

Title: Progress with Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) use in Wales and an update of NERC duty case studies.

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Background/Progress

1) Strategy for BARS use

A strategy for BARS use in Wales has been developed (Annex 1) and number of BARS development proposals have been forwarded to the BARS UK support team. These developments will enable BARS to be used to collect and collate all the information required for future BAP reporting rounds.

The Wales Policy Group, Ecosystem Groups and Species Expert Group BAPs have been set up on BARS. Wales level species and habitat targets will be held on these BAPs and the spreadsheets of suggested priority actions will also be available from the advice to practitioners section. Training will be arranged for a relevant member of each group so that they can maintain their own BARS pages.

2) BARS Work with Organisations

Since the last update at SG7, the Environment Agency Wales have started populating their own Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) on BARS with their actions and outcomes from April 2008-March 2009. The Plans are currently marked as draft so are unable to be viewed by the public, but once complete they will be released in full.

CCW is progressing on making the Special Sites Database compatible with BARS. A meeting has taken place to match the BARS data fields with those on the CCW database and a further meeting is scheduled with BARS admin and development team.

Following a meeting with FCW, they agreed that a company BAP could be an appropriate way for them to record their actions and outcomes and they are now looking at how they might enter their Wales wide Woodland data onto BARS.

Keep Wales Tidy arranged an initial training event for their South Wales Tidy Town project officers in June, in order to record their tidy towns project activities on BARS.

The Woodland Trust has been offered support and is looking into a strategy for reporting their biodiversity outcomes.

WAG Trunk Roads Agency and The Department of Economy and Transport have also been offered support.

3) NERC Duty case studies

At WBP5G5, Paper 17 requested NERC Duty Case Studies from partners, for the WBP Website, on how they are exercising the biodiversity duty.

The Forestry Commission Wales and WAG already have their case studies on the website http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/legislation_guidance-20.aspx and British Waterways and Dwr Cymru are each currently drafting one.

Plan/Proposals

Continue to develop and support the use of BARS in Wales.

Training for members of the Wales Groups will be arranged so that each group can maintain their own data and targets on BARS.

Action Requested

- a) Ask all WBP members to contact Juliet Hynes
email:j.hynes@welshwildlife.org if they want to discuss BARS use, or arrange any BARS training
- b) All Wales Ecosystem Groups, the Wales Policy Group and Species Expert Group please identify a member who will be responsible for maintaining their data on BARS and provide their name to Juliet Hynes email:j.hynes@welshwildlife.org who will coordinate training.
- c) Partners who have not already done so, provide a NERC Duty case study for distribution on WBP website (S.mchugh@welshwildlife.org).