

## 2005 BAP Targets Review – Lead Partner Guidance Note

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**On behalf of Deryck Steer**  
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2005 has been chosen by the UK Biodiversity Partnership as the year for the first full review of the UK BAP. This will involve three components: (i) a national reporting round integrating local and national information; (ii) a review of the targets set for UK priority species and habitats; and (iii) a review of the UK priority lists themselves. This work is being coordinated by the Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG) on behalf of the UK Partnership Standing Committee

The attached Lead Partner Guidance Note addresses the review of UK BAP targets. Detailed information on the list review and the reporting round will be sent to you over the next several months.

The purpose of the Target Review is to update targets in light of new information and progress, to remove or re-set time limited targets that have expired, to further standardise targets and to consider the different country contributions to each UK target. Lead Partners and Steering Groups are most able to undertake this work, but BRIG is acutely aware that you have a considerable and pressing work load and prominent roles in the other aspects of the 2005 reviews.

I firmly believe that the reviews are essential in order to ensure our work is current, enable us to learn from each other, create a more efficient framework for delivery, assess our collective progress and galvanise the UK partnership. I hope you share this view and will play an active role.

Please note the contact details on the last page of the guidance note and get in touch if you foresee or run into any problems with the work.

**Paul Rose**  
**8 September 2004**

# LEAD PARTNER GUIDANCE NOTE

2005 BAP Targets Review

SEPTEMBER 2004



## **SECTION ONE**

### **BACKGROUND AND TIMETABLE**

#### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1.1** This information note explains the purpose and process of the review of targets for UK Habitat and Species Action Plans (HAPs / SAPs). This is the first comprehensive review of the BAP targets and it presents you, as Lead Partners and Steering Group members, with an opportunity to influence the future shape of the UK BAP and significantly improve its focus, coordination and delivery. It is partly being carried out in response to the views that many of you have expressed, that the current targets are either now inappropriate or not sufficiently precise to direct conservation action. The review is being coordinated by the Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG) on behalf of the UK Standing Committee and Country Biodiversity Groups<sup>1</sup>.

#### **1.2 WHY ARE TARGETS BEING REVIEWED?**

**1.2.1** For our BAP priority habitats and species, the targets define what we aim to achieve, guide conservation action, and provide the milestones against which we assess progress towards a point at which they are likely to be secure in the long-term. The targets set for the UK HAPs and SAPs in 1995-9 are now in need of revision for several reasons:

- The current targets are at UK level. Biodiversity conservation is now the responsibility of the devolved administrations and so country-level values are required.
- Many targets were time-limited, some have been met (a success!) and some have already expired; 200 (nearly 20% of all targets) will have expired by the end of 2005, and for some plans all targets will have expired by this time.
- Many of the original targets were set without sufficient knowledge of the existing resource. Largely because of this, fewer than 25% are quantitative. Much new knowledge has been gained during the last decade which can be reflected in the construction of improved targets.
- Some targets are no longer appropriate in the light of greater knowledge and understanding of the relevant conservation issues.
- Climate change is now recognised as a significant factor that was not taken into account when the original UK targets were set. To achieve biodiversity conservation in the long-term we must create ecologically functional landscapes that allow species to respond to climatic and other environmental changes. This review is an opportunity to help achieve this by considering whether new types of BAP targets can be set.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this Guidance Note, the terms “Country Groups” and “Country Biodiversity Groups” refer to the biodiversity decision-making mechanisms in each country.

## **1.3 SCOPE OF THE REVIEW**

### **1.3.1 Only targets will be reviewed, not published actions**

The review will only address *targets* set out in section 4 of the published action plans and not the *actions* set out in section 5. In deciding their work programme, Lead Partners and steering groups may make modifications to the Plan's actions in order to better deliver the Plan targets, without involving BRIG. This must, however, be with the full agreement of all the organisations responsible for their delivery.

### **1.3.2 Existing UK targets will be used for 2005 reporting**

In 2005, Lead Partners will be asked to report on progress made on the UK BAP. This will be based on the *current* UK targets, and the new targets will come into effect from 2006 (the extended lead-in is an inevitable result of the targets needing to be agreed by all the Country Biodiversity Groups and the UK Standing Committee; see review timetable below). There will be a final opportunity to refine the *values* of targets after 2005 BAP reporting so that the latest information, including LBAP information, can be taken into account.

### **1.3.3 Indicative values are required at country level**

Where appropriate, you are requested to propose the country contributions to each UK target.

### **1.3.4 BAP Targets should be SMART**

The targets should aim to be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound; see paragraph 2.1). Although some BAP targets are already SMART many, in particular for species, are not quantitative or do not have end dates. In these circumstances, you are asked to recommend values for the targets. You are also asked to specify how progress towards the target will be measured. Further information on how this should be done is given in Sections 2 - 4.

### **1.3.5 BAP targets will fit within a more structured framework**

A wide variety of terms are used across different plans at national and local levels. This makes it difficult for Country Biodiversity Groups to accurately assess progress on achieving their targets and strategies and presents a significant obstacle to the integration of UK, country and local/regional targets. To resolve this, the review will simplify targets using standard terms and formatting, with quantitative elements separated from text. This means that all current BAP targets will change in some way, even if only in format. Full details of the new target structure are given in Section 2.

