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| ***Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6******The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty******Report 2022*** |
| **Name of Public Authority** |
| **Introduction and Context*** Short description of PA, its functions and context in relation to
* biodiversity (see Table 1 above)
* spatial scale and place and
* public service delivery (for example, if the organisation is subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act, how it is linked to Public Service Boards, well-being plans, the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) and area statements).

 * How enhancing biodiversity contributes to and is affected by your organisation’s functions and strategic objectives. For public bodies subject to the WFG Act, how is the duty linked to delivery of the goals, particularly for a Resilient Wales, and the 5 ways of working.
* Key policies, objectives, performance indicators and monitoring arrangements.
* Governance arrangements around the delivery of the s6 duty in your organisation, including reference to your s6 plan.
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| **Highlights, Key Outcomes and Issues** |
| * Short description of:
	+ Key biodiversity actions and/or things you have stopped doing
	+ How your action for biodiversity has delivered positive outcomes and other benefits for health, social cohesion, economic outputs (i.e. across the WFG goals)
	+ The cost savings and efficiency achieved through biodiversity action and the long term benefits gained from preventing further damage
	+ Any key enablers to biodiversity action
	+ Notable or continuing negative impacts, and any barriers to action?
* A small set of case studies/examples which illustrate the above.
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| **Action Report** |
| **NRAP[[1]](#footnote-1) Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.****Include actions that have been taken to:*** Embed biodiversity action across your organisation’s functions, for example by:
	+ Making commitments in corporate plans
	+ Incorporating biodiversity and the s6 duty into performance management, through Environmental Statements, Local Well-being Plans, Well-being Statements, a standalone s6 Plan, Business planning and budget monitoring, performance management systems, internal consultations or audits
	+ Valuing biodiversity more effectively and for the longer term in decision making
	+ Ensuring functions across your organisation deliver biodiversity action as business as usual
* Raise awareness across your organisation, for example by:
	+ Providing mandatory or voluntary training modules
	+ Running seminars or providing information to highlight the importance and value of biodiversity and how you are contributing to action as an organisation

**Include any measures and/indicators monitored or collected, for example:*** + List of published policies changed to incorporate biodiversity
	+ Biodiversity valuation methods or techniques trialled
	+ List of biodiversity training/awareness raising initiatives and further details
	+ Number of staff receiving training
* Additional information: Include here additional information such as costs, benefits, impacts and outcomes for action relevant to this NRAP objective.

 * Narrative/graphics: Include here a brief narrative and any graphics which describe the information you have included under this objective.
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| **NRAP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management****Include actions taken to:*** Safeguard special species and habitats listed on [the section 7 biodiversity lists](https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Environment-Wales-Act/#accordion138), for example by:
* Providing suitable and appropriately managed habitats for protected species where able
* Improving habitat management, for example, for pollinators
* Using the planning system to maintain and enhance species and habitats
* Contribute to the management of protected sites and species, including Local Wildlife Sites/Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), for example by:
* Ensuring these sites are valued in decision making
* Contributing to their management where possible
* Managing land around them to buffer and join them up as part of resilient ecological networks

**Include any measures and/or indicators monitored or collected, for example:*** Numbers of site, species and/or habitat action plans
* Site, species and habitats status and trends, including any known losses in your area of influence
* Data from Planning from Annual Monitoring Reports[[2]](#footnote-2) where applicable
* Condition surveys
* Additional information: Include here additional information such as costs, benefits, impacts and outcomes for action relevant to this NRAP objective.
* Narrative/graphics: Include here a brief narrative and any graphics which describe the information you have included under this objective.
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| **NRAP Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation****Include actions taken to:*** Create or contribute to Resilient Ecological Networks[[3]](#footnote-3) for example by:
* Restoring and/or creating habitats
* Connecting or enlarging areas of habitat
* Improving the management and/or diversity of areas of habitat
* Contributing evidence to, and having regard to the opportunities shown in area statements

**Include any measures and/or indicators monitored or collected, for example:*** Green Infrastructure Assessments[[4]](#footnote-4) completed where applicable
* Area of habitat created, restored or brought into improved management
* Area of habitat lost
* Projects to join areas of habitat together
* Additional information: Include here additional information such as costs, benefits, impacts and outcomes for action relevant to this NRAP objective.
* Narrative/graphics: Include here a brief narrative and any graphics which describe the information you have included under this objective.
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| **NRAP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats****Include actions to:*** Address key pressures, for example by:
* Reducing or where possible stopping the use of pesticides and herbicides
* Reducing the area of invasive non-native species
* Reducing, reusing and recycling resources
* Climate change mitigation/decarbonisation
* Use biodiverse and native nature based solutions wherever possible, for example by:
* Installing sustainable urban drainage systems
* Using native biodiverse urban green and blue infrastructure to manage temperature, water flow, soil erosion – including planting trees, grasslands and wetlands
* Installing green roofs and walls
* Using natural flood prevention measures, such as swales and wetlands
* Providing local green spaces for communities and visitors to improve health and well-being outcomes

