. To volunteer suggestions to take this work forward.

**Annex 1. Different levels of action to improve Ecological Connectivity. The table is provisional only, for discussion and comment.**

Level	Scale (approx.)	Description	Purpose	Relevant delivery mechanisms? (Note that many mechanisms work across spatial levels, and only the most obvious may be listed.)	Typical effective timescale?
<b>1. Sites</b>	< 5 km (0.1 - 1,000s ha)	SSSIs, SACs, pSSSIs, SPAs, NNRs, MNRs, NGO sites, SINC's etc	Improve condition to make populations as robust as possible	SSSI management and management agreements, NGO action, CCW grants, Agri-environment schemes	Defined by WES/BAP targets - 5 - 10 years?
<b>2. Buffers</b>	10m - 1km	Land immediately adjacent to sites	Increase effective area to make populations larger and more robust.	Agri-environment schemes, management agreements, NGO land purchase, Local Development Plans, woodland grant schemes	10 years?
			Increase topographic and altitudinal variation to allow small scale adjustment of location to meet climate needs.		
			Act as physical and chemical buffers (e.g. for nutrient input) to make sites more robust and to protect against damaging non-native species.		
<b>3. Habitat networks</b>	1 - 20 km	Series of sites and habitat patches that form functional networks, throughout Wales; habitat networks for selected species metapopulations (e.g. Marsh fritillary)	Increase functional area of habitats, to increase population sizes, to improve opportunities for local species movement to counter effects of fragmentation and respond to climate change, to support metapopulations.	Agri-environment schemes, Local Development Plans, woodland grant schemes, CCW and partnership large-scale projects, LIFE funding? LBAP	20 years?
<b>4. Regional connectivity ('Natural Connections')</b>	10 - 100 km	Areas of land that provide enhanced connectivity for a wide spectrum of biodiversity, especially between main protected sites. They have high diversity of habitats, topography and altitude. Large-scale landscapes <i>sensu</i> Chris Thomas.	Provision of a resilient framework of semi-natural habitat at a regional scale. Further buffering of sites and increase of functional area. Opportunities for species movement between sites and the wider countryside. Ecosystem services etc.	Agri-environment schemes (top tier?) Wales Spatial Plan	40 Years?
		<i>Areas of regional connectivity can be classified into different landscape zones. These are set out below with specific issues and delivery mechanisms:</i>			
		Coastal zone	Emphasis on widening to make narrow semi-natural fringes more robust and manageable, and to adapt to sea-level rise.	Shoreline Management Plans?, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans? Sand dune framework.	
		Lowland: river corridors, catchments, geological interfaces	High fragmentation and likely to suffer further development pressure; agricultural intensification may be an issue under climate change.	Catchment Flood Management Plans, WFD, management agreements.	
		Ffridd	Important linkage function between lowland and upland, recognition and maintenance are important. Opportunities from forestry restructuring.	Woodland grant schemes(BWWS)	
Uplands/montane	Improve condition and make uplands as resilient as possible.	Upland Framework?			



## **WBP Planning & Budgeting**

### ***Budget***

The total CCW grant aid to Wildlife Trust Wales represents £325,000 covering 1 Jan 2007 to 31 March 2010. The Year 1 draft budget plan (Apr07-Apr08<sup>1</sup>) is provided in the Annex. Biodiversity projects/conference outputs are included in the draft.

### ***Plan/Proposals***

It is anticipated that a number of additions and/or updates may be required to the budget in response to steering group input and these will be included by the support team for circulation after the meeting.

<sup>1</sup> Total grant aid from Jan 2007 to April 2008 is £125, 000. There will be carry over (exact amount tbc) from Jan 07-Mar 31<sup>st</sup> 07 which will be distributed over the lifetime of the project.

### ***WBP Conference 2008***

#### ***\*Reminder\****

WBP 2007 Conference 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September, NEWI, Wrexham. Booking form available on the WBP website.

The WBP 2008 conference location and date needs to be confirmed. A marker has been placed with the University of Wales Aberystwyth and the following two dates are available: **2-3rd Sept & 9-11<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

### ***Wales Biodiversity Week 2008***

The Wales Biodiversity Week has run annually since 2002 and is typically held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in June. WBP have supported the event centrally, providing merchandising, publicity and a centralised web events calendar. The WBP support team have reviewed the approach taken to the event and consider a central support system with merchandising (agreed with LBAPS & other partner organisations), linkages and alignment with internal & external partners (timing of event, shared merchandising) augmented with WBP web and media publicity as a basis for adoption. Note: merchandising costs for WBW 2006 - £6400; merchandising costs for WBW 2007 - £15660.