### **1.3.6 Where appropriate, climate change and the ecosystem approach will be taken into account**

The BAP targets you propose should be designed to improve the long-term viability of habitats

and species populations. These might include targets to reduce fragmentation or enhance resilience to environmental change, in particular climate change. It may not be practical to address these through the targets themselves, but consideration should be given as to whether they can be addressed through the new target commentaries (e.g. by adding a geographic emphasis) or proposals for monitoring (see Section 2).

### **1.3.7 The review will be an inclusive process**

To maintain ownership of the plans, changes to published targets must be agreed by HAP and SAP Steering Groups, the Contact Point and subsequently by BRIG and Country Biodiversity Groups. From May 2005, LBAPs and regional fora will also have the opportunity to comment on Lead Partner proposals for new targets. Lead Partners are also encouraged to take opportunities to make use of relevant data from Local BAPs and regional biodiversity fora, when constructing the new targets. There are a number of ways that you can, or will be able to, do this:

(i) You can view a list of LBAPs working on each habitat and species and get access to contact details. This information is available now on the UKBAP website [[www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk)] – select habitat or species action plan search, go to a specific plan and then click on the “local implementation” link).

(ii) From mid-October, you will be able to access some summary information on LBAP and English regional targets for habitats. This habitat target data will be available on the Targets Review page of the UK BAP website [[www.ukbap.org.uk/BAPGroupPage.aspx?id=65](http://www.ukbap.org.uk/BAPGroupPage.aspx?id=65)].

(iii) From October 2004, LBAPs will begin entering their HAP and SAP target data into the new Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) [[www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk](http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk)]. This process will be complete by September 2005, though LBAPs will be encouraged to enter target data by February 2005 where possible.

### **1.3.8 Close communications will be maintained with the Priority Species and Habitats Review**

Many Lead Partners will also be involved in a parallel BRIG review (from 2005), which will consider the priority lists themselves. Much of the work of the two reviews will be complementary: both will require estimates of the current status of species and habitats, and the target-setting work will help inform the practicality of setting SMART targets for other species and habitats.

## **1.4 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

**1.4.1** Please ensure that all steering group members are aware of the review and that you all understand its terms as set out in Sections 2- 4 of this note. If there are areas of uncertainty, please consult the Targets Review Group secretariat (contact details are given in Section 5).

**1.4.2** You should propose a revised set of BAP targets, in accordance with the guidance in the following sections. In doing so, you are strongly encouraged to consult the UKBAP website to make use of

relevant information, including provisional country targets entered during the 2002 BAP reporting round (see [[www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk)] and select the reporting menu) and regional and local BAP targets (see paragraph 1.3.7).

- 1.4.3** Your proposals need to be agreed by the HAP or SAP steering group and returned to the Targets Review Group by **31 March 2005**. These revised targets will then be commented on by BRIG and the Country Biodiversity Groups as part of a consultation exercise during the **summer 2005**. Any feedback and suggested amendments from this consultation will thereafter be taken up with the Lead Partners/agencies concerned. The aim is to get final sign-off of the target changes/additions, and achieve Country Biodiversity Group endorsement of the text and provisional country-level targets by **the end of 2005** (see review timetable below).
- 1.4.4** After the 2005 reporting round, you will be given the opportunity to refine the values of the targets, so that they can be based on the latest information available and, where relevant, take account of LBAP data entered into BARS. The complete set of revised targets will come into effect from **summer 2006**.
- 1.4.5** It is unlikely that there will be another full review of targets again until 2015. However, in the interim, there will be limited opportunities to update the values of targets to improve their accuracy as or if new information becomes available (see paragraph 2.2.5).

## 1.5 REVIEW TIMETABLE

Timeline	Targets Review	Stage in Process
<b>2004 September</b>	Guidance note and target spreadsheet issued to Lead Partners / Agencies and steering groups	<b>Stage 1: Sept 2004 – April 2005</b> <b>Target setting and revision</b> Lead Partners and steering groups propose new or revised targets
<b>October</b>	Summary information on local and regional BAP targets for habitats available on UK BAP website. LBAPs begin entering target data into BARS	
<b>2005 March</b>	<b>Lead Partner key date:</b> End-month deadline for Lead Partner submissions of text of revised targets, and proposed quantitative targets	
<b>April</b>	BRIG Targets Review Group to compile and check submissions, and resolve any issues with Lead Partners / Agencies	
<b>May</b>	BRIG Targets Review Group to consult Country Groups, LBAPs and regional fora on targets	<b>Stage 2: May – Oct 2005</b> <b>Target revision consultation</b> Consultation on target proposals involving Country Groups, key partner organisations, LBAPs and regional fora
<b>August</b>	<b>Country Group key date:</b> End-month deadline for Country Groups comments	
<b>September - October</b>	BRIG Targets Review Group to compile responses from Country Groups. <b>Lead Partner key date:</b> Country Group response to be fed back to Lead Partners / Agencies and any differences resolved. BRIG meeting to consider responses.	
<b>November - December</b>	<b>Country Group key date:</b> targets submitted to UK Standing Committee and Country Groups for agreement of text and provisional quantitative targets	<b>Stage 3: Nov – Dec 2005</b> <b>Targets endorsed by UKSC and Country Groups</b>
<b>2006 January</b>	Refinement of quantitative targets in light of 2005 reporting round, taking into account latest LBAP and regional targets and progress reports to improve the accuracy of target values.	<b>Stage 4: Jan – March 2006</b> <b>Refinement of target values after 2005 reporting</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Lead Partner key date:</b> End-month deadline for proposals for target value refinements.	
<b>April - May</b>	<b>Country Group key date:</b> Changed target values to be signed off by BRIG, UKSC and Country Groups.	<b>Stage 5: April – July 2006</b> <b>Final targets signed off by UKSC and Country groups</b> New targets to be reported on by Lead Partners/Agencies from 2006
<b>June - July</b>	New targets finalised and posted on UK BAP website and uploaded into BARS	

