

**WBPSG10**

**PAPER TO NOTE: A**

10 February 2010, Caerphilly

Bioamrywiaeth Cymru  
Biodiversity Wales 

PARTNERIAETH BIOAMRYWIAETH CYMRU

WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

## **Title: Wales Species Lead Partners - Gaps**

**Produced by:** Stephen Bladwell, Wales Species Expert Group/Species Lead Partners

### **Background:**

The Species Expert Group was asked by WBP to coordinate the identification and review of gaps in the provision of lead partner role for Wales's priority species.

Species Lead Partners are responsible for progressing the delivery of actions for priority species in order to meet agreed targets. This role needs to be undertaken at a number of levels and through a range of mechanism/opportunities. Some of the key roles of species lead partners include:

- development, dissemination and review of targets and actions for priority species;
- advising the Ecosystem Groups on those habitat actions required to meet the needs of specific species;
- providing advice to WBP on research and monitoring/surveillance needs;
- providing advice to land managers and LBAP partnerships on species conservation delivery;
- identifying policy constraints and, through representation to the Biodiversity Policy Group, helping to drive policy development and monitor outcomes;
- coordinating reporting for species through appropriate mechanisms (e.g. BARS) and liaising with Species Expert and Ecosystem Groups for UK species reporting.

### **Progress:**

Lead partners have been identified for a significant number of priority species across the taxa groups. This process has considered only terrestrial species with the exception of seaweed spp.

The Marine Ecosystem Group is considering all benthic and mobile marine species.

Of the circa 500 priority species there are currently (January 2010) 68 species with no lead partner identified and 23 species with unconfirmed lead partners.

Currently the gaps are:

Vascular plants	19 spp. (23%) have no lead partner
Bryophytes	9 spp. (29%)
Lichens	25 spp. (37%)

Fungi	12 spp. (46%)
Freshwater fish	10 spp. TBC
Invertebrates	13 spp. TBC

**Action Requested:**

- a) Acknowledge that the gaps in the provision of lead partner role for a considerable number of priority species (predominantly within the vascular and non-vascular plant groups) may present issues in terms of progressing conservation actions.
- b) Agree resources need to be identified to increase the capacity to fill these gaps and urge WBP members to support this process where relevant
- c) Agree that a resource will need to be identified to develop and coordinate a lead partner forum to ensure consistency and effective delivery.