### ***Decision Points***

- a. To approve the budget as outlined and any changes required
- b. To suggest projects/post-conference outputs leading to biodiversity gain suitable for WBP funding
- c. To agree WBP 2008 Conference date and location
- d. To agree WBW 08 approach, level of funding and date.
- e. Organisations that can provide any merchandise to agree to let Sean ([S.mchugh@welshwildlife.org](mailto:S.mchugh@welshwildlife.org)) know what is available.

## WBPSG2

### Paper 9. - Annex 1.

18th July 2007

#### Overview

<b>WPB Budget</b>	<b>Year 1</b>
<b>Staff Costs</b>	
Salary	52,900
Travel and Subsistence	5000
<b>Administration/Office costs</b>	
Management/Administration charge	6000
<b>Volunteer Costs</b>	
Volunteer Expenses	2100
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	
Mobile phones	144
IT and Communication equipment	1400
<b>WBP Project Workplan</b>	
Website	2800
Conference	4500
Nominated Biodiversity Project	5000
Wales Biodiversity Week	2000
Post-conference output funding	5000
<b>WBP General Workplan items</b>	
Materials/Equipment	1200
Marketing/Publicity	850
Shows/Events/Meetings	1100
<b>TOTAL WBP Workplan Spend</b>	<b>22450</b>
<b>Other project costs</b>	
Financial Management	3000
WBP Staff Development	1000
Contingency	6000
<b>TOTAL Expenditure</b>	<b>99,994</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>Grants</b>	
Grant aid from statutory body	100,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£100,000</b>

## Year 1 Breakdown

	WBP 07/08 Budget												
Staff Costs	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Salary	4,408.34	4,408.34	4,408.34	4,408.34	4,408.34	4,408.34	4,408.34	4,408.34	4,408.34	4,408.34	4,408.34	4,408.34	
Travel and Subsistence	417	417	417	417	417	417	417	417	417	417	417	417	
<b>Administration/Office costs</b>													
Office Overheads	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	
<b>Volunteer Costs</b>													
Volunteer Expenses				120		740	1000	120			120		
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>													
IT and Communication equipment	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	
Mobile Phones	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	
<b>WBP Workplan Project Items</b>													
Website		450		1000					1350				
Conference						4500							
Post-conference output funding							5000						
Nominated Biodiversity Project				2500						2500			
Wales Biodiversity Week		500	1500										
<b>WBP Workplan General Items</b>													
Materials/Equipment		400		200		200		200		200			
Marketing/Publicity	210		100		180				180			180	
Shows/Events/Meetings		200		350			200				350		
<b>Other project costs</b>													
Financial Management	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	
WBP Staff Development							500				500		
Contingency	300	300	500	600	300	1500	500	300	600	300	500	300	
<b>TOTAL</b>	6,213	7,553	7,803	10,473	6,183	12,643	12,903	6,323	7,833	8,703	7,173	6,183	£99,990

## **LBAP COORDINATOR INDUCTION PACK AND LEAD PARTNER LBAP INTERACTION**

### ***Background/Progress***

The WBP support team identified a need for an LBAP coordinator induction pack which brings together important information such as relevant legislation, how and why to use the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS), useful links etc. that will provide help and guidance for newly appointed LBAP coordinators. A section on using LRCS is also included as it has been reported that LBAPs are not making full use of the facilities that are available under their service level agreements (SLA). The outline of the induction pack is provided in Annex 1. If required, a full version of the draft pack is available on request.

We are eager to encourage information sharing between LBAPs and National HAP and SAP Lead Partners and other organisations. It has not yet been fully established how the work on nationally important habitats and species will be reported on BARS, i.e. is it entered at the Lead Partner or Local level and how the information can be disseminated. Therefore we think it would be useful to establish a Task and Finish Group consisting of LBAP coordinators and Lead Partners to work out a practical way of sharing the information and establishing consistent reporting on BARS that works in the real world.

### ***Plan/Proposals***

Discussion on content of induction pack, are any subjects missing, would it be useful to other partners? How information sharing will work between LBAPS and Lead Partners, how does this work on BARS.

Report from BARS advisory group meeting

### ***Decision Points***

- a. Endorse the induction pack principle and content.
- b. Agree to whom the pack should be aimed, e.g. LBAP coordinators, LBAP partnership members, lead partners?
- c. Agree to continue the current activity of the support team with a view to setting up a task and finish group to discuss Lead Partner/ LBAP information sharing.
- d. Agree publication date and whether to make it available as a web document.



