

WBP SG16

21st February 2012

Newport

AGENDA

The 16th Meeting of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group will be held in Committee Room 7 of the Newport Civic Centre, Newport, NP20 4UR (a location map can be found [here](#)) Tea and coffee will be available from 10:00.

TIME	PAPER No:	TITLE	LEAD
10:00	Assemble, tea/coffee		
10:30	1	Welcome: Introduction and apologies	
10:35	2	Natural Environment Framework Update and Q&A	Matthew Quinn
11:05	3	Natural Environment Framework and Future of BAP: Discussion and next steps	Matthew Quinn
11:40	4	Workshop Session: Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme improvement plan - learning lessons from the first year	Michelle van-Velzen/Rachel Chamberlain
12:35	LUNCH – Please bring a packed lunch		
13:15	2	Presentation: Damaged Woodland Restoration	David Jenkins
13:45	6	Papers to Note - A: Wildlife Crime Update - B: Natur Cymru - C: WBP Planning - D: Future of BAP Update	Ian Guildford Huw Jenkins Sean McHugh Julia Korn
14:30	7	Issues from LBAPs	
14:40	8	Feedback from WCMP	
14:50	9	Four Countries Update	
15:00	10	Confirm minutes and actions from last meeting	
15:10	11	AOB	
15:25	12	Date of next meeting 10 th July 2012: Aberystwyth	
15:30	Afternoon tea and finish		

A regular train service operates from Newport see www.nationalrail.co.uk for details.

Sustaining a Living Wales: the Natural Environment Framework for Wales

Background/Progress

Sustaining a Living Wales makes use of information coming out of existing sources such as the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA) and builds on the Environment Strategy for Wales. The Environment Strategy for Wales was one of the first policy documents in the UK to address the environment as a key asset that underpins our health, economy and quality of life.

The original '**A Living Wales**' consultation was launched on 15th September 2010 and was open for responses until 31st December 2010. A Living Wales was the second most popular Welsh Government consultation in 2010, attracting around 6,600 views, almost 3,000 visits and over 170 responses.

A joint Reference Group is in place for **A Living Wales** (covering Sustaining a Living Wales and the Single Body) including high level representatives from many sectors.

Ecosystems - their health and services - form a key element of our future approach to sustainable development in Wales. A list of the services being considered and scales at which they occur can be found on the 'Living Wales' website.

The **Environment Strategy for Wales** was launched in 2006 and referred directly to the environment as 'a key asset that underpins our health, economy and quality of life' and 'the mounting evidence that our actions are pushing natural systems beyond their ability to cope'. The Natural Environment Framework sits below the Sustainable Development Scheme and above the Environment Strategy and the individual environmental policies which set out present detailed actions.

Further information on **Living Wales**, including how to join in, can be found at: www.wales.gov.uk/livingwales.

Further information about the **UK National Ecosystem Assessment**, including copies of the Synthesis Report, can be found at: <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/>.

Plan/Proposals

The Welsh Government recognises that our environment:

- has an intrinsic value,
- is our life support system,
- is a finite source of raw materials and resources,
- is central to our quality of life, sense of place, health and wellbeing, and
- underpins our economic development.

The Welsh Government also recognises that people experience environmental inequalities which must be addressed. To address these inequalities and ensure sustainable use of all our resources, we are committed to:

- recognising and living within environmental limits, locally and globally,
- ensuring that all of our policies take the environment into account, in accordance with our statutory Sustainable Development duty,
- stimulating and enabling collaboration across the Welsh public sector,

- working with business and voluntary sector partners,
- encouraging individual citizen and communities to live in an environmentally sustainable way, and
- providing leadership by acting now for the future.

The Welsh Government's approach in **Sustaining a Living Wales** is to look at the environment as a whole and act to secure a more integrated approach to managing the natural environment that improves the health of ecosystems.

During the next term the Welsh Government will:

- Lead significant changes in the way we regulate the environment and deliver policy, ensuring our communities and neighbourhoods have the highest possible standards of health and wellbeing.
- Bring together the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales and **create a new Single Body** for the protection and management of natural resources in Wales.

In December 2011 the Welsh Government decided to bring together the Natural Environment Framework and Single Environment Body into a combined programme for the period during which we are creating the new body. Although this will change the format of the programmes, it will not alter their fundamental purpose. **They will now be known collectively as Living Wales.**

Up-to-date information on progress can be found on the **Living Wales website** including the latest papers on:

- the services provided by ecosystems that contribute to making human life both possible and worth living
- the scales at which ecosystems function
- the biodiversity targets that we have to meet
- Wales' geodiversity resource
- natural capital accounting – which extends the traditional economic concept of capital to environmental goods and services
- an introduction to the main economic tools that are currently available

We are seeking your feedback on these papers in order to inform the next stages of the programme and you can let us know what you think via the contact details on the website at: www.wales.gov.uk/livingwales.

The Minister made a Cabinet Statement launching phase II of the Natural Environment Framework on 15th June 2011 which can be seen at: <http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/5065504/?lang=en>

The Green Paper was launched on 30 January 2012. This outlines proposed changes to the governance and delivery of the management and regulation of the environment in Wales, **based on the ecosystem approach.** The Green Paper consultation will run from Monday 30th January 2012 till Thursday 31st May 2012.

Living Wales **communications materials** are continually being developed and will be published on the website from January 2012.

Living Wales **workshops and presentations** will be available. Contact livingwales@wales.gsi.gov.uk to arrange one for your organisation or association.

