

Wales Biodiversity Framework

Making the connections for biodiversity action in Wales



PARTNERIAETH BIOAMRYWIAETH CYMRU

WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Wales Biodiversity Framework

Foreword

The Welsh Assembly Government's first Environment Strategy for Wales, published in May 2006, paid tribute to the intrinsic value of biodiversity – 'the variety of life on earth'. The Strategy acknowledged the role biodiversity plays, not only in many natural processes, but also in the direct and indirect economic, social, aesthetic, cultural and spiritual benefits that we derive from it.

The Strategy also acknowledged that pressures brought about by our own actions and by other factors, such as climate change, have resulted in damage to the biodiversity of Wales. A more integrated, dynamic and flexible approach to managing biodiversity was promised in order to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and thereafter to bring about recovery from the losses that have already occurred.

The Biodiversity Framework for Wales is part of this new approach. It explains the roles, remits and processes essential to biodiversity conservation and enhancement in Wales. Its value lies in that it provides a common point of reference on biodiversity for all organisations and individuals in Wales, whether Government department or local nature enthusiast.

I am grateful to the Wales Biodiversity Partnership for developing the Framework and promoting biodiversity action throughout Wales. The contribution and co-operation of organisations and individuals across Wales is vital to achieving biodiversity targets. I hope that you will find the Wales Biodiversity Framework an informative and useful building block in the battle against biodiversity loss.



Jane Davidson AM

Minister for Sustainability and Rural Development

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INTRODUCTION

Function and Purpose of this Document

This document has been created by the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) as a first-step guide to:

- Identifying the key practical, policy and legislative drivers for protecting, restoring and enhancing biodiversity in Wales;
- Outlining the mechanisms for promoting positive action;
- Explaining the roles & remit of those responsible for undertaking biodiversity action and;
- Providing links to the tools and information to help maintain and improve biodiversity in Wales.

This document should be read in combination with the Wales Environment Strategy. In particular, the Environment Strategy chapter, *Distinctive biodiversity, landscapes and seascapes* describes the areas covered by this framework and the outcomes that need to be achieved¹.

As a 'living document' this framework is continually updated in response to feedback provided to the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (the custodians of this document) and the Welsh Assembly Government. The framework contributes directly to Making the Connections outcomes, particularly "joining up and simplifying the service"².

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

What is Biodiversity?

- 1.1 Biodiversity is 'the variety of life' on Earth. It includes all plants, animals and micro-organisms (species diversity), the places where they live (habitat diversity) and the genetic differences between individuals that drives adaptability and evolution (genetic diversity). It includes habitats influenced by human kind. In a nutshell you can consider biodiversity to be "all life on the planet."

¹http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/Environment_strategy_for_wales/About_the_strategy/?lang=en

²<http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/makingtheconnections>

Why is Biodiversity Important?

- 1.2 Biodiversity is fundamental to sustaining human life on earth. Biological activity interacting with the environment provides the essential requirements for life: air, food, fresh water and shelter. It drives water, element and nutrient cycles, underpins functioning agricultural systems, influences climate and provides protection from extremes of heat and cold, flood and drought. It is, at a very basic level, the core requirement for human survival.
- 1.3 In Wales the biodiversity resource has value for agriculture, fisheries and timber production, provides the basis of many tourism and recreational activities, provides practical and artistic inspiration, is at the core of Welsh cultural and social heritage and contributes to well-being.

What is Special about Biodiversity in Wales?

- 1.4 Situated on the western side of an island off the Atlantic coast of continental Europe, Wales has a distinct and special contribution to make to biodiversity conservation. Wales has a rich array of habitats from the seabed to the summit of Snowdon. For example, 75% of the Welsh coastal waters are of European importance and Wales has 40% of the “rhos” pasture resource in the United Kingdom.
- 1.5 Within Europe there are few comparably sized areas that have the diversity of habitats, species and geology. Combine this with a single political structure, able to encourage the management of this resource as a coherent unit and the potential and opportunities for co-ordinated action for biological conservation in Wales are numerous; so are the potential benefits to social, cultural and economic development from a healthy biodiversity resource. Wales has a key role to play in biodiversity conservation at a European level.

2. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE DRIVERS

Government Commitments

- 2.1 Clearly we need to halt biodiversity loss to protect resources and processes essential to life but we are required to halt biodiversity loss to be compliant with national and international legislation.
- 2.2 The Wales Environment Strategy sets out the Welsh Assembly Government’s commitment to halting biodiversity loss and to seeing a definite recovery from the losses that have already occurred. The Welsh Assembly Government has set key actions (**Annex A** of this document) to help achieve this aim by 2010.
- 2.3 The Wales Environment Strategy commitment underpins the Welsh Assembly Government’s UK and international commitments to halting biodiversity loss.
- 2.4 The international Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) includes a global commitment to **achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate**

of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level³. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development subsequently endorsed this target. The Welsh Assembly Government have signed up to the Countdown 2010 target to halt biodiversity loss⁴.

- 2.5 UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) is the UK commitment to Article 6A of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2007, the UK Partnership re-affirmed its commitments in *Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach*⁵. The new UK Priority habitat and species lists have been agreed following a review in 2006/07 and there are now 1149 species and 65 habitats. The process of assigning actions to species is on-going and more information on this can be found on the UK BAP website. Individual action plans will only be produced for species that require species specific actions to meet their targets.
<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/bapgroup.aspx?id=112>
- 2.6 UK BAP implementation is coordinated by the UK Biodiversity Partnership. A Standing Committee guides and supports the Partnership, exchanges information with the Country Biodiversity Groups (which includes the Wales Biodiversity Partnership) and represents the interests of the Partnership to Governments. It reports on a three year cycle.

Biodiversity Related Legislation

- 2.7 Biodiversity related legislation includes EU Directives:
- EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC), transposed into UK legislation by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
 - EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/439/EEC), transposed by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, SI 1994/2716-The 'Habitat Regulations' (most recently amended Aug 2007)
 - EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), transposed by The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003, SI 2003/3242

Further UK legislation includes:

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

- 2.8 The Government of Wales Act 1998 transferred responsibility for implementing the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in Wales to the National Assembly for Wales.
- 2.9 The Welsh Assembly Government has identified species and habitats that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in Wales under section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006⁶.

³ www.biodiv.org/convention/default.shtml

⁴ www.countdown2010.net/

⁵ www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/defra_reports-75.aspx

⁶ www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/habitats-34.aspx and www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/species-35.aspx

- 2.10 National Parks are local planning authorities (but not local authorities) and have had a duty to conserve and enhance landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage for over 50 years, under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.
- 2.11 **Annex B** lays out the new legislation under Sections 40 and 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC), which re-enforces each of these pieces of legislation and extends the legal basis for biodiversity action in Wales to all public bodies and local authorities.
- 2.12 In order to be fully compliant with this legislation all strategies, policies, plans and projects affecting Wales need to recognise the importance of biodiversity and show the contribution they will make to its improvement.
- 2.13 **Annex C** provides the link to related legislation and policies.

3. BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGES FOR WALES

Current Situation

- 3.1 The United Nations Millennium Ecosystem Report (2005) states that world-wide, 12 per cent of birds, 25 per cent of mammals and 32 per cent of amphibians are threatened with extinction over the next century.
- 3.2 Even with the biodiversity related legislation and policies currently available in Wales, only 30 per cent of UK BAP habitats are considered to be stable or increasing in size, 46 per cent are in decline with a further 24 per cent for which there is either no clear information or trend for their status. For UK BAP species within Wales, only 22 percent are considered to be stable or increasing.
- 3.3 The survival of every species depends on the specific life-requirements (nutrients, temperature, moisture etc), it is adapted to exploit. Vast areas of natural habitats have been lost, to provide space for human activities, such as intensive agricultural production driven by government policy to supply food for an expanding population; land for housing, industrial, commercial, retail and transport developments to service this increasing population. Remaining habitats are now fragmented, preventing the movement of species and genetic material and further weaken the remaining biodiversity resource. Species population recovery and maintenance are essential if populations are to be robust enough to adapt or migrate to new habitats in the face of climate change.

- 3.4 The Welsh marine and coastal environment supports a rich variety of habitats and species. However, there is evidence that our seas have been, and continue to be, negatively affected by human activity. Examples include the disturbance and sometimes destruction of seabed habitats through development, fisheries and extraction of natural resources, changes in food-webs resulting from over fishing and loss of coastal habitat through development. Pollution is still significant but water quality is improving in many areas. Climate change will become a major challenge in the marine environment and have a wide range of impacts, including the loss of intertidal habitat from sea level rise and ocean acidification, which will change the chemical balance of our seas. Effective collaboration and action are essential to reduce further impacts on vulnerable habitats and species; the health of the wider marine environment is necessary to provide a healthy and resilient marine ecosystem.

Climate Change

- 3.5 Complex models inform our understanding and provide us with scenarios of how our climate will change. Despite the high level of uncertainty there are a number of predictions we can prepare for and adapt to. It is estimated that summers will be warmer and drier whilst winters become warmer and wetter with an increase in severe weather episodes.
- 3.6 It is likely there will be changes to the landscape and in the range and abundance of native species and habitats. For example there may be a decline in upland oak woodland along with those plant, mammal and invertebrate species unable to migrate or adapt. Continental species will expand their range northwards in Wales such as the newly arrived long-winged cone-head (*Conocephalus discolor*), and Dartford warbler (*Sylvia undata*).
- 3.7 Whatever the changes, biodiversity and ecosystems will be put under stress as they attempt to cope with changing environmental conditions and the appearance/loss of species. It is almost inevitable that some habitats and species will be lost due to climate change.
- 3.8 The Environment Strategy Outcome 19 (see point 6.1) recognises that "those species that need very specific conditions to survive" are also those most likely to be affected by climate change. The impact of increased storms, for example, may be particularly severe on coastal and marine habitats.
- 3.9 Other changes such as a longer growing season with enhanced yields of agricultural crops and woodland productivity, will depend on the scale and rate of climate change. Climate change could reduce the growing season and disable agricultural production by limiting water supplies during key growing stages or bring new pests and diseases.
- 3.10 Adjustments to land management practices will be required to cope with potential impacts of climate change on soil sustainability, water quality and

quantity and use of pesticides and herbicides. All will have a subsequent impact on biodiversity.

- 3.11 Increased use of wood fuel and wood products could substitute for fossil fuel use and reduce emissions of CO₂. Well maintained healthy habitats such as blanket bog, wetlands, forests and stable unploughed grasslands can help by acting as carbon sinks. Bio-fuel crops have the potential for commercial exploitation and could provide biodiversity benefits and a renewable source of energy.
- 3.12 A healthy biodiversity resource plays a critical role in coping with climate change. Effects of climate change will have higher impact in areas where biodiversity is already under stress. Healthy eco-systems⁷ have more potential to adapt to climate change and ensure continued provision of critical ecosystems services such as crop pollination. Biodiversity will need help to adapt to climate change impacts. Crucially, it is also a significant weapon in the battle to limit the effects of climate change.

Other Biodiversity Pressures

- 3.13 Whilst the attention given to climate change is important, we need to manage and respond to a wider range of environmental and human changes. The European Commission Communication: *Halting the Loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond*⁸ (May 2006) identifies the principal pressures on biodiversity as “land use change arising from conversion, intensification of production systems, abandonment of traditional (often biodiversity-friendly) practices, construction and catastrophic events, exploitation, invasion of alien species.” Similar pressures are listed for Wales in the Environment Strategy and include:

- Construction and development – housing, roads, commercial, industry, flood defences and energy infrastructure;
- Increasing energy use, transport and travel activities;
- Inappropriate land management including under-grazing and over-grazing;
- Atmospheric, soil and water pollution;
- Increased demand on water supply;
- Inappropriate forestry operations;
- Invasive species;
- Over fishing and unsustainable bait collection;
- Recreational pressure such as use of off-road vehicles.