## **LBAP Coordinators Induction Pack**

### **Brief Policy Framework for Biodiversity Action Planning and Supportive Legislation**

Biodiversity Action Planning – a history

- UN Convention on Biological Diversity

- UK Biodiversity Partnership role

- Country Biodiversity Partnership role

- Local Biodiversity Partnerships role

- Commitment to Biodiversity by Welsh Assembly Government

  - Wales Environment Strategy and Actions

  - Sustainable development

Background to Environmental Legislation

- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

- Protection of Birds Act 1954

- Nature Conservancy Council Act 1973

- Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act 1975

- Ramsar convention

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

- Environmental Protection Act

- Birds Directive 1979

- European Habitats Directive 1992

- Natura 2000

- Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000

- Natural Environment and rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

  - Sec 40 Duty to conserve biodiversity

  - Section 42 - Biodiversity lists and action (Wales)

### **Roles in Nature Conservation**

Central Government – DEFRA

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

Statutory National Conservation Agencies

Local Government

Environment Agency

The Crown Estate

The Public

### **The Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)**

BARS supporting statement

How to enter an action plan, best practice recommendations

LBAP user access rights (already been written by Loraiza)

LBAP-Lead Partner interaction model (one top down version already written by Loraiza but not sure this is best model in practice)

**Local Record Centres**

What information and help can your LRC provide.

**Finding Information**

Who's who in Wales

The Wales biodiversity partnership website – supporting statement

Useful links to funding and costing guidance

## **Stakeholder Analysis and Communications Plan**

### ***Background/Progress***

At the February meeting, the Steering Group approved the WBP Work Plan, including the completion of a stakeholder analysis. Since last meeting the WBP support team has begun the first stages of this analysis. From this activity we have developed a set of key mechanisms which might be used to increase biodiversity action in Wales. These potential mechanisms are listed in the annex this paper. A number of these are already being acted on through existing activities, in particular:

- The BBC Breathing Places has agreed to cover mechanisms 1-3 of the annex, leading to increased media coverage of Wales events, including the successful Breathing Cities events of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June launching the Wales Biodiversity Week. Many thanks to those WBP members who were involved in organising, supporting and attending these events.
- Consultants have completed their report for the Wildlife Wales Scoping Study and the report will be available via the Environment Agency Wales website 23rd July. This project, which forms an integral part of the Valuing our Environment series is currently being led by EAW working closely with CCW, the Forestry Commission and Welsh Assembly Government.
- With assistance from other WBP members, the support team have developed a series of checklists for potential use as part of NERC Biodiversity Implementation (see paper 12) which addresses mechanism 9.

The full list of stakeholders and mechanisms is available on request especially to those WBP members who wish to recommend additions and/or corrections.

### ***Plan/Proposals***

- Continue to work with closely with colleagues on Breathing Places.
- Establish a Task and Finish Group to consider the Wildlife Wales report and manage the next stage of work, based on the group already in place; Nick Bialynicki-Birula (EA), Paul Finch (FC), Emyr Thomas (CCW), Diana Reynolds (WAG) and Nigel Adams (WAG)
- Select no more than one other mechanism for further investigation at this stage.

Once the Steering Group has agreed a preliminary set of mechanisms, the support team will add the relevant actions to the WBP Work Plan in order to monitor our progress.

### ***Decision Points***

- a. Agree the actions listed above as a sufficient basis for the WBP communication plan
- b. Agree any additional activities (from the list of mechanisms in the annex or from elsewhere) to be taken forward.
- c. Agree which WBP members to lead/take forward each mechanism agreed.

- d. Agree the need to broaden the appeal of the WBP to improve the public understanding of and involvement in the WBP.

## WBPSG-2

Annex to PAPER 11

18th July 2007

### **Stakeholder Analysis: Key Change Mechanisms (23-03-07)**

#### *Develop closer contact with local communities and businesses:*

**Mechanism 1** - Gain more ethnic community participation in biodiversity:

BY making connections through local allotment associations with some members of Asian community, also through Black Environment Network (BEN) connections, provide BEN with information and support that they need.

**Mechanism 2** – Encourage wildlife in the garden and workplace:

BY communicating through local groups eg. WI, Schools, Faith groups, get supermarkets, DIY stores, pubs involved. Issue simple leaflets through doors containing lists of wildlife gardening websites, provide discounts or supply trees (supply easy care guide with them or other easy to grow wildlife friendly plants. Encourage the reintroduction of front gardens through bring back the front garden campaign, could get BBC/Media involvement from gardening and nature programs.