Proposed Time Line for next Phase of the Natural Environment Framework Programme

Throughout 2012 and early 2013:

- Sustaining a Living Wales workshops and presentations
- Additional background papers will continue to be made available via the web including; literature review regarding valuing ecosystems; report on effectiveness of current regulatory approaches, Wales' ecosystems services and scales and monitoring and surveillance next steps
- Marine Conservation Zones: iterative public consultation exercise
- Development of an integrated approach in sustainability appraisals which embeds an ecosystem approach
- Collaboration with Law Commission project on Wildlife Legislation

Early in 2012:

- **Launch of consultations on the Sustaining a Living Wales Green Paper** (30 January 2012 for 12 weeks)
- **Launch of consultations on proposals for new Single Body** (6 February 2012 for 12 weeks)
- Consultation on a refreshed policy statement for National Parks which may also include Areas of Outstanding Beauty
- UK National Ecosystem Assessment Stage II
- Water Policy Consultation

Spring 2012:

- Additional background papers available via the web including full set of illustrative examples covering environmental, economic and social significance of Wales' ecosystems
- Report on review of the delivery of planning services within national parks and AONBs
- First area pilots start work on the ground
- Launch of widespread public engagement at Wales Coast Path launch (May)

Summer/Autumn 2012:

- **Government Response to Sustaining a Living Wales** Green Paper consultation

From late 2012 onwards:

- Reviewing implementation of current regimes to ensure effective and efficient delivery
- Review of each policy area to consider how ecosystem requirements might be integrated as we update them

Later in 2012:

- Legislation workshop to consider how our implementation of European legislation might look in Wales if it had been possible to design it from scratch to address the full suite of environmental directives and regulations
- Commission work to begin to consider how designations might be re-designed, updated or linked to improve delivery of environmental outcomes
- Initial scoping of single spatial framework and national principles for local natural resource planning
- Development of all Wales engagement including GIS
- Sustainable Development Bill consultation on legislation to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle in all of our actions across Government and all devolved public bodies

Spring 2013:

- Proposed vesting date for new Single Body 1 April
- Commission work to identify how we might bring together existing regimes to allow single permits or consents

- Planning Bill White Paper Consultation
- Designate Marine Conservation Zones

Autumn 2013:

- Sustainable Development Bill: legislation to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle in all of our actions across Government and all devolved public bodies
- Outcome of Law Commission project on wildlife legislation

Target date – 2014:

- Consultation on national marine plans for inshore and offshore areas
- Environment White Paper outlining possible legislative changes
- Sustainable Futures Commissioner revisits the existing targets and indicators from the Environment Strategy for Wales to ensure that these are consistent with the ecosystem approach
- Review of current monitoring to ensure it is adequately provides strategic as well as specific information
- Provide a clear spatial context fro regulatory and other decision making
- Begin designing steps to rationalise and simplify regulatory system to implement new approach

Target date – 2015:

- Environment Bill

Target date – 2016:

- Planning Bill

Decision Points

To encourage responses to the Green Paper and Single Body consultations

To consider the implications of Living Wales for the priorities of Wales Biodiversity Partnership and the Future of BAP Project

To consider how the WBP can ensure that it delivers an effective framework for Living Wales

Title: Wildlife Crime Update

Produced by: Sgt Ian Guildford, South Wales Police/Countryside Council for Wales

Background/Progress

The Welsh wildlife crime enforcement group met at the Welsh Governments offices in Aberystwyth. The actions from the meeting dated 17th January 2012 are attached (Appendix 1). One of the actions finalised at this meeting was the issue of Welsh Wildlife Crime Priorities, after an exercise mirroring that carried out nationally it was agreed that in addition to the National Priorities the issue of damage and destruction to protected habitats within Wales would be made a priority for wildlife crime enforcement within Wales. An action plan to identify and deal with the main issues involved in this area is now being compiled.

On the 8th November 2011 a training day was held at the Forestry Commission offices in Resolven for 9 new wildlife crime officers appointed to the South Wales Police. It is hoped to run a one week Foundation Course for these officers and other newly appointed officers in Wales in April 2012.

The Welsh Wildlife Crime Conference was held at the Dyfed Powys Police HQ's on Wednesday 23rd November 2011, due to the present financial situation the conference was moved from two days to a one day conference. The feedback from those attending was very positive and it is planned to hold a similar conference in November 2012.

A report into wildfires within Wales has been produced and has been handed to Chief Superintendent Gwyn Thomas (Dyfed-Powys Police) who will take the report to the all Wales Community Safety Partnership (senior level) and disseminate to the relevant senior/chief officers concerned for consideration. It is hoped that the majority of recommendations contained in the report will be implemented in an effort to address the problem of wildfires within Wales.

The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee announced that they are holding an inquiry into wildlife crime in England and Wales. They held such an inquiry in 2004 and now want to see how much progress has been made in relation to their recommendations. The following provides a link to the announcement -

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news/wildlife-crime-inquiry-terms-of-reference/>

Cases

At the beginning of November two North Wales men pleaded guilty at Prestatyn magistrates' court to an offence of third party damage to the LLwyn, Llanrahedr SSSI. This related to a track that had been constructed through a woodland within the SSSI. The case was the first Section 28 offence to be taken on by the CPS within the UK and is a significant step forward in dealing with environmental crime within Wales. The hearing is currently adjourned for a restoration agreement to be formulated and the two suspects to be sentenced.

As a result of this successful case two further cases relating to SSSI's in Rhondda Cynon Taff and Carmarthenshire have been referred to the CPS for advice.

A 20 year old man from the Pwllheli area received a formal police caution for an offence under Section 1 of the Deer act 1991. The male was initially arrested for an offence of theft, but during the subsequent investigation further evidence came to light of deer poaching offences.

A Dolgellau man was convicted at Dolgellau Magistrates of a charge brought under the Animal Welfare Act. This charge followed on from a search warrant that was conducted at his home address earlier this year by the North Wales Police, assisted by the RSPCA. The warrant was taken out in relation to a badger related offence, however no evidence was found with regards to this. During the search a Patterdale terrier dog was found to have significant lower jaw injuries, which had been left untreated by the owner. He was fined £330.00 and £15.00 victim surcharge including contribution to costs of £750.00.

After a police investigation at Dyffryn Gardens in the Vale of Glamorgan into the draining and painting of a number of ponds which had previously contained Great Crested Newts one member of staff received an official police caution for offences contrary to the Habitat Regulations whilst proceedings against another member of staff were withdrawn by the CPS after previous court hearings.

Complaints were received in November relating to aircraft flying at a very low level above the Whiteford National Nature Reserve which is within the Whiteford Burrows SSSI, the actions of the planes caused waders feeding on the reserve to take flight. As a result of this advice was provided to Swansea Airport about the protected areas in the vicinity of the airport and warning/advice letters were sent to the owners of the two planes involved in the incident. Information regarding the protected area is also being put on the Micro-Light Aircraft Internet Forum.

The foot of a hippopotamus and 10 carved ivory ornaments have been seized from a passenger at Cardiff Airport by UK Border Agency. Officers searched the bags of a 58-year-old Cardiff woman arriving from Zambia via Amsterdam. When questioned

the woman said she had cleared a relative's house in Zambia and was unaware that she needed a licence to bring the items into the UK.

