

WBP Species Expert Group Meeting 11

Banw Room, Newtown

8th November 2013

Attendees: Stephen Bladwell, Chair (RSPB Cymru); Sean McHugh, Secretariat (WBP); Steve Lucas (BCT); Claire Install (British Dragonfly Society); Mark Barber (ARC); Rob Strachan (NRW); Adrian Fowles (NRW); Liz Howe (NRW); Dave Lamacraft (Plantlife Cymru); Sian Whitehad (NRW); Liz Halliwell (NRW); Andy Jones (NRW);

Apologies: Mike Bruford (Cardiff University); Russel Hobson (BC); Reg Thorpe (RSPB Cymru); Trevor Dines (Plantlife Cymru); Lizzie Wilberforce (WTW); Sarah Bird (Chester Zoo); Rachel Taylor (BTO); Tim Rich (NMW); Sinead Lynch (BBCT); Sam Bosanquet (NRW/BBS); Jean Matthews (NRW); Steve Chambers (WG); Ray Woods (Consultant); Dan Foreman (Swansea University); Craig MaAdam (Buglife)

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as accurate.

No.	Update/Action	Who by/when	Additional comments
1	*Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board update. The board is considering the guiding principles for the Biodiversity Strategy/Nature recovery Plan. WBP Steering Group has now closed. Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board will take on the majority of the roles identified in Steering Group ToR. WBP Group Chairs will agree a new ToR for their Group and will draft refreshed ToR for WBP Ecosystem and Species Expert Groups, as these need updating. Membership of both Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board and WBP Group Chairs will be amended where appropriate, to ensure inclusion of organisations previously represented on Steering Group. WBP Group Chairs may therefore include representation from a Chair of a Local/Regional Biodiversity Network to ensure local connections are retained. Communication between Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board and WBP Chairs Group will be strengthened, with agendas and selected papers for the Board circulated to WBP Chairs Group	Stephen/Liz to update Species Expert Group ToR	*Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board- discussions are underway regarding the naming of the board and Wales Nature Strategy Board has been proposed. The next meeting of the Board is 6 th December.

	prior to meetings. Chairs comments will be submitted to Board at each meeting.		
2	WG £6million nature fund. WG looking for A4 proofs of concept (non-costed) by 16 th December Species Expert Groups to provide a representative at planned WG £6m Fund local workshops to support local biodiversity groups to develop concepts/project ideas to submit to the fund. NRW will be attending the workshops and have already submitted ideas following a baseline exercise. The funding schema will be developed in the New Year. Funds need to be spent by March 2015. SEG welcomed the £6m spend but had reservations regarding the structure of the funding and the anticipated tight deadline.	<p>Sean to re-circulate workshop details</p> <p>All- let Sean know if you are attending one of the 3 workshops</p> <p>All- share your ideas with SEG members to develop proof of concept proposals</p> <p>All- submit proofs of concept ideas by 16th Dec & indicate if they are part of the SEG work programme.</p> <p>Liz Howe to share NRW funding ideas developed for £6m fund</p>	<p>Monday 2 December (10:00 -12:00) – Welsh Government offices, Merthyr Tydfil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 4 December (10:00 -12:00) – Welsh Government offices, Aberystwyth Monday 9 December (10:00 – 12:00) – Welsh Government offices, Llandudno Junction. <p>Contact naturalresourcemanagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk to register for the workshop</p>
3	Environment Bill White Paper Consultation The White Paper from Welsh Government sets out proposals for the Environment (Wales) Bill and is open for consultation until 15 January 2014	<p>All- submit responses by 15 January 2014</p> <p>Link: http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/environment-bill-white-paper/?lang=en</p>	<p>A series of regional consultation events to discuss the proposals in the Environment Bill White Paper are taking place:</p> <p>Monday 2 December (1 to 4pm) – Welsh Government offices, Merthyr Tydfil;</p> <p>Wednesday 4 December (1 to 4pm) – Welsh Government offices, Aberystwyth;</p> <p>Monday 9 December (1 to 4pm) – Welsh Government offices, Llandudno Junction.</p> <p>Contact naturalresourcemanagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk to register for the workshop.</p>
4	Resilient Ecosystem Fund projects. Liz Howe chaired the SEG REF subgroup. 9 species- related projects were initially submitted 3 were successful including a Marsh Fritillary project; water vole project	<p>Action Liz Howe to share with SEG the successful bids once formal acceptance letters received</p>	

