

REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROFILES

SOUTH WEST

Forum	<p>South West Biodiversity Partnership County Wildlife Trusts, English Nature, Environment Agency, DEFRA (RDS), Govt. Office for SW, RSPB, Bristol Environmental Records Centre (on behalf of the LRC's) BTCV, Assn. of Local Government Ecologists. Ministry of Defence, FWAG. Corresponding members include The National Trust, Forest Enterprise</p>
Work to Date	<p>Publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biodiversity of the South West</i>, 1996 • <i>Action Plan for Biodiversity in the South West</i>, 1997 • <i>Biodiversity Guide for the Planning & Development Sectors in the South West</i>, (Functional Action Plan) <p>Other Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided trial for regional reporting and networking (DETR funded) • Recommended Habitat targets, including those for restoration, for Regional Planning Guidance and Rural Development Plan • Carrying out a pilot project for NBN in the region. • Completed a review of BAP work in the region June 2003
Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding required for LBAP officers across the region. • Need resources to assist with initial data input onto the Biodiversity Actions recording System (BARS) • Regional forum can promote the work of the LRC's , but not able to secure long term funding - this is seen is important for monitoring and BAP reporting
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current National Biodiversity Network pilot project in SW • Develop links/capability of the Regional Observatory • Raising the profile of the partnership within region eg. Formulating stronger links with RA and RDA.
Future Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing a regional work plan in the light of EBS. • Establishment of regional co-ordination and reporting progress against UKBAP using BARS • Continue to build links with the National Biodiversity Network Regional Pilot and with the Regional Observatory • Deciding on regional indicators.
Terms of Reference	<p>Vision for South West England – to have landscapes and water bodies, coasts and seas, towns and cities – where wild species and habitats are part of healthy functioning ecosystems; where we nurture, treasure and enhance our biodiversity, and where biodiversity is a natural consideration of policies and decisions, and in society as a whole.</p> <p>Our partnership aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and enable the delivery of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan through regional and local biodiversity action in line with the England Biodiversity Strategy <p>We do this by:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating the efforts of biodiversity conservation practitioners in delivering local BAPs in alignment with regional and national BAP activity; • Advising policy makers, public bodies, private companies and individuals on issues affecting BAP delivery in the South West; and • Influencing them to incorporate policies and actions to deliver biodiversity in their work programmes and practices. • Implementing programmes of activity to deliver biodiversity gain on the ground in partnership with appropriate organisations. • Membership of the Partnership: • Includes representatives of Government, local authorities, statutory agencies, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB and biological recording centres; • Is open to any organisation or company (public or private) that supports our aim and can contribute to achieving it. • Implies no obligation on its members to implement particular recommendations or act on particular advice of the Partnership. <p>We meet approximately quarterly with the chair alternating between EN and EA.</p>
LBAPS	<p>Avon, Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City, Cornwall county, Cotswold Water Park, Dartmoor national park, Devon County, Dorset County, Exmoor NP, Gloucestershire, Mendip District Council, Mid-Somerset Hills District, North Somerset District, North Devon, Purbeck district, Sedgemoor District, South Gloucestershire Unitary, South Somerset district, Stroud District, Swindon unitary, Taunton Deane District, Torbay Borough, West Somerset District, Wiltshire County</p>

