

Briefing Note 2 Regional Delivery Plan for Biodiversity in the SW – Undertaking Phase 2 Next Steps

Aim: To identify local priority landscapes for delivery and other regional activity in order to draft a Regional Delivery Plan for Biodiversity in the SW. This will outline the delivery of on the ground enhancements for biodiversity across the region. It should direct the delivery of priority activity within the region.

1. This paper outlines the next steps to drafting the RDP. This phase is crucial as it asks LBAPs and their partners to identify their key delivery priorities for BAP at a landscape/ecosystem/catchment scale. The focus of this exercise is primarily BAP habitats. Delivery for species actions will need to be incorporated within this and priority landscapes delivering for species may also need to be considered. Additional species needs that cannot be taken account of in this exercise will need to be catered for outside of this exercise.
2. The timeframe for this plan is from 2010 to 2015, as part of a rolling programme.
3. We have identified the 'County' LBAP as the key scale at which to make these decisions, although this will bring challenges for those institutions that cross county boundaries. Where this situation arises it is important that County LBAPs give sufficient consideration to these groups and vice versa. Organisations are asked to try and work with their LBAP. If it proves impossible to work at this level please contact the Regional Biodiversity Co-ordinator and we will work towards a solution. We want your contribution.
4. Each county is asked to submit its priority landscape/catchment/ecosystem areas to BioSW that are a priority for delivery in the next 5 years for BAP and can meet one of the following 3 criteria:
 - a) **How does the proposed initiative contribute to / fit in with delivery of other social and economic 'public goods' in the landscape?**
 - b) **Does the project deliver a priority BAP habitat that the SW is best placed to deliver nationally (is it a SW responsibility)?**
 - c) **How does the proposed initiative address and put into practice climate change adaptation principles?**
5. Evidence from Phase 1 – Evidence Gathering will be provided to each LBAP at the start of November to help evidence the decision making and to provide guidance on regional habitat priorities This should be used to help determine delivery gaps/needs.
6. The basis for these discussions should be Nature Map and output from Phase 1. Where there are habitats which do not sit within Nature Map please also consider these and submit to BioSW in the same fashion outlined below with a rationale.
7. The focus of this exercise is to determine where our **most urgent BAP needs can be met in the region over the next 5 years**. It is not to deliver a comprehensive BAP for the region.

8. The main focus of this plan should be on restoration and creation of habitats and their associated species at the landscape/ecosystem or catchment scale and connecting existing habitat. Maintenance remains crucial as part of the projects, but should not constitute the whole. We will be working towards the targets outlined in the RSS (http://www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/hom_abo_hab.html). Where targets exist for 2010 these should be assumed to be the 2015 targets, with the ultimate aim of working towards the 2020 targets.
9. It is for the LBAP to decide if the submitted priorities should focus on current delivery projects or identify new projects. The projects need to start delivering within the 5 year time frame against priorities. The LBAP should consider whether existing projects could be 'added to' to bring about even more benefit over a larger area or where synergies exist for bringing organisations and projects together to deliver against priority landscapes. The Plan will make mention of existing work in recognition that all delivery is local – and that these projects need continuing support.
10. Collaboration for delivery and accountability for delivery of these priorities is key – projects must be ambitious but not unrealistic.
11. The plan needs to highlight any key barriers to delivery of the projects captured
12. A form has been supplied on which to submit priorities. This should be accompanied by a map (preferably in GIS format). Please answer as many of the questions as you can- and especially those marked as essential - but if it proves impossible to answer all the questions, please submit what you can and we can always build on the information over time. Critical information to provide includes the hectareage of BAP habitat contributed by project, even if this is just an estimate. This is the first step in the journey to the RDP.
13. The plan should consider delivery in the context of the New Framework for delivering the England Biodiversity Strategy and draft climate change adaptation principles supplied with this note.
14. Once LBAPS have submitted their priorities to BioSW these will be collated and the package will be discussed at a regional workshop in early December. The draft plan will then be used in discussions with the national Biodiversity Integration Groups (BIGs) as part of the negotiation around national priorities. They are therefore subject to possible modification based on this advice and additional resource that may become available.
15. Deadline for submission of priorities – 30th November 2009
16. Regional partnership workshop will be week beginning 7th December 2009