	& an amphibian/reptile project.		
5	<p>Species- habitat integration work At the July 2013 meeting the SEG considered wetlands and the work is progressing. Comments contributed during the meeting & further comments required on the habitat niche/resource descriptors outlined in the wetland excel worksheet and the generic prescriptions for wetland habitats document supplied by Pete Jones (grazing marsh to be completed). SEG asked for context to be developed for the integration work. Once completed, these can be fed into Glastir review.</p> <p>SEG has received comments on the species associations for wetland habitats and is requested further comment before final sign off. Once finalised, associated guidance will accompany the list.</p> <p>Woodland- integration work needs to be completed. SEG have worked with the legacy body Forestry Commission Wales to develop prescriptions & SEG need to revisit to ensure prescriptions meet the needs of species.</p> <p>Heathland- integration work (upland & lowland heath) was the first addressed by SEG and this is in use influencing heathland management and will be refined following feedback from Lowland Grassland & Heathland Group.</p> <p>Freshwater & coastal could potentially be the next groups</p>	<p>All-comments required around Species habitat niche/resource descriptors for priority wetland habitats Comments required by 22nd November to Stephen Bladwell Stephen to draft context re: Species habitat niche/resource descriptors</p> <p>All- comments required re: generic lowland wetland habitat prescriptions by 22nd November to Stephen Bladwell</p> <p>Stephen to circulate Glastir review note</p> <p>All- comments required re: Species associations for wetland habitats by 22nd November to Stephen Bladwell</p> <p>Sean to contact Chris Tucker for update on woodland species prescriptions</p>	<p>Comments welcomed in relation to generic management prescriptions for delivery of habitat condition in wetlands that will also benefit species- not to identify all the specific management requirements for individual or groups of priority species within these habitats</p> <p>Mechanism for revising S42 list is being worked up. Previously it was the role of WBP SG</p>

	targeted but SEG needs to assess with the Ecosystems Groups what the leading priority is in Wales for the next steps of the work.		
5	Lead Partner targets & Actions. Stephen outlined the Wales Bird Conservation Forum paper which could be potentially used as a model for other lead partner work. The model builds in accountability, audit trail; and consistency. Discussions in the meeting indicated the approach could be workable for some taxonomic groups but not all & what the end point is - favourable conservation status?	All-Feedback to Stephen your comments on the Bird Conservation forum paper. Stephen to share work RSPB have carried out in respect to defining term 'halting loss of biodiversity' & what this means in practice. Matthew Ellis to circulate IEEP review of favourable conservation status (FCS) of Great Crested Newt & Bird Life paper around FCS for bird species (Done)	
6	WBP Evidence Gaps project Project launched in June and is now live on WBP website. Widespread support from academics, Welsh Government and research institutions. 3 SEG project proposals to date: Bryophytes/Mosses/Invertebrates to date- more required. Liz Halliwell will be submitting evidence gaps & more are encouraged from SEG University of the third Age was suggested as a good contact for evidence gaps work.	All Review evidence gaps and comments made by Mike Bruford (columns I.J.K) in 'List of Evidence Gaps' Excel spread sheet on WBP Evidence Gaps web page & to follow up suggested leads indicated in Mike's update. All- to review & refine SEG evidence gaps Group's priorities in 'List of Evidence Gaps' Excel spread sheet All - submit project research proposals Sean to contact Tracey an progress to date and completed projects & Univ of 3 rd Age link	Evidence Gaps project link: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/WBP-Evidence-Gaps-Project Contact: Tracey Lovering (tracey.lovering@cyfoethnatu.riolcymru.gov.uk)
Standing Items			

7	<p>SEG work programme. The group spent time amending the work plan and comments required by members who were unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that some actions fall under policy & the WBP policy group is no longer active- need to feed these through to appropriate body –WBSB?</p> <p>Actions from Chairs meeting largely covered in items 1,2, 6. Standing item re: sharing Priority Mapping Workshop Planner with Species Expert Group</p> <p>SEG Group memberships- the list was reviewed by SEG</p> <p>Agenda items for next Meeting</p>	<p>All- send comments on the work plan by 22nd November</p> <p>Include SEG policy issues as an agenda item at next SEG meeting</p> <p>Stephen Bladwell and Sean McHugh to share Planner with Species Expert Group to facilitate SEG rep attendance at these events.</p> <p>Sean to incorporate comments and send updated list to Welsh Government</p> <p>All to send in agenda items for Jan/Feb 2014 SEG meeting</p>	<p>This requires input from Ecosystem Chairs to inform SEG of planned priority habitat workshops</p>
	<p>Date of next Meeting Jan/Feb 2014</p>		
<p>On-going actions and items</p>			
i	<p>SEG input to compliment habitat advice arising from Ecosystem Groups Priority Mapping workshops held with LBAPs.</p>	<p>Sean/Sam. Pilot approach in Wales in the new year.</p>	<p>LBAP response has been positive to the idea. Need to firm up with Sam and initialise.</p>
ii	<p>All partners to send Sean a brief update of projects they are involved in for circulation to SEG. A rolling update can also be included on the WBP website under the SEG section</p>	<p>All/end of December</p>	<p>WBP website SEG link: http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Species</p>
iii	<p>WBP Chairs Meeting Next meeting in Spring 2014- require SEG update/items for the meeting</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Chairs meeting actions: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Ecosystem-Group-Chairs</p>
iv	<p>BARS BARS 2 is now live - user friendly,</p>	<p>All are encouraged to Visit new BARS & look</p>	<p>BARS link & further information:</p>

	<p>spatial representation of actions, priority mapping from ecosystem groups is available on BARS</p>	<p>for opportunities to input/comment</p>	<p>http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Biodiversity-Action-Reporting-System-BARS</p> <p>WBP Priority mapping link: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Ecosystems--Species-Expert-Groups</p>
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