WEST MIDLANDS

Forum	<p>West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership ALGE, British Waterways, Butterfly Conservation, CLA, Countryside Agency, DEFRA, English Nature, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Government Office West Midlands, LBAP Officers, National Farmers Union, The National Trust, RSPB, Severn Trent Water, The Wildlife Trusts, West Midlands Local Government Association and WWF.</p>
Work to Date	<p>Publications: <i>West Midlands Biodiversity Audit</i>, 2001</p> <p>Other Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional habitat targets – LBAP audit and new agreement of regional targets. • Rebuilding Regional Biodiversity – EAF/HLF funded 3 year work programme including two biodiversity posts. • Regional biodiversity framework/strategy in preparation. Draft required by November 2003. <p>Communications plan recently agreed and new literature, displays and web-site produced.</p>
Problems	<p>Lack of time from working group members has limited progress to date. Recent funding success includes two 3-year posts and this should enable the work plan to be completed more quickly although one post remains unfilled in June 2003. The Partnership is trying to catch up on key pieces of work including agreeing biodiversity priorities and targets for the region and producing a regional biodiversity strategy/framework.</p>
Opportunities	<p>The new Rebuilding Regional Biodiversity Programme with funding for 2 staff provides a significant opportunity to take forward the initial 3 year work plan.</p>
Future Work	<p>The 3 year work plan will be reviewed in 2003 including work on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement of a set of regional biodiversity objectives, indicators and targets • Embedding regional biodiversity objectives into regional plans, policies and programmes (e.g. RPG) • Support and integration of LBAP work with that of Regional Partnership • Development and implementation of a communications plan • Sectoral workshops • Production of a regional biodiversity strategy/framework • Production of regional biodiversity leaflet • Identifying and meeting biodiversity information needs • Input into National BAP planning and reporting database • Seek resources and make regional bids for funds against costed work programme • . The researching and publication of case studies to highlight good practice in the region. • The appointment of consultants to evaluate the Rebuilding Regional Biodiversity Programme so that the lessons learned can be applied in other regions .
Terms of Reference	<p>The West Midland Biodiversity Partnership aims to co-ordinate biodiversity conservation within the West Midlands contributing regional level action where appropriate. It operates within the context of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To influence and support the implementation and achievement of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and local BAP objectives and targets in the West Midlands Region.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop regional biodiversity objectives and targets and an overview of their relationship to national targets and sectors. • To promote an understanding of and support for biodiversity conservation priorities with key regional sectors and through regional fora, and to make recommendations for action by regional agencies. • To facilitate partnership working for biodiversity conservation in the West Midlands Region. To ensure effective communication and co-ordination with others working towards the goal of sustainable development at the regional level. • To act as a focus for biodiversity expertise and advice in the West Midlands region. • To monitor and evaluate progress with UK BAP objectives and targets and to facilitate the national reporting process, the measuring of sustainability indicators and state of the environment assessments. • To hold an annual West Midlands biodiversity conference to report on progress, share good practice, facilitate networking and maintain momentum with local BAPs. <p><i>Relationship of the Partnership with Regional Sustainable Development Activity</i></p> <p>The Partnership provides a representative on Sustainability West Midlands, the regional Round Table for Sustainable Development, to ensure biodiversity is fully integrated within the sustainability agenda. Partnership working group members are involved in the review of the regional Sustainability Framework taking place in 2003/04. In addition Partnership organizations are providing input to the RPG process with members also contributing to working groups on environmental policies and sustainability appraisal of RPG.</p>
LBAPS	Birmingham and Black Country, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull and Worcestershir. Telford and Wrekin, National Forest, Peak District, Severn Trent Water and South Staffs Water also have LBAP's.

NORTH WEST

<p>Forum</p>	<p>North West Biodiversity Forum Bolton Museum, Cheshire County Council, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Country Landowners & Business Association, Countryside Agency, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Government Office NW, Environmental Advisory Service, English Heritage, English Nature, Environment Agency, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, Forestry Commission, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Highways Agency, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Landlife, NW Regional Assembly, DEFRA, Mersey Basin Campaign, National Farmers Union, National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, United Utilities.</p>
<p>Work to Date</p>	<p>Publications: NWBF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild About the NW: A Biodiversity Audit of the NW (1999) • Regional Biodiversity Targets. Presented by English Nature after consultation with the NWBF at the RPG Public Examination, Matters 10 & 11. • Biodiversity Indicators (draft). 1999 • Model Policies for the RPG, submitted to the NWRA, RPG Team, 1999. <p>NWBF in partnership with others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action for Biodiversity in North West England (2000) in partnership with GONW and the NWRA. (Booklet). • The Environmental Economy of the NW. Technical Report produced by ERM and summary booklet by the Steering Group. (2000) <p>Priority Projects for 2003-4: Allowing priority areas take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the implementation of the England Biodiversity Strategy, • the regional and landscape scale approach and socio economic links, • the priorities identified below by GONW, NWDA & NWRA • and the importance of LBAP delivery. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submission to GONW & NWRA on the RPG review. 2. Follow up with NWDA on the Revised RES and Action Plan, particularly on the English Nature led, cross cutting natural environment “regional opportunities”. Completion of the joint study with NWDA on the Economic & Regenerative Value of the Natural Environment (ERVNE). Continuing discussions with the NWDA on the Biodiversity and Quality of Life project proposal and the need to achieve better coordination for the funding of strategic natural environment projects across the region. 3. Submissions to NWRA on the review of AFS (first NWBF submission made in April 2002, bringing together and overview of all nature conservation & biodiversity targets) and inputs to the Regional Monitoring Report. 4. Regional Biodiversity Action Plan as opposed to Regional Biodiversity Strategy (reference Regional White Paper) 5. Position Statements by NWBF members on their role and contribution to biodiversity delivery. 6. Biodiversity Action Plan implementation, including funding, being taken forward through the partnership project linking biodiversity with Quality of Life (draft proposal currently being discussed between potential partners). Supporting LBAP implementation especially unblocking issues that constrain this. 7. Inputs on biodiversity monitoring & reporting within the national framework and that being developed for the RPG, AFS and RES.

