

# UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee

UKBSC/03/09  
Proposals for the UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference  
2004

29 September 2003

## 1. Introduction

This paper reports on feedback about the May 2003 conference and presents proposals for next year's conference for the Standing Committee's consideration.

## 2. Key comments arising from this year's conference were:

- The combination of a focus on UK BAP issues and a more educational exploration of a wider theme and how it could be applied in the UK was generally agreed to be a useful approach to sharing experience and taking the process forward
- It would be useful to include an update from each of the country groups on their domestic activity and their contribution to the UKBP as well as giving a UK overview
- The opportunities for interaction and networking presented by the conference were welcomed. There should be much more opportunity for interaction between delegates and for delegates to comment on what was being discussed.

## 3. Venue and timing of 2004 conference

Wales have volunteered to host the 2004 conference. Cardiff is a possible location, subject to a suitable venue being identified, or a location with equally good transport links.

The 2003 conference was held on World Biodiversity Day (22 May) and it is proposed that this timing should be repeated in future years. However, this date falls on a Saturday in 2004 so some time during the week 17 – 21 May would be more suitable. There could be some conflict with the date of Scotland's annual Biodiversity Forum which is proposed for 25 May next year and this should be considered in setting a date.

## 4. 2004 Conference theme and format

It is important both to engage people in the Biodiversity Partnership and to raise horizons and be challenging. It is proposed that the next conference focus on the theme of **people**. This is an umbrella theme integrating the importance of people and socio-economic issues with biodiversity and under which a range of topics could also be discussed, such as non-native species, urban biodiversity, health, landscape architecture, local food initiatives.

To address the importance of maximising opportunities for delegate input at the conference, possible formats that could be incorporated are:

- Debates – ensuring adequate time is available for full discussion
- Lecture followed by facilitated interview inviting questions from audience
- Soapboxes – 5 minute pre-booked slots for anyone with something to say. This format was successfully used at LBAP workshops
- Workshops – the number of delegates could make this format difficult to facilitate and report back on.

## **5. Conclusion**

It is suggested that a sub group is established to take forward the planning of the 2004 conference.

The Committee's views on the proposals and additional ideas are invited.