

# 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>	Roseate Tern												
<b>Lead Partner/Agency</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds												
<b>Steering Group/Other organisations</b>	<p><i>Steering group in existence? Please state yes or no. Please list the organisations represented. YES</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>RSPB</td> <td>National Trust</td> </tr> <tr> <td>English Nature</td> <td>North Wales Wildlife Trust</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment and Heritage Service</td> <td>Scottish Wildlife Trust</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Countryside Council for Wales</td> <td>BirdWatch Ireland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scottish National Heritage</td> <td>National Parks &amp; Wildlife</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joint Nature Conservation Committee</td> <td>Service (Irish Republic)</td> </tr> </table>	RSPB	National Trust	English Nature	North Wales Wildlife Trust	Environment and Heritage Service	Scottish Wildlife Trust	Countryside Council for Wales	BirdWatch Ireland	Scottish National Heritage	National Parks & Wildlife	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Service (Irish Republic)
RSPB	National Trust												
English Nature	North Wales Wildlife Trust												
Environment and Heritage Service	Scottish Wildlife Trust												
Countryside Council for Wales	BirdWatch Ireland												
Scottish National Heritage	National Parks & Wildlife												
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Service (Irish Republic)												
<b>Work programme in existence?</b>	<i>Please state yes or no. If in existence, please use the agreed work programme to update Field 3 and Table B. YES in draft form (produced 26th August 1999)</i>												

## 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 Increase the UK roseate tern population to 200 pairs by 2008	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Success likely to be dependent on activities outside UK control at the colonies in the Irish Republic or survival on wintering grounds - all the colonies in Britain and Ireland form one metapopulation and there has been a tendency in recent years for the UK populations to decline, with some birds re-locating to the Irish colonies (which are increasing). The most recent information suggests that there is also some movement of Irish birds to UK colonies.
4.2 Maintain favourable conditions at current and historical breeding sites in the UK to ensure there are a minimum of five colonies with at least ten pairs in each by 2008		✓	✓	✓	✓	See above. All the current breeding sites receive some form of conservation management, but no decisions have yet been made about which historical breeding sites should be brought within the scope of this plan.

**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.)
5.2.1 Ensure that the protection of breeding colonies is actively considered in development policies and proposals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes	Ongoing
5.2.2 Maintain and, where appropriate, enhance species management measures at all regularly used breeding sites and a suite of formerly used sites		✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes	Ongoing
5.3.1 Assess levels of predation at breeding sites and, where necessary, carry out programmes of predator control		✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes	Ongoing
5.5.1 Continue to monitor the UK population through the Seabird Monitoring Programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	No	Ongoing
5.5.2 Ensure continued international co-operation on research, monitoring and management of the north-east Atlantic roseate tern population	✓					No	Ongoing
5.6.1 Use the roseate tern as an example of a bird under pressure from factors operating outside the UK in order to reduce persecution in the wintering grounds in West Africa	✓					Yes	Ongoing

**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				✓			
<p>Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)</p> <p>All of the British and Irish colonies are counted annually. Provisional UK figures for 1999 are as follows:</p> <p><b>England:</b> 40 pairs (37 pairs in 1998, 43 pairs in 1996)</p> <p><b>Scotland:</b> 9 pairs (8 pairs in 1998, 7 pairs in 1996)</p> <p><b>Wales:</b> 3 pairs (5-6 pairs in 1998, 1 pair in 1996)</p> <p><b>N Ireland:</b> 9 pairs (3 pairs in 1998, 13 pairs in 1996)</p> <p><b>UK total:</b> 61 pairs (53 pairs in 1998, 64 pairs in 1996)</p> <p>Although the 1999 figures are slightly up on those of 1998, this should be seen against the background of a severe decline in the UK in recent years (87% between 1990 and 1999), and it is too early to judge if there is now an increasing trend. The fortunes of the UK populations are closely linked with those in the Irish Republic, where numbers have been increasing in recent years. The Britain and Ireland metapopulation has increased overall by around 60% since 1990.</p>							

**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.

The actions listed in the plan have been implemented over a number of years, led mainly by non-government organisations which provide manpower to undertake monitoring and management at all the existing breeding colonies. Staff of these organisations have regular contact with one another, in order to share knowledge and experience. The Steering Group met for the first time on 26th August 1999, so formal implementation of the UKBAP has not yet begun, but the group agreed on the drawing up of area-based work programmes to enable more co-ordinated research, monitoring and management to take place in future years.