	<p>8. NW Biodiversity website – further development of the website launched in Feb 03.</p> <p>9. Biodiversity training to increase the capacity for biodiversity delivery by officers in a range of organisations eg the Mersey Basin Campaign and also to increase the “joining up” between biodiversity delivery and wider agendas eg LSP and Community Strategy Officers.</p> <p>10. Coordinated input of biodiversity into Community Strategies.</p> <p>11. Raising and progressing regional strategic biodiversity issues at other regional and national fora.</p>
Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No dedicated funding for the NWBF – projects are only possible with members contributing • No dedicated biodiversity officer – progress depends upon members contributing their time • Lack of capacity within the regional government bodies to integrate biodiversity. • Funding for the implementation of LBAPs
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To integrate biodiversity in regional strategies, plans and guidance • To make positive links between biodiversity and SD & Quality of Life • To improve the national-regional-local links for biodiversity targets • To reinvigorate the process with the recently launched England Biodiversity Strategy
Future Work	<p>Subject to funding from 04 onwards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring & reporting for Biodiversity, including within the NW Action for Sustainability • NW Biodiversity Forum Website • Secondment to regional bodies. • Strategic framework for LBAPs together with links to socio economic benefits • Glossy on how biodiversity contributes to SD and Quality of Life. • Biodiversity services to others e.g. project managers, local authorities etc to develop their capacity to take forward biodiversity • Non – statutory sites & their management & contribution to biodiversity & Quality of Life. • Community Strategies – integrating biodiversity • Joint projects with business sector
Terms of Reference	<p>The North West Biodiversity Forum is a partnership of public, private and voluntary organisations working together at the regional level to conserve and enhance the Biodiversity of the North West for wildlife and people. With the growth of regional government, the North West Biodiversity Forum was set up to provide strategic advice on biodiversity at the regional level, within the context of national commitments and local delivery.</p> <p>General Aim: To support, encourage and positively influence the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity in North West England.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor and review at intervals the Biodiversity Audit of North West England and to disseminate the results in appropriate format to the Regional Assembly, Regional Development Agency, Government Office, Forum members and other interested parties. • To promote and facilitate the implementation of UK Biodiversity Action Plan objectives and targets in North West England, and to monitor and review progress as an aid to reporting. • To monitor and review the production and implementation of local Biodiversity Action Plans in North West England - including habitat and species action plans and area based action plans. • To develop regional biodiversity objectives and targets based on the regional audit and on national targets, as a context for the development of local Biodiversity Action Plans, priorities and targets. • To act as a focus for biodiversity expertise in the region, and to develop links to the National Biodiversity Network and to local biodiversity