Plan/Proposals

Action Requested

- Form a task and finish team to carry out next step NO
- Approve us to carry on as suggested above YES
- Ask all WBP members to comment on the format of the report YES

WBPSG16
PAPER TO NOTE A
Annex 1
21st February 2012

Welsh Biodiversity Partnership – wildlife crime prevention and enforcement working group.

Meeting held at Welsh Government Offices, Aberystwyth.
10.30am Tuesday 17th January 2012 Thursday 22nd September

Present
Gwyn Thomas – Dyfed Powys Police (Chair)

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)	Iwan Hughes v/c
Dyfed Powys Police (DPP)	Pete Charleston
Dyfed Powys Police	Matthew Howells
Environment Agency Wales (EAW)	Rhys Hughes
Gwent Police	Colin Thomas
Gwent Police	Rob Maddocks
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MWWFRS)	Richie Hammond
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MWWFRS)	Richard Morris
North Wales Police (NWP)/CCW	Rob Taylor v/c
North Wales Police/Environment Agency Wales	Eryl Lloyd v/c
RSPCA	Keith Hogben
RSPB	Patrick Lindley v/c
South Wales Police (SWP)/CCW	Ian Guildford
South Wales Police/Forestry Commission (FC)	Andy Scourfield
South Wales Police/MWWFRS	Jo Jones
Welsh Government (WG)	Lisa Fielding
Welsh Government (WG)	Sian Iaws
Welsh Government (WG)	Gareth Davies
Welsh Government (WG)	Nicholas Shilton
Welsh Government (WG)	Lynda Makepiece
Welsh Government (WG)	Rachel Hodson
Welsh Government (WG)	Mark Stafford

Apologies.
Peter Jones, CPS
Sue Eddy, NWCU

The group wish to thank Welsh Government for providing the use of office and video conferencing facilities. Thanks also extended to those involved in the organisation of the recent Welsh wildlife crime conference.

Outstanding actions

	Action	By	By whom	Outcome
4	To complete review of existing EA/NWP's information sharing and data sharing agreements (ISA & DSA's) with a view to them being utilised as a template by other partners. When draft is complete consideration to be given as to whether ACPO lead can sign on behalf of all 4 Welsh forces.	January 31 st 2012	Eryl Lloyd (1 & 2) Pete Charleston (3)	ISA between NWP/EAW now complete and has been signed. 1. Copy to be forwarded to chair. 2. SEB to made aware 3. Copy of draft ACPO/RSPCA ISA to be sent to chair.
4g	To investigate the work being done on the Gazateer project by Tony Bracey	September 2011	Rachel Hodson	Work is being undertaken on public service information ISA involving a number of organisations in Gwent. There is a presentation on the subject which is to be forwarded to Pete Charleston
4h	Chair to take NWP/EAW ISA to CC Arundale to explore ACPOC involvement	April 2012	Gwyn Thomas	
4i	Partners to identify points of contact with Eryl Lloyd for other ISA's to be progressed	End of January 2012	All	
9	To consider how a complete picture of wildlife crime in Wales might be achieved through the collation and submission of incident returns to the National Wildlife Crime Unit.			All now have procedures in place for the submission of incident data to NWCU. Action complete.
16	All to provide written input on their roles and responsibilities			Action complete

Actions arising from presentation provided by Patrick Lindley on bird crime in Wales

24	Establish if NWCU have produced offender profiles in relation to bird crimes in particular egg collecting	April 2011	Sue Eddy	Report awaited Chair ask for action to be completed by next meeting.
25	Establish what evidence there is to support a suggestion that incidents of finch trapping increase during times of economic hardship.	February 2012	Keith Hogben	Report awaited, Chair requests completion within 4 weeks
26	Chair to meet with force WCO's (including Gwent) to discuss how to in bed wildlife crime into core Police business			Action completed.
27	Establish if UKBA in Wales are aware of any export of finches to Mediterranean countries			Action discharged no evidence of this being a significant problem.
28	To look at NWCU's analysis of bird of prey persecution to identify any Welsh Problems and to identify actions needed to address those problems.	April 2012	Lead WCO's	This is an intelligence matter for tasking by the Police if appropriate. Group will be informed of the outcome of operational considerations.
29	CCW to ensure that suspicions of criminal behaviour within the licensing system that they are actioned.			Action completed
30	RSPB to establish whether bird of prey hotline is still active	October 2011	Patrick Lindley	RSPB hotline has been discontinued. WG have a poisoning hotline 0800 321 600

31	RSPB to provide link to birdcrime reports	October 2011	Patrick Lindley	Circulate result to members by email
----	---	--------------	-----------------	--------------------------------------

Actions relating to the Welsh Wildlife crime strategy delivery plan are circulated separately.

Actions relating to AOB

33	Chair to meet with CFO Andy Thomas to discuss wildfires	April 2012	Richie Hammond	Meeting still to be arranged. No wildlife lead at present but appointment to be made imminently. Chair to be informed of appointment.
33a	Presentation to be made to meeting on wildfires.	January 2012	SWP/SWFRS/MWWFRS	Action completed. Summary of presentation circulated to members.
33b	An enforcement guide relating to wildfires to be produced	October	Andy Scourfield	Action completed.
33c	Terms of reference to be forwarded to Chair	October 2011	Andy Scourfield	Action completed.
33d		October 2011	Jo Jones/Peter Jones	Action completed
33e	To develop a wildfire-working group to progress the ideas expressed in the presentation made today.	April 2012	Nicholas Shilton	Wildfire to be a standing item on the agenda of this group.
34	Welsh Deer Strategy	April 2012	Andy Scourfield	Report on actions being taken in relation to the recommendations made in the strategy.
34a		January 2012	Force wco's	To be included in annual report.
35	Law Commission review of wildlife legislation	October 2012	Rachel Hodson	Action complete.
36	Presentation from Ian Guildford on welsh wildlife crime priorities.	January 2012	Ian Guildford	Presentation provided, summary to be circulated. Recommendation that the welsh priorities should be the UK priorities plus damage to SSSI's accepted.
37	Production of an all Wales wildlife crime report for 2011	Draft by mid March and complete by April 2012	Iwan Hughes/Rob Taylor	
38	Representative (Jason Liptrot) of the Single Environment Board considering enforcement to be invited to the next meeting	April 2012	Eryl Lloyd	

Chairs AOB

Gwyn Thomas announced that as from Monday 23rd January 2012 he will be taking up an appointment at the Police College in Hampshire and will retire from the Police service in six months. He has discussed the matter with Chief Constable Arundale, who is considering the appointment of another senior Police officer as a replacement but in the meantime Gwyn will continue to carry out the duties of Chair.