- 3.14 Biodiversity protection has an economic value⁹. We must ensure that economic growth does not result in environmental damage. The challenge is to secure an improvement in Wales’ biodiversity resources, preferably through partnership but, where necessary, through enforcement measures.

⁷ <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/Condition.aspx> click on *Conceptual Framework* link

⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/index_en.htm

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/index_en.htm

- 3.15 Historically biodiversity protection and enhancement effort has been focussed on the terrestrial environment. The balance between the focus on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity issues needs to be redressed. The draft *Marine and Coastal Access Bill* and the related development of Marine Spatial Planning and Marine Conservation Zones are steps towards this goal.
- 3.16 To succeed, decision makers at national and local levels must have regard for the importance of biodiversity. This will be achieved by continuing to support and build on our current partnership approach and by encouraging all sectors of society to take positive action.

Key Challenges

- 3.17 To achieve the WES 2010 (and beyond) targets for improving biodiversity in Wales the key challenges are:
- Safeguarding and ensuring favourable condition of priority habitats & species as defined in UKBAP.
 - Conserving & restoring terrestrial and marine biodiversity.
 - Providing adequate species and habitat protection through legislation.
 - Making new & existing development and other activities more biodiversity-friendly.
 - Using biodiversity actions to help alleviate and slow the effects of climate change.
 - Integrating biodiversity protection and enhancement into productive and commercially viable farming systems.
 - Promoting good forest management and sustainable timber production.
 - Supporting the development of new opportunities such as biodiversity-friendly biomass fuels.
 - Reducing negative impacts from non-native species.
 - Influencing all policy areas to reduce/eliminate the negative effects on biodiversity created by previous policies and processes.
 - Integrating biodiversity into all strategy and policy-making activities at a national, regional and local level.
 - Taking biodiversity into account at the early stages of developing plans and projects.
 - Maximising opportunity to support biodiversity through funding streams in all sectors.
 - Making the wider environment more favourable for biodiversity through managing the countryside for wildlife and reducing habitat fragmentation.
 - Raising awareness and understanding and converting this into action in all sectors.
 - Developing and enforcing better legislation particularly for the Marine Environment.
 - Ensuring that adequate survey and monitoring takes place in order to identify biodiversity change and make this available to decision makers.
 - Influence private/business sectors to contribute more towards biodiversity enhancement/protection.

- Harnessing the opportunities of the Wales Spatial Plan to create landscape scale restoration and creation projects.
- Ensure all partners share information on actions taken and targets met using the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS).

3.18 Biodiversity is something that everyone can harm as well as help. To halt biodiversity loss, we all need to understand the importance of biodiversity, how to take action to safeguard and enhance it and provide opportunities for its enjoyment.

4. WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Who Should Be Involved?

- 4.1 Everyone in Wales has a role to play in improving biodiversity including government, councillors, planners, developers, private companies and the wider public as well as the groups, organisations or individuals with a direct interest in biodiversity.
- 4.2 The Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) brings together those from the public, private and voluntary sectors who have a role to play in taking action to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership provides opportunities for three different types of partner:

- The Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) – the wider network; members' actions are key to success.
 - The Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group (WBPSG) – the leadership group.
 - Task and Finish Groups are made up of members from the Steering Group and the Wider Partnership.
- 4.3 The WBP is open to anyone who considers that they have a role to play in improving Wales' biodiversity. There is a wealth of experience and expertise within the Partnership. This is harnessed to ensure that it's members are fully involved in local decision making processes and feed into the national political scene effectively.

What is WBP's Role?

- 4.4 The role of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership is to promote action to maintain, enhance and monitor biodiversity in Wales and to advise the Welsh Assembly Government on issues affecting biodiversity. See **Annex D**.
- 4.5 The Steering Group works with the Wider Partnership to co-ordinate Wales-level biodiversity actions associated with the Environment Strategy and the

UK BAP. It provides a leadership role and makes decisions on priorities for action on biodiversity in Wales.

- 4.6 There are numerous organisations and individuals involved in protecting and enhancing biodiversity in Wales. A co-ordinated approach is essential to ensure that these organisations and partnerships work together to achieve biodiversity targets.

The Wider Network

Key role: *to provide advice and expertise to the Steering Group, respond to and influence decision making and contribute to biodiversity activity in Wales.*

- 4.7 Members of the Partnership will have the opportunity to meet once a year at the annual WBP Conference or similar events. WBP training events will be open to all Partnership members.
- 4.8 Members of the Partnership are asked to sit on reference groups and attend policy gateway sessions whenever the Welsh Assembly Government revise or develop new strategies and policies.
- 4.9 WBP members are also encouraged to offer their services in the development of local policies and strategies and, in particular, the development of their local community strategy and to become involved, where appropriate, with the emerging Local Service Boards.
- 4.10 In assisting with national and local strategies and policies, WBP members are expected to focus on enabling practical, effective implementation of biodiversity protection and enhancement.
- 4.11 The dates of Steering Group meetings and the papers are provided on the WBP website, in advance of meetings, to ensure effective lines of communication between the national and regional partnerships. Input from WBP members is welcomed at all times.

The Steering Group

Key role: *to provide co-ordination and leadership to achieve and communicate the biodiversity outcomes described in the Environment Strategy and to recommend the measures needed to achieve targets in a consistent manner across Wales.*

- 4.12 Chaired by the Welsh Assembly Government, the Steering Group co-ordinates country level comment for the UKBAP process, liaises with the UK Standing Committee via the Steering Group Chair and other members.
- 4.13 The Steering Group is the overarching high-level group leading biodiversity activity in Wales, sign-posting biodiversity advice/guidance and reviewing report data against the 2010 target. The Steering Group's opinion and endorsement should be sought on all key plans affecting biodiversity in Wales.

- 4.14 The Steering Group is the primary link between UK policy and biodiversity activity in Wales. It advises the Welsh Assembly Government on actions needed in Wales in response to biodiversity related UK, EU or international issues. The Steering Group is supported by Task and Finish Groups dealing with specific issues.
- 4.15 Decision makers from any sector may approach the Steering Group for advice to ensure that they are adequately addressing biodiversity and helping to contribute to achieving Outcomes 19 (*loss of biodiversity halted*), and 20 (*wider environment more favourable to biodiversity*) in the Wales Environment Strategy.
- 4.16 Membership of the Steering Group will be reviewed every three years with new members being taken from the Wider Network.
- 4.17 A list of current Steering Group members can be found on the WBP website.

Key Government Bodies

- 4.18 The Welsh Assembly Government, Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Environment Agency Wales (EAW) and Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) are WBP members and have key roles in statutory biodiversity protection and recovery.

Biodiversity Roles and Responsibilities of Key Public Service Bodies

WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active leadership, including encouraging contributions from all public sector bodies • Policy areas such as agriculture, development control, pollution and transport • Marine policy, especially fisheries • Targeting existing and new cross compliance and agri-environment schemes towards biodiversity gain • Management of WAG's own designated (and non-designated) estate
CCW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government adviser on nature conservation • Liaison with individual owners and occupiers of sites • Use of regulatory powers as a last resort • Management agreements • Direct management of National Nature Reserves or via section 35 bodies • Awareness campaigns and specific initiatives • Monitoring and reporting of site features • Sites data management • Provision of grant aid • UK Lead Partner / Wales reporting responsibilities • Statutory consultee • Species licensing

EA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing and emerging programmes of work under the Habitats and Water Framework Directives (e.g. RoC, RBMPs) • Contribute towards monitoring, surveillance and research on water-dependant features and features affected by air pollution • Asset Management Plan (AMP) process • Water related environment planning (e.g. Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS), Water Level Management Plan (WLMP), Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP). • Owner of some designated land.
FC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help deliver and monitor the Assembly's Woodland for Wales Strategy and develop forestry policy. • Provide biodiversity gains through Better Woodlands for Wales grants and support for creating and improving woodlands. • Regulatory responsibility for Felling Licences, EIA of forestry projects, plant health of trees and Forest Reproductive material. • Management of Assembly's designated woodland and wider estate. • Provide best practice guidance and expertise to the sector through Forest Research.

4.19 **Local authorities** have a duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 in relation to biodiversity conservation. They are key partners in LBAP partnerships see **Annex H**, Section 1.4.1.

Everyone in Wales

4.20 Improving biodiversity needs commitment and active support from everyone, including public, private and voluntary interests. All the organisations below and many other stakeholders have diverse and essential roles to play in delivering biodiversity improvement in Wales.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAG and UK Government Departments • CCW, EAW and other Welsh ASPBs • Conservation NGOs • Other NGOs • Local Authorities • Planning Officers • Transport Consultants • Developers • National Parks • HAP and SAP Lead Partners • National Trust • WLGA • Police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses • Utilities Operators • LBAP Partnerships • Local Record Centres • Ecologists • Landowners and Managers • Volunteers • Education and training providers • Schools • Recreation / Tourism Enterprises • Community Groups • Special Interest Groups • Youth Groups • Individuals
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- 4.21 WBP are happy to provide advice and guidance to those who need it and welcome the sharing of policy proposals at an early stage. Further information is available via the WBP website¹⁰
- 4.22 **Annexes E and F** contain a brief overview of the expectations of WBP of organisations and individuals in Wales and gives an idea of how **your organisation or group** can help.
- 4.23 A wide range of partners are currently members of the WBP. If you are not yet a member but believe that your organisation should be part of the WBP please complete the application form in **Annex G**.

5. HOW IT ALL FITS TOGETHER (see flowchart page 21)

Background

UK and Wales Biodiversity Action

- 5.1 The UK Biodiversity Partnership, supported by a Standing Committee is responsible for the UKBAP. The Committee includes representatives from the four country groups, including the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP), the four country agencies and the NGO community. It has two sub-groups: the UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG), and the UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG) which include representatives from the WBP.
For further information go to: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>
- 5.2 Currently, there are named **Lead Partners** for priority habitats and species identified in the UKBAP. The UKBAP review means that this UK led approach to biodiversity action planning will be changing over the next 6 months as responsibility for BAP delivery will largely be devolved to Wales. Lead Partners can provide advice on management for their species or habitats and can help LBAPs prioritise action to best achieve UKBAP targets. NGO Lead Partners also play a critical role in promoting biodiversity through their membership and in promoting and supporting biological recording, particularly through UK or Wales-wide recording schemes. These schemes act as nodes within the National Biodiversity Network and link with the Local Record Centres network in Wales.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs)

- 5.3 There are 24 Local Biodiversity Action Partnerships (LBAPs) in Wales, one for every county and for two National Parks – (Snowdonia and The Brecon Beacons). Pembrokeshire has produced one plan for both the National Park and Local Authority area. Some LBAP Partnerships have formed regional groups, (Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action Group and Glamorgan Biodiversity Advisory Group). The effective implementation of these plans and the

¹⁰ <http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/>

reporting and sharing of information on BARS is key to achieving Wales and UK biodiversity targets.

- 5.4 The 24 Welsh LBAP Partnerships are varied in membership, area covered, and amount of priority biodiversity resource within them. All LBAP coordinators contact details can be found on the Wales Biodiversity Partnerships website¹¹.
- 5.5 LBAP Partnerships in Wales seek to harness the energy and enthusiasm of people in their area and support them to develop projects that have real benefit for biodiversity. In addition they work more formally with different sectors to ensure that the economic, health and social benefits of improved biodiversity are fully realised and properly considered.
- 5.6 Results from the UK 2005 Reporting Round and the increased use of BARS¹² demonstrate that LBAPs contribute to UK Habitat and Species Action Plan targets and contribute to the achievement of the Wales Environment Strategy Biodiversity Outcomes (see 6.1).
- 5.7 The Partnerships are dependent on the active membership of individuals from NGOs, Local Government, Government Organisations, species experts, the farming community, community groups and many others, to take forward actions for habitats and species.
- 5.8 The WBP established an LBAP Facilitator Post in 2001, a role that enabled the provision of various seminars and workshops, advice and guidance documents and support for LBAP Co-ordinators and Partnerships. This post has now been replaced by 3 WBP Support Officers who all have responsibility for supporting LBAPs in different areas of Wales, see map.

