

UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee

UKBSC/03/2
Report on progress with
Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group

30 April 2003

Report on Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group

Members of the Standing Committee have been sent the revised Terms of Reference and Work Programme for BRIG set out at Annex A and asked to nominate members of the group. The Secretariat is currently chasing these nominations and expects to confirm membership by the end of April and will plan for co-opting additional members as and when required. A first meeting will be arranged as soon as possible after the nominations have been confirmed.

UKBSC/03/2/Annex A

UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (UK BRIG)

Terms of Reference

1. Aim

- 1.1. UK BRIG will provide technical and scientific advice to the UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee (and Country Groups where appropriate) on the implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

2. Membership

- 2.1. Chair - Deryck Steer Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Secretariat - Biodiversity Information Service (BIS), JNCC
- 2.2. The membership of the group will be constructed to mirror the membership of the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee. It will be the responsibility of each member of the standing committee to ensure their nominated representative to the UK BRIG has expertise and experience appropriate to the work of the group as outlined in sections 5 and 6 of these terms of reference. Attention should also be paid to paragraph 3.1 which suggests that specific issues will be addressed through expert working groups. This suggestion recognises that it will be impossible for UK BRIG to contain all of the expertise necessary to address such a broad work programme within its core membership.

3. Discharging work

- 3.1. UK BRIG will discharge its work through the resources available within its secretariat, through resources available via its members and through ad hoc time limited expert working groups established to address specific issues. To ensure that adequate resources are available for the future work of UK BRIG requires careful long-term planning.
- 3.2. It is recommended that the working group set up by BIG to deal with 2002 reporting is immediately adopted as a working group of UK BRIG and

charged with overseeing the process for 2005 reporting as soon as it completes its work for 2002.

4. Accountability

- 4.1. UK BRIG will be accountable to the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee and will be responsible for all working groups it establishes or adopts.

5. Objectives

- 5.1. UK BRIG will:

- Maintain the relevance of the UK lists of HAPs and SAPs taking account of the developing information and policy and the needs of the Country Biodiversity Groups and in particular develop criteria for and co-ordination of the review of HAPs and SAPs to be carried out in 2005.
- Development and Co-ordination of reporting on the UKBAP, including development of a web based process to integrate information from HAPs, SAPs Local Biodiversity Action Plans and wider policy areas and be accessible to all BAP partners.
- Development and co-ordination of biodiversity monitoring and surveillance to support HAPs and SAPs and wider biodiversity.
- Oversee and guide work of the UK Biodiversity Indicators Forum.
- Oversee development and maintenance of the UK Biodiversity website and ensure it is compatible and complimentary to relevant Country biodiversity websites.
- Maintain liaison with other relevant biodiversity bodies and networks in particular the NBN and UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG) and recommend measures for meeting these requirements.
- Undertaking other activities as directed by or agreed with the Standing Committee.

6. Work Programme for 2003/04 and the near future

- 6.1. Based on the objectives above the following priority activities will form the initial work programme:

- Maintaining an overview of the information requirements of the UK BAP.
- Completing collation, analysis and UK reporting of information collected during the 2002 reporting round by May 2003.
- Planning and designing the process for reporting in 2005 by April 2004.
- Agreeing criteria and a process for the next review of priority species, priority habitats and targets by April 2004.
- Co-ordination and implementation of agreed review process for priority species, priority habitats and targets in 2005.
- Assisting UK BAP implementation through the design and implementation of processes to improve the linkage of local and UK action plans by April 2004.

- Providing advice and guidance on focus and activities of UK Biodiversity Indicators Forum.
- Assisting UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (UK BRAG) in the identification of research requirements for biodiversity.
- Maintaining and further developing the UK biodiversity website as the main delivery mechanism for UK BRIG activities.