Next meeting

It is hoped to hold the next meeting in April 2012 at the Headquarters of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service in Carmarthen on a date to be fixed.

Presentations at the next meeting will be

Ian Rugg Welsh Government on the Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture)(Wales Regulations)

10-minute presentation from each of the four Police forces reporting on action EL2 of the delivery plan.

Title: Natur Cymru update

Produced by: Huw Jenkins, Marketing Manager, Natur Cymru

Background/Progress

Natur Cymru helps members of WBP to communicate through publishing in the magazine and getting stories re-published in other publications and through different media.

The 41st edition of Natur Cymru covered the marine environment which was especially well received amongst the marine community. Edition 42 due March 2012 has a Brecon Beacons theme with an article on the Natural Environment Framework.

In edition 42 we are introducing paid for advertising to help meet our costs. Adverts will for the time being be limited to 2 pages and confined to relevant, educational adverts.

We continue to create YouTube films upon request to help explain projects or issues. Most recently we made a film at Cors Erddreiniog to explain the Anglesey & Llŷn Fens LIFE Project. If you want to see what it's like to move 25,000 tonnes of topsoil, see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVFapUMp-U>

The 4th nature writing competition is underway with over £1,000 of prizes donated by WWF Cymru, Tŷ Newydd and the Wildlife Trusts. Closing date 31st March 2012. Full details at <http://www.inspired-by-nature.org.uk/> Prize-giving will take place at Dinefwr Park on 1st July as part of the National Trust / Literature Wales new weekend festival to promote literature in Wales.

Plan/Proposals

If you have a story that would make a good article for Natur Cymru -
If you need help creating case studies, films, blogs etc -
If you would like to contribute to the Natur Cymru blog -
Please let us know.

Action Requested

We ask all WBP members to get in contact if they have a story to tell and to help promote the writing competition.

Contact: huw.naturcymru@btinternet.com 01766 590272.

Title: WBP Planning

Produced by: Sean McHugh WBP Support Team

Background/Progress

WBP Biodiversity Conference 2012

This year's WBP 2-day conference will be held on the 12th and 13th September at the University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd and input from the group is requested to develop the conference. The following are ideas are a starting point to generate discussion. With the ecosystem approach starting to take shape, the conference can highlight examples of the ecosystem approach in practice at varying spatial and temporal scales. In addition, emerging thinking around ecosystem service supply & demand, indicators, measurement of success, behaviour change & the relationship of biodiversity conservation with ecosystem service delivery could be explored; linked to the general theme: - adapting conservation to a changing climate; local biodiversity initiatives; funding; citizen science projects to rebuild ecological recording capacity. The conference will draw on existing initiatives e.g. the NEF pilots, the continuing work of WBP working groups, partner organisations, LBAPS and external speakers to exchange ideas, promote discussion and generate action.

Action Requested

1. To agree the general conference outline
2. To suggest topics/speakers/workshops for the conference
3. To circulate the WBP conference date & location to your contacts

Note: The WBP Conference 2011 proceedings are available from the WBP website: www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/wbp_activities-18.aspx

Biodiversity Awareness Initiatives

Wales Biodiversity Week (WBW) 2012 9th -17th June

WBW is designed to raise awareness of biodiversity to society and to celebrate local wildlife. In 2011 over 100 events took place including: Open Farm Sundays; 'Go Wild' – a large-scale community environment fair; Botanical Beats festival; practical activities; numerous wildlife walks; schools events. The WBP support team advertise all WBW events on behalf of LBAPs and partner organisations, supply merchandise and provide guidance & support. An evaluation of WBW 2011 is available from the WBP website: http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/wales_biodiversity_week-121.aspx

International Day for Biodiversity (IDB) and other United Nation Initiatives

Organisations are encouraged to host events around IDB on 22nd May. In Wales, events are planned for the 18-20th May at National Museum of Wales sites, further details will be released shortly.

2011-2020 is the UN Decade on Biodiversity (www.decadeonbiodiversity.net & www.cbd.int/2011-2020). 2011-12 is the Year of the Bat (www.yearofthebat.org) & 2012 is the International Year of marine & coastal biodiversity (www.cbd.int/idb).

An outline of notable dates, surveys & initiatives in the environment calendar is listed on the WBP website: www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/whats_on-4.aspx

Action Requested

4. For partners to circulate the WBW date (9th - 17th June) to your contacts
5. For partners to agree to host WBW & IDB events and/or coordinate with LBAPs and partner organisations in hosting events.
6. For partners to agree to send WBW & IDB event details to LBAPs/WBP secretariat (Sean McHugh) for publicity purposes.

Title: Review of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) and the Wales Biodiversity Framework (WBF)

Produced by: Julia Korn Countryside Council for Wales(CCW)/WBP

Background/Progress

The Future of the Biodiversity Action Plan (Future of BAP) group was established in response to the UK Standing Committee report 'Conserving Biodiversity the UK Approach' (Oct 2007). This report led to the devolution of the responsibility for biodiversity targets including those set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the European Union (EU) 2010 targets. The Future of BAP group was tasked with developing a structure with clear roles and responsibilities that would be able to address the complex issues and challenges at a Wales and a local level required to reverse the decline, and eventually halt the loss of biodiversity. This was set out in the reviewed Wales Biodiversity Framework (WBF) early in 2010.

Since then new 2020 international and EU targets have been agreed and Wales as part of the UK has obligations to contribute to these. Evidence demonstrating the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems to human well-being is growing and was consolidated and reinforced by the publication of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment in 2011. In addition the Natural Environment Framework sets out a new environmental policy direction in Wales adopting the Ecosystem Approach (Annex 1). The CBD has advocated this approach for 20 years and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships, NGOs and others have for many years developed projects based on these principles and so have a wealth of knowledge and experience to support WG policy.

