

WBPSG5 15th July 2008, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

Attending		Organisation
Nigel	Ajax Lewis	Wildlife Trust SE Wales
Michelle	Bromley	Forestry Commission
Steven	Bromley	Groundwork Wales
Mike	Bruford	Cardiff University
Aethne	Cooke	CCW
Jennifer	Dack	Environment Agency
Hazel	Drewett	CCW
Mike	Dunn	WAG
Gareth	Ellis	Brecon Beacons NPA/WBP Secretariat
Peter	Frost	CCW
Frances	Gillett	WAG (WBP Secretariat)
Ian	Guildford	PAW
Elinor	Gwynn	CCW
Juliet	Hynes	WAG (WBP Secretariat)
David	Jenkins	Coed Cymru
Steve	Moon	Bridgend County Borough Council
Amy	Mulkern	Welsh Wildlife Partnerships, Wildlife Trusts Wales
David	Parker	CCW
Hannah	Pitt	National Trust
Diana	Reynolds	WAG (WBP Secretariat)
Joanna	Robertson	CCW
Adam	Rowe	Welsh LRC's
Shaun	Russell	Wales Environment Research Hub
Tim	Stowe	RSPB
Dusitaporn	Thomas	Dwr Cymru
Philip	Trembath	Arena Network
Kate	Williamson	Snowdonia NPA
Ray	Woods	Plantlife
Robin	Woodyatt	WLGA

Apologies

From	Organisation	Representatives attending
Chris Mills	EA	Jennifer Dack representing
Dr Glenda Thomas	FWAG Cymru	
David Bullock	National Trust	
Trevor Dines	Plantlife	
Ieuan Roberts	Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd	
Helen Buckingham	National Trust	

Cliff Benson	Sea Trust	
Sean McHugh	WBP Secretariat	
Bill Somerfield	WBP Secretariat	
Julia Korn	WBP Secretariat	
Laura Palmer	Cardiff LBAP	
Deb Hill	WLGA/Swansea	
Tom	Lunn	Arena Network

Welcome and Introduction

Diana Reynolds chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone attending. She announced that Ann John was now in post covering the Marine role at WAG.

Presentation 1: The work of the Wales Environment Research Hub (Dr Shaun Russell)

The PowerPoint presentation accompanying this talk will be available on the WBP website (biodiversitywales.org.uk).

The Hub has been established to assist the translation of science into policy and is located at the Environment Centre Wales in Bangor. It will help the co-ordination and collaboration of research in support of the Environment Strategy Wales (ESW) by establishing who is doing what research where in Wales and enhancing links between different research groups. The Hub will also be a focal point for dissemination of environmental research information.

The website: www.werh.org should go live in Aug – Sept and will allow you to search by subject, funding streams etc. Their first workshop, due in October, will be on Environmental monitoring – details will be available shortly.

Diana Reynolds has already commissioned the Hub to look into what Biodiversity research is being carried out in Wales.

The Minister has stated that the Environment Strategy should underpin all other strategies and the Hub are also looking into this and investigating the alignment of research groups in Wales against the Environment strategy Action Plan actions.

The first Hub conference is planned for January 2009 in Cardiff.

Can contact Shaun at s.russell@bangor.ac.uk

Discussion

The BAP Country habitat groups for Wales are currently being established. Some of the actions that these groups will be overseeing are research. It was asked whether this is something that the Hub could help organise? Once the high level research questions have been established from the ESW they could then look into the more focussed actions of particular areas such as this.

ACTION 1. Support Team: send the Wales habitat groups list to Shaun Russell.

It was also asked whether the WBP organisations should be sending info to the Hub or whether the Hub would be seeking out the information. Both apply. The Hub will be seeking information e.g. through newsletters but it would also help for organisations to keep the Hub informed of the research that they are doing.

ACTION 2. All: send appropriate info on any research being carried out by your organisation, to Shaun Russell (s.russell@bangor.ac.uk, tel: 01248 382234).

ACTION 3. Nigel Ajax-Lewis & Tim Stowe: ask Environment Link to invite members to send research activities to the Hub.

Objective state of the environment reporting was one of the original aims of the Hub. It was asked whether this is still part of the vision? This will happen through keeping the website up to date rather than producing a paper report.

Many Habitat and Species needs apply across the UK. The Hub will also draw on relevant work for the rest of the UK. Shaun has held an advisory role with British Research Council for 15 years and will continue with this role and use it to draw in relevant information.

ACTION 4. Shaun Russell: send invitation to the State of the Environment Workshop in October to Support Team to pass onto WBP members to ensure WBP attendance/input.

