

Title: Review of Wales Wildlife Crime Priorities

Background/Progress

At the meeting of the WBPSG5 on the 15th July 2008, the subject of a review of the Wildlife Crime Priorities for Wales was discussed, it was agreed that these needed reviewing and possibly revising. The priorities are currently:

- Damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest through off-road vehicles
- Damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest through illegal burning
- European Protected Species affected by unlawful development

These priorities supplement the National Priorities which for 2009/10 are:

- Badger Persecution
- Bat Persecution
- CITES issues (with 5 CITES priorities of Caviar, Ivory, Ramin Timber, Tortoises and Traditional Medicines)
- Freshwater Pearl Mussels
- Poaching (Deer Poaching/Coursing, Fish Poaching and Hare Coursing)
- Raptor Persecution (including Poisoning, Egg Theft, Chick Theft and Nest Disturbance/Destruction and to concentrate on Golden Eagle, Goshawk, Hen Harrier, Red Kite and White-Tailed Eagle)

As a result of a review of the figures for 2009 (Annex 1) it has emerged that the leading three areas of reported wildlife crime are:

- Offences against Badgers,
- Offences relating to SSSI's
- Development affecting European Protected Species (EPS).

In view of the fact that Badger Persecution is a national priority it was decided to restrict the Welsh Priorities for 2010 to the following:

- **Development affecting EPS**
- **Offences affecting the Favourable Conservation Status of SSSI's**

It was considered whether to include all offences that take place on SSSI's but it was decided that it would be better to quantify this by including the Favourable Conservation Status) FCS factor which would then bring it into line with the Wales Environment Strategy Outcome 21 target of bringing 95% of SSSI's into favourable condition by 2015.

Plan/Proposals

To adopt the following as wildlife crime priorities in Wales for 2010:

- **Development affecting EPS**
- **Offences affecting the Favourable Conservation Status of SSSI's**

Having adopted the above as priorities a process of identifying the aims and objectives in relation to these priorities will be carried out with a view to producing action plans for each priority.

Decision Points

1. The WBP to consider and endorse the proposed Welsh wildlife crime priorities for 2010.
2. All partner organisations to agree, where applicable, to support the prevention, detection and prosecution of offences in relation to the endorsed priorities.