**See Annex H for full description of LBAPs roles and responsibilities.
See Annex I for Support Officer role descriptions.**

¹¹ LBAP contact list on WBP website http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/local_to_you-3.aspx

¹² www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk

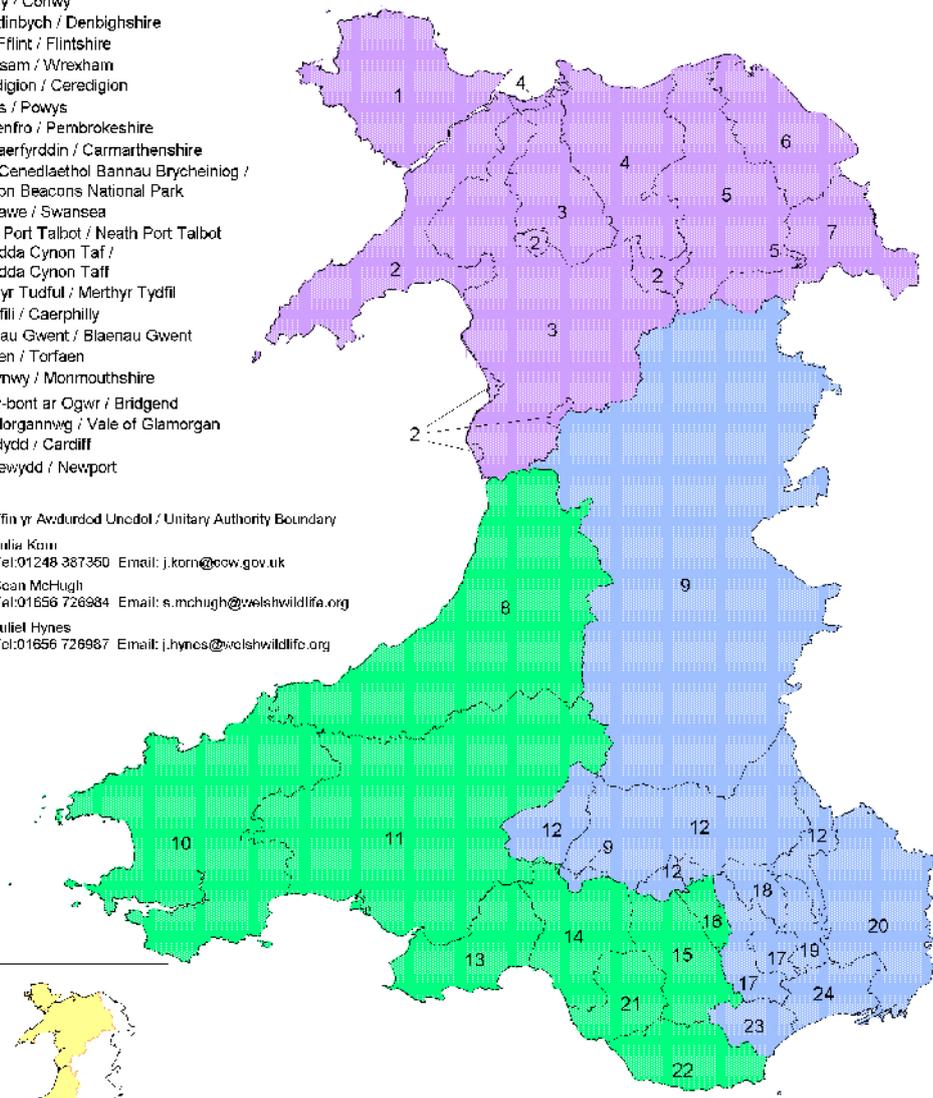


Swyddogaethau Cefnogi ac Ardaloedd CGBLI yng Nghymru LBAP Areas in Wales and Support Roles

Partnership with
PARTNERIAETH BLOAMRYNIAETHU CYMRU
WAL'S BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

- 1 Ynys Môn / Isle of Anglesey
- 2 Gwynedd / Gwynedd
- 3 Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri / Snowdonia National Park
- 4 Conwy / Conwy
- 5 Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire
- 6 Sir y Fflint / Flintshire
- 7 Wrexham / Wrexham
- 8 Ceredigion / Ceredigion
- 9 Powys / Powys
- 10 Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire
- 11 Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire
- 12 Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog / Brecon Beacons National Park
- 13 Abertawe / Swansea
- 14 Nedd Port Talbot / Neath Port Talbot
- 15 Rhondda Cynon Taf / Rhondda Cynon Taf
- 16 Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil
- 17 Caerffili / Caerphilly
- 18 Blaenau Gwent / Blaenau Gwent
- 19 Torfaen / Torfaen
- 20 Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire
- 21 Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend
- 22 Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan
- 23 Caerdydd / Cardiff
- 24 Casnewydd / Newport

- Ffin yr Awdurdod Unedol / Unitary Authority Boundary
- Julia Korn
Tel: 01248 367350 Email: j.korn@ccw.gov.uk
 - Sean McHugh
Tel: 01656 726984 Email: s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org
 - Juliet Hynes
Tel: 01656 726987 Email: j.hynes@welshwildlife.org



Graddfa / Scale 1:1,250,000

Cynhyrchwyd gan Unit Gwybodaeth Ddaearyddol. Fawfrinri Cyngr Cŵn Gwlad Cymru.
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Welsh Local Record Centres

- 5.9 In 2002, the National Assembly for Wales Environment, Planning and Transport committee undertook a review of the Welsh LBAP process. Its recommendations included a call to develop a national network of Local Record Centres (LRCs), to promote recording and improve access to accurate biodiversity information across Wales. All four of the LRCs in Wales are now fully operational: SEWBReC (South East Wales), BIS (Powys and BBNP), Cofnod (North) and WWBIC (West)¹³.
- 5.10 WBP Partners should ensure that they continue to assist LRCs and make the best use of their data holdings and services. They can also enter into Service Level Agreements with them.
- 5.11 The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) provides ways of sharing wildlife information across the UK, and builds tools to make this information accessible in a digitised, exchangeable form. LRCs act as nodes of the NBN and the NBN offers shared standards to LRCs¹⁴.

The Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)

- 5.12 Through the UK/Wales BAP process, action plan targets for species and habitats are owned by Lead Partners and LBAP Partnerships. Progress towards these targets was reported in 1999, 2002, and 2005, on the last occasion using the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS). The next reporting round is in 2008¹⁵.
- 5.13 BARS is the main information collection and communication tool for biodiversity action across the UK. It is a web-based system created for the entire UK Partnership to meet the planning, monitoring and reporting requirements of all those delivering biodiversity action and contributing to UK targets. The use of BARS encourages the revision of LBAP documents, focusing on finite actions and targets and providing quantitative data¹⁶.
- 5.14 The expectation is that Government and Country Agencies will provide a lead by populating BARS with all appropriate information and linking to UK and LBAP actions. They will develop a strategic steer within their organisations/ departments to ensure that staff know what to do. Others in the biodiversity community are strongly encouraged to do the same, to realise the full value of a single biodiversity reporting system.

¹³ <http://www.lrcwales.org.uk/>

¹⁴ <http://www.searchnbn.net/>

¹⁵ www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/reporting-37.aspx

¹⁶ <http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/>

The Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)

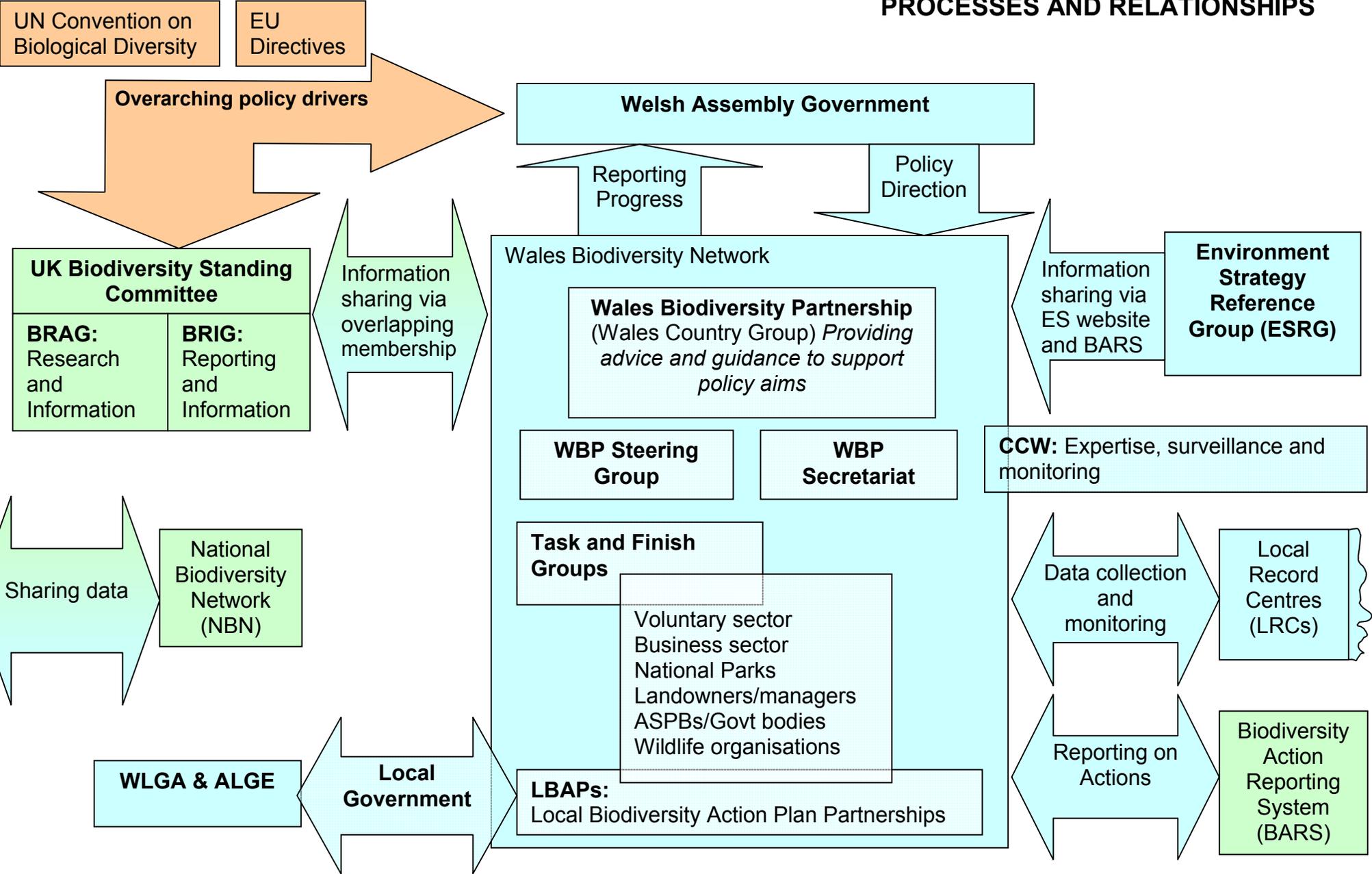
- 5.15 The role of the county ecologist is vital in achieving biodiversity outcomes by the local authority. The Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)¹⁷ represents professional ecologists and LBAP co-ordinators working in local government in the UK and provides information and support.