Paper 4. Rural Development Plan: Axis 2: Review of Land Management Schemes. (Mike Dunn)

There is a commitment in the Rural Development Plan that the current Agri environment schemes will keep going until the new Schemes are introduced in 2010. EU member states are to amend rural development plans early next year to take account of the CAP Health Check 'challenge agenda'. Currently in Wales everything in Axis 2 is being reviewed. Current agri environment schemes deliver only partially and improved monitoring is needed.

The new schemes are likely to focus on:

Carbon management – sequestering existing carbon, (e.g. in Welsh uplands), new woodland or wetland creation, and possibly energy crops (e.g. short rotation forestry).

Water quality management – catchment sensitive farming.

Water quantity management – flood risk management.

Biodiversity management

Landscape and heritage- linked with other schemes.

Access – developing a more strategic approach to rights of way and national trails.

Welsh Assembly Government currently considering three options as a possible basis for consultation:

1. Entirely new schemes based on high level outcomes
2. Similar to now i.e. continue compensatory schemes for less favourable areas and adapt Tir Gofal, Tir Cynnal, and Better Woodlands for Wales
3. A hybrid approach with something in between these two.

Review by the stakeholder group is well under way, this group contains representatives from the WBP. Suggestions for consultation approaches have been put to ministers and we hope that consultation will be out in autumn this year for implementation 2010

Gareth Ellis questioned whether the scheme will include measures for common land? It was confirmed that collaborative action would be encouraged for common land.

Robin Woodyatt suggested that the riverfly monitoring body could provide water quality information as the rivers are monitored every month providing up to date information.

ACTION 5. Robin Woodyatt: provide riverfly monitoring contact details to Mike Dunn.

Hannah Pitt asked about collaborative opportunities in all 3 options. WAG are keen to target a high proportion of the small amount of new money available to collaborative action.

David Parker asked if there was a timetable. Mike Dunn is meeting the Minister on 16th July. Following this meeting he hopes to be in a stronger position to produce a timetable but stated that the consultation really needs to be ready to go out by September/October otherwise the schemes are unlikely to be in place by 2010.

The Chair thanked Mike Dunn for such a detailed report.

ACTION 6. Diana Reynolds: provide Mike Dunn and John Westlake with details of the from the UK Environmental Audit Committee.

Paper 5: Dyfi Biosphere Project (Pete Frost)

(<http://www.ecodyfi.org.uk/biosphereproject/index.html>)

As part of the modernisation of the Dyfi it is hoped that the entire community will learn to work in increasingly closer unity with the environment. In 2004 a steering group was set up to find out whether the people of Dyfi Valley wanted to resubmit the Dyfi to become a modern biosphere. It was agreed that the area should become a UNESCO biosphere and Ceredigion CC lobbied for Aberystwyth to be included within the reserves boundary. The application was approved by WAG and the forms are currently under review by UNESCO. We hope to know the result in spring 2009.

As part of the project the local community are working to improve biodiversity. Local products and services may have value added to them by the UNESCO designation. The biosphere will be linked to 450 other reserves. These will act as learning labs to work in the face of climate change. More information is available on the website:
www.dyfibiosphere.org.uk

The WBP Steering Group (SG) noted the state of play and were happy with it. Pete was thanked for his comprehensive paper.

Links already exist between the Dyfi project and other large projects e.g. the Cambrian Mountains Rural Development Project. WBP encouraged increased co-operation between such projects.

People are key to the revised UNESCO strategy (see St Kilda de-designation) but Tim Stowe questioned what does the biosphere status actually do for biodiversity? Diana Reynolds said that £20,000 had been donated by the Minister for on the ground sustainable development and nature conservation action. UNESCO status may also opens doors to funding although it doesn't include any funding element itself.

Tim Stowe was disappointed that St Kilda had been de-designated. Pete Frost replied that previous UNESCO reserves often encompassed areas already designated as National Nature Reserves and so already managed for nature. St Kilda was already a World Heritage site and was therefore already being managed as a nature reserves and so the UNESCO designation would be unlikely to provide little additional biodiversity benefit. However, the Dyfi situation is different and it is hoped to see people changing lifestyles within these designated reserves. With the reserves, biodiversity and the environment should bring positive benefits to the economy and community, if the area slips then it may get de-designated which could negatively impact the area.

Peter Frost thanked the RSPB and Tim Stowe for their input to the Dyfi project.

David Jenkins commented that land ownership in the Dyfi biosphere area is 90% in the hands of the indigenous Welsh and care needs to be taken that the interaction with incomers is positive. Pete Frost replied that community leaders were bringing things forward in small steps, this produced a more positive mindset and therefore good, close collaboration with landowners. They have also been working closely with the farming unions who link with landowners and are hoping to show that biodiversity can produce benefits rather than being another obstacle.