**Include any measures and/or indicators monitored or collected, for example:*** Air/soil/water quality improvements
* Reductions in the use of pesticides, herbicides and other products/practices that carry risk to biodiversity
* Policies introduced to reduce pressure on species e.g palm oil sustainability
* Use of nature based solutions
* Areas of Invasive Non-Native Species reduced or managed

* Additional information: Include here additional information such as costs, benefits, impacts and outcomes for action relevant to this NRAP objective.
* Narrative/graphics: Include here a brief narrative and any graphics which describe the information you have included under this objective.
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| **NRAP Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring****Include actions to:*** Improve the use of evidence in decision making, for example by:
* Gathering and sharing evidence
* Using the best available evidence for decision making, for example using [Local Environment Record Centre](https://www.lercwales.org.uk/) data in planning decisions
* Having regard to the [section 7 lists of species and habitats](https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Environment-Wales-Act/#accordion138), the [State of Natural Resources Report](https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/the-state-of-natural-resources-report-assessment-of-the-sustainable-management-of-natural-resources/?lang=en) and [Area Statements](https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/area-statements/?lang=en)
* Consulting relevant stakeholders/using expert input
* Monitoring of outcomes
* Identifying evidence gaps
* Undertaking research
* Share evidence accessibly, for example by
* Making data available through [Local Environment Records Centres](https://www.lercwales.org.uk/)
* Ensuring your environmental evidence is accessible to local communities

**Include any measures and/or indicators monitored or collected, for example:*** A Service Level Agreement with the appropriate Local Environmental Records Centre
* Data sources created or enhanced in relation to safeguarding species/habitats of principal importance (section 7 lists)
* Data sources created or enhanced in relation to resilient ecological networks
* Planning decisions made using biodiversity evidence e.g. Number of planning applications which impacted local or national designated sites, European Protected Species (EPS) or S7 species, numbers rejected because of local or national designated sites, EPS or S7 habitats or species
* Additional information: Include here details such as costs, benefits, impacts and outcomes for action relevant to this NRAP objective.
* Narrative/graphics: Include here a brief narrative and any graphics which describe the information you have included under this objective.
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| **NRAP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery****Include actions to:*** Ensure governance for biodiversity within your organisation, for example by:
* Ensuring someone is responsible for biodiversity action – ultimately this should be the board or chief executive of the organisation
* Ensuring the s6 duty is monitored and reviewed
* Provide capacity for biodiversity, for example by:
* Ensuring that where needed ecological expertise can be drawn upon, either internally or externally
* Encouraging and supporting volunteer participation in action for biodiversity by staff or local communities
* Support biodiversity action through funding and/or partnerships, for example by:
* Grant aiding or funding biodiversity projects (NB this is different from embedding action for biodiversity across functions whereby funding should be part of business as usual delivery – see objective 1 above)
* Working with Local Nature Partnerships and Action Plans
* Supporting other environmental organisations and projects

**Include any measures and/or indicators monitored or collected, for example:*** Relevant volunteer days undertaken.
* Grant and investment schemes.
* Relevant capacity improvements – new staff employed.
* List of funding sources directed towards biodiversity
* List of local/national environmental groups actively or substantially engaged and/or supported
* Additional information: Include here information such as costs, benefits, impacts and outcomes for action relevant to this NRAP objective.
* Narrative/graphics: Include here a brief narrative and any graphics which describe the information you have included under this objective.
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| **Review of s6 duty** |
| * Highlight here key issues regarding the operation of the s6 duty in your organisation, and the change this has engendered in delivery of biodiversity action, which should then be reflected in your section 6 plan – see Annex 2 for review guidance.
* If the review is not taking place at this point, the report should note how and when this will be conducted and how the review will be incorporated into the s6 plan.
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1. Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Information regarding Annual Monitoring Reports can be found inparagraph 6.2.12 of [Planning Policy Wales (edition 11)](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Networks of habitat in good ecological condition joining up designated sites and other biodiversity hotspots to provide maximum benefit for biodiversity and our well-being. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Information about Green Infrastructure Assessments can be found in section 6.2 of [Planning Policy Wales (edition 11).](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)