Communications

- 5.16 WBP members and others need to keep up-to-date with important developments. Local, regional, country and UK partners need a common understanding of the LBAP and the LBAP Partnership to enable better targeting of biodiversity action to meet climate change challenges.
- 5.17 LBAPs in Wales need information from Wales/UK habitat and species leads to be able to set quantifiable local targets. WBP will establish improved links between Lead Partners, relevant experts and LBAP Partnerships to improve collaboration. WBP has a role advising BRIG and BRAG on baseline data and 'gap filling'.
- 5.18 The development of local targets and the revision of LBAPs, to produce target-linked actions are essential to the successful implementation of LBAPs.
- 5.19 LBAP Partnerships will continue to be responsible for the co-ordination, monitoring and reporting of local biodiversity action in Wales.
- 5.20 The current remit of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the role and responsibilities of Partnerships, individual partners, UK reviews, BARS, relationships and links between LBAPs and local statutory plans are provided in **Annex H**.
- 5.21 WBP will continue to provide support to LBAP partnerships and the LBAP Co-ordinators and develop further guidance.
- 5.22 It is essential that the WBP Steering Group understands and assists in overcoming the barriers facing LBAP Partnerships. This situation will be improved by enhanced communication between the WBP Steering Group, the Secretariat and the LBAP co-ordinators. WBP encourages Local Biodiversity Action Plan co-ordinators and members to use regional group meetings or subject/functional groups to provide their WBP Steering Group representatives with bullet point lists of key issues and ideas in their area. These will be considered by the Steering Group and feedback provided via the action points.

¹⁷ <http://www.alge.org.uk/>

PROCESSES AND RELATIONSHIPS



- 5.23 In Wales, ALGE meets once a year and will be expected to provide a bullet point list of key issues and ideas for the Steering Group's consideration and feedback via the action points. ALGE will also provide a member to join each Steering Group meeting. Where appropriate, LBAP co-ordinators will be encouraged to join ALGE¹⁸ (See 5.15).
- 5.24 A similar feedback mechanism operates with LRC Managers, at least one of whom attends WBP Steering Group meetings.
- 5.25 Use of these mechanisms and access to Steering Group papers via the WBP website¹⁹ enables current issues to be raised at every meeting.
- 5.26 Further support and guidance for public sector bodies with a responsibility for implementing the NERC Act biodiversity duty will be provided by WBP in association with the Welsh Assembly Government²⁰.

Management and Administration

- 5.27 The Steering Group meets three times a year. Sub-groups, including subject, functional and regional LBAP groups, meet before the Steering Group meetings to pass comment on strategic issues to inform policy and practice. Views from all members of the WBP are sought on an ongoing basis via the WBP website, particularly in response to Steering Group meeting agendas and the papers posted prior to meetings. The annual conference will provide an opportunity to review progress, feedback to each other and improve our effectiveness.
- 5.28 Regular updates on international and European issues are provided in advance of the Steering Group meetings via Welsh Assembly Government and CCW officers.
- 5.29 The Welsh Assembly Government will continue to support Secretariat provision to the enhanced WBP. Secretariat provision has been extended to provide a mixed WAG, CCW and voluntary sector (currently WTW) team. The three main posts are focused on:
- Providing strategic policy support to the Steering Group and its Task and Finish Groups
 - Enabling the communication (web, paper, meetings etc) infrastructure that underpins effective biodiversity practice in Wales
 - Enabling the technical (LBAP, BARS, LRC etc) infrastructure that underpins effective biodiversity practice in Wales.

¹⁸ <http://www.alge.org.uk/about/regions/wales.php>

¹⁹ <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/English/Library/default.aspx?pid=2>

²⁰ http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/legislation_guidance-20.aspx

5.30 In addition to specialising in a particular area of expertise, all three posts provide support to a geographical group of Local Biodiversity Action Partnerships on the ground.

5.31 Job descriptions for the three key support roles are included in **Annex I**.

Promotional Work

5.32 WBP have been actively involved in awareness raising and promotional activity in Wales, including promoting and co-ordinating Wales Biodiversity Week and providing a fully bilingual website²¹. Public events such as biodiversity fairs, events in towns, shopping centres, museums etc. reach out to people who are completely unaware of LBAPs and the importance of protecting Wales' biodiversity and help to give it a national identity.

5.33 The Wales Biodiversity Partnership website is a primary source of biodiversity information in Wales. It is aimed both at biodiversity practitioners and the public and includes links to all LBAPs in Wales. It also provides a year-round events calendar. **All WBP members are encouraged to use this facility to promote their events.**

5.34 The magazine *Natur Cymru – The Nature of Wales* was established in 2001 by members of WBP. Subscribers receive this popular illustrated publication about biodiversity issues four times a year. Details of how to subscribe are available at: www.naturcymru.org.uk

6. KEY OUTCOMES

Wales Environment Strategy Outcomes for Biodiversity

6.1 This Framework is designed to facilitate and underpin achievement of the following Wales Environment Strategy Outcomes:

- **Outcome 8:** Wales has improved resilience to the impacts of climate change. A clear flexible programme of measures is in place to enable Wales to respond and adapt to climate change.
- **Outcome 16:** Soil is managed to safeguard its ability to support plants and animals, store carbon and provide other important ecosystem services.
- **Outcome 19:** The loss of biodiversity has been halted and we can see a definite recovery in the number, range and genetic diversity of species, including those species that need very specific conditions to survive.
- **Outcome 20:** The wider environment is more favourable to biodiversity through appropriate management, reduced habitat fragmentation and increased extent and interconnectivity of habitats.
- **Outcome 21:** Sites of international, Welsh and local importance are in favourable condition to support the species and habitats for which they have been identified.

²¹ www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

- **Outcome 22:** Our seas are clean and support healthy ecosystems that are biologically diverse, productive and managed sustainably.
- **Outcome 23:** The quality and diversity of the natural and historic character of our landscape and seascape is maintained and enhanced.
- **Outcome 27:** There is easy, equitable access to ample high quality green space.

Wales Biodiversity Framework Outcomes

6.2 The Framework will directly deliver the following outcomes:

- A more co-ordinated, effective and integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and enhancement across Wales.
- Actions for biodiversity as set out in the Environment Strategy will be implemented (see **Annex A**).
- Clear leadership and key biodiversity drivers for Wales identified.
- Clarity of roles and responsibilities and clear mechanisms for reporting and monitoring progress.
- Increased opportunities for a wider range of individuals/stakeholders to become involved.
- Increased and more widespread awareness of biodiversity and how everyone can play their part in protecting and enhancing it.
- Improved access to biodiversity information and more effective communication between everyone involved in biodiversity conservation and enhancement.
- An increase in collaborative working for example on landscape scale projects.
- More efficient and creative use of existing and of untapped resources.
- Smaller ecological footprint for WBP.

7. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Actions

- 7.1 BARS – the UK Biodiversity Action Reporting System is the web-based information system that supports the planning, monitoring and reporting requirements of UK national, local and company Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs). It also allows users to learn about the progress (trends and status) being made towards local and national targets. BARS will meet all biodiversity action reporting requirements.
- 7.2 **WBP expects the biodiversity actions of all organisations in Wales to be reported through BARS²².**
- 7.3 Progress on actions will be communicated via BARS. Environment Strategy Biodiversity Actions, including the activities of CCW, EAW and FCW, will be added to BARS and BARS will be developed to include a Wales area.

²² <http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/>

Targets and Indicators

- 7.4 Wales's level targets, for individual species and habitats, will continue to be agreed as part of the UKBAP. These targets will be disaggregated to local level to enable development of local targets. Wales indicators will contribute to UKBAP indicators, which feed into EU indicators.
- 7.5 Through the Environment Strategy, additional targets and headline indicators will be developed to track progress. The Environment Strategy Reference Group will monitor the strategy and related indicators. The *State of the Environment Report*, will bring together data from a range of primary sources across Wales.
<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/tableviewer/document.aspx?FileId=1657>

The data collected and published will be provided to WBP to allow them to determine what actions are needed to ensure the targets are achieved.

Habitats and Species Data

- 7.6 LRCs are providing quality data at a local level, using NBN standards and linking to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) to make it easier for national WBP members to share their data.
- 7.7 WBP expects its members, LBAP Partnerships and others, including the private sector to provide biodiversity data that they collect to their Local Record Centre.
- 7.8 WBP expects its members, LBAP partnerships and others (e.g. private sector) to utilise the data available in LRCs, to aid their activities and help make better decisions to benefit biodiversity. Raw data is available as are customised reports.

8. PRIORITIES FOR ACTION / NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 WBP is directly involved in the implementation and monitoring of the following Wales Environment Strategy (WES) actions²³:

Action 3: *We will produce a climate change adaptation plan, which sets out what actions will be taken to help biodiversity adapt to the impacts of climate change in Wales*

Action 32: *We will bring designated sites into favourable or recovering condition through a suite of measures aimed at delivering more sympathetic management. Measures will include:*

²³ <http://new.wales.gov.uk/956559/910682/environment-strategy?lang=en>

- *Identifying land owned by the public sector, conservation charities and other organisations.*
- *Management Agreements.*
- *Sharing best practice.*
- *Targeting of agri-environment schemes*

Action 33: *We will set priorities for landscape scale projects in order to build up the resilience of biodiversity to adapt to climate change, including habitat restoration and review the mechanisms that support this.*

8.2 WBP has identified the following areas for immediate action and an annual updated work programme is published on the website.

- Maintain a full Secretariat Team, providing increased support to, and communication between, Lead Partners, LBAP Partnerships and co-ordinators, LRC managers and volunteers.
- Develop an all-Wales approach to delivering habitat and species targets, including the new Wales lists and reviewing and refreshing the LBAP process, establish effective links between UK activities, lead partners, relevant experts, specialist groups and LBAP partnerships in order to minimise administration and maximise biodiversity outcomes.
- Enable use of BARS by all sectors, with a focus on improving links between national and local actions, disaggregating SMART Targets²⁴ to local level, and reporting in ways that maximise progress.
- Build on LRC development in Wales to create a central Biodiversity Register/GIS layer/map showing the important priority habitats and species locations in order to ensure that national data sets are up-to-date and available for use, improve information sharing to enable appropriate action by landowners, government bodies and others.
- Develop a coherent communication plan for the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, including the business sector, in order to convert awareness into action, maximise biodiversity outcomes, reduce loss of key skills and enable efficient monitoring and surveillance.

Your views are sought on the appropriateness of these areas of activity and can be submitted alongside your application to join the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (see Annex G) or separately to the same address.

Version as at 01.09.08.