David Parker suggested that the Dyfi biosphere project could help the community face up to the challenges of sea level rises and the serious impacts that this would have on the Dyfi area, it's biodiversity and its people.

Steve Bromley asked whether any CCW or WAG money had been applied for and where this would be spent? Pete Frost replied that they wanted the environment to generate its own money and be self sustaining but that CCW would put a small amount in to set up

sectorial initiatives to begin with and will help develop the function of the biosphere. Local Authorities will assist by providing in the management.

Braunton Burrows is the UK's only other UNESCO biosphere (<http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/>) and has successfully brought money in from the Leader initiative - (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index_en.htm).

Joanna Robertson pointed out that some of the language used in the paper seemed to be based on out of date UNESCO text; it is now understood universally that human survival depends on healthy ecosystems (see Millennium Development Goals).

Joanna also asked whether there were plans to identify and own the BAP targets for the biosphere reserve and suggested that action be reported through BARS.

ACTION 7. Joanna: to provide Pete Frost with BAP targets relevant to the Dyfi Biosphere area

ACTION 8. WBP Support Team: to assist with any training needs for the Dyfi project in the use of BARS.

ACTION 9. WBP Support Team: circulate Eco-dyfi website to WBP members

ACTION 10. Pete Frost: pass a copy of the UNESCO leaflet to the support team to enable them to extract the Braunton Burrows biodiversity benefits from the leaflet and circulate to WBP along with analysis of WAG funded biodiversity actions so far.

ACTION 11. ALL: everyone make clear the direct biodiversity benefits when preparing any WBP papers.

ACTION 12. Pete Frost: report back annually to WBP on Dyfi biodiversity actions.

ACTION 13. ALL: assist in integrating biodiversity policy into the Dyfi biosphere project.

Paper 6: Business Engagement with the WBP (Amy Mulkern and Phil Trembath)

The ARENA project has been running since October providing guidance on reducing negative impacts on biodiversity and an awareness of the biodiversity legislation. They provide to businesses a questionnaire, a report and then a list of recommendations and improvement plan setting out immediate and long term actions that can be taken. They also run grants to help with site management.

The Wildlife Trust's Welsh Wildlife Partnerships work together with businesses to deliver a Wales rich in wildlife, providing advice from the Wildlife Trust.

It was noted that WBP had tried before to increase business engagement with but with limited success. Although some companies (national) could engage at a policy discussion level, it was felt that most businesses want to look positive to the local community so engage with local on the ground action/activity would be most appropriate

It was proposed that businesses could engage through regional Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) groups, but that these businesses should already be able to demonstrate some level of commitment to biodiversity. So some sort of screening process would be needed e.g..

- Memorandum of understanding (MOU) would be needed to provide a code of conduct clarifying any WBP endorsement/promotion of businesses on website and providing an exit strategy so that endorsement can be ceased if necessary.
- On WBP or other websites we could state who is working with Local Biodiversity Action Partnerships (LBAPs), shout about good work being done, though we would need tight controls on the promotional framework.

This sort of engagement would be for businesses already interested in biodiversity to help sustain enthusiasm and help to get increased resource into on the ground action. Often biodiversity is seen as secondary to other environmental issues such as waste management. Biodiversity should be tied into company priorities as closely as possible.

As a starting point Amy Mulkern has written some text for the new WBP website to demonstrate how businesses can help biodiversity.

ACTION 14. Amy Mulkern and Sean McHugh: produce business biodiversity pages on new WBP website.

The WBPSG general consensus on this matter was that it would be better to provide a connection between LBAPs and businesses rather than them actually sitting on LBAP groups and that engagement was better at an LBAP rather than a regional level. The Milford Haven Surveillance Group provides an example of businesses, wildlife groups and regulatory bodies working together.

WBP were happy to create a Task and Finish group to create draft MOU, support statements, endorsements etc. These drafts should be wholly complimentary to Green Dragon and should link into existing services provided by ARENA, Wildlife trusts and Shared Earth Trust.

ACTION 15. WBP Support Team: Establish an *Engagement with Businesses* Task and Finish group consisting of Amy Mulkern, Tom Lunn (lead), Robin Woodyatt, Earthtrust, and at least one LBAP Officer.

ACTION 16. Gareth Ellis and Kate Williamson: identify LBAP officers willing to be members of this Task and Finish group.