	<p>information networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide advice to regional planning and development agencies and decision-makers in relation to biodiversity priorities, targets, indicators, and on policies and practical action, as a key constituent of sustainable development. • To promote and facilitate partnership working for biodiversity conservation amongst involved organisations and the wider community, both for its own sake and as an integral part of sustainable development. • To actively seek resources to enable the Forum to carry out these tasks effectively and efficiently. <p>Working Approach for Achieving the Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing the lead on regional biodiversity objectives, targets and indicators together with promoting their understanding and benefits for wildlife and people. • Working in partnership with others to facilitate their delivery, within the framework of sustainable development, providing both socio-economic and quality of life benefits. • Providing a supportive framework for the implementation of Local Biodiversity Action Plans. • Reporting on the incorporation of biodiversity in policies, strategies & programmes. • Monitoring the achievement of biodiversity on the ground in partnership with NWRA, NWDA and GONW. • Securing the necessary resources from both the public and private sector. <p>Framework within which the NWBF works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the member organisations are independent and come together to focus efforts on the objectives of the NWBF. At the regional strategic level the NWBF is an adviser to GONW, NWDA and the NWRA on regional Biodiversity. • It is one of 8 such regional fora in England and is represented on the DEFRA Biodiversity Group: Regional Sub-Group. • The NWBF is a key partner through the NW Sustainability Steering Group, for the implementation of the NW Action for Sustainability, within which biodiversity targets are an integral component. • It provides a regional framework for LBAPs and many of these are directly represented on the NWBF.
LBAPS	Bolton, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Isle of Man, North Merseyside, Cheshire, Cumbria

NORTH EAST

Forum	<p>North East Biodiversity Forum Representative from each local BAP, Association of North East Councils (ANEC), Country Landowners Association, Countryside Agency, Defence Estates, Durham Wildlife Trust, English Nature, Environment Agency, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Forestry Commission, Government Office North East, DEFRA, National Farmers Union, North East Regional Assembly, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Northumberland National Park, Northumbrian Water, One North East (RDA), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, The National Trust</p>
Work to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Biodiversity Audit (published 2001) • A feasibility study and business plan for a Regional Environmental Record Centre produced 2002 • Business and biodiversity week November 2002 • Local Authorities conference February 2003 • Strategic framework plan/communications strategy produced 2003 • Regional indicators and targets report (to be published 2003)
Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaining profile for the forum and understanding of role in the region • Securing regular attendance at meetings of some key Forum members • Securing funding to employ full time officer to co-ordinate delivery of forum objectives • Lack of regional environmental recording facility • Biodiversity and the environment receiving lower priority than economic and social agendas
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising the profile of the Forum and increasing understanding of its role and therefore increasing its ability to influence the regional agenda
Future Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influencing and co-ordinating biodiversity input into Community Strategies • Raise the profile of biodiversity in relation to new regional structures and strategies. • Identify priorities for action in the region. • Identify blocks to progress and their resolution. • Link to the National Biodiversity Network. • Co-ordinate different initiatives on biodiversity • Provide an arena for local BAP groups to co-ordinate activity • Link to national BAP groups • Link with other regional initiatives • Developing the role of biodiversity as a measure of sustainability • Monitor the implementation of BAP projects and their contribution to the national BAP • Actively pursue funds for local implementation of BAPs • Pursue/make decision on establishment of regional environmental records centre
Terms of Reference	<p>The Forum has two central aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide a regional focus and network for biodiversity issues and initiatives. 2. To provide a regional voice for biodiversity issues and to take action to ensure that appropriate action is taken by the emerging regional structures/initiatives and other relevant organisations. <p>The Forum will seek to improve communication amongst local BAP groups in the North East region. It will also serve as a channel for information dissemination, advice and recommendations on acquiring resources and influencing policy in support of biodiversity conservation and enhancement.</p>

	<p>The Government accepts the conservation of biodiversity as a key test of sustainable development but it is not yet fully integrated into the regional sustainability agenda. The RBF will promote the issue and feed into other regional groupings and developments. The Forum will have a specific role to ensure appropriate consideration of biodiversity needs and opportunities by regional interests and foster the integration of local, regional and national biodiversity conservation practice.</p> <p>Terms of reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To act as a focus for biodiversity expertise in the region, and act as a link between the national BAP process and local Biodiversity Action Plans. • To monitor and review at intervals the regional biodiversity audit, '<i>A Biodiversity Audit of the North East</i>', and disseminate the results in an appropriate format to Forum members and other interested parties. • To develop and promote regional biodiversity objectives and targets based on the regional biodiversity audit and on national targets. • To monitor and evaluate progress towards BAP targets and sustainability indicators within the region. • Provide an arena for local BAP groups to co-ordinate activity and exchange best practice. • Develop links to the National Biodiversity Network and to local biodiversity information networks. • To promote an understanding of, and support for, biodiversity priorities through advice to regional planning and development agencies. • To promote and facilitate partnership working for biodiversity conservation amongst relevant organizations and the wider community, both for its own sake and as an integral part of sustainable development. <p>To actively seek resources to enable the Forum to carry out these tasks effectively and efficiently.</p>
LBAPS	Durham, Gosforth Park – Cramlington, Newcastle City, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Northumberland National Park, Tees Valley

