

UK Biodiversity Partnership
Standing Committee

UKBSC/02/1
Government response to the
Millennium Biodiversity Report

5 September 2002

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE MILLENNIUM BIODIVERSITY
REPORT: *Sustaining the Variety of life – Five years of the UK Biodiversity Action
Plan March 2001.***

1. The Government response is being published on 27 August. A copy of the final draft is attached for information (UKBSC/02/1/1). It is available in hard copy and published on the DEFRA and UK BAP websites.
2. The response is made by the UK Government and agreed by the Ministers of the Devolved Administrations.
3. The response welcomes the UKBG report, notes the progress made and the enthusiasm and drive of the biodiversity partnership, and wholeheartedly supports continuation of the process. It adopts the proposed UK-level aims and objectives presented by the MBR.
4. The response also supports the UKBG's view that much of the delivery of biodiversity improvements lie at the Country level, and makes reference to the work of the Country Biodiversity Groups to achieve this.
5. The MBR recommended that the following should be co-ordinated at UK level.
 - Ensuring that the components of a UK Biodiversity Action Plan implement as a whole the appropriate obligations of the CBD
 - Providing a forum for discussion and agreement of biodiversity policy issues affecting the UK as a whole, or where a consistent UK approach is advantageous or necessary
 - Maintaining systems to support common objectives, in particular –
 - the selection, implementation and review of a common set of UK Habitat and Species action Plans
 - the provision of common information and reporting systems and the identification of shared research priorities
 - facilitating the exchange between the four countries of information, experience, guidance and best practice.
6. In paragraph 16 the Government response endorses the UKBG's recommendations for the future UK-level delivery structures. In summary these are:
 - An extended UK Biodiversity Partnership to replace the UKBG
 - A small UK Biodiversity Standing Committee
 - The potential for supporting sub-groups, as decided by the Standing Committee
 - A UK secretariat based in DEFRA.

7. The JNCC has undertaken an analysis of the recommendations contained in the MBR to identify the where responsibility for implementation could lie – whether at country or UK level. Where UK level action is proposed, the relevant sub-group is mentioned (using the former UKBG sub-group structures). A copy of this is attached for information and comment (UKBSC/02/1/2).

UK Biodiversity Secretariat
August 2002.