## SECTION TWO

### FUTURE STRUCTURE OF BAP TARGETS

#### 2.1 SMART TARGETS

**2.1.1** The current BAP targets vary substantially in the amount of information they convey. Many are not quantitative and do not contain end dates, making reporting progress a subjective process. The targets also currently use a range of terms that mean different things in different contexts. As a result, it is very difficult to integrate UK and LBAP targets in any meaningful or quantitative way. You are requested to facilitate this integration by adopting standard terms and by using the new target format given in paragraph 2.2. The aim is to make the BAP targets SMART.

<b>S</b> – Specific	The type of target needs to be defined by allocating it to one of a limited number of target categories (see paragraph 2.2.1), and targets should represent quantitative milestones towards a point at which the habitat or species are likely to be viable in the long term.
<b>M</b> – Measurable	It must be possible to monitor and report progress towards the target.
<b>A</b> – Achievable	In proposing new targets, Lead Partners are asked to ensure that they are achievable both biologically and pragmatically, making reasonable assumptions about the availability of space, resources and other factors such as climate change.
<b>R</b> - Relevant	The targets should, wherever possible, represent progress towards achieving long-term viability. A field is provided for a commentary to help guide or explain the type of delivery required.
<b>T</b> – Time-bound	The targets will incorporate a series of time-limited milestones.

#### 2.2 THE NEW TARGET STRUCTURE

**2.2.1** You are requested to reformat BAP targets so that they employ the standard terms and structure as shown Table 1 (note that the dates go up to 2030 in the spreadsheet that accompanies this guidance note). In cases where targets are already SMART, and contain appropriate values, this will largely be a reformatting exercise, though country-level values will need to be proposed. Definitions of fields follow below.

**Table 1: New Target Structure**

Habitat / species name	Target type (drop down list)	Target text	Units (drop down list)	2005 baseline					2010 target					2015 target					Target description	Monitoring	Comments
				UK	E	NI	S	W	UK	E	NI	S	W	UK	E	NI	S	W			
Habitat x / species y	Pick from standard target types	Add target text here	Pick from list	Estimate at time of plan publication, or the current estimate, <b>whichever is greater</b>					Cumulative amounts to be achieved by 2010					Cumulative amounts to be achieved by 2015					Add target description here	Add monitoring text here	Add text here
Habitat x	Maintain extent	Maintain 50,000 ha of woodland x in the UK.	Ha	50,000	12,000	8,000	20,000	10,000	50,000	12,000	8,000	20,000	10,000	1*	-	-	-	-	Maintenance for this woodland entails no loss of the existing resource.		
Habitat y	Achieve condition	Achieve good condition in 4000 ha of grassland y by 2010	Ha	3,000	1,500	0	0	1,500	4,000	2,000	0	0	3,000	6,000	3,000	0	0	3,000	Up to 2010, condition will be estimated using data from SSSI resource only, thereafter it will be based on the whole resource.		
Habitat z	Restoration	Restore 5000 ha of habitat z by 2010	Ha	2,500 **	1,000	200	800	500	5,000	2,000	400	1,600	1,000	10,000	3,500	1,000	2,500	3,000			
Species y	Range	Achieve an increase in the range from five to seven occupied 10 km squares by 2010	Occupied 10 km squares	5	2	0	3	1	7	2	0	3	3	9	3	0	3	4	Sites for initial expansion should be in Northern Wales		

\* Maintenance targets need only be set to 2010. After 2010, the baseline can be re-assessed to take account of additions to the resource through restoration or expansion, as reported in future national BAP reporting rounds.

\*\* In this example, 2500 ha had already been restored at a UK level by 2005; the 2010 target (5000 ha) is the cumulative value since plan publication, and so represents a further 2500 ha by 2010.

## 2.2.2 Target type

### 2.2.2.1 Standard types

For species and habitat plans, you are asked to allocate targets to one of the following **standard types**:

<b>Habitats:</b>	<b>Species:</b>
Maintain extent	Range
Achieving condition	Population size
Restoration	
Expansion	

A full explanation of these types is given in Section 3. For most plans it should be sufficient to have one entry (i.e. row in the table) for each target type, with successive targets against a series of dates. In some cases, it will not be appropriate to have all the standard types shown.