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE (awaiting update)

Forum	Yorkshire and Humberside Biodiversity Forum YWT, EN, RSPB and CA has been meeting for a few years Yorkshire & Humberside Environment Forum
Work to Date	A Regional Biodiversity Audit was undertaken in 1999. This involved a data trawl for habitats and species for which UK action plans are to be prepared. The document was targeted at the newly formed Regional Assembly to act as both a baseline study and an awareness raising exercise. The audit has been a useful political tool.
Future Work	encouraging a co-ordinated, consistent approach to writing District BAPs in Yorkshire (the chosen scale for BAPs in the county)
Terms of Reference	An association of organisations committed to supporting biodiversity through action for sustainable development and to promoting partnerships with regional and local agencies, organisations and industries. It aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a coherent approach to biodiversity action in the region • Promote biodiversity action with a broad range of partners • Establish close working relationship with key regional organisations • Play an important role in regional sustainability planning
LBAPS	Bradford City, Calderdale, City of York, East Riding, Hull, Humber Estuary, Kiklees, Leeds, North Yorkshire Moors, Rotherham, Ryedale, Sheffield District, Wakefield District, Yorkshire Dales

EAST MIDLANDS

Forum	<p>East Midlands Regional Biodiversity Forum BTCV, CLA, Countryside Agency, East Midlands Region LGA, English Nature, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, RDS, FWAG, GO East Midlands, Leicestershire & Rutland LBAP, Leicestershire County Council, Lincoln LBAP, Lincolnshire LBAP, Lincolnshire Trust, DEFRA, Mid Derbyshire LBAP, National Forest LBAP, Newark & Sherwood District Council, NFU, Northamptonshire LBAP, Nottinghamshire LBAP, Peak District National Park LBAP, RSPB, The National Trust, Wildlife Trusts</p>
Work to Date	<p>Publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability and Biodiversity Priorities for Action in the East Midlands, 1999 • Regional Targets for Biodiversity, 2000 • Regional Targets for Biodiversity: Supporting Information, 2000 • Regional Sustainability Indicators: Biodiversity, 2000 • East Midlands Large Rivers Habitat Action Plan, 2001 • England's East Midlands wildlife: the future you can help 2002 published for Regional Assembly <p>Other Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into Regional Assembly's Regional Environment Strategy and Action Plan 2003 as part of the Integrated Regional Strategy • Input into the Draft Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands RPG8 • Input into the Integrated Regional Strategy
Future Work	<p>Preparation of Regional BAP Publication and launch of Action of Regional Biodiversity 2003</p>
Terms of Reference	<p>Aims to encourage and co-ordinate work for biodiversity in the region by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To influence and support the implementation and achievement of UKBAP and local BAP objectives and targets in the East Midlands Region • To promote an understanding of and support for biodiversity conservation priorities with key regional sectors and through regional fora, and to make recommendations for actions for inclusion in regional strategies, together with specific recommendations for action by regional agencies where necessary • To facilitate partnership working for biodiversity conservation in the East Midlands Region. To ensure effective communication and co-ordination with others working towards the goal of sustainable development at the regional level • To act as a focus for biodiversity expertise and advice for the East Midlands Region and to facilitate the sharing of good practice amongst local BAP practitioners
LBAPS	<p>Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland, Lincolnshire, City of Lincoln, Mid Derbyshire, National Forest, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Peak District</p>