²⁴ <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/GenPageText.aspx?id=98> (scroll down)

ANNEX A: Wales Environment Strategy 2006 Key biodiversity Actions for WBP

No.	Action	Outcome It Supports	Who Is Responsible? Milestones
19	Rollout CCW's Green Space Toolkit to increase the quality and quantity of public green space in Wales.	27	By end March 2007 - Pilot Toolkit in a large urban and a rural authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: CCW • Partners: Local authorities By end 2007 - Complete assessment of pilots and adjust Toolkit as appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: CCW • Partners: Local authorities By Mar 2008 - Begin rollout of toolkit across all Local authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: CCW / Local authorities Aim for all local authorities to participate in the Green Flag Award Scheme by end 2008: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead : CCW / Civic Trust
25	We will establish a Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Group to support the implementation of the Directive in Wales.	4, 13, 35-36	By end Mar 07 - Establish Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WAG (Env P&Q) • Partners: EAW, CCW all key sectors
26	We will seek to manage increased access to the countryside effectively and develop best practice through supporting pilot projects on sustainable public recreation which can be replicated elsewhere: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: EAW • Partners: water-based recreation representative bodies including fishing and canoeists, National Access Forum, CCW 	29	By Mar 08 - Pilot projects on managing impacts of large numbers of people accessing the countryside: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: NPAs and local authorities • Partners: WAG (ECM), CCW, National Access Forum, farmers and landowners By Mar 08 - Have in place and commence implementation of new strategic plan for recreational access:

			<p>to water in Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: EAW • Partners: water-based recreation representative bodies including fishing and canoeists, National Access Forum, CCW
27	We will work with key partners – including CCW, National Parks and local government – to increase public access to the coast of Wales.	29	<p>By May 2006 - Identify main options to improve coastal access in Wales and determine way forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: CCW • Partners: WAG (ECM) <p>By Mar 2009 - Increased access to the coast will be secured in partnership with key stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WAG (ECM) • Partners: CCW, local authorities, National Park Authorities, user groups, landowners and their representatives
28	We will ensure that delivering environmental outcomes is a key component of the new Rural Development Plan (RDP) and the provision of good quality advice on environmental issues will be a key priority of the Farm Advisory Service.	7-8, 13-14, 16, 19-23, 29, 31, 35-37	<p>By 2007 - new RDP in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WAG <p>By January 2007 - Develop & implement a new Farm Advisory Service that meets EU requirements and industry needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead WAG (FMD) • Partners: CCW, farmers, voluntary sector, Forestry Commission
29	We will seek to ensure that European structural funds are used to deliver environmental outcomes that are compatible with the outcomes in the Environment Strategy.	All	By end 2006 - Operational Plans completed for Welsh structural fund programmes (2007-2013) fully integrating environmental sustainability to support environment strategy actions as vertical and

			<p>horizontal themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead WAG (WEFO) • Partners - CCW, EAW, Local Authorities <p>By 2007 - Develop strategic projects to take forward the opportunities afforded by structural funds in environmental areas such as addressing climate change, waste and flood defence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WAG (EPC) and WAG (EW) • Partners: EAW, CCW and WEFO
31	We will use the opportunity of the revised Rural Development Plan to refocus and ensure greater targeting of our agri-environment and land management schemes to deliver our environmental priorities, in particular adaptation to climate change, tackling diffuse pollution from agriculture and enhancing biodiversity.	7-8, 13-14, 16, 19-23, 29, 31, 35-37	<p>By 2007 - Refocused agri-environment schemes ready:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WAG (ECM) • Partners: CCW, farmers and landowners, voluntary sector, EAW
32	<p>We will bring designated sites into favourable or recovering condition through a suite of measures aimed at delivering more sympathetic management. Measures will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying land owned by the public sector, conservation charities and other organisations; • Management agreements; • Sharing best practice; • Targeting of agri-environment schemes. 	19-22	<p>By July 2006 - Produce a plan that will refocus existing expenditure in order to bring international sites and SSSIs into favourable management and implement the plan immediately it is produced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: CCW / WAG (ECM) • Partners: WAG, FCW, EAW, voluntary sector, WBP, WCMP <p>From April 2006 onwards - monitor all International site and SSSI features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: CCW • Partners: EAW, JNCC, land owners, voluntary sector

33	We will set priorities for landscape scale projects in order to build up the resilience of biodiversity to adapt to climate change, including habitat restoration and review the mechanisms that support this.	8, 19-20	By end 2007 - Review of mechanisms completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: CCW • Partners: WBP, WAG, landowners, voluntary sector By end 2009 - Priorities and means of collaborating in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: CCW • Partners: WBP, WAG, voluntary sector
36	The Wales Biodiversity Partnership will be reconfigured to provide a leadership role and an expert steer on priorities for action on biodiversity in Wales.	19-22	By Oct 06 - WBP reconfigured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WBP
37	We will develop a Biodiversity Framework for Wales explaining the roles, remits and processes essential to biodiversity conservation and enhancement in Wales.	19-22	By Feb 07 - Biodiversity Framework completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WBP
38	We will bring together standardised guidance for the development of local wildlife sites systems.	19-21	Guidance for designation in place by 2007: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WBP • Partners: WBP, Local authorities, WTs, ALGE, CCW
43	We will use CCW's landscape characterisation work as the potential basis for assessing the impacts of different land management choices on our landscape. This information will be used to develop broad visions and priorities for different landscapes in Wales and will inform our priorities particularly for agri-environment and forestry.	8, 23	By end 2006 - Complete landscape characterisation work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: CCW By end March 2008 - vision of and priorities for different landscapes in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WAG (ECM) • Partners: CCW, local authorities, voluntary sector, farmers and landowners, WAG (Cadw)

46	We will seek broadly defined powers within the proposed Marine Bill so that Wales can develop a distinct approach to marine issues. We will develop proposals for, and consult widely on, a detailed framework for the management of sea around Wales	22	By summer 2006 - Policy consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: Defra / WAG (ECM) By 2010 - Following publication of the Bill, consultation on Wales framework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WAG (ECM) • Partners: WCMP, CCW, EAW
47	Integrated Coastal Zone Management - we will publish a new Wales strategy on ICZM in the Spring of 2006 and report annually on progress against the key targets it contains.	22-23, 24	By July 2006 - Publish ICZM Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WAG (ECM) • Partners: WCMP By July 2010 - Review strategy and prepare new action plan to take ICZM process further forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WAG (ECM) • Partners: WCMP
59	We will provide guidance to enable community strategy partnerships to address the issues in the Environment Strategy.	3-4	By end Mar 2007 - Inclusion in statutory guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WAG (LGP) By end Mar 2007 - Detailed environmental guidance produced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead: WAG (Env P&Q) • Partners: Local authorities, CCW, voluntary sector

ANNEX B: Biodiversity clauses in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act)

For the first time the UK has a national plan for wildlife, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1994 (UKBAP). This is the UK's response as signatories to the UN Environment Programme Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 (CBD). It is supported by a wide range of organisations and enshrined in primary legislation, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

40 Duty to conserve biodiversity

- (1) Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, in so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
- (2) In complying with subsection (1), a Minister of the Crown, government department or the National Assembly for Wales must in particular have regard to the United Nations Environment Programme Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992.
- (3) Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.
- (4) "Public Authority" means any of the following-
 - (a) a Minister of the Crown;
 - (b) the National Assembly for Wales;
 - (c) a public body (including a government department, a local authority and a local planning authority);
 - (d) a person holding an office-
 - (i) under the Crown
 - (ii) created or continued in existence by a public general Act, or
 - (iii) the remuneration in respect of which is paid out of money provided by Parliament
 - (iv) a statutory undertaker.
- (5) In this section-

"local authority" means-

 - (a) in relation to England, a county council, a district council, a parish council, a London borough council, a Common Council of the City of London or Council of the Isles of Scilly;
 - (b) in relation to Wales, a county council, a county borough council, or a community council;

"local planning authority" has the same meaning as in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (c.8);

"Minister of the Crown" has the same meaning as in the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975 (c.26);

"statutory undertaker" means a person who is or is deemed to be a statutory undertaker for the purposes of any provision of Part 11 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

42 Biodiversity lists and action (Wales)

- (1) The National Assembly for Wales must, as respects Wales, publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which in the Assembly's opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
- (2) Before publishing any list the Assembly must consult with the Countryside Council for Wales as to the living organisms or types of habitats to be included in the list.
- (3) Without prejudice to section 40(1) and 40(2), the Assembly must
 - (a) take such steps as appear to the Assembly to be reasonably practicable to further the conservation of the living organisms and types of habitat included on any list published under this section , or
 - (b) promote the taking by others of such steps.
- (4) The Assembly must, in consultation with the Countryside Council for Wales-
 - (a) keep under review any list published under this section,
 - (b) make any revisions of any such list as appear to the Assembly appropriate, and
 - (c) publish any list so revised.

ANNEX C: Other legislation and policies

For full details visit: www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1359

ANNEX D: Terms of Reference for the Wales Biodiversity Partnership

- To provide guidance to others including the Welsh Assembly Government.
- To develop a Welsh BAP (Section 42) list and provide a link between Lead Partners and LBAPs.
- To support the promotion, implementation and review of Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Local Record Centre activities.
- To receiving and respond to monitoring & reporting data e.g. WAG Indicators.
- To provide a forum for discussion and the sharing of ideas, best practice and innovation in order to deliver action.
- To provide the Wales link to the UK's Biodiversity Partnership & support groups - Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG) and Biodiversity Research and Advisory Group (BRAG).
- To identify and advise on resources for delivering biodiversity related action.
- To liaise with and provide strategic support to Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnerships on local-level delivery.
- To be an advocate for Welsh LBAP partnerships at a UK level.
- To support and promote biological recording throughout Wales, by encouraging voluntary recorders to pass on their data to LRCs and National Recording Schemes.
- To promote contributions to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) by feeding into the National Biodiversity Network (NBN).
- To work with organisational / business leaders and key decision makers to ensure that biodiversity is embedded in the early stages of all plans, policies and funding streams.
- To establish Task and Finish Groups and develop actions to address specific issues and promote wider involvement in positive action.
- To improve communication among everyone involved in biodiversity conservation in Wales, co-ordinate the annual Wales Biodiversity Partnership's conference and to deliver programme of specific training courses to meet the needs of LBAP members.
- To encourage effectiveness at the local level, ensuring actions target resources where they will have the greatest sustainable impact.
- To assess and report on progress with BAP in Wales.
- To promote and encourage the use of BARS by all partners and make the links with LBAPs.

Annex E: Those with key roles for delivering biodiversity improvement: What WBP expects from each stakeholder

WAG Departments (including FC Wales and DEIN): Integrate biodiversity into all of your policies, programmes and service delivery, with a view to enhancing biodiversity.

Other UK Government Departments: Ensure you are contributing to the objectives of the Wales Environment Strategy and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

CCW, EAW and other Welsh ASPBs: Ensure you are contributing to the objectives of the Wales Environment Strategy and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, and in line with this, ensure that you are providing active support for LBAP partnerships and identifying project opportunities.

Conservation NGOs: Join WBP to ensure that your views are represented at local, regional and national level, manage your land for biodiversity and environmental education.

Local Authorities: Sign up to the ALGE Vision document "Increasing the Momentum – A Vision Statement for Biodiversity in Local Government" and appoint a Senior Member as the Authority's "Biodiversity Champion"; ensure that biodiversity is delivered through your Community Strategy, provide appropriate funding and practical support for your LBAP Officer. WBP expects all local authorities to support ecologists and LBAP co-ordinators with their membership of ALGE.

Planning Officers: Be aware of European and other protected species, noting that they do not always occur in/on land that is designated for its biodiversity interest; talk to the Authority's ecologist and adopt a hierarchical approach to dealing with biodiversity as promoted in TAN 5 - enhance, avoid harm, minimise harm through mitigation, offset harm by compensation. Adopt standards of best practice.

Transport Consultants: Employ ecologists, use up-to-date information and advice, SEA, and be open to alternatives; engage with LBAP partnerships.

Developers: Make early contact with your Local Planning Authority for pre-application discussions, employ reputable ecological consultants and refer to appropriate policies and guidance such as TAN 5 and Local Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance. Adopt standards of best practice.

Police: Be aware of your individual duty under the NERC bill; work closely with your local wildlife crime officer to encourage law-abiding behaviour at all times.

Businesses: Be creative in finding ways to improve environmental performance whilst saving money; look at adopting 'Green Dragon' and EMAS processes, make space for biodiversity within your land holding and minimise impact on natural resources in the supply chain.

Utilities: Integrate biodiversity into all of your policies, programmes and service delivery, with a view to enhancing biodiversity

LBAP Partnerships: By being innovative, and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, particularly the private sector, deliver and report on actions on the ground.