### 2.2.2.2 Proposing new target types

The standard target types may be insufficient or inappropriate for achieving and monitoring progress towards the recovery of our priority habitats and species. You are therefore encouraged to be innovative and creative in proposing new types of targets that go further or better suit the needs of your plan. Examples include:

**(i) Qualitative targets for improving the connectivity or resilience of habitats and species populations.** The aim of these targets will be to improve the long-term viability of habitats and species populations. Fragmentation of semi-natural habitats into smaller and smaller units has been a major trend in the last century. As a result, many BAP habitats and species currently exist in small, isolated pockets within an impoverished matrix. Populations of the species supported by these habitat fragments may be unsustainable and movement between suitable patches may be impossible because of the unsuitability of the intervening habitat. The risk of extinction of isolated populations is exacerbated by the effects of climate change and it is crucial that we begin to create more ecologically robust landscapes to allow for change. Through the ongoing MONARCH project, considerable progress is being made in improving the accuracy of climate models and applying them to BAP habitats and species. These models are likely to be increasingly useful in helping the conservation community to better target our efforts in the future. For further information on climate change and BAP see [\[www.ukbap.org.uk/library/CC\\_UKBAP\\_ThinkTankPaper.doc\]](http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/CC_UKBAP_ThinkTankPaper.doc).

The standard types of BAP targets (listed above) can help to address the resilience and connectivity issues, especially through restoration and expansion of habitats and through

increasing the population size and range of species. Some Lead Partners and steering groups may consider these, supported by guidance given in the *description field*, to be sufficient. However, others may choose to propose specific targets for improving habitat connectivity or improving the resilience and stability of species populations. Examples include setting minimum patch sizes, or aiming for maximum distances between occupied sites for species (while not losing overall range).

**(ii) Targets using indicators.** It is proving impractical to monitor some species and habitats individually, especially in the **marine** environment. In many of these cases, the current targets have not proved helpful in terms of directing conservation effort and have been impossible to report against. This review presents an opportunity for you to propose new types of targets that are SMART and make sense in the context of your plan, or group of plans. Examples include indicators of ecosystem health for marine habitats.

**(iii) Targets that encompass more than one plan.** These cross-plan targets might include targets for transitions between habitats or for habitat mosaics. They might also include targets that better integrate species and habitat action plans, for example setting targets for features of habitats that are important for species. Please note that all steering groups involved need to agree cross-plan targets.

**(iv) Targets for improving the population structure or maintaining / enhancing the genetic diversity of species populations.** For example, targets for improving recruitment to the population of a long-lived species whose population is ageing.

**Please note:** If you choose to propose new types of target, you are asked to ensure that these targets are SMART – in particular explaining how the targets will be measured in the “monitoring” field, (see paragraph 2.2.7) – and to give a full explanation of their relevance and expected conservation value in the Comments field. To show that these are different from the standard types, simply add “New target type” in the Target type field.

### 2.2.2.3 Timescale

The timetable given in section 1, asks for first drafts of targets by March 2005. **For standard target types (2.2.2.1) you are asked to adhere to this timetable**, however BRIG recognises that constructing the new types of targets (2.2.2.2) may require considerable work. Therefore, by March 2005 you are only asked to give an indication of the nature of any “New target type” that you may propose, and the likely timescale that finalising them will involve. Please also indicate whether you would like support from BRIG, for example with setting up meetings with other steering groups. Please give this information in the “Comments” field. The Targets Review Group will follow-up these proposals with you in April 2005.

### 2.2.3 Target text

Lead Partners are requested to provide the text of the new or revised target for the UK, using the 2010 figures. Once the 2010 target has been reached (or the date has been passed) the target will be automatically adjusted to the next milestone. This will be the target text published on the UK BAP website. For example: "Maintain the total extent (50,000 ha) of woodland habitat x throughout the UK." You are encouraged to keep this succinct and use the description field (see paragraph 2.2.6) to provide any further details on the target.

### 2.2.4 Units

To achieve integration across different geographical scales, it is important for members of the BAP community to use consistent units. Lead Partners are encouraged to select the most appropriate units based on existing conventions for monitoring your habitat or species. Wherever possible, you are requested to use the units in the table. If these units are inappropriate, you should type in the new unit in this field.

Habitats	Species
Hectares (ha)	Individuals
Kilometres (km)	Site(s) / population(s)
Site(s)	Breeding pairs
	Displaying males
	BBS Index
	Occupied 10 km squares
	Occupied 1 km squares
	Occupied vice-counties

**Percentage** has not been included in the list because percentages cannot be scaled geographically from country to UK-level without knowing the underlying values. Similarly, if LBAP targets only give percentages, the data cannot be used to assess the contribution towards a UK target. If this creates a serious obstacle to reporting or delivery, please contact the Targets Review Group.

### 2.2.5 Targets (quantitative values)

You are requested to give UK and Country quantitative values for the key dates given in the accompanying spreadsheet, in particular 2010 and 2015 and, wherever possible, 2020 and 2030. For each date, the value should be the cumulative figure. You may also propose targets for additional dates further into the future (after 2030). **If, as a result of future survey (post-2005), Lead Partners and steering groups consider it likely that the estimate on which the target was based is incorrect, this information should be communicated to BRIG.**

Proposals for country values should be a best judgement based on factors such as historic and current distribution or population size, and the potential for recovery in different areas. **In all cases the UK value should be the sum of the country values.**

You are also asked to give values for 2005, to show what the latest baseline for each target is (these can be adjusted in the light of 2005 reporting). In the case of habitat restoration and expansion targets, this value should represent how much has been achieved since plan publication. Similarly, habitat restoration and expansion targets for 2010, 2015 etc. should be the cumulative amount to be achieved since plan publication.

