

# UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee

UKBSC/03/4  
UK Biodiversity Partnership  
Annual Conference  
2003

30 April 2003

## **'Biodiversity in the Landscape'**

This paper sets out progress with planning for the first conference meeting of the UK Partnership. The conference will be held on 21 /22 May 2003 at Battleby Conference Centre, Perth. The dates were chosen to coincide with International Biodiversity Day on 22 May. The theme for International Biodiversity Day this year is *Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation - challenges for Sustainable Development*.

### **Background**

Following the meeting of the Standing Committee in September 2002 a sub group was established to take forward the planning for the first annual conference. The Planning sub-group met on 30 Jan 2003 to discuss objectives, possible themes, timetabling and logistics of the event. A note of that meeting is attached at Annex A

It was agreed that the conference would take place over two days to allow for delegate's travel arrangements and to maximise opportunities for networking. This arrangement would also allow two themes to be developed over the course of the conference, focusing on both the current state of play within the UK and a broader, outward looking theme, the ecosystem approach.

### **Programme development**

The conference is subtitled 'Biodiversity in the Landscape'. A copy of the draft programme is attached at Annex B.

The first day's presentations will begin after lunch and will focus on where we are in the UK today, starting with an introduction to the UK Partnership. There will be particular emphasis on the HAP, SAP and LBAP reporting round which was completed in December 2002, and a summary document drawing out the main findings of the reporting will be given to delegates. Talks will focus on outcomes from the reports and messages to be drawn from them for future policy and future reporting, with views from a range of speakers. In the evening the Scottish Executive are hosting a reception at a hotel in Perth.

The second day will take a broader view through focusing on the ecosystem approach. Discussion of the ecosystem approach will bring in the Convention on Biological Diversity, the concept of sustainable use, and social and economic issues. As well as an introduction to what is meant by the term, there will be brief presentations of a number of case studies to illustrate the concept and a panel discussion on the theme 'Ecosystems, Landscapes and People'.

Finally, there will be a choice of two afternoon field trips to either Loch of the Lowes/Lunan Lochs (ospreys and catchment management for the cSAC/SPA) or Loch Leven/Vane Farm (visitor/education facilities and wetland management - part of a NNR).

Invitations have been issued to a wide range of stakeholders including all members of the Standing Committee. Any members who have not done so are asked to confirm their attendance to the Biodiversity Policy Unit as soon as possible.

Proposed speakers are noted on the draft programme and have been contacted. A number have responded positively so far and these are underlined. The Committee's may have views on possible alternative speakers where these have yet to be confirmed.

### **Further Action**

Speakers will be provided with guidance on the aims of and general approach to their presentations. On day 2 speakers will be asked to include reference to the human and economic elements within their presentations so that these become a theme throughout the day. Your views on this and additional guidance for speakers on either day are requested.

## UK Partnership Planning Meeting

30 Jan 2003

### Note of meeting

Martin Capstick Defra	Hilary Neal Defra	John Robbins Defra
John Ramsay SE	Mary Christie SNH	Steve Lucas NAW
Joanna Robertson CCW	Moira Anderson Defra	Brian Murphy DOENI
Richard Dalzell DOENI	Mike Meharg EHS	Glenys Parry Defra
Gwyn Williams RSPB	Paul Rose JNCC	

1. This was a first meeting to begin preparations for the UK Partnership forum to be held on 21/22 May at Battleby Conference Centre.
2. Objectives for the partnership meeting had been identified as
  - 3 Networking opportunity
  - 4 Update on progress
  - 5 Debate one major theme
  - 6 A positive first meeting
  - 7 Opportunity for a site visit
3. These were agreed and additional objectives were proposed -
  - 1 to show that the UK process is still on the rails
  - 2 to look outwards as well as within the UK
4. It would be a conference/seminar, not a decision making event, allowing for between 100 - 200 participants, although if there are to be workshops, the facilities could not cater for 200. The audience for the first conference was expected to consist largely of people/organisations already involved in the biodiversity process.
5. The *tone* of the event needs to be considered. It should be open and optimistic with an emphasis on 'partnership'. As well as reporting on where we are now, the conference should debate a positive issue that will help take forward the biodiversity agenda.
6. To make the most of networking possibilities the event would be staged over 2 days, starting around lunch time on the 21<sup>st</sup> and finishing around lunchtime on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. An evening reception at a venue in Perth would allow for increased networking opportunities and the possibility of an optional local field trip visit would be explored for the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup>.
7. The first day would include an update on where we are now. Analysis of the recent Lead Partner reporting round will be available by that date.