**Mechanism 3** - something similar to Bridgend's community connections news letter; i.e. community news paper focusing on sustainability issues; produced by Sustainable Wales, articles on composting, energy, heritage, fair trade, local farmers markets – provides list of contacts on the reverse inc. recycling, environment and countryside, nature reserves etc.

BY extend this to other local areas as potential to advertise biodiversity issues and local events; utilise available newsletters produced by many partnership members, maybe have a co-ordinated approach about relevant issues to put into them, provides opportunities to reach different sectors of the community.

**Mechanism 4** – improve response when local people phone up biodiversity organisations to ask questions or need advice.

#### *Build capacity:*

**Mechanism 5** – Develop understanding of the need to protect and enhance biodiversity as key basis for economic activity BY integrating biodiversity management and wildlife tourism into Wales Sustainable Tourism Strategic Framework.

**Mechanism 6** - act to get biodiversity into school curriculum, make biodiversity attractive to school children through media and currently popular websites, e.g. myspace and youtube.

**Mechanism 7** - Gather info from LRCs (species lists) wildlife trusts, RHS may be able to advise on suitable planting schemes to produce particular outcomes. Provide information on local species lists (see Natural History Museum, postcode plants database) for wildlife planting to provide information for gardeners and landscape architects that want to plant up areas for wildlife. Similar to Scottish natural heritage have some guidance on local provenance seed <http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/advisorynotes/106/106.htm>. Could possibly be tied into collecting local provenance seed for sharing via some kind of exchange?

**Mechanism 8** - Skills gap within environmental sector. LANTRA (sector skills council for the environmental land based sector) have done research into this <http://www.lantra.co.uk/EnvCon/documents/SkillsdeficienciesEnvCons.pdf>. Need to better link universities/colleges and volunteer organisations to produce ways of getting people full set of skills needed for employment, including species identification skills.

**Mechanism 9** – increase the early incorporation of biodiversity in policies, programme and projects throughout the public, private and voluntary sectors. Develop and promote training/awareness sessions for the public sector, businesses etc. to gain consistency in their approach to biodiversity (involve Public Service Management Wales or similar).

## Issues from the LBAP coordinators

### *Background/Progress*

#### **1.0 Biodiversity Champions**

All Local Authorities have been encouraged to appoint a Biodiversity Champion. Biodiversity Champions are asking for clarification on what the role requires of them and also training is needed to enable them to fulfil this role. LBAP Officers are encouraged by the interest shown by the Biodiversity Champions and would like to build on this quickly. LBAP Officers are also unclear whether Biodiversity Champions are being selected for other public bodies (Police, Fire and Civil Service etc) who may also need local support from the LBAP Officer

#### **2.0 UKBAP Reporting Round 2008 and LBAP Reviews – making LBAPs Fit for purpose**

The UKBAP Reporting round will start in 2008 and will make extensive use of the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS). This relies on LBAP partnerships making reports on BARS but this can only occur once LBAP Officers have completed setting up their LBAP databases on BARS. Databases need to be complete and partners trained in use of the system to report before the 2008 Reporting round starts.

LBAP officers are encountering 3 barriers to the development of BARS databases;

- The strength of BARS is the use of SMART Targets. Most LBAPs are not SMART and some LBAP Partnerships are conducting reviews to bring them in line with the UKBAP so that progress towards targets can be accurately judged. Until these reviews are complete, the database cannot be set up. Reviews are being delayed or progressing slowly as no guidance on how to conduct a review has been produced.
- It is as yet unclear whether CCW, EAW and FCW will enter data on BARS. This needs to be clarified to avoid either double counting or gaps in reporting. This is particularly true for SSSI land managed by conservation bodies that will use BARS. It will also impact on the disaggregated targets produced by CCW, if Forestry Commission and SSSI data is not entered, a proportion of the disaggregated LBAP Target data will be missing.
- LBAP Officers are struggling to find the time to set up the database in addition to regular biodiversity co-ordination.

In addition, LBAP Partnerships are being encouraged to attend BARS training, While this is generally welcomed, the value of the training will only be realised if Partners are then in a position to immediately make practical use of the system. Since the databases are not complete, partners may attend training and then not be able to put what has been learnt into practice. LBAP Partnerships are seeking clarification from WBP on how best to conduct LBAP reviews and whether BARS will be used by key government organisations.

#### **3.0 Wales Biodiversity Week 2008 Merchandise**

Success of WBW over the last few years has been helped by merchandise support from WBW organisers. Merchandise can be an important component of successful events, and it would be inefficient for LBAP Partnerships to each produce their own. If merchandise is unavailable next year, this will effect the quality of WBW events and the sense of engagement created through members of the public having something to take away to act a reminder throughout the year.