### **2.2.6 Description**

You are encouraged to use the description field to provide a brief commentary (up to 250 words) to help focus action by giving details of, for example, which geographical areas are the priorities for delivery, and what the emphasis of work should be. This field should not simply duplicate the information contained in the other fields (type of target, target text, value, end dates etc.).

### **2.2.7 Monitoring**

Please state what monitoring / surveillance information will be used to assess progress towards the target and over what time interval these data will be available. Where monitoring differences exist between countries, these should be indicated. You are encouraged to suggest novel or innovative monitoring techniques if required. This may, for example, include proposing surrogates for species that are hard to monitor directly (e.g. deadwood beetles, fungi, lower plants), or identifying indicator species for habitat quality or groups of species. This information will be made widely available to LBAPs and others across the BAP community so it is an opportunity to influence and encourage others.

### **2.2.8 Comments**

Include any comments that you feel are necessary to explain or support your proposals. If changes have been proposed to the value of the target (following the guidelines in Section 4), or you are suggesting the removal of a previously published target, please justify your suggestion here.

### **2.2.9 Do the BAP targets equate to long-term viability?**

You are invited to give your best assessment of whether meeting all the BAP targets you have proposed (i.e. the 2030 targets) is likely to equate to the status of the habitat or species being viable in the long-term or whether, in your opinion, they are still only milestones towards this goal. If the targets only represent milestones please, for each country, give your best estimate of the amount of the resource (for habitats the total area / length; for species the population size and

range) that we should ultimately be aiming for. This estimate can be made as a text entry in this field (the field is not shown in Table 1; it is a text box). This will only be taken as an approximation and will help inform wider consideration of this issue by the UK Standing Committee and Country Groups outside the terms of the current review.

### **2.3 GROUPED PLANS**

The eleven grouped plans represent a special case. In the past, reporting progress against targets has been very difficult because the populations of component species often follow different trends. Lead Partners and steering groups for these plans are therefore invited to propose separate targets for each individual species, entering the species name after the plan name in the left-hand field. All other guidance for single-species targets applies. If a joint target is more appropriate for the whole group of species covered by the plan (e.g. an indicator-based target), this is acceptable, as discussed above (see paragraph 2.2.2.2).

## SECTION THREE

### STANDARD TARGET TYPE DEFINITIONS

#### 3.1 A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

**3.1.1** A wide variety of terms are used across different plans at national and local levels. This makes it difficult for Country Biodiversity Groups to accurately assess progress on achieving their targets and strategies and presents a significant obstacle to the integration of UK, country and local/regional targets, where they exist. For example, habitat quality improvements are referred to by a range of terms including *restore*, *enhance*, *rehabilitate*, *improve condition*, *achieve favourable condition* and *arrest depletion*. To achieve a consistent approach across both habitats and species plans, you are requested to allocate targets to **one of the standard types** described below (see also the invitation to propose new target types in paragraph 2.2.2). For some this will mean using terms in a different way to which you have become accustomed. This is unavoidable if we are to achieve the desired level of integration and a common understanding, so please focus on the definitions and explanations rather than the category titles themselves. If you feel that more detail is needed to explain your target, please use the description field for this purpose. If the steering group feels strongly that the target types are entirely inappropriate for a particular species or habitat, please contact the Targets Review Group as soon as possible.

#### 3.2 HABITAT TARGET TYPES

**3.2.1** The HAP targets set the vision of what we are aiming to achieve in terms of the extent and condition of the priority habitats. To assess progress towards this vision, we need to know:

- (i) how much of the habitat we have;
- (ii) how much of the habitat we are aiming for;
- (iii) how much of the resource is in good condition (e.g. meeting its conservation objectives);
- (iv) how much good quality habitat we are aiming for; and
- (v) whether we are on track to meet our targets?