Paper 7: Wildlife Crime Update (Ian Guilford)

Sargent Ian Guilford provided an update on some of the recent wildlife crime (WC) cases in Wales (also see Annex 3 to paper):

- Rheidol Shingles at Aberystwyth, Ceredigion- unconsented operations on an SSSI, reasonable fine of £4000 plus £5000 costs to CCW.
- Abergavenny- conditional discharge and £100 costs, pleaded guilty to illegal use Larson trap.
- North Wales, bats – brown long eared and Natterer'ss, fine £5000
- Boncath, Pems – digging for badgers and setting dogs on them, 6 month suspended prison sentence, 240h community service, and banned from keeping dogs for 7 years, £4000 costs.

Training for North Wales Officers has been carried out and 24 are now fully trained in Wildlife Crime (CCW funded course). The other Welsh forces have only 17 between them. This has been brought up with senior officers. There is also a crime prosecution service (CPS) initiative to provide one point of contact per region.

In addition the North Wales force has an environmental/biodiversity officer who is looking at how the force can help biodiversity such as the wildflower meadow at the headquarters and bat/bird boxes. The South Wales force also has a similar officer, however the other two forces do not as yet.

ACTION 17. CCW and Ian Guilford: review the Wales Wildlife Crime priorities and bring back to WBP in due course.

ACTION 18. WAG: WAG police contact unit to send out a note to the forces on the need for wildlife crime officers, including NERC Act checklist for the police service.

ACTION 19. Ian Guilford: review the Recommendations in Scotland's review (see Annex 2) and identify which are completed/irrelevant/possible areas for action Wales and bring back to WBP in due course.

David Parker suggested maintaining the format Ian has currently started for the list of Wildlife Crime cases, i.e. adding the new cases and keeping the old cases on the list so that old and new ones can be compared. The list will be maintained on the WBP website for easy access to all. The list provides a short summary, more case details are available once the case has finished and is released to the public domain, at which point a link is provided to this. In the meantime if anyone would like more details on a particular case they can request this from Ian Guilford.

ACTION 20. – Sean McHugh: check that the Wildlife Crime list is available on the new website

ACTION 21. ALL: if anyone identifies any useful cases that are missing from Ian's list please let him know.

Paper 8: Proposed Formal Partnership between WBP and Natur Cymru Ltd.
(www.naturcymru.org.uk)

It was decided that the MOU at this stage should be taken as a draft and was endorsed in principle as the right approach rather than being signed up to in detail at this stage.

Natur Cymru would like support from WBP in the following ways:

- Financial and in kind
- Marketing, selling, pitching to a wider audience
- Contributions particularly Welsh language and/or from Central and South Wales

Other comments on the paper were that the draft MOU suggests a Steering Group but that this would be another layer of bureaucracy. The use of the words ‘partner’ and ‘members’ was not tightly defined in the MOU and will be clarified in the next draft. It should be made clear what the purpose of Natur Cymru is, i.e. that it is not the only outlet for WBP publicity.

ACTION 22. Natur Cymru: Bring back MOU to WBP when revamped.

Some offers of help were made to Natur Cymru at the Chirk Meeting (WBPSG3) these are being followed up. Robin Woodyatt also offered to spread the word at future rivers events and Diana Reynolds offered to the FWAG stand at the Royal Welsh Show and at the Eisteddfod.

ACTION 23. ALL: provide any other offers of help or articles etc. for Natur Cymru.

It is important that Natur Cymru reflects the interests and views of WBP members

ACTION 24. ALL: Send any comments on how well Natur Cymru fits the aspirations of WBP to David Parker d.parker@ccw.gov.uk

Presentation 2: Taxonomic Group – Lichens (Ray Woods)

Ray Woods presented a talk on the state of Lichens in Wales, the PowerPoint presentation accompanying the presentation and handout will be available on the WBP website (biodiversitywales.org.uk).

Wales, for its unit area, has the highest diversity of lichen species on the planet and so is an unusually important resource. Old metal mines maintain internationally important lichen flora. Britain supports around 100 species of fungi that exist only in lichen symbiosis.

BAP has elevated the importance of lichens so they have more recently been searched for and recorded. *Heterodermia leucomela* has been found in more places than expected. Ecological information is still lacking on many species for example, *Graphina pauciloculata* (found on 5 sites in Wales), a species that grows on hazel,. Habitat

management can have an important impact on lichen growth. *Bioteridium* exists on one last remaining elm tree that escaped Dutch elm disease, it likes mature elm or ancient elders. Another species needs permanent sap weeps which appear to be impossible to recreate.

The river jelly lichen only exists on the rocks in the flood zone of the Wye and a few of its tributaries, it is currently being wiped out by silt, swans and geese. One pin head lichen occurs only on ancient lichen such as old barns (ancient oak planks) Tir Gofal has replaced many old planks with new soft wood ones destroying the habitat of this species.

