



AGENDA

The 4th Meeting of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Working group on
 Future of BAP in Wales Task and Finish Group
 October 10th 2008
 10.30am to 3.30pm
 CCW Offices, Ladywell House, Newtown
 PLEASE BRING SANDWICHES

Time	Item	Introduced by
10.30	Introductions and agree Chair	Julia
10:35	Minutes and action points of last meeting	Julia
10:45	The new BAP Mechanism in Wales – 1. Embedding the ecosystem approach, updates 2. Role of Non Native Species group	Julia
11:15	Regional Workshops	Julia/Jan
11:45	Providing coordination for the process and resources	Jan
12:00	Support for Group Chairs including meeting for Chairs and on-going support	Julia
12:20	Assigning Species to habitats – progress updates	Jan/Aethne
12:50	Lunch	
13:20	New Habitats targets	Jan/Aethne
13:40	Target Setting – presentations and agreement of template and guidance for SEG Agree responsibility for this work	Russell/Kate
14:20	Species Signposting – agreement of template and guidance for SEG Agree responsibility for this	Trevor
14:50	Lead partners for Species	Jan/Kate
15:20	Any other Business	All
15:25	Agree next steps for group	Julia
15:30	Finish	

WBP Task and Finish Group

Future of Biodiversity Action Planning in Wales post UK Review.

Newtown

Jan 21 2009

Present

Trevor Dines	Plantlife Chair
Julia Korn	Wales Biodiversity Partnership
Jan Sherry	CCW
Russel Hobson	Butterfly Conservation
Juliet Hynes	WBP
Nigel Ajax Lewis	Wildlife Trust
Stephen Bladwell	RSPB
Kate Williamson	Mammal Society/ SNP LBAP
Aethne Cooke	CCW (Marine)

Apologies

Ian Guilford	South Wales Police Force
Nick Birula	Environment Agency wales (EAW)
Michelle Bromley	Forestry Commission
Gareth Ellis	Brecon Beacons National Park / LBAPs

1. Minutes and Actions of meeting Oct 10th 2008

Action 1 all comments to JK by Wednesday Jan 28th.

Action 2 JK will then send action points from all 3 previous meetings to Sean McHugh/Heli Gittins for posting on the WBP website.

Action 3 JK will contact Nick Birula and ask him if the EAW will be able to set Welsh/ local targets, and carry out the species signposting for freshwater species.

Action .4. JK will check that the comments sent in by RH on the New BAP Mechanism in Wales (new approach) document have been incorporated.

2. The new BAP Mechanism in Wales (new approach document)

a) Embedding the ecosystem approach

The Policy Group has asked that the Ecosystem Approach and Ecosystem Goods and Services be better integrated into the New BAP Mechanism.

The need for a common understanding of Ecosystem Goods and Services raised at the Policy group meeting was echoed by this group. The group consider biodiversity to underpin ecosystem goods and services rather than be described as a service and agreed that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Diagram should be used in the BAP mechanism to illustrate this.

Action 4 JK and JS to include the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment diagram in the New BAP mechanism (new approach document) and also

integrate a commitment to the ecosystem approach where appropriate e.g. as part of the introduction.

Action 5 JK and JS to share information on the work that they do on the ecosystem approach for the BAP document with Keith Davies Head of Environmental Policy at CCW.

Action 6 RH to share work on this with the Species Expert Group.

b) Role of the Non Native Species Group

This WBP working group was formed before a new approach to BAP was considered and has not been integrated into the new structure. It needs to be recognised as one of the new Wales BAP groups and its role defined in the context of the new process. The Chair of the group has been invited to the meeting of Chairs on March 17th, however unfortunately he can't attend. It was agreed today that the Non Native Species group should be a second expert group and should work closely with the Ecosystem Groups and the Policy group to ensure that its priorities are delivered.

Action .7. JK to work with Heli Gittins to write up the Terms of Reference in the New Mechanism and Heli to reach agreement with the NNS group on this before inclusion in the new BAP mechanism document.