**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>	Peter Newbery	Andy Brown
<b>Organisation</b>	RSPB	EN
<b>Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)</b>	30/09/99	

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

Biodiversity Information Service  
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
 Monkstone House  
 City Road  
 Peterborough PE1 1JY

Tel: 01733 562626  
 Fax: 01733 555948  
 E-mail: [lpr99@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:lpr99@jncc.gov.uk)

**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> (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.1 Increase the UK roseate tern population to 200 pairs by 2008				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
UK				✓	
England				✓	
Northern Ireland				✓	
Scotland				✓	
Wales				✓	
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
<p>England: 40 pairs in 1999, 43 pairs in 1996      Scotland: 9 pairs in 1999, 7 pairs in 1996  Wales: 3 pairs in 1999, 1 pair in 1996      N Ireland: 9 pairs in 1999, 13 pairs in 1996  UK total: 61 pairs in 1999, 64 pairs in 1996</p> <p>The target may not be achievable through actions in the UK alone. If there is to be any chance of success, action is also needed in the Irish Republic, and elsewhere within the migration/wintering range. The UK population has been declining in recent years while the colonies in the Irish Republic increase (the Britain and Ireland population has increased overall in the last ten years), and there is also some movement between Irish and UK colonies. Any increases in productivity achieved at UK colonies may well not result in increased breeding numbers in the UK in subsequent years, but equally, increases in the Irish Republic may result in the UK population increasing. Nevertheless the UK should continue to manage past and present roseate tern sites appropriately (see 4.2) in order to maximise its contribution to the conservation of this metapopulation.</p> <p>Because of the movement of birds between colonies it is not considered appropriate to attempt to split this target into separate country targets.</p>					
<b>Objective/target</b> (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.2 Maintain favourable conditions at current and historical breeding sites in the UK to ensure there are a minimum of five colonies with at least ten pairs in each by 2008				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
UK			✓		
England			✓		
Northern Ireland			✓		
Scotland			✓		
Wales			✓		
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
<p><b>England:</b> Wardening and habitat management at Coquet Island and the Farnes continue - the population on Coquet is the only one in the UK which currently exceeds 10 pairs. On the Isles of Scilly management and rat control have been carried out, but Roseate Terns have not yet re-colonised. Single pairs were located at 3 other sites.</p> <p><b>Wales:</b> Wardening and limited habitat management continue at the Skerries, Ynys Feurig and Cemlyn Bay. Small numbers of Roseate Terns continue to appear at the former two sites, but in 1999 breeding only took place at Ynys Feurig.</p> <p><b>Scotland:</b> Limited habitat management continues on islands in the Firth of Forth - Long Craig is the only site there currently supporting breeding Roseate Terns. One pair was present on Papa Westray in 1999 but did not breed..</p> <p><b>Northern Ireland:</b> Limited habitat management continues. Birds appeared at two regular breeding sites but nesting took place only on Blue Circle Island.</p>					

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

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

NB: The actions have been implemented over a period of years and progress reported was a result of action by steering group members since the production of the action plan but prior to the formal establishment of the steering group and drafting of the work programme (August/Sept 1999)

Except where mentioned specifically, all the actions reported on in this section refer to the following sites and organisations:

RSPB: Coquet Is, Ynys Feurig, The Skerries, Swan Island, Blue Circle Is, Green Is, Inchmickery

SWT: Long Craig

NWWT: Cemlyn Bay

NT: Farne Is, Strangford Lough

EN: Isles of Scilly

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.1 Ensure that the protection of breeding colonies is actively considered in development policies and proposals.  CCW, EHS, EN, SNH	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	All the organisations involved have a responsibility to ensure that any threats to breeding colonies which may occur are strenuously opposed.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
<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>  RSPB and local residents successfully opposed, at a public inquiry, the construction of a large tipping site close to Blue Circle Is (which would have attracted large numbers of gulls to the area, thus increasing the risk of predation to roseate terns). EHS also presented evidence that the development would damage the integrity of the site. The original proposal was withdrawn.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Evidence submitted to Public Inquiry April 1997	<i>Action by</i> RSPB
<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>	None	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>  This is a reactive action - all steering group members to remain vigilant and be prepared to take rapid action to counter any development proposals which may arise.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Provision of evidence to back opposition to development threats which may occur	<i>Action by</i> All

