

# Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

## Field 1: Action Plan details

<b>Species/Habitat Action Plan</b>	MOSS <i>Sphagnum balticum</i> -----
<b>Lead Partner/Agency</b>	Plantlife
<b>Steering Group/Other organisations</b>	Steering group in existence? Please state yes or no. Please list the organisations represented. SNH No
<b>Work programme in existence?</b>	Please state yes or no. If in existence, please use the agreed work programme to update Field 3 and Table B. No

## Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 Maintain populations of this species at all extant sites.						Scotland: Not relocated by Gordon Rothero in a survey of its 2 former sites, one of which (Racks Moss, Dumfries) has been rendered unsuitable by afforestation; could still be present at other site (Balmoral). In 1996, was discovered by Sandy Payne & Claire Geddes in a survey for RSPB of their nature reserve at Abernethy Forest. England: Possible find in Muckle Moss (Northumberland) in the early 1990s. Recorded at Thorne Moors (1980s) not refound subsequently. Lost in Cheshire.
4.2 Establish by 2005 ex situ stocks etc.						Whilst work has yet to commence on the <i>ex-situ</i> bryophyte pilot project, the project as such is in the process of being initiated and <i>Sphagnum balticum</i> is listed as one of the species to be targeted.

## Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further

details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.1 etc							
5.2.2 Assess threat to this species at each extant site posed by indiscriminate collecting on Sphagnum for horticultural purposes.							Not started, but horticultural collecting not believed to be a threat at current or former sites in Scotland.
5.2.3 Ensure that management plans or agreements on all SSSIs at which Baltic bog-moss occurs take account of the requirements of this species.							Not started .  Note - the Abernethy Forest location lies outwith the SSSI boundary, but it will be included in the revised RSPB management plan for Abernethy due October 1999.
5.3.1 Depending on the results of 5.5.5, establish ex-situ stocks of this species from material derived from British populations.							Not started - but initiation of pilot project to do this underway.
5.4.1 Advise landowners & managers of the presence & importance of this species, specific management for its conservation and any potentially damaging actions. Landowners & managers should have access to specialist advice if needed.							Ongoing - RSPB at Abernethy Forest.
5.5.1 By 2005, collate existing data, undertake a comprehensive survey of extant & former sites (and of potential sites in their vicinity) and assess threats at extant sites.							Ongoing - former sites checked but Balmoral site merits further search. Proposed to search Longbridge Muir SSSI adjacent to former Racks Moss site.
5.5.2 Commission research into the habitat requirements of Baltic bog-moss. The findings should be used to inform conservation management of this species.							Not started - but ex-situ pilot project may shed some light on its requirements.
5.5.3 Undertake regular monitoring at all extant sites in order to record changes in population size and habitat & water quality. A review of threats at each site should be made during each visit.							Not started - but need to do so will be included in revised RSPB management plan for Abernethy due October 1999.
5.5.5 Undertake pilot studies to develop and refine ex-situ conservation techniques etc.							Not started - but initiation of pilot project to do this underway.

5.6.1 Encourage bryologists to pass all records of Baltic bog-moss, including ecological information, to a national database.							Ongoing - compilation of Species Dossier for SNH by G Rothero & D Long will have stimulated this objective in part. Best carried forward through the British Bryological Society.
5.6.2 Liaise with specialist societies etc.							Best carried forward through the British Bryological Society. An issue identified by Andy Amphlett of RSPB is the need for non-destructive identification techniques to use in the field; at Abernethy it occurs as scattered stems with <i>Sphagnum recurvum</i> , small specimens of which are similar.
5.6.3 more on moss collecting - as for 5.2.2 above.							Not started, but horticultural collecting not believed to be a threat at current or former sites in Scotland.

#### Field 4: Assessment of status

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
UK							
England							✓
Northern Ireland							
Scotland							
Wales							

Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)

Scotland - *Sphagnum balticum* occurs on the RSPB's Abernethy Forest Nature Reserve and may yet be refound at Balmoral and a site such as Longbridge Muir SSSI adjacent to its former location at Racks Moss. Whilst its location at Abernethy should be assured, should it yet be found to occur elsewhere in Scotland its status is vulnerable pending verification of sites and initiation of the safeguard & management measures as set out in the SAP.

England – This species may occur at one site in Northumberland (needs verification) the habitat at this site is in good condition.

#### Field 5: Summary statement

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

**Co-ordination and implementation of work on this species, along with all other fungi and lower plant species for which Plantlife is Lead Partner (apart from *Boletus regius* and *B. satanas*, *Lejeunea mandonii*, *Petalophyllum ralfsii*, *Tolypella intricata* and *Tolypella prolifera*, for which detailed forms have been completed) will begin in October 1999 with the appointment of a Fungi and Lower Plants Officer at Plantlife. This post is to be 50% funded by English Nature. Once the new officer is in post, Plantlife will set up steering groups to discuss how to take forward work on agreed collections of species. The work on these fungi and lower plant species will take place on a rolling programme as stated in the UK Biodiversity Group Action Plans.**

## **Field 6: Signing off**

*Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.*

<b>Contact details</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>Contact Point</b>
<b>Name</b>	Ruth Davis	Ron Porley
<b>Organisation</b>	Plantlife	English Nature
<b>Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)</b>	5 October 1999	

*Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC*

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**Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)**

*For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country-specific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.*

<b>Objective/target</b> <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>	4.1 etc				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<i>UK</i>					
<i>England</i>					
<i>Northern Ireland</i>					
<i>Scotland</i>					
<i>Wales</i>					
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					

**Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)**

*For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.*

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.1 etc	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>		
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>		
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		<i>Action by</i>
<b>Constraints to action</b> <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		

<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>		
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		<i>Action by</i>