EAST OF ENGLAND

Forum	<p>East of England Biodiversity Forum</p> <p>GO-East, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LBAP, Bedfordshire LBAP, Hertfordshire LBAP, Norfolk LBAP, Essex LBAP, Suffolk LBAP, RSPB, NFU, EELGC, DEFRA, English Nature, Environment Agency, Anglia Water, Countryside Agency, Forestry Commission, FWAG, Wildlife Trusts, EEEF, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, East of England Biological Record Centre Forum</p>
Work to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has set up effective regional structure to allow communications between local, regional and national levels • very active sharing of good practice • Produced a Regional Biodiversity Audit in Nov 2002 • Organised and ran a conference for developers in June 2002 to provide advice, tools and guidance on how biodiversity is integral to the development process • Launched the East of England Biodiversity Award for Developers in partnership with the Building Research Establishment (BRE) • Provided input to the development of RPG and the Regional Environment Strategy • Gained a seat on the Regional Environment Forum
Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of a budget to implement projects • Members unable to devote much time to Forum work
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in the planning system, increased regionalisation • England Biodiversity Strategy • Gradual building of Forum profile will allow it to become a more influential voice in regional strategies
Future Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish regional biodiversity targets • Develop a web presence • Develop a Regional Implementation Plan • Input to RPG
Terms of Reference	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Working together to promote the conservation and enhancement of the wealth of wildlife within the East of England</i></p> <p>Purpose The East of England Biodiversity Forum has four central aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 To provide a regional forum of expertise on biodiversity issues. 2 To ensure that biodiversity issues are integrated within regional structures and initiatives. 3 To provide a regional network for biodiversity issues and initiatives. 4 To act as a regional focus for national and local biodiversity issues. <p>Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the implementation and achievement of the England Biodiversity Strategy and the UK BAP • Facilitate partnership working for biodiversity conservation and enhancement • Sharing good practice through providing a focus for biodiversity expertise and advice • Taking regional biodiversity issues to those influencers and policy makers in the region who can make a difference <p>Monitoring and evaluating progress in the region against regional targets</p>
LBAPS	Bedfordshire & Luton, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, Dacorum Borough, Essex, Hertfordshire, Lee Valley, Norfolk, Suffolk

SOUTH EAST (To be reviewed in September 2003)

Forum	<p>South East England Biodiversity Forum Environment Agency, English Nature, The Association of Local Government Ecologists, The National Trust, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts (SE Region) Following a recent review the following have agreed to join or been invited: GOSE, Countryside Agency, SEERA, SEEDA, Regional Local Records Centre Forum, Regional Local Biodiversity Action Plan Forum</p>
Work to Date	<p>Published: <i>Action for Biodiversity in the South East</i> Provides biodiversity targets for SE and SEEBF agenda for sectors Actions in progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems and resources - a comprehensive review and recommendations relating to regional consistency and needs for data systems, Biodiversity action Plans, Non-statutory Sites and the ecological skills base. Launched at a joint conference with RTPI and soon to be widely distributed in the South East • Biodiversity Guide for planning and development sectors in South East - a detailed review and advice on achieving biodiversity gain and avoiding damage through the planning system <p>Conferences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEEBF conferences for widest biodiversity audience • Regionalisation of Biodiversity targets in SE • RTPI on biodiversity in SE and planning. <p>Other work in progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tactical plan - aims to help co-ordinate and communicate the progress of <i>Action for Biodiversity in the South East</i> by working collaboratively on prioritised sectors, taking forward work areas not addressed by individual organisations, identifying projects for SEEBF, building and strengthening regional networks, taking lead role in reporting progress on biodiversity targets within RPG and Sustainable Development Framework, working closely with South East Forum for Sustainability • Data issues - working on availability of consistent and reliable regional data on the condition and need for effective communication • Input into the Regional Spatial Strategy
Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always the same people who have to do the work - usually 4-5 of us • Regional consistency of data
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting of agri-environment schemes; mid-term review of agri-environment schemes; Influencing development of Rural Development Plan; input to Rural Forum, Rural Issues Group, Coastal Forum, Shoreline Management Plans, Catchment Management Processes, RPG, RES, Sustainability Framework, Natural Resources & Climatic Change Group
Future Work	<p>Priority Sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Sustainable Management of Dynamic Coast • Water Management • Regional Planning Guidance and Local Development Plans <p>Priority Work Areas:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The availability of consistent and reliable regional data on the condition and extent of priority biodiversity habitats • The need to build on the partnership working of SEEBF and the need for efficient and effective communication
Terms of Reference	<p>Objectives: The South East England Biodiversity Forum is a liaison body which exists to provide a focus for furthering biodiversity in South East England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate partnership working on biodiversity issues in South East England to ensure effective co-ordination with others working towards sustainable development at a regional level. • To support the implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and local BAPs objectives and targets in South East England including through the delivery of Action for Biodiversity in South East England (A copy of this is in the post). • To develop and promote regional biodiversity objectives and targets and maintain an overview of their relationship to local and national targets. • To advocate priorities with key regional sectors and through regional fora and to recommend action by regional agencies. • To act as a regional focus for the co-ordination of biodiversity expertise and advice in South East England. • To ensure that regional progress with BAP objectives and targets and the biodiversity elements of the Regional Sustainable Development Framework are monitored, evaluated and reported. • To hold such meetings and conferences as are necessary to report on progress, share good practice, facilitate networking and maintain momentum with local BAPs. <p>SEEBF method of working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members will act as a channel of communication with their regional colleagues • Regular meetings for all members • Conferences as needed • Regular e-communication • Decisions made by consensus or those members supporting a particular document to be specifically listed in the future
LBAPS	Berkshire Heathland, Bracknell Forest, Canterbury City, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Windsor & Maidenhead, Wokingham

