

## WALES SPECIES EXPERT GROUP

### WSEG1

10 March 2009

Technium, Aberystwyth

### AGENDA

The inaugural meeting of the Wales Species Expert Group will be held at Technium, Aberystwyth Y Lanfa, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 1AS (location map can be found at [http://www.technium.co.uk/upload/pdf/Technium\\_PDF\\_Aber.pdf](http://www.technium.co.uk/upload/pdf/Technium_PDF_Aber.pdf)).

Starting at 10:15 and finishing at 15:00.

Item	Title	Objective
1	Welcome, introductions & apologies	
2	Confirmation of group membership	Identify gaps
3	Review of background to groups' as part of the new approach to BAP delivery in Wales. (documents available at WBP website see link 1 and 2)	Information
4	Review of group remit (see Link 1 page 9)	Agree terms of reference
5	Structure and future work programme(s)	Agree framework for delivering remit
6	Key tasks: Species signposting Species Guidance Other tasks	Discussion Agree timeframe for delivery
7	Priority actions for ecosystem groups	Discussion and preliminary identification
8	Communication with Wales policy and ecosystem groups and UK Biodiversity Integration Groups	Information and discussion
9	Schedule of meetings	
10	AOB	

Link 1:

<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/content/uploads/documents/SG%20Meetings/TaskFinish/WBP%20Future%20of%20BAP%20Biodiversity%20Mechanism%20Draft%2019%20Feb%202009.pdf>

Link 2:

[http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/content/uploads/documents/Guidance%20Legislation/WBP%20Framework%20Master%20WEB%20Eng\\_opt.pdf](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/content/uploads/documents/Guidance%20Legislation/WBP%20Framework%20Master%20WEB%20Eng_opt.pdf)

**Inaugural Meeting**  
**Wales Species Expert Group (WSEG)**

**Minutes of the first meeting**  
**Held in the Conference Room, Technium Centre, Aberystwyth**  
**10 March 2009 10:15am to 3:00pm**

**Present:**

Stephen Bladwell (Chair)

Adrian Fowles

Andy Jones

Craig MacAdam

Derek Moore OBE

Kate Williamson

Ray Woods

Reg Thorpe

Rob Strachan

Russell Hobson

Sian Whitehead

Steve Chambers

Steve Lucas

Tammy Stretton

Trevor Dines

CCW (Invertebrates)

CCW (Vascular plants)

Buglife

Welsh Ornithological Society

Snowdonia Mammal Group, Wales

Biodiversity Partnership

Plantlife

RSPB

Environment Agency Wales

Butterfly Conservation

CCW (Birds)

Department of Rural Affairs

Bat Conservation Trust

Wildlife Trusts Wales

Plantlife

**Apologies:**

Geoff Liles

Jerry Lewis

Liz Halliwell

Liz Howe

Matthew Ellis

Pete Jennings

The Wales Mammals Group

Monmouthshire County

Council/GGBAG

CCW (Mammals)

CCW (Herpetiles)

CCW

Welsh Water

**Minutes:**

1. Introduction      SB – Key role of the WSEG is to provide support and guidance to the various ecosystems groups.
2. Confirmation of membership      SB – no marine representation as the marine ecosystems group will cover marine species.  
RS – can cover fish on behalf of EA.  
TD – suggested Sam Bosanquet and Alan Hale to cover lower plants.

### **ACTION 1 TD/SB**

3. Review of background

SB – this group arises from the last review of the UKBAP that was completed in 2007 in which there is greater devolution of responsibility for delivery to each of the regions. Refer to the link 1 and 2 of the agenda. The new structure will be integrated into the Wales Biodiversity Framework and Wales Environment Strategy.

4. Review of the Group's remit

Refer to Link 1 page 9

*1. Collate relevant species habitat management advice and make available on WBP web site, identify gaps and produce guidelines/advice for species where required.*

The group queried what this actually meant as potentially it could involve a huge amount of work. Agreed that this needs to be looked at.

*2. Develop a list of priority actions (on specific sites) that Ecosystem Groups and Species Leads should implement.*

The group felt that this was initially a role for the Lead Partners (where these exist), many of whom were already working to produce actions. Need to review when this work was complete.