A number of recommendations were made by the National Assembly for Wales (NAW) Environment and Sustainability Committee review of Biodiversity Loss in October 2010. The then Minister Jane Davidson (AM) accepted the recommendation **"Given that the WBP is the main mechanism for co-ordinating biodiversity action on the ground, the Committee calls for the Welsh Government to ensure that the WBP is appropriately resourced and fit for purpose to lead the Welsh action on delivering the 2020 biodiversity targets"**. The Background paper for the Natural Environment Framework published alongside the Living Wales consultation in Sept 2010 noted that WBP was one of the main successes in recent years (Annex 2). The paper set out a challenge to WBP to adopt a business model that sets out clear 'courses of action', responsibilities and support mechanisms that deliver the ecosystem approach on the ground. The Future of BAP group has been re-established to meet these challenges through a review of the WBP and the WBF. This review also includes making recommendations to Government and others on what is needed to improve the legitimacy of WBP as key to the success of NEF.

Plan/Proposals

Various workshops and discussions have taken place looking at local delivery, the Ecosystem Groups, the WBP Steering Group and other aspects of the WBP (annex 1). At a Future of BAP workshop in November 2011 it was agreed that due to the size of the task it should be divided up into workstream areas led by different members of the group. The workstreams are: Local delivery, the Ecosystem and Outcome 21

groups, the Species Expert group and Lead Partners, the Invasive Non Native Species group, and the WBP Steering Group. Additional workstreams will look at monitoring WBP progress (and the development of WBP indicators), and Communications. Discussions will also be held with key individuals involved in the Wales Environment Information Steering Group and the Wildlife Crime Enforcement groups to ensure strong links with the wider WBP. A final task will be to look at the role of the WBP Support Team in relation to the revised roles and responsibilities. The Wales Biodiversity Framework will then be updated to include high level information on roles and responsibilities and also 'ways of working including protocols. An update on progress is provided in the Annex 3.

Action Requested

A current pressing concern is that this work is largely falling to the WBP Support Team, a few staff from CCW and some NGOs. Wider commitment from organisations represented on the WBP Steering Group (WBP SG) is requested not just to ensure completion of the work area, but also to ensure full commitment to delivery of the revised Wales Biodiversity Framework through WBP in the future.

The WBP SG workstream is working on key recommendations for the Steering Group which will be circulated soon for comment. In response to the Biodiversity Inquiry recommendation and the NEF the WBP SG must take on a more strategic role. Achieving its potential will mean consideration of the current membership and Chair.

The WBP Future of BAP group has been asked to report progress to the NEF/SEB Programme Board in May, and present a full paper to WBP Steering Group in July. Work is progressing on many of the workstreams (annex 3) and the content of the NEF/SEB report will be agreed at a Future of BAP meeting on March 22nd and with the new Ecosystem Project Manager working on the SEB Programme.

The Future of BAP group also requests clarification from WG on the role the WBP in the future delivery of the NEF, and reassurance that the review remains the role of the WBP now and in the future.

Actions

- WG confirm that this review is the responsibility of WBP (now and in the future) and that the WBP groups will have a key role in the delivery of NEF
- WBP SG members to agree to continue to commit staff from their organisations to actively contribute to/lead on the work of the review.
- WG to confirm the date the Future of BAP will report to the NEF/SEB programme Board and clarification on what will be required at that meeting
- WBP Steering Group to consider the membership/Chair to reinforce its strategic role.

The Ecosystem Approach Principles

The following 12 principles are complementary and interlinked.

Principle 1: The objectives of management of land, water and living resources are a matter of societal choices.

Different sectors of society view ecosystems in terms of their own economic, cultural and society needs. Indigenous peoples and other local communities living on the land are important stakeholders and their rights and interests should be recognized. Both cultural and biological diversity are central components of the ecosystem approach, and management should take this into account. Societal choices should be expressed as clearly as possible. Ecosystems should be managed for their intrinsic values and for the tangible or intangible benefits for humans, in a fair and equitable way.

Principle 2: Management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level.

Decentralized systems may lead to greater efficiency, effectiveness and equity. Management should involve all stakeholders and balance local interests with the wider public interest. The closer management is to the ecosystem, the greater the responsibility, ownership, accountability, participation, and use of local knowledge.

Principle 3: Ecosystem managers should consider the effects (actual or potential) of their activities on adjacent and other ecosystems.

Management interventions in ecosystems often have unknown or unpredictable effects on other ecosystems; therefore, possible impacts need careful consideration and analysis. This may require new arrangements or ways of organization for institutions involved in decision-making to make, if necessary, appropriate compromises.

Principle 4: Recognizing potential gains from management, there is usually a need to understand and manage the ecosystem in an economic context. Any such ecosystem-management programme should:

- a. Reduce those market distortions that adversely affect biological diversity;
- b. Align incentives to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
- c. Internalize costs and benefits in the given ecosystem to the extent feasible.

The greatest threat to biological diversity lies in its replacement by alternative systems of land use. This often arises through market distortions, which undervalue natural systems and populations and provide perverse incentives and subsidies to favor the conversion of land to less diverse systems. Often those who benefit from conservation do not pay the costs associated with conservation and, similarly, those who generate environmental costs (e.g. pollution) escape responsibility. Alignment of incentives allows those who control the resource to benefit and ensures that those who generate environmental costs will pay.

Principle 5: Conservation of ecosystem structure and functioning, in order to maintain ecosystem services, should be a priority target of the ecosystem approach.

Ecosystem functioning and resilience depends on a dynamic relationship within species, among species and between species and their abiotic environment, as well as the physical and chemical interactions within the environment. The conservation and, where appropriate, restoration of these interactions and processes is of greater significance for the long-term maintenance of biological diversity than simply protection of species.

Principle 6: Ecosystem must be managed within the limits of their functioning.

In considering the likelihood or ease of attaining the management objectives, attention should be given to the environmental conditions that limit natural productivity, ecosystem structure, functioning and diversity. The limits to ecosystem functioning may be affected to different degrees by temporary, unpredictable or artificially maintained conditions and, accordingly, management should be appropriately cautious.

Principle 7: The ecosystem approach should be undertaken at the appropriate spatial and temporal scales.

The approach should be bounded by spatial and temporal scales that are appropriate to the objectives. Boundaries for management will be defined operationally by users, managers, scientists and indigenous and local peoples. Connectivity between areas should be promoted where necessary. The ecosystem approach is based upon the hierarchical nature of biological diversity characterized by the interaction and integration of genes, species and ecosystems.

Principle 8: Recognizing the varying temporal scales and lag-effects that characterize ecosystem processes, objectives for ecosystem management should be set for the long term.