8. The event should not focus too heavily on HAPs and SAPs, however, and the second day would look at a broader theme that would encompass a more outward looking range of topics. The Ecosystem Approach was proposed which will bring in the CBD and concepts of sustainable use, people and quality of life, that would help locate biodiversity within socio-economic and global contexts.
9. Brian Harding who would be the new Chair of the Standing Committee was proposed as a possible convenor of the day. The proximity of elections in Scotland posed difficulties around the possibility of Ministerial appearances and speakers would need to be considered further when the programme was more developed.
10. There are logistic questions to be considered, including the availability of accommodation in Perth, and transport from Perth to Battleby.
11. Invitations, which would probably come from Brian Harding, would be sent out in March, with the event broadcast prior to that on the ukbap website. Previous invitation lists/ mailing lists/LPs/LBAPs would help identify possible invitees. Ideas for people/organisations from the Republic of Ireland and other EU countries would also be welcome.
12. The cost of the event was as yet unknown but country administrations were asked to consider possible contributions to costs. SNH generously offered free use of the Battleby centre.

## Actions

- 1 **SE** to look into arranging an evening reception in Perth
- 2 **SNH** to consider possible local field trip
- 3 **Secretariat** to liase with SNH on logistics
- 4 **Secretariat** to circulate names of possible invitees for consideration.
- 5 **Mike Meharg** to inform Secretariat of people in Republic of Ireland to be invited.
- 6 **Everyone** to consider invitees, including ideas for people/organisations from other EU countries.
- 7 **Paul Rose** to put information note on website about the event.
- 8 **Secretariat** to draw up a more detailed programme by mid February.
- 9 **Secretariat** to develop project plan.

*Biodiversity in the Landscape*

UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference 21/22 May  
programme (draft 3)

Day 1

Buses depart Perth Station for Battleby 12.15 - 13.00 pm

12.30 - 13.15 Registration and lunch

**13.30 Welcome** by SNH *Ian Jardine*

**13.40 Chairman's introduction** *Brian Harding*

**13.55 Introduction to the Partnership** *Hilary Neal*

**14.15 Reporting - Why and How** *Joanna Drewitt*

**14.30 Analysis of 2002 HAP and SAP reports** *Paul Rose*

**Messages for future policy**

**15.00 View from NGO** *Martin Harper*

**15.20 A Local Perspective** *Julia Korn* (on behalf of Country Co-ordinators)

**15.40 Discussion and questions to panel** *Martin Harper, Hilary Neal, Paul Rose, Joanna Drewitt, Julia Korn*

**16.10 Coffee**

**16.30 Reporting: BARS: future development towards 2005.** *Peter Brotherton*

**16.55 View from NGO - towards 2005** WCL *Gwyn Williams*

**17.15 Questions and discussion -**

**17.30 SW NBN pilot project** *Keith Porter* or *Mike Burke*

**17.55 Summing up** *Deryck Steer*

**18.00 Close**

**18.00 Buses into Perth**

**19.00 - 21.00 Reception**

## ***Biodiversity in the Landscape***

Day 2

Buses depart Perth for Battleby 9.00 am

**9.00 - 9.25** Registration, Coffee etc

**9.30 Introduction to the day** *Brian Harding*

**9.40 The UK in a global context** *Katharine Bryan*

**10.00 The Ecosystem approach: what do we mean ?** *Ed Maltby*

**10.20 Case studies**

- 1 **10.25 Lifescapes** - EN example *Keith Porter*
- 2 **10.45 River Spey Catchment Management Project** -*Kristin Scott*, Project Officer

**11.05 Coffee**

- 3 **11.25 Irish Sea pilot** - *Steve Atkins*
- 4 **11.45 UNESCO Man and Biosphere** - Braunton Burrows - *Andy Bell*

**12.10 Panel discussion: Ecosystems, Landscapes and People** *Tom Burke, Katharine Bryan, Ed Maltby, Chris Baines, Mark Avery, David Irwin, (Roger Crofts)*

**13.00 Reflections on the conference and closing remarks** - *June Milligan*

**13.10 Lunch and depart**

**13.30 Trip to** Loch of the Lowes / Loch Leven

**return to Perth 17.00**