*3. Compile annual top ten actions for species where urgent action is required. This would be a rolling programme of actions Implementation may not be within the gift of members of this group.*

The group are uneasy about having numbers attached to this but recognized that for some organisations it was desirable. WSEG considered that in the first instance, it might be prudent to list those species that are most threatened with extinction if no action was undertaken in the immediate future, and that species that did not require immediate action could wait for a while.

Everyone to look at their species and to identify those in most urgent need of action.

### **ACTION 2 ALL by 10 April**

*4. Identify knowledge and skills gaps, and either address these directly or recommend to the WBP how they could be filled.*

### **ACTION 3 ALL to send ideas to SB.**

*5. Identify policy blockages and, through representation to the Policy*

*Group, help drive policy development and monitor outcomes.*

**ACTION 4 ALL to send ideas to SB**

*6. Provide representation to any over-arching UK species group established by the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee.*

Liz Howe attends meetings at the UK Level on behalf of Wales and a system needs to be developed to ensure effective communication both ways.

*7. Help resolve any potential conflicts between species habitat management needs as they arise.*

WSEG considered that there is a need to look at integration between the ecosystems groups and WSEG to ensure that prioritisation of work is appropriate.

*8. Liase with species Lead Partners for reporting purposes.*

WSEG considered that it is for Lead Partners to be undertaking the reporting through BARS system – WSEG has no capacity to do any direct reporting. However, the group could offer support and guidance as to ecosystem groups.

Overall – there was need for some redrafting of these ToR.

**ACTION 5 SB**

5 Structure and future work programmes

Cannot consider this until the ToR has been redrafted.

6 Key Tasks

**Species Signposting**

Immediate task is to look at the new list and to identify key targets and actions. A template has been prepared but not everyone had seen it so WSEG cannot comment at this time. However, again WSEG considered that before this template could be populated with information, Lead Partners need to be identified and species prioritised for the writing of actions and targets (see 4.3).

Lead Partners should be identified from within Wales if possible but it recognised that for some cases a UK Lead Partner might be more appropriate. WSEG wondered whether Lead Partners might be found in Universities and if WAG funded Universities then maybe the role of Lead Partner could be made a condition of grant funding.

Some Lead Partners are ahead of others with Action and Targets. There was a plea from various quarters that there needs to be some resources made available to identify actions and targets for some species with few specialists. The role of Lead Partners needs urgent clarification.

**ACTION 6 SB to clarify role of Lead Partners and ask WBP SG about funding needs.**

RPSB have already gone through this process for prioritisation and will circulate their species selection criteria.

**ACTION 7 RSPB**

Mammals Targets and Actions have already been drafted and will be circulated to relevant key partners shortly. Where Targets and Actions have already been drafted then this should move forward.

**Species Guidance**

A request has been made from the National Museum of Wales via the local record centre(s) for guidance in the prioritisation of species information sheets. WSEG asked whether this was a good use of resources and also why had specialist organisations not been asked to produce these. Trevor Dines offered to contact Diana Reynolds on this issue.

**ACTION 8 TD**

7 Priority actions for ecosystems groups

Not discussed

8 Communication

Policy Group has had one meeting so far.

Ecosystems groups various WSEG members attend some of the groups and can act as feedback. All minutes will be available on the WBP web site.

Table needs to be developed to identify current links to ecosystem groups through members of WSEG and identify any gaps.

**ACTION 9 SB.**

9 Future meetings

Next meeting needs to be face to face. Date 10 June 2009.

**Actions:**

Action 1 TD to send contact details for Sam Bosanquet and Alan Hale to SB. SB to invite them to next meeting

- Action 2 All to identify species in immediate need of action and send list to SB by 10 April
- Action 3 All to consider ideas for filling knowledge and skills gaps
- Action 4 All to consider blockages in policy and send to SB
- Action 5 SB to redraft Terms of Reference
- Action 6 SB to clarify roles of Lead Partners
- Action 7 RSPB to circulate their species selection criteria
- Action 8 TD to speak to Diana Reynolds on preparation of species information sheets
- Action 9 SB develop table to identify links to ecosystem groups.

SL, RH, SB March 2009