Ecosystem processes are characterized by varying temporal scales and lag-effects. This inherently conflicts with the tendency of humans to favour short-term gains and immediate benefits over future ones.

Principle 9: Management must recognize the change is inevitable.

Ecosystems change, including species composition and population abundance. Hence, management should adapt to the changes. Apart from their inherent dynamics of change, ecosystems are beset by a complex of uncertainties and potential "surprises" in the human, biological and environmental realms. Traditional disturbance regimes may be important for ecosystem structure and functioning, and may need to be maintained or restored. The ecosystem approach must utilize adaptive management in order to anticipate and cater for such changes and events and should be cautious in making any decision that may foreclose options, but, at the same time, consider mitigating actions to cope with long-term changes such as climate change.

Principle 10: The ecosystem approach should seek the appropriate balance between, and integration of, conservation and use of biological diversity.

Biological diversity is critical both for its intrinsic value and because of the key role it plays in providing the ecosystem and other services upon which we all ultimately depend. There has been a tendency in the past to manage components of biological diversity either as protected or non-protected. There is a need for a shift to more flexible situations, where conservation and use are seen in context and the full range of measures is applied in a continuum from strictly protected to human-made ecosystems.

Principle 11: The ecosystem approach should consider all forms of relevant information, including scientific and indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices.

Information from all sources is critical to arriving at effective ecosystem management strategies. A much better knowledge of ecosystem functions and the impact of human use is desirable. All relevant information from any concerned area should be shared with all stakeholders and actors, taking into account, inter alia, any decision to be taken under Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Assumptions behind proposed management decisions should be made explicit and checked against available knowledge and views of stakeholders.

Principle 12: The ecosystem approach should involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines.

Most problems of biological-diversity management are complex, with many interactions, side-effects and implications, and therefore should involve the necessary expertise and stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international level, as appropriate.

<http://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/principles.shtml>

Towards a new Natural Environment Framework – A background paper (September 2010)

PARTNERSHIPS TO DELIVER OUR ECOSYSTEM APPROACH (pg 24/25)

11.1. One of the main effects of the post-Rio UKBAP process has been the establishment of national and local biodiversity partnerships. One of the main successes of recent years has been the revitalisation of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP). We acknowledge the work of ‘Wales plc’: stakeholders, government and the voluntary sector have worked together to achieve much success. In particular the biodiversity sector who have discovered new ways of working which form a firm foundation for moving forward a shared sustainable development agenda.

11.2 The issue now is to seek to harness the strengths and goodwill towards the WBP to make it a real force for delivery. Part of the challenge is to shift the focus of the partnership towards the ecosystem approach envisaged here, and to distinguish more clearly what the WBP can best focus on to secure delivery. The other is to develop a stronger ‘business model’ for the WBP, so that it is capable of identifying clear courses of action, allocating responsibilities, then ensuring delivery happens ‘on the ground’.

11.3 We welcome the work that Wales Biodiversity Partnership, Spatial Plan Groups and others have already carried out to link species benefits into wider habitat actions and a focus on habitat networks. So far such work has focussed mainly on the threatened, declining and designated parts of ecosystems. This is not the same as a truly ecosystem approach which would need to continue to enable specific local engagement alongside collaborative landscape-scale actions by government, business and others. The establishment of the nine new ecosystem groups and related support groups in WBP is a good start but the role of these groups will need to develop. We think that we need to help them to help us in three areas – legitimacy (what authority do the WBP have to demand action and set directions?); delivery (how is the WBP able to take action itself, either directly or through its partners?) and ‘traction’ (how influential can WBP be in driving other parts of Welsh government and the other sectors to achieve its goals?).

11.3 On **legitimacy**, the WBP are the official advisory body to the Welsh Assembly Government on biodiversity. As such they are uniquely placed to support an ecosystems approach. Their experience and knowledge of the component parts of ecosystems and how they work will be crucial to developing a successful approach to ecosystems in Wales. The groups are mainly chaired by public sector staff whose work in leading such groups should be a core activity of their ‘day job’.

11.4 On **delivery**, individuals in the ecosystem groups will need to determine future management of those zones in collaboration with local and national players who have the power to influence or enact direct action. We have seen a root and branch change in the way in which biodiversity action plans have been developed this time round - with earlier buy in and a greater range of participants - but we will need to create further opportunities for embedding ecosystem actions into the work of government. As a first stage in this development we will use our first stab at the evidence base to establish direct links between key ecosystem group chairs and relevant WAG policy officials with a view to all WAG Policy areas agreeing relevant ecosystem actions as core deliverables within their

policy programmes. Actions agreed for 2011/12 will form a key element of each department's contribution to their NERC Act 2005 biodiversity duty.

11.5 On the issue of '**traction**' WBP members, and particularly ecosystem groups will need to become fully capable of engaging successfully with national policy officers and business leaders. Real influence can only be achieved by talking the language of the uninitiated, by putting across the seriousness of our situation, the importance of natural capital and the long term costs associated with its loss. Real influence can only be achieved by listening and enlisting others to act in truly well informed, long term, sustainable ways. This is not "about what we do with the extra bits of what we do, but how we do everything that we do". As a first stage in the development of these skills ecosystems group chairs will be provided with the time, support and information needed to develop their engagement skills and those of their group members.

11.6 Aspects of these issues of 'traction' and delivery will be further informed and refined by the outcomes of the NEF Work stream 4 (Refreshing Partnership Mechanisms) which is being led by the chair of CCW. It will need to consider whether the WBP is a suitable partnership to become a core agent for delivering the ecosystems approach and what needs to happen to it to make it so? And of crucial concern, how could WBP, or any other ecosystems partnership, link directly with the work of WAG departments and other key bodies?