LONDON

<p>Partnership</p>	<p>London Biodiversity Partnership</p> <p>Project Board Members: Greater London Authority (chair), Association of London Government, BTCV, English Nature, Environment Agency, London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum, London Natural History Society, London Underground, London Wildlife Trust, Peabody Trust, Royal Parks, RSPB, Thames Water Utilities Ltd.</p> <p>Habitats, Species and Data Working Group British Waterways (chair), English Nature, Environment Agency, Greater London Authority, London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum, London Natural History Society, London Wildlife Trust, Royal Parks, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust</p> <p>Communications Working Group English Nature, London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum, London Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Thames Estuary Partnership, Biodiversity Records Centre Working Group Greater London Authority (chair), English Nature, Environment Agency, London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum, London Natural History Society, London Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Management Working Group London Wildlife Trust (chair), Association of London Government, English Nature, Government Office for London, Greater London Authority, Thames Estuary Partnership</p> <p>London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum Independent but integrated with the Partnership. Represents the boroughs at all Partnership meetings. Chaired by LB Islington.</p>
<p>Work to Date</p>	<p>Published:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Capital Assets</i> (1996) • <i>Local Biodiversity Action Plans: Getting involved at a local level</i> (1998) London Wildlife Trust and London Biodiversity Partnership • <i>Our Green Capital</i> (2000) • <i>The London Biodiversity Audit ('The Audit')</i> (2000). 15 Habitat Audits, 4 Habitat Statements, Species Audit of over 300 species in 7 groups. • www.lbp.org.uk (launched 2000) • <i>London Biodiversity Partnership Memorandum of Understanding</i> (2001). 30 signatories as of 12.6.03 • <i>The Action, The London Biodiversity Action Plan, Round 1</i> (2001). 7 Generic Action Plans, 4 Habitat Action Plans, 10 Species Action Plans, 4 Statements • <i>The Action, The London Biodiversity Action Plan, Round 2</i> (2002). 6 Habitat Action Plans, 2 Species Action Plans • <i>Annual Report 2001</i> (2002) • <i>Revised Species Audit</i> (2002). Published on the website • <i>Annual Report 2002/3</i> (2003) • <i>Funding Strategy</i> (2003) <p>Many other guidance notes, including further guidance for local biodiversity action planning and communications.</p> <p>Conferences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the London Biodiversity Partnership 1996 • Launch of the London Biodiversity Audit 2000 • Launch of the London Biodiversity Action Plan 2001 • Winter tales 2002 • Implementing the London Biodiversity Action Plan 2002