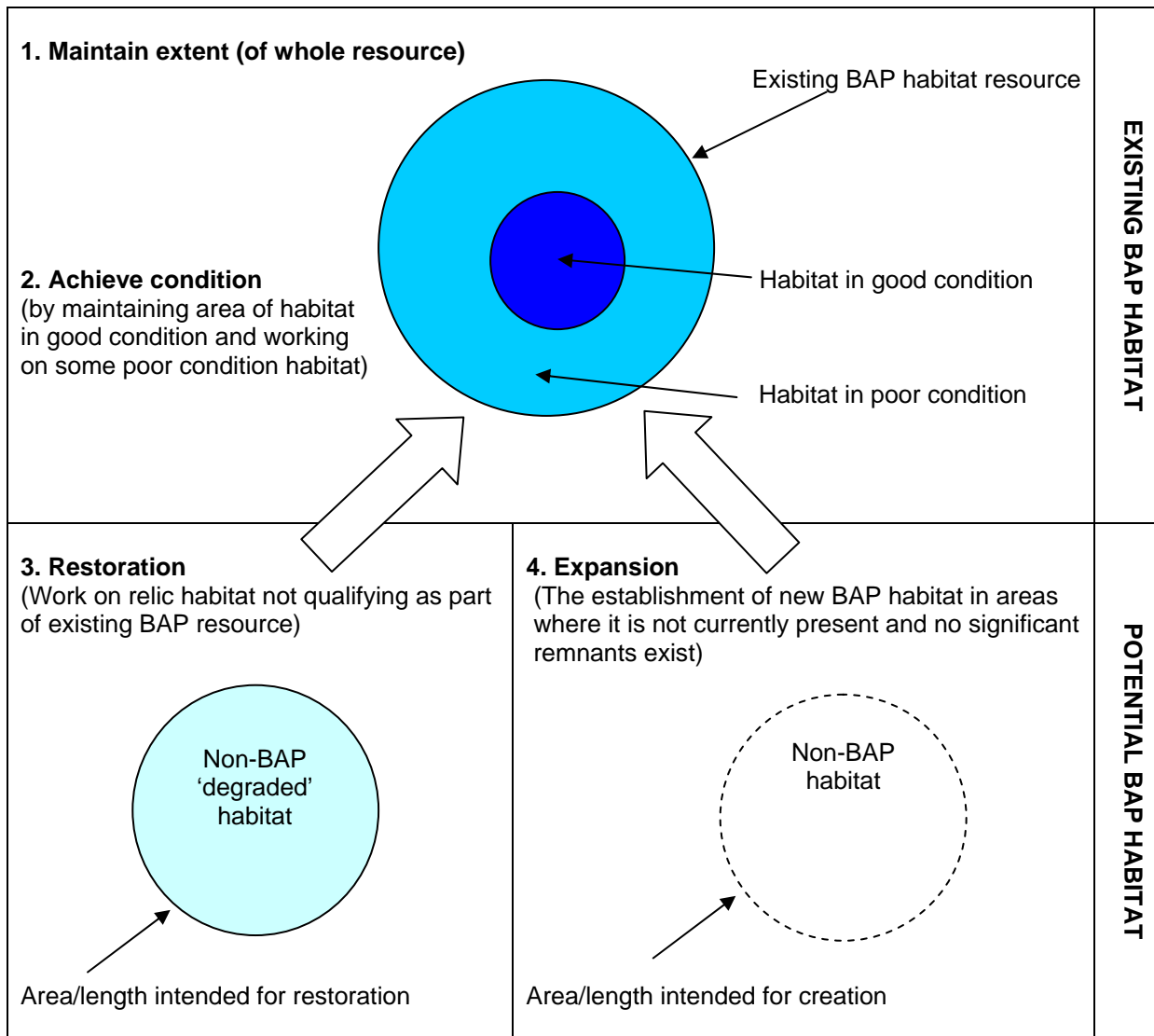
**3.2.2** You are asked to bear these questions in mind when proposing new targets and when interpreting the information below. Some of the original targets were set just for the SSSI/ASSI resource. Since then, some of the devolved administrations have set, or have begun the process of setting, their own targets for habitats on SSSIs and they no longer consider it appropriate for separate BAP targets to be set. Thus, BAP targets should be for the whole resource, as set out in Table 2.

**Table 2: Standard habitat target types**

Target type	Definition	Reporting / other information
<p><b>1. Maintain extent</b></p>	<p><b>Maintain current extent of resource.</b>  <b>Aim:</b> no reduction in the area of habitat that qualifies as the BAP type, based on the estimate at time of plan publication, or the current estimate, whichever is greater.</p> <p>Maintenance entails securing the ecological function of the habitat, and this may involve some change in the habitat distribution over time (e.g. on a dynamic coast, or due to climate change). Hence, for certain habitats a maintenance target can be met without every occurrence of the habitat being retained provided there is no net loss and its overall integrity is sustained.</p> <p>Lead Partners should specify whether maintenance represents “<u>no net loss</u>” or “<u>no loss</u>” for the habitat in the monitoring field provided.</p> <p>Maintenance targets need only be set to 2010. After 2010, the baseline can be re-assessed to take account of additions to the resource through restoration or expansion, as reported in future national BAP reporting rounds.</p>	<p><b>Reporting:</b> Progress towards maintenance targets will be reported by recording:  <b>(i)</b> the latest estimate of the total extent of resource.</p>
<p><b>2. Achieving condition</b></p>	<p><b>Maintain or improve condition within existing resource.</b>  <b>Aim:</b> to maintain the condition (where it is good), and improve the condition (where it is poor) of the existing BAP habitat resource, compared to the baseline i.e. the amount of the resource in good condition at plan publication or currently, whichever is greater.</p> <p>The target value is the sum of the area</p>	<p><b>Reporting:</b> Progress towards achieving condition targets will be reported by recording:  <b>(i)</b> the total area of the BAP habitat in good condition (within / outside SSSIs/ASSIs) and,  <b>(ii)</b> the area of the existing BAP habitat under rehabilitation, i.e. that is currently in poor condition but action is underway to improve its condition.</p>