Lobarium communities used to clothe trees across the UK but have been polluted out (acid rain is still a problem) or trees have been felled. The lichen propagules cannot travel far, 40m max as they appear to be too heavy to go further. Transplants can work suggesting that dispersal to suitable habitat is the problem. A minimum of 15 trees is required for a viable *Lobarium* population.

There is a massive deficit of lichenologists in Britain. Scotland started an apprenticeship scheme producing an assistant for Brian Copin, 2 years before he retired, and three professional consultants. Frances Gillett volunteered to join the apprenticeship scheme.

ACTION 25. WAG: investigate ways in which Wales might achieve something similar.

ACTION 26. WAG (Bill Somerfield): to talk to TG colleagues to reduce destruction of lichen habitat in future cases

Adam Rowe suggested supporting training in Wales, deficits of specialists exist in other taxa too but the chair suggested that we could start here as a trial.

The list of actions to promote the conservation of lichens was approved by the WBPSG.

ACTION 27. Sean McHugh: Sean to work with Roy on lichen project funding and report to WBP on which items from the list are achievable (or not) from the currently allocated WBP resource.

David Jenkins from Coed Cymru brought to the attention of the SG an elm propagation project in which elms were being propagated from old trees that had survived the Dutch elm disease epidemic and were hopefully resistant at some level. It was suggested that WBP could develop a project to carry on more propagation.

ACTION 28. Sean McHugh: add elm propagation to list of lichen actions from Ray and report on this along with the others.

Tim Stowe asked how groups like the RSPB could positively help lichens on their land. The key is to enthuse staff and to have training to recognise the lichens to allow people to take care of them

ACTION 29. ALL: contact Ray for training sessions and to assist in enthusing staff of any groups that are interested.

ACTION 30. ALL: The museum produced ID sheets for groups such as lichen, these can be obtained if any group is interested in helping lichens. Contact: Graham Oliver (graham.oliver@nmgw.ac.uk)

ACTION 31. ALL: inform Local Record Centres (LRCs) of any species of which you are aware.

ACTION 32. ALL: put LRCs and site managers in touch with each other if lichens are found in order to help protect them and prevent specific trees from being felled.

It was noted that although Welsh and Latin names exist for all lichens in Wales, we are still short of some English names.

ACTION 33. ALL: provide any offers of English names for lichens to Ray Woods.

Paper 11: Issues from LBAPS (Gareth Ellis)

LBAPS need to know when the replacement data for the Phase 1 habitat survey will be available.

It was reported that Forestry Commission Wales will complete their project by December 2008 and should be able to disseminate the data by Apr 2009. Alan Brown is leading the work at CCW, collaborating with Aberystwyth University.

ACTION 34. David Parker and Michelle Bromley: David will send a note to WBP on the time scale of the CCW work, Forestry commission will add a note to this.

NERC Duty – conflict with other duties/legislation. LBAP coordinators would like examples of how to resolve such conflicts. WAG transport and regeneration are currently rewriting guidance their guidance documents. . There is a short checklist available for use when conflicts arise:

- Check for presence of nature interest
- Work out how you will minimise damage (if necessary do minimum necessary to meet the non-nature requirements)
- Work out how you will take action to mitigate (alternative places, moving species, replacement habitat etc)
- Then engage action necessary to meet combined legislation as closely as possible
- Keep audit trail of decisions

ACTION 35. WBP Support Team: send short checklist on conflict with other duties to the LBAP co-ordinators.

ACTION 36. WAG (Bill Somerfield): Talk to Tim Peppin to get issue of conflict between NERC duty and other duties onto WLGA agenda so that they can provide advice on the subject.

Paper 12: Future of BAP in Wales post UK review (Gareth Ellis)

A revised set of decision points was supplied at the SG meeting since the Future of BAP task and finish group had met two weeks prior to the SG and decided that the original decision points were already covered elsewhere:

Old decision points 1-6

- 1 and 5 transfer to the new set of decision points
- 2 CCW have agreed to complete
- 3 and 6 are covered in the biodiversity framework
- 4 is too early to resolve (but we'll come back to it)

New decision points are available with the papers on the website. CCW have agreed to assist with covering the costs of habitat groups meetings. WAG will monitor progress hopefully via BARS and will remind other partners if actions are not already happening

We want to manage habitats for species therefore the BAP T & F group want to gather sources of habitat management guidance to provide a central list of information sources on the WBP website.

ACTION 37. ALL: Please send your lists of management guidance sources to Julia Korn j.korn@ccw.gov.uk

Diana Reynolds has names for the WAG members of each of the Habitat groups. (Louise George will chair the marine group, colleagues with Technical Services and Fisheries in attendance, Caryn Le Roux and Sian Hughes will cover the farmland habitats, with Steve Chambers covering the remaining groups with help from others as required.