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.2 Maintain and, where appropriate, enhance species management measures at all regularly used breeding sites and a suite of formerly used sites  CCW, EHS, EN, SNH	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Action necessary at each existing breeding site will include some or all of the following to be undertaken each year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control/management of vegetation</li> <li>• Provision of nestboxes/chick shelters</li> <li>• Habitat creation</li> </ul> At formerly-used sites, any of these many be necessary, and consideration should also be given to the use of tape lures and decoys to attract roseate terns to suitable nesting areas.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
<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>RSPB:</b> <u>Coquet Is</u> - nestboxes provided, control of vegetation, including lesser bugloss <i>Anchusa arvensis</i> , <u>Ynys Feurig</u> - small-scale control of vegetation, nestboxes provided <u>The Skerries</u> - management of tree mallow <i>Lavatera arborea</i> , nestboxes provided <u>Swan Island</u> - nestboxes inappropriate - birds have re-located to Blue Circle Is <u>Blue Circle Is</u> - nestboxes provided <u>Green Is</u> - no active management <u>Inchmickery</u> - small-scale control of vegetation and habitat creation, nestboxes provided <b>SWT:</b> <u>Long Craig</u> - nestboxes provided, no vegetation management required <b>NWWT:</b> <u>Cemlyn Bay</u> - small-scale management of sea beet <i>Beta vulgaris</i> , nestboxes provided (numbers possibly to be increased), islands extended in 1998/99 <b>NT:</b> <u>Farne Is</u> - nestboxes/shelters provided, management of vegetation, particularly docks <i>Rumex spp</i> , nettles <i>Urtica spp</i> and <i>Amsinckia</i> , maintenance of boardwalks used by visitors. <u>Strangford Lough</u> - tern-nesting areas kept bare of vegetation by use of plastic sheeting in early spring <b>EN:</b> <u>Samson (Isles of Scilly)</u> - nestboxes and decoy terns provided, small-scale control of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> , visitor management in some years (work carried out by Isles of Scilly Environmental Trust with some EN supervision).  Ongoing, to take place each spring/summer	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		<i>Action by</i> RSPB, NT, NWWT, SWT, EN
<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>Funding/Prioritisation:</b> Resources are limited for action at formerly-used sites. Sponsorship from a suitable 'Species Champion' should provide funding for work at such sites -candidate sites have been identified by members of the Steering Group, but these need to be prioritised further, eg by assessment of the chances of attracting Roseate Terns.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i> Ensure continuation of action as before.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	As above	<i>Action by</i> As above

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.3.1 Assess levels of predation at breeding sites and, where necessary, carry out programmes of predator control  CCW, EHS, EN, SNH	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Organisations undertake wardening/site visits to assess threat posed by potential predators/competitors at the start of each breeding season. Control of species to be undertaken as necessary.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<p>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken</p> <p><b>RSPB:</b>  <u>Coquet Is</u> - site wardened, large gulls deterred by wardening presence and nests removed, mammalian predators controlled as necessary  <u>Ynys Feurig</u> - rat control carried out; gull and feral goose nests cleared; gulls, crows and peregrines deterred by wardening presence  <u>The Skerries</u> - tern nesting area kept free of gull nests; gulls and peregrines deterred by wardening presence  <u>Swan Island</u> - site visits made, no management required  <u>Blue Circle Is</u> - site visits made, no management required  <u>Green Island</u> - no action required  <u>Inchmickery</u> - site visits made, rat presence/absence monitored annually</p> <p><b>SWT:</b>  <u>Long Craig</u> - site visits made, no management required</p> <p><b>NWWT:</b>  <u>Cemlyn Bay</u> - removal of nests of black-headed gulls, trapping of stoats and weasels, control of gulls and corvids when judged necessary, site wardened for 4 months each spring/summer</p> <p><b>NT:</b>  <u>Farne Is</u> - removal of eggs of larger gulls, some individual large gulls culled as necessary. No mammalian predators  <u>Strangford Lough</u> - wardening presence, rat poison laid when necessary, black-headed gulls prevented from nesting in tern areas by use of plastic sheeting in early spring, eggs of larger gulls removed</p> <p><b>EN</b>  <u>Samson (Isles of Scilly)</u> - rat control carried out 1991-93 (island appears now to be rat-free). Some scaring of larger gulls. Work carried out by Isles of Scilly Environmental Trust with some EN supervision.</p> <p>Ongoing, to take place each spring/summer</p>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		Action by RSPB, NT, NWWT, SWT, EN
<b>Constraints to action</b> (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.)	None	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
<b>Next steps</b>	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible. Continuation of action as before.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	As above	Action by As above

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.6.1 Use the roseate tern as an example of a bird under pressure from factors operating outside the UK in order to reduce persecution in the wintering grounds in West Africa JNCC	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	To be determined	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	No	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<p><i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i></p> <p>In 1999 the RSPB, under contract to BirdLife International, produced a draft International (East Atlantic) Action Plan for the Roseate Tern, to be submitted to the European Commission. This highlighted the issue of trapping in West Africa and recommended that further work should be carried out to examine its effect on the population and enable conservation action to be better targeted.</p> <p>Final version of Action Plan to be complete by the end of 1999</p>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		Action by RSPB
<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>	Lack of an appropriate mechanism. It is not clear how the steering group can influence tern trapping in West Africa. However, winter survival is an important issue that appears to be the main limitation on the population and it needs to be addressed. Further discussions to be held.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Not started	
<b>Next steps</b>	<p><i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i></p> <p>Not yet agreed</p>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Not yet agreed	Action by To be agreed