	<p>that is already considered to be in favourable condition and the area proposed to be in favourable condition following appropriate conservation action. The target is for the total area both within and outside SSSIs/ASSIs.</p>	<p><b>Additional information requested:</b></p> <p>To help distinguish activities contributing to this target from activities contributing to restoration, please give an example, or examples, of the type of activity that you consider qualifying as “achieving condition” in the description field.</p>
<b>3. Restoration</b>	<p><b>Improve the condition of relict habitat so that it qualifies as BAP habitat.</b></p> <p><b>Aim:</b> to restore areas of degraded habitat or remnant elements to a state where it is considered to be BAP habitat in good condition. This leads to an <b>expansion</b> of the extent of the BAP habitat and ultimately an increase in the area in good condition.</p> <p>The targets should be set for the total amount of restoration to be achieved since plan publication.</p> <p>Restoration should be where substantial effort is needed to bring a site with relict features (or historically former habitat) into consideration as part of the BAP resource.</p>	<p><b>Reporting:</b> Progress towards restoration targets will be reported by recording:</p> <p><b>(i)</b> area over which restoration has been completed, i.e. the habitat now qualifies as BAP and is in good condition, and</p> <p><b>(ii)</b> the additional area that is under restoration (i.e. action has started but more work is needed).</p> <p>In both cases, the reported value should be the amount since the plan was published.</p> <p><b>Additional information requested:</b></p> <p>To help distinguish activities contributing to this target from activities contributing to achieving condition, please give an example, or examples, of the type of activity that you consider qualifying as “restoration” in the description field.</p>
<b>4. Expansion</b>	<p><b>Increase the extent of the resource</b></p> <p><b>Aim</b> is to establish BAP habitat on land where it is not present and where no significant relicts of the BAP habitat currently exist.</p> <p>The targets should be set for the total amount of expansion to be achieved since plan publication.</p>	<p><b>Reporting:</b> Progress towards expansion targets will be reported by recording:</p> <p><b>(i)</b> area of BAP habitat created and is now considered to be in good condition, and</p> <p><b>(ii)</b> the additional area under expansion (i.e. action has started but more work is needed).</p> <p>In both cases, the reported value should be the amount since the plan was published.</p>

**3.2.3** It is useful to consider “Maintaining extent” and “Achieving condition” as activity on the existing BAP resource, while “Restoration” and “Expansion” represents activity on areas that do not currently qualify as BAP (i.e. the potential BAP resource), as shown in figure 1.



**Figure 1: Habitat Target Types**

### 3.3 SPECIES TARGET TYPES

**3.3.1** The SAP targets define the vision of what we are aiming to achieve in terms of the population size and range of our priority species. In doing so, they need to be realistic in terms of climate change scenarios, and so they need to allow for range shifts and the loss of some populations over time. You are requested to set targets using the standard types set out in table 3. The 2005 values entered into the spreadsheets set the baseline (equivalent to the maintenance figure). If the target by 2010 (or later) is to halt the decline rather than to achieve an increase, the 2010 target should be the same as the 2005 target.

**Table 3: Standard species target types**

Target type	Definition	Reporting
<b>Range</b>	<p><b>Targets should be set for the maintenance / increase of species range</b></p> <p>Values for 2005 define the baseline: they should be set for the range occupied at the time the plan was published, or the current range, whichever is the greater *.</p> <p>Targets for 2010 and beyond should be set as a series of realistic goals moving the species towards long-term viability. As a minimum, extent of range should be maintained, and so no subsequent targets should be less than the 2005 baseline.</p>	<p><b>Reporting:</b> Progress will be reported as the latest estimate of range (as defined by Lead Partner)</p> <p>* If, as a result of survey, Lead Partners and steering groups consider it likely that the estimate on which the target was based is incorrect, the target should be adjusted accordingly.</p>
<b>Population size</b>	<p><b>Targets should be set for the maintenance / increase of population size</b></p> <p>Values for 2005 define the baseline: they should be set for the population size at the time the plan was published, or the current estimate, whichever is the greater*.</p> <p>Targets for 2010 and beyond should be set as a series of realistic goals moving the species towards long-term viability. As a minimum, the population size should be</p>	<p><b>Reporting:</b> Progress will be reported as the latest population size estimate.</p> <p>* If, as a result of survey, Lead Partners and steering groups consider it likely that the estimate on which the target was based is incorrect, the target</p>

	maintained and so no subsequent targets should be less than the 2005 baseline.	should be adjusted accordingly.
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**3.3.2** Note that “**reintroduction**” is not listed here as a target type because it is an action that contributes towards achieving an expansion of range or increase in population size. Not including this as a target type means that the method of achieving these ends is not pre-judged (increases might also be achieved by, for example, encouraging natural colonisation or regeneration from seed banks).

**3.3.3** In addition, in the case of species for which it is not currently possible to set biological outcome targets (e.g. those for which numbers are very difficult to measure), it may be appropriate to have proxy targets associated with maintaining or restoring their habitats (see also paragraph 2.2.7). Please explain this decision in the **comments field**, and make a special case to the Targets Review Group.

## SECTION FOUR

### CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTING REVISIONS TO THE PUBLISHED ACTION PLAN TARGETS

#### 4.1 ADDING NEW TARGETS

**4.1.1** For some plans, due to the level of knowledge available at the time when the plans were written, only maintenance targets exist. Where maintenance of the existing resource does not represent a state where it is likely to be viable in the long term, you are encouraged to propose additional targets (e.g. for habitat restoration or increasing the species range) that represent progress towards this goal. In doing so, all criteria for adding values to targets (below) should be taken into account.