It was agreed that we will need to consider how to prioritise those species with very small distributions before we lose them.

Paper 13: A New Mechanism to Support Enhanced Biodiversity Action in Wales (Elinor Gwynn and Joanna Robertson)

CCW are investigating how to provide a complimentary scheme (alongside the Agri schemes) to help biodiversity action that would be long term and available across all of Wales. A scoping exercise will be completed by the end of March 2009.

Joanna Robertson handed out a range of cards with questions, which the SG answered individually and in pairs. The results from this exercise will be added to the minutes as soon as they are available (around the beginning of August).

Timetable for scoping exercise:

- Wide consultation with stakeholder groups at the Aberystwyth conference in Sept.
- Bare bones, Oct, to take to CCW and other groups.
- Consultant employed for analysis Jan 2009
- Bring back to WBP Feb meeting
- Take to CCW Directors March 2009

ACTION 38. ALL: any views, ideas and volunteers: email to Elinor Gwynn (Elinor.Gwynn@ccw.gov.uk)

ACTION 39. Sean McHugh: provide an opportunity for a presence at UK conference in Sept.

Paper 14: Heritage Lottery Fund

Two key messages from HLF (see paper) 2nd message – HLF have no objective criteria for determining the priorities that need funding.

The paper suggests putting in a combined Wales bid after assessing the priorities ourselves. However, some partners are already preparing bids for the current round and this needs to be considered as one organisation can't put in multiple bids. It was therefore suggested that a joint bid might be put together for Sept 2009.

Nigel Ajax-Lewis added that we need to be aware of who else is funding other actions in terms of match funding. It was also asked whether the WBP could distribute the money, This is unlikely, more likely a full detailed bid would have to be put in for a specific set of projects.

ACTION 40. Diana Reynolds: Ask HLF if WBP could assist with determination of applications

It was suggested that we should make use of people in Wales who have skills in preparing grant applications; Caerphilly has some good ones.

ACTION 41. WBP Support Team: establish Task and Finish group to investigate feasibility of the proposal, include Tim Stowe (lead), Robin Woodyatt, Adam Rowe.

For prioritising the projects should link in with the Future of BAP T and F group. Wales wetland Forum has done some work identifying bigger projects and suitable funding schemes, could tie in with this. First need to agree the process and set ground rules, then think about the action priorities

ACTION 42. ALL: send ideas to Tim Stowe

Item 15: Marine partnership –

No information available as Steve Moon had been unable to contact Lia Moutselou.

Item 16: UK BAP Standing Committee (Diana Reynolds)

Most items had already been covered in this meeting. In addition a few changes have been made to the biodiversity indicators (moths, bats, birds). CBD and 2010 targets were discussed by the committee but no conclusions were reached about next steps.

Paper 17: Planning and Budgeting (Diana Reynolds for Sean McHugh)

Budget: The budget outline was approved. There has been an underspend over the past year and Sean McHugh will look into how this might be used for data mobilisation (i.e. getting information from recorders that has been accumulating for years into use). with Adam Rowe

ACTION 43. ALL: book your (free!) place on the UK BAP Conference in Aberystwyth on 10th and 11th September (email: Paula.Hendy@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

ACTION 44. Sean McHugh: Contact Ministers's office with timings

Conference 2009: We agreed to book University of Glamorgan for 16th-17th Sept 2009.

ACTION 45. Sean McHugh: book University of Glamorgan for 16th-17th Sept 2009

ACTION 46. ALL: put 16th-17th Sept 2009 in your diaries.

Wales biodiversity Week: This year was again a great success, WBP express their thanks to Siren for the excellent wooden products.

Next year the consensus was to keep the WBW dates as the 2nd week in June, but to do something on International biodiversity day 22nd May as a warm up. The SG agreed the WBW 2009 budget should be £6500.

ACTION 47. ALL: plan suitable events for 22nd May and/or 6th –14th June.

NERC Duty case studies requested for the WBP website:

Diana Reynolds reported on the success of the two recent NERC Duty seminars, a high level councillor or officer from every authority attended. All signed up for some action, very positive events.

Adam Rowe expressed the need to expand the seminars to other public bodies and the Minister has already said she is willing do this.

ACTION 48. Diana Reynolds: supply a WAG case study

ACTION 49. ALL: send NERC duty case studies to Sean McHugh
s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org

ACTION 50. Joanna Robertson and Bill Somerfield: update the NERC duty implementation plan.

Paper 18: Review of Progress

The SG pledged to take onboard the principles for future meetings.