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practitioner’s day: Leads workshop 2002 • London Bird Conference • Summer Celebration 2003
Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of long-term core funding for Partnership and failure to date to secure significant contributions from partners for core services. • Lack of financial resources for project implementation. To be addressed through Funding Strategy. • Lack of staff and volunteer time for co-ordination of action. To be addressed through the Business Plan, which aims to secure further staff for the core Partnership. • Loss of ecology expertise at local authorities and local failure to influence Community Strategies and Local Strategic Partnerships.
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added strength to the Partnership through its importance to the GLA (see Biodiversity Strategy) • Statutory planning work of GLA through strategies and London Plan. • Unique close relationship between GLA and London Development Agency (London’s RDA). Duty of LDA to answer to Mayor (though funded by Government) and for its work to be consistent with the Mayor’s. Also Transport for London (TFL), LFEPA (fire authority) and MPA (police authority). • Opportunities therefore for the Partnership and GLA to influence biodiversity in strategic development work in London.
Future Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work through each Action Plan • Business Plan. To secure partner contributions so the Partnership can be self-sustaining. Involves work to plan the future relationship of the Partnership with a records centre for London. • Review of website www.lbp.org.uk • Second annual review of Audit • Review of Round 1 Action Plans and consideration of further plans for Reedbed, Veteran Trees and Built Structures • <i>Design for Biodiversity</i> – work with LDA, GLA and EN on LDA best practice guide for developers. Further green building specification to be published by Partnership. • Wildlife Champions Initiative. Marketing project to secure action plan champions from business sector • Local Authority Chief Executives Seminar
Terms of Reference	<p>The following is taken from the Partnership’s <i>Memorandum of Understanding</i> (2001).</p> <p>The central business of the Partnership is to work together for the benefit of priority habitats and species in London, whilst broadening the involvement of organisations and individuals in conservation.</p> <p>Aim</p> <p>The aim of the Partnership together is to conserve and enhance the capital’s wildlife and natural places for future generations to benefit from and enjoy.</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To establish an effective, participatory and representative partnership to produce and implement the London Biodiversity Action Plan. The Partnership will promote any action necessary to achieve this, including the securing of funds and the employment of staff. 2. To encourage and support borough and corporate Biodiversity Action Plans by providing guidance, advice and a strategic framework. 3. To maintain an audit of London’s priority species and habitats, to inform priority setting at London-wide and local levels. 4. To ensure that a London Biodiversity Action Plan is published and implemented, covering all priority habitats and species and incorporating a mechanism for monitoring and review. The Action Plan will identify and guide action needed for London’s priority habitats, species and generic

	<p>issues, as well as those identified in the UK Action Plan.</p> <p>5. To promote public awareness and interest in London’s biodiversity through the Action Plan, in order to increase the involvement people’s involvement in conservation.</p> <p>6. To act as a forum for the sharing of expertise and information connected to biodiversity action planning.</p> <p><u>Equal Opportunities – from the Partnership’s draft <i>Business Plan</i> (2003)</u></p> <p><u>The London Biodiversity Partnership recognises that for an equal opportunities policy to be effective it must encompass all areas of its activities. The Partnership will aim to be an active organisation that reflects the composition of the communities it serves. Until the transition to a legally registered organisation, the London Wildlife Trust will take steps to ensure that a programme of action is implemented to achieve equality of access to activities organised by the Partnership.</u></p> <p>Through the London Wildlife Trust, the London Biodiversity Partnership will act to ensure that activities and events attract people from all sectors of the community and such activities do not discriminate against members of disadvantaged groups. It will also take steps to ensure that the Partnership’s staff, volunteers or any of its members do not experience harassment and discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation or disability.</p>
LBAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 London Boroughs and the City of London. As of 12.6.03: 7 LBAPs published (Bexley, Bromley, Brent, Camden, City of Westminster, Hounslow, Waltham Forest), 12 in production, 9 partnerships being established. • British Waterways, Railtrack, Thames Water and the Lea Valley Regional Parks Authority have established Biodiversity Action Plans that cover part or all of London. London Underground LBAP in production.
Mayor’s Biodiversity Strategy	<p>The Mayor of London has a statutory duty to produce a Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy was published in 2002. He has a duty to produce a number of other strategies, which must be consistent with each other and with the principles of sustainable development, health and equalities.</p> <p>The Strategy sets out policies and proposals for the conservation of biodiversity in London, and identifies the major stakeholders essential to the delivery of each. Partnership working is essential to the delivery of the Mayor’s policy across all his strategies, and a number of policies and proposals in the Biodiversity Strategy will be delivered with the London Biodiversity Partnership.</p> <p>The Mayor’s Spatial Development Strategy (London Plan) takes forwards the planning policies of the Mayors other strategies, and places them in a framework for the development of London over the next 25 years. The London Plan will recognise the importance of the London biodiversity Partnership to the delivery of nature conservation in London – and through the relevant planning policies will encourage the conservation of priority habitats and species (those found in The Audit as well as The Action).</p>

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