**4.1.2** In the case of **grouped plans**, you are asked to have separate targets for each component species (where this is appropriate), to facilitate monitoring and reporting (see also paragraph 2.3).

#### 4.2 ADDING VALUES TO EXISTING TARGETS THAT ARE NOT QUANTITATIVE

**4.2.1** You are asked to specify values for all targets (including maintenance targets) applying the following guidelines:

**(i)** Where possible replace phrases such as “current extent” or “current populations” with quantitative estimates of how much the “current” amount is. In all cases, it can be assumed that “current” refers to plan publication date unless the most recent estimate is greater. Where it is impossible to provide an estimate of what this was, use the nearest estimate available. Please provide the full reference for the source of estimates in the comments field.

**(ii)** Use specific units instead of percentages.

**(iii)** Do not use ranges of values, please give your best estimate of the value.

**(iv)** The target value should be both biologically achievable (taking into account factors such as state of our knowledge, reproductive rate, availability of suitable sites and climate change) and pragmatic given current and anticipated resource availability.

**(v)** Where there is currently no value for a key milestone date (2010, 2015, 2020, 2030), but a published value (i.e. a value in a current target) exists for a later date, you are asked to give your best estimate of what is achievable by the milestone, for example by using the relevant proportion of the end target value.

**4.2.2** If there are still insufficient data to be able to provide a quantitative target, please provide a suitable textual target. If it is likely that it will be possible to provide a quantitative target in the next few years, please indicate when this is likely to be in the “comments” field.

### 4.3 CHANGING THE END OR MILESTONE VALUE OF TARGETS

**4.3.1** For some plans, all or some of the current targets are already SMART and are still appropriate. These targets represent a baseline against which progress can be assessed through the reporting cycle, and the values should not be altered. Changes to values of published targets may be accepted in the following circumstances:

**(i)** If the information on which the original target was based has since been shown to have been incorrect, and new data can improve the accuracy of the target. For example, surveys have shown that the area of a habitat maintenance target is incorrect.

**(ii)** If a target has expired, or will do so before 2020, Lead Partners and steering groups can propose new targets that represent the next milestones on the road to long-term viability. In setting this value, you should ensure that the target is both biologically achievable (taking into account factors such as state of our knowledge, reproductive rate, availability of suitable sites and climate change) and pragmatic given current and potential resource availability.

**(iii)** Target values may be increased if the sum of current LBAP and UK activity does already, or is set to, exceed the current target, and this increase is appropriate for moving the species or habitat towards long-term viability.

**(iv)** Target values should not be reduced on the basis that the target hasn't been, or is unlikely to be, met because of difficulties in plan implementation. The only acceptable reason for reducing values is that the information on which the original target was set is demonstrably wrong (see (i) above).

### 4.4 DROPPING PUBLISHED TARGETS

**4.4.1** Targets may be dropped completely under the following circumstances:

**(i)** A point has been reached where the species or habitat is likely to be viable in the long term, and so only 'maintenance' targets are required.

**(ii)** Reintroduction targets (for species), if still considered appropriate, should be incorporated into population size or range targets.

**(iii)** Targets specifically for ex-situ conservation should not be included. Ex-situ work may be a critical action for the species, but the BAP targets are focused on achieving conservation *in situ*. For this reason, ex-situ conservation has not been included as a target type.

**(iv) Dropping all targets.** In a few cases, Lead Partners and steering groups may have decided that a UK Action Plan is no longer appropriate for a species. In these circumstances, the Lead Partner is requested to make a special case directly to the Targets Review Group, giving a full explanation of the reasons behind the proposal. If possible, this submission should be received by

**1 February 2005**, and we will aim for a quick consultation and decision by BRIG. Information received back from Lead Partners and steering groups will be used to inform the UK Priority Species List Review.

## SECTION FIVE

### LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

- 5.1** For further copies of this guidance note or additional information about the review please visit the Targets Review page on the UK BAP Website [[www.ukbap.org.uk/BAPGroupPage.aspx?id=65](http://www.ukbap.org.uk/BAPGroupPage.aspx?id=65)].
- 5.2** For further information on the following:
- (i) 2002 BAP reporting round visit [[www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk)] and select the reporting menu.
  - (ii) Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) visit [[www.ukbap.org.uk/library/BARS\\_Latest\\_16\\_06\\_04.pdf](http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/BARS_Latest_16_06_04.pdf)].
  - (iii) Climate change and BAP visit [[www.ukbap.org.uk/library/CC\\_UKBAP\\_ThinkTankPaper.doc](http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/CC_UKBAP_ThinkTankPaper.doc)].
  - (iv) Local BAPs that are working on each habitat or species visit [[www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk)] – select habitat or species action plan search, go to a specific plan and then click on the “local implementation” link).
- 5.3** Please direct any queries about the 2005 BAP Targets Review to:

Targets Review Group (Secretariat)  
Biodiversity Unit  
Terrestrial Wildlife Team  
English Nature  
Northminster House  
Peterborough PE1 1UA  
Email: [gavin.measures@english-nature.org.uk](mailto:gavin.measures@english-nature.org.uk)  
Tel: 01733 - 455265  
Fax: 01733 - 568834

**END**