The form of future meetings was discussed and it was agreed that fewer items with a more workshop like structure would be better with a continuation of actions that could be cascaded. Updates could be issued purely as a set of information papers to be read, any comments could be returned to the secretariat.

Aethne Cooke suggested that an exercise similar to the review of progress could be undertaken on halting biodiversity loss.

David Parker thought more marine and coastal items should go on the agenda.

ACTION 51. WBP Support Team: put SG papers into a single pdf file so that laptops or projector can be used in the meeting rather than everyone printing the papers.

ACTION 52. Frances Gillett: check whether is more efficient to use laptops rather than printing papers and inform SG.

ACTION 53. WBP Support Team: redesign the meeting format and papers templates to meet the requirements above.

ACTION 54. WBP Support Team: build in time for a traffic lights exercise on halting biodiversity loss into one of next two SG meetings

Item 19: Minutes from SG4

Correct Mike Dunn's name p3

P5, 8 and 9 replace hab map with phase 1 update

Action 22, Vicki West for FCW

Action 23, replace Hab Map with HabMap

SG4 Actions update

7- We are still looking for volunteers for visits to biodiversity champions.

ACTION 55. For all: volunteers for visits to biodiversity champions contact Joanna Robertson Joanna.robertson@ccw.gov.uk

18 – Data mobilisation grants, David Parker email update.

ACTION 56. David Parker: provide email update on data mobilisation grants

25 – Funding officer, have names from CCW(Russell D’Arth), FCW (Paul Finch) and EAW (Helen Papathanasiou) to get a meeting together.

ACTION 57. WBP Support Team: assist in setting up this meeting

38 – contact climate change commission for Wales

ACTION 58. Diana Reynolds: Ask Sean McHugh to contact climate change commission for Wales

Item 20: AOB

Next Meeting to take place on Wednesday November the 12th in CCW office, Maes Y Fynon, Bangor,. We agreed to stay over the previous night (maybe meet up for a ‘cup of tea’ that evening) and have an early start time for the meeting itself.

ACTION 59. Secretariat: check whether environment research hub rooms in Bangor are available as closer to the station than CCW Office.

February meeting: Tuesday 10th February 2009, suggested location Gregynog, Mid Wales.

ACTION 60. WBP Support Team and David Jenkins: liase over Gregynog booking and transport from station to meeting

Outcomes of Ministers Policy Board – the Minister is looking for the WBP to provide a planting guide for round the edge of allotments to help BAP species. The Minister is not intending to allow the selling off of public allotments. The environment strategy action plan and Woodland for Wales consultation are due in mid August.

ACTION 61. ALL: any ideas for the planting guide please pass to the support team

Nigel Ajax-Lewis asked about progress with Tan 5. It is currently sitting with the lawyers who have a heavy workload at the moment. The Minister has indicated that the current Tan 5 draft should be used ion the meantime.

Adam Rowe- reported that Wales Environment Information and SG meetings have been held. They are beginning to draw up an action plan with 6 key themes. The next meeting will take place in September.

ACTION 62. David Parker: supply an information paper for the next WBPSG meeting from the Wales Environmental Information Forum

The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work and input both during and between meetings.

-----**Meeting Ends**-----

WBP STEERING GROUP MEETING 05 HELD AT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES, CARDIFF ON 15 JULY 2008

Statistics derived from Agenda Item 13: Scoping a new mechanism to provide improved financial support for BAP action in Wales (JOANNA ROBERTSON & ELINOR GWYN)

Pairs of delegates were asked for their comments on:

1. What should the Mechanism do?

Comments:

Simple scheme; get skills to where they're needed.

Should reach places where agri-environment and Sction 15s do not reach;

Deliver action for BAP priorities; simple / complementary/ and add value

Provide a Grant-Bid-Officer for big applications.

Support; monitor; evaluate; prioritise; tie in with national strategies; BARS.

Quick system to get money out to people to quickly complete small-scale practical projects.

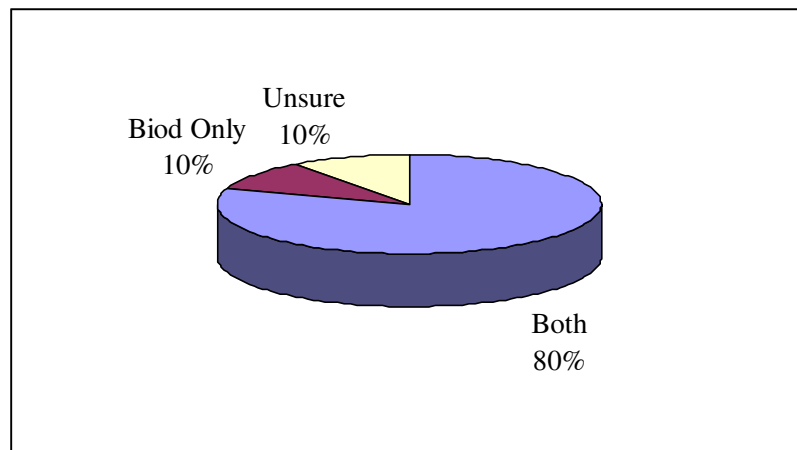
Halting biodiversity loss and restoration; achieving BAP related outcomes - terrestrial, freshwater and marine.