3. Regional Seminars

The dates are February 26th in Bangor, March 4th in Swansea and March 5th in Caerphilly. JK, JS and AC are giving presentations at all 3 Seminars and running a workshop exercise to help establish how those working at a local level can get involved in the new approach and the role of different local delivery mechanisms including the LBAP. During the afternoon each seminar has a slightly different programme designed to give information on regional BAP work. JH and GE are looking at how BARS might work for the Ecosystem Groups and will give a presentation on this at the Seminar in Caerphilly. The group agreed that CCW regional and district staff should be invited (this has been done), and that Biodiversity Champions should be invited. It was suggested that all Ecosystem Chairs should be invited, however as they have an opportunity to feed into the process at their meeting in March and due to limited spaces they were not included.

The purpose of the morning workshop exercise was discussed and important elements to be drawn out agreed. We need to get the reaction of local practitioners to the new approach and ideas on how to secure and retain their involvement in the Wales as well as the local/delivery end of the process. The support they require to enable them to prioritise, set targets and take necessary action to support BAP delivery.

It was agreed that separate seminars would be needed for CCW regional staff with partner organisation providing some input .

Action 8 JK to ask Delcie if the Assembly can invite Biodiversity Champions to the regional Seminars

Action 9 JK to work with Heli Gittins to produce a workshop spec for the morning session and circulate to Task and Finish Group

Action JK/JS/AC to look at the possibility of running CCW workshops

BARS has an important role to play in communicating information on actions and contribution towards targets. BARS needs to be cleaned up with information that is no longer valid filtered out. NGOs would like to use BARS

but in many cases capacity is an issue. To encourage use other reporting/communicating methods need to be compatible e.g. CCW grant report templates. In addition action that NGOs are involved in through LBAP Partnerships can be set up as part of the LBAP making reporting less onerous.

Action 10 *TD to look at grant template and see if it can be made BARS compatible.*

4. Providing Coordination and resources for the process.

It was agreed that Julia Korn provide the point of contact /coordination for general enquiries /policy, Jan Sherry for terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species and Aethne Cooke for marine.

It was agreed that the Task and Finish group should write a paper for the WBP SG meeting in July setting out the requirements for resources to deliver BAP and the consequences of not resourcing the process. A possible idea is to secure 'seed corn' money for future external funding bids e.g. using the new CCW grant mechanism. The idea of a WBP External Funding Officer to work with external funders on criteria and eligibility and to support development of large Wales – wide bids was revisited. In Cornwall this has worked well.

Action 11 *JK to put resources on the agenda for the next Task and Finish group meeting in May*

Action 12 *JK to find out if / how an External Funding Officer for Cornwall has secured additional funds for biodiversity*

5. Support for the Chairs of the new Wales BAP groups

Chairs need to be provided with on-going information and support material as soon as possible (e.g. new targets/species signposting etc). Guidance on the role of the Chairs would be useful as would a section on the WBP website for the new groups similar to the section on 'Local to you'. JK has organised a meeting for all the Chairs on March 17th. This will provide an opportunity to discuss the various issues arising, contribute to the development of guidance, enable them to feed into the BAP Mechanism document and also the scoping exercise for a new grant mechanism in CCW. Several groups have already met and the others have meetings organised. Issues vary from group to group for example the Wetland Group focused largely on policy actions while the Freshwater group is much more about practical action.

Action 13 *JK to organise and run the meeting for the Chairs on March 17th and include elements suggested above and ensure JS and AC care invited.*

Action 14 *JK to develop guidance for Chairs*

Action 15 *AC to provide support for the marine Chair*

6. Assigning species to habitats

JS is making progress with this exercise and has different models for setting it out. Agreement that 2 lists are required.

List .1. (priority list) a list of all species that have been assigned specific habitat action.

List .2. (to be done later) a list of all species known to occur in the different habitats.

List 1 should be completed and sent to Ecosystem Groups as soon as possible. Heli Gittins also needs the final version as she is going to carry out an audit of advice that exists on management of habitats for the species that have been assigned to them.

If conflict between 2 or more species occurs in terms of habitat management then the Species Expert Group (SEG) should get involved and assess priorities on a case by case basis. It may be necessary for the SEG to produce a short guidance note on how to deal with conflict and when to flag it up.

For marine the situation is different as the Ecosystem Group is for habitats and species. The Ecosystem group will be exploring how they can ensure that species requirements are properly considered by competent authorities in the decision making process.

