

**Title: Report from the Ecosystem Groups and Species Expert Group
Annexes 1-3**

Annex .1.

Lowland Grassland and Heathland Group

Positive:

The development of a partnership project to address under management issues on lowland grassland, heathland and wetland sites (SSSIs and non-SSSIs) in west Wales. It is unlikely that this project would have started without the Lowland Grassland and Heathland Ecosystem Group and Wetland Ecosystem Group working together.

Further work required:

It is important that organisations support regional involvement (at a senior level) in the new groups to ensure effective delivery of priority actions. The Anglesey Grazing Animal Project (AGAP) is a successful example of an ongoing project, where Outcome 21 Targets are being delivered on behalf of CCW by a partnership of NGOs lead by PONT. This project benefits from strong support from key regional staff in CCW such as the Operations Manager, the Team Leader and Regional Land Agent. The actions identified by the Ecosystem Groups will require similar levels of support if the devolved BAP process is to be successful.

Marine

Positive:

The Marine Ecosystem Group has identified a comprehensive list of 'policy' issues which are a barrier to progressing marine biodiversity conservation in Wales. These issues relate to implementation of legislation, policy and procedures in various organisations. If these issues are addressed effectively, the right foundations would be in place to support the devolved BAP process, and to protect and enhance marine biodiversity in Wales.

Further work required:

Whilst many organisations have signed up to the devolved BAP process in Wales at a corporate level and are members of WBP SG, this does not seem to be multiplied across different sectors within an organisations and officers on the ground are either unaware of the NERC duty or are unsure as to how their organisation wants them to participate.

Upland

Positive:

It is a bit too soon to outline what is going well, but the sheer fact of getting people from all these organisations together, writing actions for habitats & species, should be applauded.

Further work required:

The group requires resource support and a greatly raised profile of the BAP structure and objectives in all the organisations involved. The devolved BAP process still seems to be the poor relation in much of our work and the input of individuals can reflect the commitment of their organisations.

WBP should address this issue, investigating whether it is the organisations themselves or particular levels within different organisations which are causing the blockages.

Species Expert Group**Positive:**

Broad cross-section of statutory, non-government and individuals expressed interest and are actively involved in the Species Expert Group. Having all of these experts in one room and communicating knowledge, ideas and opinions is very encouraging and healthy for biodiversity conservation. Effectively utilising this expertise and maintaining this enthusiasm will be a key challenge.

Further work required:

We still haven't got a full representation of all taxonomic groups nor the resources currently within Wales to service the potential workload. We are working on this and will not allow it to cause barriers to implementation, though we will need support.

Annex 2

New Wales Groups

Group	Chair	LBAP Contact
Upland	Barbara Jones CCW b.jone@ccw.gov.uk	Gareth Ellis, BBNP (South and mid Wales) Gareth.Ellis@breconbeacons.org Kate Taylor (North Wales)
Urban and brownfield	Peter Frost CCW p.frost@ccw.gov.uk	Sorrel Jones Gwent Wildlife Trust (all Wales)
Lowland grassland and heathland	Helen Buckingham National Trust Helen.Buckingham@nationaltrust.org.uk	Juliet Hynes j.hynes@welshwildlife.org
Freshwater	Tristan Hatton Ellis CCW t.hatton-ellis@ccw.gov.uk	EAW? tbc
Enclosed Farmland	Caryn Le Roux, WAG Caryn.Le.Roux@wales.gsi.gov.uk	Juliet Hynes j.hynes@welshwildlife.org (South and mid Wales) Sarah Brown (North Wales)
Marine (Habitats and species)	Louise George, WAG Contact is Aethne Cooke in CCW a.cooke@ccw.gov.uk	Aidtee Mitra aditee.mitra@bridgend.gov.uk (South and Mid Wales) Anne Butler (North Wales)
Wetland	Peter Jones CCW p.jones@ccw.gov.uk	Emma Broad (All Wales)
Woodland	Chris Tucker, Forestry Commission chris.tucker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk	tbc
Coastal	Peter Rhind, CCW p.rhind@ccw.gov.uk	Steve Moon (Bridgend LA) moonsi@bridgend.gov.uk (All Wales)
Species Expert Group	Stephen Bladwell, RSPB stephen.bladwell@rspb.org.uk	Kate Williamson, SNP Kate.Williamson@eryri-npa.gov.uk (All Wales)
Policy Group	Diana Reynolds, WAG Contact Julia Korn at WBP j.korn@ccw.gov.uk	Julia Korn, WBP j.korn@ccw.gov.uk (All Wales)

The LBAP representatives on these groups are still being confirmed and so will be updated soon.

Annex 3

HABITAT TARGETS AND ACTION PLANS

Targets	Existing habitats	Use 2006 targets unless they need revising
	New habitats and marine habitats	1 st February 2010
	OMHPDL	31 March 2011
Action Plans	Existing habitats and marine habitats	1 st February 2010
	New habitats urgent action	1 st June 2010
	All new habitat actions	31 March 2011

1. Action leads need to be agreed and the leads need to take the action forward with the delivery agents. Where a lead can not be agreed the action should remain on the action plan but no progress on lead noted and this should be reported in annual review.
2. Group LBAP contact to distribute actions to LBAPS and to feedback on uptake of actions by LBAPS.
3. Any actions which are not taken forward should remain on the action plan but no progress noted and reported at the annual review.

SPECIES TARGETS AND ACTIONS

Targets and Actions	Mammals, lepidoptera, original BAP vascular plants, herps and some birds	23 October 2009
	Marine Species	21 st November 2009
	All others	31 January 2010

Those species where a lead can not be identified and targets and actions have not been completed will be identified as gaps and issues highlighted in a SEG paper to WBP SG in February.