WBPSG16
PAPER TO NOTE D
21st February 2012
Annex 3

Workstream	Issues Identified from meetings/workshops held	Progress	Continuing Work
<p>Future of BAP Group - CCW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater commitment to active membership from key organisations • Ownership/Accountability • Improved support for NGOs involved • Resources requirements identified and met • Joint working • Reporting and monitoring progress • Communications • Clarity on roles within partnership • Clarity on role of WBP and that of Statutory Orgs and others e.g. on advice • Clarity on links/reporting to UK/EU/CBD 	<p>2 meetings and one workshop held</p> <p>Small group met and discussed the added value of WBP. This group asked the question ‘What if there was no WBP?’ – Bullet points and diagram produced and shared with group</p> <p>Principles of the Ecosystem Approach agreed and circulated (annex 1)</p>	<p>Next meeting March 22nd to review progress and address gaps.</p> <p>Meeting will agree content for May report/recommendations to NEF/SEB Programme Board</p> <p>Full report/recommendations to WBP SG in July</p> <p>Re-write Wales Biodiversity Framework (WBF) and initiate new ways of working within the WBP and with stakeholders</p> <p>Continue to oversee work on communications, indicators and the WBP ST and support changes made. By ??? hand work over to ??? (tbc)</p> <p>General recommendations are being developed to consult on such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep current EGs and Outcome 21 group 2. publishing Strategic Aim and up to 5 high level objectives for Wales level groups in the WBF. 3. Detailed Terms of Reference published on the WBP website – this can easily be

Workstream	Issues Identified from meetings/workshops held	Progress	Continuing Work
			<p>updated as required.</p> <p>4. Developing indicators to monitor WBP progress (all groups) and report to WBP SG</p>
<p>Steering Group Lead</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership • Ownership of the Agenda • Content of meetings • Possibility of Partner Board. • Clear reporting mechanism for other WBP Groups • Accountability • Clarity on links /reporting to UK BAP, Europe and CBD 2 • Effective focus on drivers of biodiversity change • Indicators to monitor progress of WBP 	<p>Group met in October 2011 Draft recommendations produced and need to be agreed by the workstream group</p> <p>Draft Indicators produced – need to be agreed by FC</p> <p>WG SEED – workshop held and report produced. SEED staff to act as conduit between EGs and WG/WBP SG (Annex 4)</p>	<p>Workstream agree recommendations suggested to improve the effectiveness of WBP SG</p> <p>Circulate to WBP SG for approval (via e-mail)</p> <p>Agree strategic aim and objectives for the group and circulate to WBP SG for approval</p> <p>Recommend that a review of membership is initiated and led by the Chair of the SG.</p> <p>Contribute to other workstream areas as appropriate.</p> <p>The reviewed Group will agree its new Terms of Reference in line with the Strategic Aim and Objectives.</p> <p>Agree with other groups how progress of WBP is monitored and reported (to WBP and beyond WBP to Government and others)</p> <p>Report to Future of BAP meeting 22 March</p>
<p>Species Expert Group and Lead Partners Lead Plantlife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More support for NGOs involved in WBP • Improved reporting between 	<p>Meeting held</p> <p>Agreed to keep current membership</p>	<p>The Terms of Reference of SEG in the Biodiversity Framework will be reviewed in terms of the aims of the ecosystem approach</p>

Workstream	Issues Identified from meetings/workshops held	Progress	Continuing Work
	<p>SEG/EGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity on relationship with statutory agencies • Clarity on the role of the group in provision of advice to WG • Clarity on the role of the group (in relation to the other WG-led or WG-initiated groups in Wales • Clarity around role of SEG/Lead partners. • Clear reporting procedures. 	<p>– it can be revised when appropriate</p>	<p>Consider developing a Strategic Aim and Objectives for publishing in the WBF</p> <p>Organise a workshop before March 22nd to further investigate how this support can be provided for Species Lead Partners; suggestions such as a Species Support Programme led by IEEM or industry/corporate sponsors will be discussed in more detail.</p> <p>Before the workshop, Stephen Bladwell (RSPB) will contact current Lead Partners for more ideas and suggestions.</p> <p>Once the roles of Lead Partners and their support body have been clarified, the relationship between them and the SEG will be clarified - there is naturally much overlap but more clearly defined roles are needed.</p> <p>Report to Future of BAP meeting 22nd March</p>
<p>Ecosystem Groups (incl. Outcome 21 Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires active membership • More support for NGOs involved in WBP • Resource requirements identified • Regular meetings • Improved communication with parent organisations/groups • Clarity on the role of the group in provision of advice to WG • Clarity on the role of the groups in relation to the other WG-led or 	<p>Questionnaire circulated to EGs and Organisations – some completed</p> <p>WG SEED – workshop held and report produced. SEED staff to act as conduit between EGs and WG/WBP (Annex 4)</p> <p>Workstream meeting held January 26. 1st draft of Strategic Aim and Objectives circulated and initial</p>	<p>Meeting note to be agreed by group and circulated to WBP Chairs and Future of BAP group and discussed at upcoming meetings</p> <p>2nd Meeting organised for Feb 20 to discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of membership • Joint working • Communications <p>Report to Future of BAP meeting 22nd March</p>