Local Record Centres: Ensure that the datasets that you hold are reliable and validated; make data available to all and respond to consultations; engage with a wide range of stakeholders; support volunteer recorders.

Ecologists: Remain true to professional codes of conduct and engage with other sectors in promoting solutions for biodiversity; local authority ecologists should join ALGE, others should join IEEM.

Landowners: Engage with the LBAP partnership and local conservation organisations; adapt your land management and ways of working to be more environmentally friendly.

Volunteers: Get involved with your local nature reserves, assist with walks, talks and management work. Take part in species and habitat surveys promoted by your Local Biodiversity Partnership.

Education and training providers: Incorporate environment and biodiversity issues into your courses and training plans, make space for nature in your grounds

Schools: Find out about becoming an Eco-School; contact the biodiversity officer and engage with the LBAP partnership, and visit local nature reserves; make space for a school nature area.

Annex F: How you can help

Individuals: Make time to engage with local conservation organisations or the LBAP partnership; sign up to good environmental behaviour to conserve energy and water, source food locally and keep fit by walking and cycling more; visit and promote your 'local patch'.

Volunteering Online:

There are literally hundreds of ways in which you can get involved in volunteering for biodiversity in Wales - all you need is a little time and energy. In return you will be rewarded with a sense of personal achievement and satisfaction.

The website below is a useful way of finding out what the possibilities are. It is made up of information provided by the 33 volunteer bureaux based across Wales. Volunteer bureaux are voluntary organisations that can provide information and advice on volunteering.

www.volunteering-wales.net

Breathing Places:

Inspired by millions of people who watch British wildlife programmes, the BBC has teamed up with hundreds of organisations to create breathing places right across the UK to develop a major public awareness campaign to engage people in taking action for conservation. We want you to be part of Breathing Places in Wales.

www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces

Finding out more:

If you do not have internet access at home or work, you can obtain further information or gain access to these websites via your local library. To locate your nearest library ring Learn Direct on free-phone 0800 100 900.

Annex G: Application to Join the Wales Biodiversity Partnership and Steering Group

WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: APPLICATION FORM

This is the single application form for the steering group and the wider partnership. All unsuccessful applicants for the steering group will remain in the partnership, so that it is possible for them to be brought into Task and Finish groups and also to reapply for the steering group when the membership changes. Membership of the steering group will normally be for a three-year term in the first instance.

Please complete the following boxes and return to the address below. To join the initial steering group, your application must arrive with us by **Friday 6th October 2006**. Applications to join the partnership can be made at any time. If you require any advice on completing this form, please contact: Sean McHugh, Communications Officer, Wales Biodiversity Partnership E-mail: s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org
Tel: 01656 726 984

1. Your contact details

Name:

Address:

Post code:

Email address:

Telephone number(s):

Will you be representing one or more organisations on WBP?

Yes / No

(If no, please proceed to 3).

2. Organisation contribution

- Please indicate which (if any) organisation you would be representing in your role on WBP:
- If you are representing an organisation, they will be expected to enable your attendance at relevant meetings or, if necessary, to send a substitute in your absence: has your organisation agreed to do this? Yes / No
- Your organisation will also be expected to provide additional support through communications, publicity or other staff: has your organisation has agreed in principle to provide this support? Yes / No
- Would your organisation be able to assist with provision or management of the WBP web presence? Yes / No
- In what other ways is your organisation able to provide support to the WBP?
(50 words maximum.)

3. Individual contribution

In no more than **50 words**, please tell us about the contribution that you would give to the Partnership: (*Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*)

Data Protection

The information you give on this form is covered by the Data Protection Act 1998. We will keep it confidential and only use it for Wales Biodiversity Partnership purposes. We will keep this information during the period of your membership with us. Please tick box if you agree:

ANNEX H: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LBAP PARTNERSHIPS

Section A: Roles and responsibilities of the LBAP, Partnerships and individuals involved

This section identifies the expected contribution to be made by Local/Regional BAP Partners and those working at a Wales and UK level in support of the work of the LBAP.

The 6 functions of an LBAP are outlined in the Wales LIAG Guidance 1998:

1. To ensure that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective action at the local level.
2. To identify targets for species and habitats appropriate to local areas, and reflecting the values of people locally.
3. To develop effective local partnerships to ensure that programmes for biodiversity conservation are maintained long term.
4. To raise awareness of the need for biodiversity conservation in the local context.
5. To ensure that opportunities for conservation and enhancement of the whole biodiversity resource are fully considered.
6. To provide a basis for monitoring progress in biodiversity conservation, at both local and national level.

Whilst these functions obviously refer to a broad LBAP remit, in reality the degree to which each LBAP covers these functions varies.

1.1 The remit of The LBAP (Local Biodiversity Action Plan)

It is recommended that the LBAP:

- a. Brings together all action being taken towards biodiversity targets and identifies where further action is required.
- b. Is written in partnership with common agreement and ownership to ensure that it is seen as a partnership document.
- c. Includes specific actions and targets for species and habitats and identifies the most appropriate delivery mechanism/s and assigns responsibility for specific actions.

- d. Includes a complete list of all Wales Priority habitats and species known to be in an area and prioritised for action as required.
- e. Requires all Partners to bring relevant information to the table to set quantifiable local targets (see below).
- f. Is written on BARS to allow for regular reporting, review, flexibility, and accessibility.

BARS needs to be developed to allow the downloading of the LBAP at any given time, it is likely that LBAP partnerships will then choose to hold the definitive version of their LBAP on BARS so that it can evolve over time and be accessible to all. A paper version of the LBAP or other targeted products can be produced when necessary in agreement with the LBAP Partnership.

- g. Prepares for climate change by planning and carrying out action that maximizes habitat connectivity, and provides flexibility for biodiversity e.g. by improving connectivity, buffer zones, stepping stones, both within individual LBAP areas and between LBAP areas.
- h. Identifies and delivers action for agreed local priorities, this could be for species, habitats or themes e.g. public awareness or wildlife gardening.
- i. Is in line with the UK BAP targets definitions of biodiversity conservation i.e.: Maintain Extent, Achieve Condition, Restoration and Expansion for habitats and Range and/or Population for species, all aiming to achieve favourable conservation status.
- j. Is written to be flexible to adapt to the latest knowledge and policy changes.
- k. Links to actions taken by others e.g. through agri–environment schemes.
- l. Underpins and is also underpinned by other statutory and non-statutory plans and legislative measures (see section 3).
- m. Ensures that information gathered within an LBAP is deposited, managed and stored correctly in Local Record Centres (LRCs) and is used where appropriate to support LBAP delivery.

The LBAP must be based on a comprehensive biodiversity audit.

1.2 The LBAP Partnership

The partnership should be made up of all the appropriate statutory bodies, local government, national government (agri-env/Forestry Commission (FC)), non government organisations and the local voluntary sector, businesses, utilities, land owners/managers, local recorders and any other interested groups or individuals.

It is recommended that the partnership should:

- a. Champion the delivery of the UKBAP and the Environment Strategy for Wales and how it applies to the LBAP area.

- b. Make decisions, work with the LBAP Coordinator and commit to actions and reporting progress on BARS.
- c. Ensure that all priority species/habitats and generic issues be given appropriate consideration/action and targets.
- d. Be inclusive and able to address local priorities and concerns as well as the nationally identified priorities for action.
- e. Work regionally with neighbouring LBAPs (in Wales and England) and others (as appropriate) to develop multi-partner projects at a landscape scale, maximising benefits for biodiversity. Such projects should aim to increase connectivity between existing valuable habitats, which will be vital for species adaptation during climate change.
- f. Meet regionally, in formal groups, and feed into meetings of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group.
- g. Influence different sectors and ensure biodiversity is at the heart of local decision making e.g. strategies, policies and funding streams.
- h. Represent the diverging interests of local biodiversity and aim to resolve issues e.g. over conflicting priorities and responsibility for action.
- i. Lobby for the continued and expanded funding of dedicated biodiversity staff, through the local authority, and also from Partnership members where relevant.
- j. Have the structure of the group defined by the local partnership.
- k. Meet regularly and ask the LBAP Coordinator to provide the Secretariat.
- l. Develop projects to raise awareness of biodiversity and build capacity locally to deliver biodiversity action.
- m. Produce terms of reference and where appropriate associated strategies for such topics as funding or communication.

1.3 Partnership members

Everyone has a role to play in supporting the LBAP process: those who live and work locally and sit on LBAP Partnerships; those who work at a Wales or UK level and are able to influence decision-making as well as provide resources and information.

There has been, and still is a lack of clarity amongst key players as to how their organisations should engage in the LBAP process. If LBAPs are to fulfill the six functions as recommended earlier in this paper, an increased level of commitment from all partners backed by the Welsh Assembly Government is required.

Two key principles for partners to adopt are:

- As national and local government, Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (ASPBs) and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), should have an agreed consistent approach to LBAPs. Share biodiversity information with LBAPs using Local Record Centres (LRCs) and engage in informed debate and habitat/species target-setting at the local level.
- Share location, condition, action and target information using BARS at disaggregated scales to reflect agreed LBAP areas, and to integrate LBAPs with their own statutory plans, policies, strategies and funding streams etc.

1.3.1 Local/Regional Partners

These partners live and/or work locally and sit on the local partnership and/or are part of the circulation group. Suggested members include: ASPBs, local and national government (i.e. agri-environment teams and forestry commission), NGOs, voluntary and community groups, local businesses, utilities, local experts, LRCs and interested individuals.

It is recommended that local and regional partners should aim to:

- a. Ensure that there is full commitment to the LBAP through, attending meetings, developing work programmes & policies and securing funding streams to:
 - i. Develop and review the LBAP;
 - ii. Assist with setting/reviewing targets;
 - iii. Assist with biodiversity audit;
 - iv. Assist with prioritisation;
 - v. Deliver action;
 - vi. Report action through BARS.
- b. Support the LBAP Coordinator when necessary e.g. with sourcing funds.
- c. Where appropriate, commit resources to support delivery (staff and money).
- d. Where appropriate own actions and lead on delivery and reporting on these actions.
- e. Influence their operations to better benefit biodiversity and where appropriate ensure compliance with the NERC Act (2006) Biodiversity Duty.
- f. Use the LBAP and the Partnership as an authority on local biodiversity.
- g. Use Local Record Centres to enable LBAP Partnerships to access better biological information in order to inform audits and monitor progress.

- h. Provide local expertise to ensure that the LBAP is a reflection of local knowledge and that local skills are used to support delivery of action for local and national priorities.
- i. Be a member of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership and attend meetings and conferences as appropriate.

1.3.2 All-Wales Partners

These partners work at an all Wales level and have the potential to support the LBAP process but do not usually sit on LBAP Partnerships, for example: senior staff from organisations, groups and businesses listed above, plus Welsh Assembly Government staff and other parts of government.

It is recommended that all-Wales partners should:

- a. Commit resources to support delivery at a local level (staff and money).
- b. Ensure that biodiversity and reporting action through BARS are integrated into programmes, policies and funding streams.
- c. Use their own expertise to provide information for audits/monitoring and to support prioritisation by making use of Local Record Centres and through direct support e.g. by providing baseline data.
- d. Use the LBAP and it's Partnership as a source of information on biodiversity issues and communicate with them on all relevant issues.
- e. Populate BARS with all biodiversity action and target information and share this information with LBAPs. Own actions and report on them using BARS
- f. Influence their own operations to better benefit biodiversity and if a public body or government ensure own organisation/department complies with the NERC Act Biodiversity Duty
- g. Be a member of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership and attend meetings and conferences as appropriate.
- h. Listen to and respond to feedback.

1.3.2 Lead partners

These are the lead organisations and groups for each habitat and species as identified in the UKBAP. The BAP structures and processes are currently being reviewed and lead roles are likely to be largely devolved to the countries.

