

BIODIVERSITY SOUTH WEST – Draft Outline Work Programme Priorities 2007 - 2009

Please note that these are only outline notes at present and will be developed more fully over the coming months.

1. Partnership structure

- Full partnership 2x per year -workshop style with a theme for the meeting.
- Steering Group (management group) meet 3-4x per year - now includes core partners and chairs of the sector groups

Communications a key issue, there will be:

- E bulletins
- Thematic meetings/workshops
- better web pages
- Improve comms network
- Formalise comms and feedback eg to sector groups and LBAP network. (LBAPs need to feel part of the regional network and to be able to use it more fully)

2. Partnership Priorities

The priorities were agreed and key tasks identified:

2.1. Nature Map:

- Training on how to use it - including education and guidance. Need examples of successful integration and on ground projects.
- Technical development - climate change proofing (needs funding), extension into coastal and marine
- Advocacy - vision and its application into other plans/strategies

2.2. Climate change and biodiversity:

- Collate what we know about impacts and best strategies to prepare
- Comms agree top 10 messages - focus on landscape scale and on issues relevant to people to give consistent message from the sector
- Promote connectivity across priority habitats

2.3. Role and Structure of working groups:

- Focus on 2- way communication - the groups should be the link into the sector and industry, need to proactively develop those links
- Context/join up - to provide Bio SW with an understanding of where biodiversity sits in the wider world.

2.4. Marketing:

- Need to move information out through regional/local actors (advocates?)
- Recognise how significant wildlife is in and to the region (Landscape, economy etc.) - value of environmental goods and services
- Marketing/ comms Plan

2.5. Strengthening BioSW as a network:

- Making better use of web based system
- Improve info flow between groups

2.6. Funding:

- How to maintain funding for BioSW (and across the sector?)

3. Sector Group Priorities:

3.1 Water and Wetlands

- Address diffuse pollution - soils and run off
 - Link to SWF&F group
 - Better co ordination between Agencies
 - Training for on the ground staff
- Create more wetlands -various mechanisms
 - Env. Agency habitat creation Programme
 - Coastal managed re-alignment
 - Nature Map/wetland vision
- Disseminate good projects
- Funding

3.2 Planning and Development (Formerly Towns Cities and Development Group)

- Green infrastructure
 - Guidance for planners
 - Taking this work forward regionally
- Nature Map
 - Promoting guidance
 - Advocacy
- Input to planning strategies
 - Regn.Spatial Strategy
 - Local Development Frameworks
 - Role in Local Area Agreements
 - Training for planners build on Biodiversity in LDF's and NERC Biodiversity duty
- Better links with Greenspace promotion and management
- Biodiversity monitoring - better links with BIRG

3.3 Coastal and Marine:

- Improved targets for "expert view" reporting
- Making the shift from policy to delivery
- Sustainable fisheries
- Improved public awareness
- Shift to coastal management rather than coastal defence
- Managed re alignment for habitat creation

3.4 Biodiversity Information and reporting group (BIRG)

- Indicators: current, required, ideal.
- Interpretation
- Reporting projects and programmes
- Using SW Observatory to promote the above

3.5 Woods and Forests

- Open ground
- Landowner contacts
- Pests and diseases
- WFD/ water
- Nature Map - implement

- Ancient trees -parkland and wood pasture

3.6 Farming and Food

- Get HLS back on re track -new objectives/priorities through AE review, RDPE, SWRIP
- Use Nature Map as a base for targeting - spatial approach
- Climate change - farming and food, adaptation and mitigation, carbon footprints
- Livestock sector - beef, dairy and sheep in relation to the importance of extensive grazing for maintenance of biodiversity
- soil

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