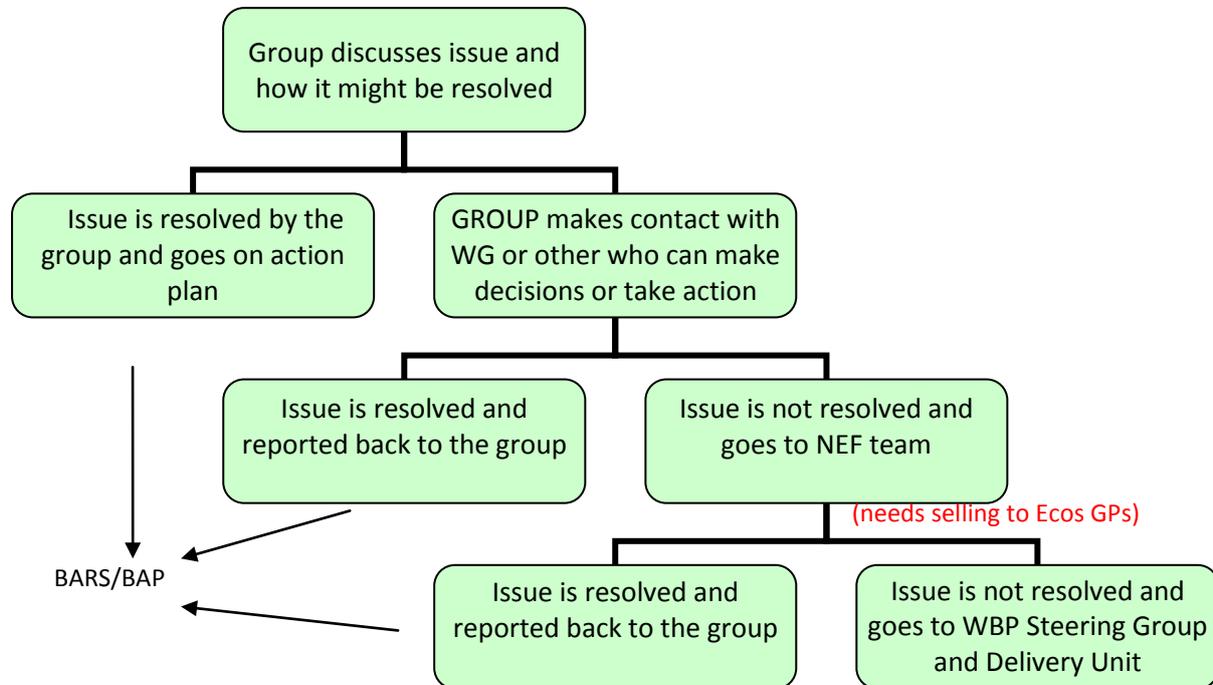
Workstream	Issues Identified from meetings/workshops held	Progress	Continuing Work
	<p>WG-initiated groups in Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger links between EGs and SEG - re setting of targets • Improved monitoring to determine reporting on progress towards habitat and species targets • Improved communication across Wales and the UK 	<p>recommendations developed.</p> <p>Recommendation – EGs groups to remain the same and keep Outcome 21 group but many opportunities for joint working</p>	<p>Opportunities for joint working to be explored.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Delivery (LBAPS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved engagement with WBP groups at all levels • Capacity of organisations involved • LA commitment to LBAP process/officer contracts often short term • BARS – commitment to use from SEB/NGOs required • Support for LBAPs considered in development of SEB (staff commitment etc) • More support for organisations involved in WBP • Definite embracing of the LBAP by National Organisations: i.e. using them as delivery bodies. • Greater communication of LBAP work through WBP (website) • Availability of LRC data for LBAP work • Clarity around role/structure of LBAPs in relation to NEF/SEB • Inclusion in decision making 	<p>Workshop held at the WBP Conference, September 2011</p> <p>Meeting held in October 2011 and information circulated to all Biodiversity Officers for comment.</p>	<p>Draft terms of reference circulated to Biodiversity Officers and awaiting comments</p> <p>Role of BARS in coordination and prioritisation of work being explored – training session in use of new system arranged for March 2012</p> <p>Report to Future of BAP meeting 22nd March</p>

Workstream	Issues Identified from meetings/workshops held	Progress	Continuing Work
	<p>process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action prioritisation • Improved habitat and species data • Better recognition of biodiversity in LAs • More opportunities to work with local landowners/managers • Support for large scale habitat management and restoration, ecological connectivity • Achievable and realistic targets/actions set 		
INNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger links to other WBP groups 	<p>Already has established Terms of Reference and working well.</p> <p>Group works well – but needs to explore how it can work more closely with the other WBP groups</p>	<p>Arrange a meeting to discuss stronger links to other WBP groups</p> <p>Agree Strategic Aim and Objectives for WBP</p> <p>Report to Future of BAP meeting 22nd March</p>
Wildlife Crime Enforcement Group Lead CCW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger links to other WBP groups 	<p>Already has established Terms of Reference and working well.</p> <p>Need to explore how the group can work more closely with the other WBP groups</p>	<p>Meeting organised with CCW Enforcement Officer 6 March to look at integrating with WBP.</p> <p>Aim to write strategic aim/objectives for this group into the WBF</p> <p>This will feed into the ways of working section of the Wales Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>Report to Future of BAP meeting 22nd March</p>
WEISG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger links to other WBP groups • Involvement of group in monitoring/reporting/indicators. 	<p>Already has established Terms of Reference and working well.</p>	<p>Report to Future of BAP meeting 22nd March</p>

Workstream	Issues Identified from meetings/workshops held	Progress	Continuing Work
		Need to explore how the group can work more closely with the other WBP groups	
Monitoring/Reporting Lead WBP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of BARS for monitoring and reporting progress and how to maximise commitment • Need commitment from SEB/WG to use of BARS • Ensure both action and outcomes are reported • Establish indicators which link to WG/NEF indicators • Explore possibilities for generating datasets to support WBP indicators that used to support WG/UK indicator reporting • Review BAP Targets to determine whether new target-types are needed (to fit with NEF) and how these would be reported at UK level. 	<p>Initial meeting held between WBP/WG and a way forward agreed</p> <p>WG currently involved review of Biodiversity indicators at international /EU/UK and Wales level with JNCC</p> <p>WBP carrying out review of the current habitat and species target and action spread sheets (and the priority areas) to see how they would be applied in the new BARS system. Need to explore how this could be linked to partner organisations and aggregated up to the Wales-level groups, and WBP 'project' level and the level of detail required for aggregated reporting</p>	<p>Meeting to be held before March.</p> <p>This work will inform the ways of working, communication and reporting parts of the Wales Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>This group will explore how it works with other groups including WEISG</p> <p>Group to link to work of the SG review with regards to performance indicators for WBP</p> <p>This group is likely to continue beyond the timeframe of this review.</p> <p>Report to Future of BAP meeting 22nd March</p>
Communication Lead WBP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with WBP members • Communication with external stakeholders including the public • The website • Need to clearly identify problems with current communication • Need a strategy to communicate with other sectors such as business, 	The work of this group depends on recommendations from the other groups	

Workstream	Issues Identified from meetings/workshops held	Progress	Continuing Work
	health etc.		
WBP Support Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires a secure funding base to ensure long term support for the whole partnership 	Initial meetings in CCW to discuss the current Strategic Partnership until April 2014	Needs to be included in the SEB discussions as important element of environmental delivery under NEF

Annex 4 – Diagram from SEED report on how it will work with the Ecosystem groups (EGs)



Roles and Responsibilities (individual group members i.e. SEED members on WBP EGs)

A. Conduit of info between groups and WG

- 1) share what we know
- 2) be clear about what we can't share
- 3) be a link to other WG officers if they'd know more
- 4) being clear about timescales when we know them

B. Discuss issues in the meeting

- 1 solve those that can be solved by the group
- 2) identify WG or others who can make a decision/take action
- 3) identify issues that can't be solved by 1) or 2) and report these to Tracey and Steve Spode.

C. Where opportunities arise share (recent research, relevant information and WG progress) with the group.

Use Business Directory, or ask Steve Spode or Diana if we do not know who to contact in WG.