Action 16 JS to work with other taxonomic experts on this group to develop list 1 and to circulate to the group Chairs and to Heli Gittins

Action 17 JS to work on list 2 with the SEG once list 1 is finished.

Action 18 AC to discuss with JS the marine approach to ensuring species needs are properly considered

7. New habitat targets

There are existing targets for original BAP habitats at a Wales and local level. UK targets and actions are being written for the new habitats. Ecosystem groups will be expected to set targets and actions to achieve these targets for Wales and to disaggregate targets to a local level. There are issues to be resolved with some of the new habitats e.g. Defra are still working on a definition for Open Mosaic habitats on previously developed land, while information on lakes and ponds is still being produced. AC is currently working on definitions for the new Marine habitats and is still waiting for feedback from others in the UK

Action 19 JS to send Ecosystem Chairs a list of new habitats in their group, progress to date and what still needs to be done.

Action 20 AC to carry on working on Welsh targets for the new marine habitats

Action 21 JK to ask Heli Gittins to raise the requirement for definitions for the new Marine Habitats at the Country BAP meeting in March.

8. Species Targets

Mammal Society

Sign posting (actions) done and targets set for new species except where there isn't enough baseline, then there is an action to gather information to enable targets to be set e.g harvest mouse. Original BAP mammals – targets have been set based on exiting targets. Jean Matthews at CCW is working on the Bat targets. Leads allocated for species and also for some action. The deadline for this work is the end of February.

Action 22 KW to circulate the work on Mammals to other mammal experts for comment and agreement

Butterfly Conservation

RH has developed the template for target setting following comments made at the last Task and Finish group meeting. Research will now be pulled out as an action. He will do the signposting next. Monitoring is important as it underpins target delivery yet many species have no current monitoring scheme.

Plantlife

Signposting and targets set for 40% of vascular plants. A separate template has been developed for the signposting and this can link to ecosystem groups.

RSPB

SB has developed more detailed action plan type information for some species including similar templates for targets and signposting.

It was agreed that both the target and signposting templates should have a column for comments. The signposting template 'action' text must be BARS compatible (include a drop down list). Space for delivery mechanisms (up to 3) should be included on the template.

The Species Expert group will be asked to produce guidance on using the signposting/targets if required.

***Action 23** RH, TD and SB to develop a template for species targets and signposting and circulate to Task and Finish group. JH to check the signposting template to make sure that it is BARS compatible. The final versions need to be ready by March 10th for SB to present to the SEG meeting.*

***Action 24** JH to check the signposting template to make sure that it is BARS compatible*

***Action 25** KW to use final templates for the mammal signposting and targets*

***Action 26** Once agreement has been reached on the templates JK to send to SEG and Ecosystem Groups.*

***Action 27** SB to circulate the action plan type information sheets that he had finished to the Task and Finish group*

AC is setting targets for all the new Section 42 priorities. There has been no direction to do this for terrestrial and freshwater priorities yet.

9. Species leads

Jan is producing a table based on existing species leads and those that have already agreed to lead in Wales.

***Action 28** JS to circulate her list (the complete Section 42 list) for others to add Lead Partner contacts where agreement has already been reached (this must be a named contact).*

***Action 29** JS to complete list with all available information and send to SB before the SEG meeting on March 10th*

Action 30 *SEG to establish and publish information on the role of lead Partners (at a Wales level and if required at a UK level .It is important that Species lead Partners feed issues back to the SEG*

10. AOB

SB is working with John Westlake (Welsh Assembly Government) on developing packages to deliver across a range of species for Axis 2. The list of species relevant to agri-environment schemes was taken from the signposting exercise and original tables provided by TD and RH were used. The 1st draft now needs refining.

Action 31 *RH to update the list and return to SB by close of play 22nd Jan*

John Westlake has sent possible packages for birds and butterflies for discussion at the SEG meeting but it was felt it needed more input from the relevant experts. It may be possible to work up packages for delivering against a range of species and also species specific packages for higher tier agri environment schemes. A more focused group to look at this is needed e.g. through expanding the current Tir Gofal group.

Action 32 *SB to inform John Westlake of the BAP process and our timescales and deadlines and link with his timetable*

Action 33 *SB to ask if the Tir Gofal Species package group can be expanded to include representation from the new SEG, a habitat representative and woodland expert.*

Date of next meeting April 29 in Newtown