It is recommended that lead partners should:

- a. Communicate effectively with LBAP Partnerships through a designated and informed member of staff.

- b. Prepare strategic assessments of biodiversity priorities in local/regional areas. This would inform the setting of quantifiable local targets that are required to meet the desired conservation status for these habitats and species.
- c. Inform LBAP Partnerships of work that they are doing, through BARS and other mechanisms. If there is a research project or similar being carried out or commissioned by lead partners in an area the LBAP Coordinator should be made aware. Use the LBAP and the Partnership as an authority on biodiversity in their area.
- d. Direct LBAP Partnerships to funds available for implementation of local action.
- e. Provide professional expertise and training.
- f. Report on action taken at a local level and collectively at Wales level using BARS.
- g. Facilitate the delivery of local actions while retaining an overview of Wales/UK level progress.
- h. Help prioritise action in Wales and seek funding to deliver this action.
- i. Where appropriate identify Welsh Lead Partners to support delivery of BAP actions in Wales.
- j. Where applicable help promote UK recording and monitoring schemes in Wales.

1.4 LBAP Support Staff

1.4.1 Local Authority

Local Authorities must ensure that they have enough capacity within their biodiversity teams to comply with the NERC Act (2006) Biodiversity Duty (Section 40).

- a. It is recommended that local authorities have sufficient staff resources to enable a minimum of full time hours (whether split between one or several staff members) to devote to LBAP/LBAP Partnership work and sufficient staff resources to enable a minimum of full time hours (whether split between one or several staff members) to devote to local authority planning and development control work. Most local authorities will require more staff than this to fulfil the NERC Biodiversity Duty if they are not fulfilling their statutory requirements towards biodiversity.

To support implementation of the NERC Act (2006) Biodiversity Duty local planning authorities must consider how to ensure that different directorates/ services are adequately informed and advised on biodiversity.

This could be done either by:

- i. The development of a biodiversity team to cover different aspects of delivering biodiversity action such as: planning and policy work; highways management; awareness/education; land and site management; project management, liaison with Lead Partners and administration.
- or
- ii. The identification of a biodiversity contact in all directorates or services who is familiar with the NERC Act Biodiversity Duty and other relevant legislation and who will ensure operations minimise any detrimental effect on biodiversity and maximise benefits.
- b. All local planning authorities will have Biodiversity Champions as advocates for biodiversity throughout the full range of local authority functions. The Champions, as members of WBP, will continue to receive support from the Partnership.

1.4.2 Other Partner organisations

Statutory and Government Organisations need to consider how they demonstrate their compliance with their duties to biodiversity under the NERC Act and to the Sustainable Development Agenda:

- a. The creation of biodiversity posts within key partner organisations, or the identification of an officer whose remit includes responsibility for biodiversity issues is encouraged, for example, we would welcome such a move from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).
- b. Give support for an All Wales Funding Officer post to access funding for local biodiversity action across Wales and free up the excessive time spent by officers trying to secure funds to deliver action.

Section B: UK Reviews and their Relevance for LBAPs

LBAP and BARS

To aid understanding of LBAPs and help enable their acceptance as realistic working documents, it is suggested that they focus on targets as the defining statements from which actions can be developed over time. Action listings in LBAPs should include existing action and action that has been definitely approved. The Wales Biodiversity Partnership is working with partner organisations to help them to populate BARS with their biodiversity action and target information and locate this information to LBAP area. If the action is taking place as part of the LBAP Partnership it can be linked to the LBAP and it will then show up as part of the LBAP. If the action is not taking place as part of the LBAP partnership then it can be located and shared using the reporting mechanism on BARS. The information provided will inform the LBAP planning process by identifying contribution already made to targets and where further action is required and it will contribute to reporting against local, national and UK targets.

This will make LBAPs more concise, flexible and easier to work with. 'Vision Statements' setting out key priority areas where new actions could be developed can also be produced, thus keeping the important element of new creativity. It is important that the distinct local benefits of individual LBAPs are safeguarded and proposed changes should happen over time.

SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound) Targets have been set for Welsh priority habitats from the old UK BAP list, and disaggregated to local level. This work will be repeated for new habitats and also for some species. LBAP Partnerships need to use the disaggregated targets as a guide for setting their own SMART targets as part of the review process. Many will adopt the targets assigned to them others may decide that they are too ambitious, or not ambitious enough, and set their own based on these figures.

It is important that targets are aspirational as they will be used to measure progress and can help highlight where progress is slow or non-existent. This information is essential if we are to identify and communicate where further support is required and/or demonstrate good practice. *Meeting Targets should not be viewed as "Black and White" or "Success or Failure". They are simply a benchmark with which to objectively judge progress, particularly with regard to time scale e.g. Countdown 2010.*

The WBP Support Team will provide hands on support to LBAPs and other partners to set up their LBAPs on BARS as part of the review process. Whilst this support will be for a limited period only, it will have a long term impact on there way LBAP Partnerships in Wales plan their biodiversity action.

2.1 Targets review

The revised targets are available on the UKBAP website for the original priority habitats and species. Targets for the additional habitats and species (post July 2007) and for additional Section 42 priorities are currently being defined.

- a. Each UK Priority identified for action within the LBAP should have quantifiable targets based on the relevant Wales SMART target for prioritised species or habitats. Flexible actions can be written to meet these targets and an individual lead partner allocated to each action or in some cases species or habitat.
- b. Targets should follow standard terminology set at a UK level: Maintain Extent, Achieve Condition, Restoration and Expansion for habitats and Range and/or Population for species.
- c. Lead Partners need to consult with LBAP Partnerships to ensure that Welsh targets are disaggregated to a regional/local level. LBAP habitat targets should be set at the minimum required to make up the Welsh contribution to the UK target, with built in flexibility to exceed them should the opportunity arise. Various options to achieve this exist e.g. Regional Fora, an All-Wales working group, a WBP SG task and finish group or through e-mail

correspondence. *Some of this work is on-going and we are not too concerned if the sums don't add up exactly.*

- d. *The Lead Partner structure is likely to change but not sure how it will pan out yet.*

2.2 Habitats and Species Review

Proposals for new habitats and species were published in Summer 2007 along side a consultation document identifying top 3 actions for species in the UK. Each country has been asked to set out how they intend to take forward the new UK BAP priorities. Actions for species will either be through habitats, wider actions such as policy, or through specific species action. Where wider actions have been identified a sign posting activity to brigade the wider actions for each species in to appropriate actions for delivery in Wales will be undertaken.

Effective implementation of these actions **will depend on the identification of bodies responsible** for implementing wider actions (i.e. Lead Actors).

Lead Actor role might include:

- i. **Preparation** of a delivery plan,
- ii. **Overseeing** the process of delivery,
- iii. **Reporting** on progress of delivery at country and UK level, as may be required through BARS.' (*UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee, November 8th 2007.*)

Each country has proposed habitat groups and their role will be to:

- i. **Develop** the objectives/targets for each priority habitat relevant to their Group;
- ii. **Identify** specific additional research and surveillance work required for priority habitats within the Group;
- iii. **Provide** guidance on how the priority habitats within the Group should be managed so as to accommodate the needs of priority species relevant to that Group;
- iv. **Report** on progress against the objectives/targets and on progress relating to priority species relevant to that Group via BARS;
- v. **Provide** advice to country biodiversity groups/Lead Actors (see paragraph 3.17 below) on any high level 'wider actions' needed to support their objectives/targets.' (*UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee Nov 8th 2007.*)

LBAPs will be one of the key delivery mechanisms and everyone will be expected to use BARS to share action information and to report on progress towards targets.

- a. Success with reporting and communication will depend on the wide use of BARS. This will require commitment in terms of training and staff resources of all those involved in implementing BAP.

- b. UK and Country groups will provide support and advice for LBAP Partnerships on targets and actions affecting their areas.
- c. LBAPs should use this guidance and the WBP Support Team 'bullet point guidance' to help plan and carry out their reviews. Both documents will be kept up to date in line with UK and Country BAP developments.
- d. LBAP Partnerships may wish to adopt some of the new delivery ideas suggested by the UK BAP review. There is likely to be a greater emphasis on delivery through existing mechanisms such as agri-environment schemes and country strategies. LBAP Partnerships will need to embrace the opportunities offered by the Wales Wildlife Sites methodology,.
- e. Wales Priorities will be made available on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership site www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

2.3 Wales Priorities

Section 42 Species (NERC Act 2006)

The National Assembly for Wales has a legal duty to publish a list of species and habitats of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in Wales under Section 42 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006. This repealed an earlier duty under Section 74 of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000. The most recent list was published by the Assembly in January 2008 and will be available on the WBP website.

WAG and DEFRA have produced joint guidance on implementing the new Biodiversity Duty (NERC Act 2006) and this is also available on the WBP website.

The WBP have produced a set of *Biodiversity Checklists* for different sectors and more are planned:

- Biodiversity Champions
- Local Planning Authorities
- Developers
- Local Authorities
- Police Services
- Project Officers
- Ecological Advisors
- Public bodies

The Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, Jane Davidson (AM), has set out her position on, and support for biodiversity in a Decision Report published in February 2008. In addition she has supported the development of an Enforcement Document setting out the risks to local authorities and public bodies of non-compliance with the NERC Act Biodiversity Duty and the Habitats Directive. All the documents mentioned above can be found on the web link below.

<http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/English/Library/default.aspx?pid=13>

2.4 Future reporting

2008 is the next reporting round with the expectation that BARS will provide all or most of the information required. LBAP partnerships should make sure that as much information as possible is on BARS before the start of the reporting round at the end of August 2008. WBP Secretariat will offer support and training in time for this reporting round.

SECTION C: Linking the LBAP to Local Statutory Plans

3.1 The Local Plans

3.1.1 Community Strategies (developed in partnership)

Many Community Strategies are already issued, however they are living documents and different areas can continue to be developed.

- The Assembly published guidance in 2004 and this is currently being revised. This section will be updated accordingly once it has been published.
- The guidance produced by WBP in 2003 can be found at:
<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/pdf/Community%20Strategies%20Guidance%202003%20English.pdf>
- The Community Strategy refers to the local authority area inside and out of National Park Authority boundaries. It is important to ensure that relevant local authority teams preparing community strategies understand that there may be two LBAPS within the community strategy area.
- The Community Strategy sets the context for local service delivery. It influences corporate objectives and is a lever for securing funding.
- As a core element of Community Strategies LBAPs can ensure that biodiversity considerations influence strategic decisions and policies.
- It is possible to deliver biodiversity action through mainstream programmes and initiatives within the Community Strategy that attract large scale funding packages and political support.
- Biodiversity targets and indicators need to be included in the Community Strategy to ensure/monitor progress of the LBAP through this mechanism “Progress towards LBAP Targets” is a useful indicator to get into the Community Strategy.
- Central to this is to ensure that LBAP objectives are represented at Community Strategy meetings and relevant issues brought back to LBAP Partnership meetings.

3.1.2 Local Development Plans (UDPs)/Unitary Development Plans (UDP)

Unitary Development Plans have been superseded by the Local Development Plans process, although UDPs that were adopted in some authorities will run until replaced by LDPs locally.

Whereas in UDPs, there was a greater emphasis on specific planning policy statements to cover biodiversity (and other areas), with the LDP the focus is less on specific policies, and the documents themselves will be less complicated and bulky than UDPs. However, impacts on Biodiversity at all stages of the LDP process is subject to (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (SEA) (see below) which, is designed to ensure that biodiversity (and other environmental factors) are systematically given appropriate weightings.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

The Aim of a Biodiversity SPG is to raise the profile of biodiversity issues in planning, provide more detailed guidance to planners and developers to ensure that biodiversity is taken into account in all development proposals and to strengthen links between the LBAP and Local Development Plan.