Allow proper management of important habitats by better co-rodination of the work to deliver more effectively.

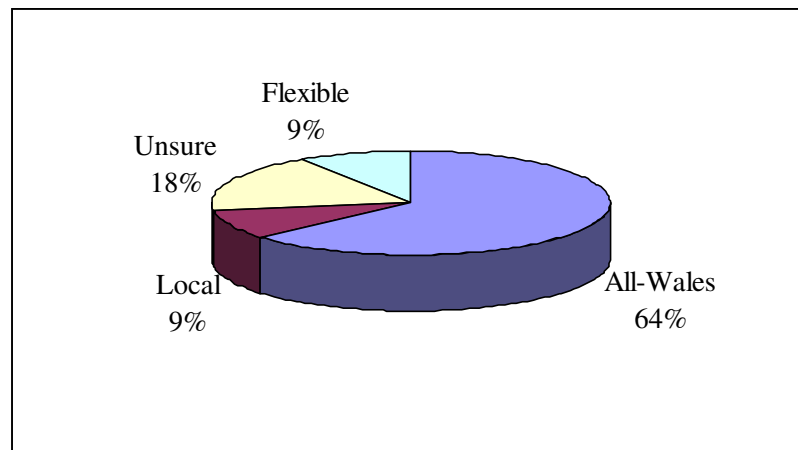
Contributes to agreed targets/ positive action towards biodiversity plans – adding value.

Provide funding for research as well as practical actiion including supporting specialist knowledge.

2. Should it cover both biodiversity and geodiversity?



3. Area of coverage? i.e All-Wales/Regional/Local



Comments included:

All Wales, but possible concentrate in areas with key connectivity needs, including cross border zones.

4. Name a scheme which has worked well and delivered good biodiversity outcomes.

Comments:

S15 Management Agreements.

First Steps Scheme (FC & Coed Cymru); Hedgerow Regeneration Scheme (CCW); LNCG (CCW & LAs).

CCW's old Parks & Orchards Scheme.

Flooding of (and Rehabilitation of) Gravel Pits.

CRoW Act Species ID Training (NMGW); LRC Funding Package from CCW 2008-2012.

Aren't Welsh Birds Brilliant; Wetland for Wales; Objective 1 Black Grouse Recovery.

Gower Commons Initiative: Local scheme doing practical conservation work on Gower.

Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Action Grant Scheme (BAGS).

Species Challenge Fund (SCF).

Racking my brains for marine-related project, which has had "biodiversity outcomes".

Lots of increased stakeholder involvement, information gathering but not addressed the elephants in the room. i.e. activities considered in the marine environment which cause most damage! Sorry to be so cynical! Please let me know if you think of any!

Russell Hobbs gave an example of Butterfly Conservation that had worked (but they hadn't got money enough to continue it), at last WBP.

Pembrokeshire Mill Ponds: creation of habitat, Water Vole breeding and re-introduction; Llangorse Lake: habitat creation / management – mink removal.

Environment Wales.

Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage (HLF).

5. Why did it work well?

Comments:

Tailored to the requirements of the habitats/species. Machinery/stock available to land manager taken into consideration.

Simple, quick, plenty of “hands-on” support.

Focused, clear and appealing to the public.

Easy to do (plus some “sticks” in terms of requiring extraction industries to rehabilitate).

Greatly increase knowledge of species and habitats among biodiversity practitioners.

Wait and see!

Company brings land and capital, Wildlife Trust brings expertise.

Clear objectives. Determined team. Grants added to cover funds then matched so assemble large amount of money.

Other examples are Riparian Habitat improvement – all-Wales funds, carefully agreed criteria, focused on priority catchments etc. Joined-up across all co-delivery agents.

Energy put into practical conservation.

Local scheme for local people. Individuals could apply for money.

Very simple to access. Focused on biodiversity.

Collaboration of landowner/community with statutory body. Community provides the “will”, statutory body provides the manpower or plant.

Extensive support mechanisms; monitoring; evaluations; collaboration; partnership working; best practice; sign posting.

Focused on biodiversity.

Notes from Joanna M Robertson

01 August 2008