***Decision Points***

- a. Note the success of the Cofnod Seminar for Biodiversity Champions and agree the need to run 2 further seminars for Southeast and Southwest Wales.
- b. Agree that the support team explore opportunities for continuing to inform Biodiversity Champions on related issues so that they feel confident in and inspired by their role.
- c. To consider under the NERC duty paper (Paper 13) the need for Biodiversity Champions in other public bodies
- d. WBP to endorse the need for coordinated training or the production of LBAP review guidance.
- e. For WBP to agree that appropriate merchandise for WBW is provided in 2008 either directly or through sponsorship.

ENDS:

Prepared by David Cowley & Gareth Ellis.

## **NERC Act (2006) Biodiversity Duty**

### ***Background/Progress***

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006:

“Every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”

At SG1 members agreed a work plan including:

- Defra/Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Guidelines.  
Guidance issued covering England and Wales on the Duty on 22 May 2007.  
There are two sets of Guidance:
  - Generic guidance for all public bodies
  - Tailored guidance for local authorities

To view guidance go to:

<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/English/Library/default.aspx?pid=13>

- Progress on Local Authority and Public Bodies workshop to inform the preparation of the guidance on implementing the duty has been interrupted by the Welsh Assembly Government election. We are presently seeking an opportunity to present to key Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) networks such as Heads of Corporate Policy etc.
- Progress on Building on the Biodiversity Implementation Manager's work over the Summer (2006) in order to hold combined CCW and WBP annual review meetings is on course to provide an options paper for WBP SG03 at Chirk Castle.

### ***Plan/Proposals***

Annex 1 provides a set of sample checklists. It is proposed that WBP members could pass these onto relevant colleagues around the edges of appropriate meetings.

Further action could involve providing an opportunity to:

- Set up WBP SWAT team to take checklists to specific CEOs;
- Incorporate usage into our existing events/meetings;
- Identifying Biodiversity Champions in other organisations.
- Develop Wales wide generic NERC training guidance.

### *Decision Points*

To agree:

- a. Endorse the checklist approach;
- b. Decide whether to badge as WBP and whether or not to request WAG branding
- c. Decide on other groups to develop check lists for
- d. Set up a Task and Finish Group to work on using these or agree to informal use for now and a review at WBP SG03 on November 14th
- e. Agree to approach the WLGA to help develop and roll out Wales wide NERC training guidance.

## COUNTRY LIAISON SUB-GROUP

### *Background*

Delivery of the UK BAP is dependent upon the successful working of a number of related bodies. UK BRAG is considered to be an important component of UK BAP delivery, and has worked hard to ensure that the Biodiversity Information and Reporting Group (BRIG) and the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee are kept updated on its activities and products.

However, improvements are needed to UK BRAG's engagement at the individual country level, in order to ensure that a strong link is established with Country Biodiversity Groups:

- England Biodiversity Group
- Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group
- Scottish Biodiversity Forum
- Wales Biodiversity Partnership

By formalising this through the creation of a small sub-group, UK BRAG can take account of the needs of the individual countries and be kept informed of their activities. The Country Liaison Sub-Group will provide the interface between UK BRAG and the four Country Biodiversity Groups. It will meet separately from the main UK BRAG, immediately before or after each meeting. This will enable detailed business planning to be conducted, allowing main UK BRAG to focus on discussion of the science.

### *Relationship to the UK BAP*

Following a review of its activities, UK BRAG sought to clarify the position with regard to research for individual Habitat and Species Action Plans (HAPs and SAPs), and has taken the view that it will not focus efforts at this level. Instead, UK BRAG will continue to address knowledge gaps and research needs for more generic UK BAP issues.

### *Next steps*

UK BRAG is scheduled to meet in December 2007. However, the Country Liaison Sub-Group should begin to operate with immediate effect, undertaking its work through e-mail consultation and, if necessary, a separate face-to-face meeting to initiate a programme of work. The priority action is to identify members for the sub-group (see Action Point 3.4, Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of UK BRAG). The composition of the sub-group needs to be agreed by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007, with a number of actions following this:

- Development of Terms of Reference for the Country Liaison Sub-Group;
- Compilation of a calendar of dates when Country Biodiversity Groups are scheduled to meet, and identification of key events/opportunities for UK BRAG to engage with them;
- Preparation of an information note on the role and responsibilities of the Country Liaison Sub-Group, for presentation to the Country Biodiversity Groups;
- Establishment of a mechanism for capturing the interests/research needs of the Country Biodiversity Groups, reporting these to the Country Liaison Sub-Group and, if appropriate, identifying generic issues to be addressed by the main UK BRAG.