Currently some LBAPs have been adopted as SPG for Unitary Development Plan. The advice is being reviewed regarding SPGs for the new Local Development Plans (LDPs).

- It is no longer advised that LBAPs are formally adopted as SPG documents because this would make the LBAP too inflexible and will capture it within the SEA regulations (see below).
- As local authorities develop their LDP, LBAP Partnerships should develop a separate Biodiversity SPG allowing the LBAP to remain more flexible. The Biodiversity SPG should reference the LBAP for lists of species and habitats and other biodiversity information, and also the local wildlife sites database.
- Biodiversity considerations should be fully incorporated into any SPG for the conversion of agricultural buildings or similar.

The Welsh Assembly Government will publish advice on SPG and LDPs in due course.

3.1.3 Young People and Children Strategy and Health Strategy (Developed in partnership)

LBAP Partnerships should provide information on where biodiversity benefits these agendas and try and secure action towards LBAP targets through these strategies.

3.1.4 National Park Management Plans (NPMP) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Strategy (AONB)

National Park and AONB management plans form the high level strategic plans that govern the management of these protected landscapes. To be effective, the role and

delivery mechanism for biodiversity action needs to be embedded into these plans, or else risk being marginalized against other issues such as housing provision and recreation. Other functions such as planning, development control and sustainable development will produce LBAP linked outcomes.

3.2 Corporate Plans and Performance Indicators

- All local authorities are strongly urged to adopt The Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) Hallmarks of a Well Performing Biodiversity Authority as set out in: ALGE (March 2004) 'Increasing the Momentum A Vision Statement for Biodiversity in Local Government 2004 – 2010'
<http://alge.org.uk/publications/files/index.php>.
- Other partner organisations should adopt appropriate targets and indicators in their corporate plans to ensure that biodiversity is at the heart of their service delivery.
- Environmental Management Systems(EMS)
Biodiversity considerations are integral to EMS development, and officers should input accordingly. Officers should encourage their local authorities to achieve biodiversity elements of environmental management systems like the Arena Network's Green Dragon.

3.3 Legislative requirements applicable to Local Plans

3.3.1. Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (European Union Directive 2001/42/EC) applies to certain plans and programs that are likely to have significant environmental effects and sets the framework for the future development consent of projects.

It is recommended that LBAP Partnerships identify opportunities to contribute as set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners which was produced by CCW, English Nature (EN), the EA and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in 2005.

http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/SEA_and_biodiversity_tcm9-133070.pdf

For more information about SEA and to view the Biodiversity Guidance, visit:

<http://www.sea-info.net/>

4 Other Plans

4.4.1 Local Service Boards and Local Service Agreements

The Local Service Board (LSB) is the local leadership team, comprising elected, appointed, executive and non-executive members of the statutory authorities, the voluntary and private sectors, and other key stakeholders, working as equal partners and taking joint responsibility for connecting the whole network of public services in

an area. The Board will agree, and ensure delivery of, a set of priority joint actions to achieve this. These actions will be expressed in a Local Service Agreement signed by the partners and the Welsh Assembly Government.

LSBs are likely to be focussing on two or three key projects and it is up to the member organisations of individual LSBs to decide and implement local methods of complying with the Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Duties. LBAP Coordinators should make sure that they are in contact with their LSB, where these exist, in order to ensure that they can work closely with project leads to secure biodiversity gain and minimise biodiversity damage in these projects.

4.4.2 Regional Plans/Spatial Plan (currently under review)

Although greater than LBAP areas (i.e. local authorities/national parks) in geographical coverage, regional plans of various kinds may require direct relationships with, and responses from LBAP Partnerships. A case in point is the Wales Spatial Plan (led by WAG); none of its defined regions exactly follow LBAP boundaries, but some include mainly one or two LBAP areas, whilst others cover several more. Flexibility to input to this (and other regional plans) as appropriate to local circumstances is of key importance if opportunities for the biodiversity which they may offer, are to be developed and taken forward. Initiatives such as the Wales Spatial Plan and Making the Connections might lead to new cross-authority arrangements with direct implications for LBAP coordination, and are therefore particularly noteworthy.

The Wales Spatial Plan is currently being updated and the consultation draft can be found on:

<http://www.ecoliinquirywales.org/about/strategy/spatial/news/january2008/?lang=en>

4.4.3 Other Non – Statutory Plans

LBAP Partnerships should use their membership to seek to influence all local plans (where possible), to ensure that the impact on biodiversity is considered in the early stages of development. Advice on reducing this impact and on how plan development and implementation can benefit biodiversity is essential. Support in developing biodiversity objectives, targets and indicators and information on reporting through BARS should be provided if necessary.

ANNEX I: Wales Biodiversity Partnership Support Team Job Descriptions

WBP SUPPORT TEAM: Strategy Officer

The WBP Support Team is made up of three key posts of which this is one. Our aim is to recruit to these posts from locations across Wales. If successful you would be located in a local CCW office. You will work closely with the other two officers and with the WAG staff who make up the rest of the WBP team. Although supported by a local CCW “buddy” you will work directly to a member of the WBP Support Team from one of the three organisations mentioned.

Background

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) and the Wales Biodiversity Framework set out objectives and actions for the conservation of biodiversity in Wales. The post will be based in the Biodiversity Team of the Operational Support Group at CCW’s Headquarters in Bangor. The team seeks to improve the integration of BAP at national, regional and local levels and increase the dissemination of conservation experience and biodiversity information. Influencing national policy to deliver biodiversity is a core part of our remit.

Purpose of the post

The post-holder will advise and support WBP’s engagement with local and regional biodiversity partnerships and play an active role in the implementation of biodiversity action in Wales. In doing so, they will work closely with the Head of Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Policy (WAG), and officers of the WBP secretariat.

Specialist tasks

Their specific tasks and responsibilities will be to:

- Co-ordinate and support Task and Finish groups.
- Work with LBAP Partnerships and other partners to clarify roles and responsibilities as defined in the Framework for Biodiversity in Wales, especially the LBAP paper and help build capacity to meet this expectation.
- Work to improve co-operation and mutual support between local/regional partnerships and national organisations, in particular Lead Partners.
- Work to identify further funding for local and regional biodiversity co-ordination and delivery.
- Support LBAP Partnerships to better influence core objectives and targets in Community Strategies, ensuring that biodiversity is part of mainstream programmes and policies. Monitor progress with this across Wales and share best practice examples.
- Providing information on strategic issues to local/regional partnerships and ensuring that they have an opportunity to feed into/influence where appropriate.
- Support strategic/policy development initiatives, including the preparation of strategy papers and the provision of advice and evidence to support policy development.
- Facilitate/support/develop effective communication between network members and WBPSG.
- Facilitate attendance of annual UK BAP Partnership meeting, UK conference and country seminars by Welsh delegates.

- Attend UK Country LBAP facilitator meetings and feedback to WBPSG and network.
- Organise and run the Species Challenge Fund Application Process.
- Line manage administration staff as appropriate.
- Work with partners to clarify local, regional and national roles in delivering the Wales Biodiversity Framework and the UK BAP.
- Disseminate information via the WBP website.

WBP SUPPORT TEAM: Technical Officer

The WBP Support Team is made up of three key posts of which this is one. Our aim is to recruit to these posts from locations across Wales. If successful you would be located in a local WTW office. You will work closely with the other two officers and with the WAG staff who make up the rest of the WBP team. Although supported by a local WTW “buddy” you will work directly to a member of the WBP support team from one of the three organisations mentioned.

Purpose of the post

To support a group of Local Biodiversity Action Partnerships on the ground and enable the technical infrastructure that underpins effective biodiversity practice in Wales.

Specialist tasks

These are unique to this particular post:

- Maintain Membership database for Wales LBAPs.
- Roll out Wales-wide standardised guidance on Wildlife Sites.
- Collate Monitoring/Reporting Data – working at a UK level to ensure appropriate LBAP questions are asked and make sure that useful information is made available about Welsh LBAPs following each reporting round ensuring all LBAPs in Wales participate.
- Promote and support the take-up and use of BARS by partnership organisations by providing information, developing Wales’ policies and ensuring that appropriate support and training is made available.
- Work with Lead Partners (LPs) and LBAP Partnerships to ensure that Welsh targets are disaggregated to a local level and that LBAP Partnerships have appropriate support to set local targets.
- Aid individual LBAP reviews in the light of new UK HAP/SAP and targets review.
- Prepare regular progress reports on key achievements/ delivery of biodiversity actions in Wales.
- Work with Government and other organisations & LRCs to improve accessibility to key data sets required by LBAP Partnerships to inform prioritisation, target setting and reporting (e.g. Agri Env data).
- Attend UK BRIG and BARS Strategic Group meetings and feedback to WBPSG and the WBP network.
- WES Reporting.
- Facilitate attendance of UK HAP/SAP steering group meeting/conferences by Welsh delegates.
- Develop joined-up monitoring plan linking LRC, BARS and other data.

WBP SUPPORT TEAM: Communication Officer

The WBP Support Team is made up of three key posts of which this is one. Our aim is to recruit to these posts from locations across Wales. If successful you would be located in a local WTW office. You will work closely with the other two officers and with the WAG staff who make up the rest of the WBP team. Although supported by a local WTW “buddy” you will work directly to a member of the WBP Support Team from one of the three organisations mentioned.

Purpose of the post

To support a group of Local Biodiversity Action Partnerships on the ground and enable the communication infrastructure that underpins effective biodiversity practice in Wales.

Specialist tasks

These are unique to this particular post:

- Maintain membership database for WBP (including the wider network).
- Maintain/develop Wales Biodiversity website.
- Produce Wales Biodiversity E-News letter.
- Co-ordinate biodiversity awareness action throughout Wales.
- Co-ordinate Wales Biodiversity Publications
- Produce communications strategy
- Manage WBP budget, payroll etc. and report monthly or quarterly, as required
- Act as conduit for relevant information between CBD conference of the parties, UK Steering group, BRIG / BRAG, WBP, lead partners and LBAP partnerships, as appropriate.
- Provide secretariat for WBPSG meetings (arrange/co-ordinate meetings, agendas. Papers, minutes etc – 3 per year).
- Attend UK BRAG meetings and feedback to WBPSG.
- Lead on the organisation and running of the annual WBP Seminar.
- Plan and organise training for biodiversity practitioners and others

Generic Tasks

These are common to all three posts:

- Provide day-to-day support for the LBAP Partnerships / LRCs / ALGE and WBN members in your area, attend meetings, pick-up and feedback on issues.
- Attend monthly progress meeting with WAG.
- Support and help develop strategic/policy initiatives.
- Assist in development of Indicators.
- Be familiar with applications and use of BARS as a key element in the LBAP process.
- Prepare/disseminate biodiversity information e.g. case studies and guidance
- Work with partners to support and ensure delivery of WES actions for biodiversity and the Wales element of UK BAP.
- Aid individual LBAP reviews in the light of new UK HAP/SAP and targets.
- Facilitate regional delivery by identifying needs in LBAP partnership working, and planning and delivering same.

- Mentor newly appointed LBAP officers as appropriate.
- Attend local/regional meetings as required.
- Provide appropriate training for partners.
- Circulate all funding and resource opportunities.
- Facilitate effective communication between network members and WBPSG by liaising with LBAP partnerships / LRCs / ALGE and WBN Members in your local area.
- Assist with the organisation and running of the annual WBP Seminar.
- Provide minute taking at WBPSG and Task and Finish groups.
- Attend UK Partnership and Country Group meetings and Country Group Secretariat meetings.

ANNEX J: Funding opportunities:

See WBP website for information

<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/funding-39.aspx> (scroll down page)

ANNEX K: Events list:

See WBP website for information

http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/events_in_your_area-47.aspx