

Species Biodiversity Delivery Group
 Wednesday 2nd July 2008
 S1 Klondyke Building

Attendees

Damien McFerran (CEDaR)
 James Robinson (RSPB)
 Roy Anderson (Consultant)
 Richard Weyl (NIEA)
 Godfrey McRoberts (DARD)
 Dave Allen (Consultant)
 Michael Meharg (NIEA)
 Brian Nelson (Ulster Museum)
 Hugh Edwards (NIEA)
 Martin Bradley (NIEA)
 Mark Wright (NIEA)
 Helen Paul (NIEA, Minute Taker)

1. Apologies

Joe Breen (NIEA), Bernard Picton (Ulster Museum)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Action Points from meeting held 21/11/07	Progress
AP2 - Richard to send SLNCI selection guidelines to Roy Anderson	C/F
AP3 – Richard to send out invites	C/F
AP 5 – Martin to amend web page	Martin advised that he had made some changes and he had prepared another spreadsheet which he would upload to the web.
AP 6 – Hugh to put SLECI report on the web.	Hugh advised that the report was still in final edits but that he would publish on web as soon as it was finalised.
AP 7 – Dave to send list of Priority Species he has produced to Martin who will issue to the group.	C/F
AP 9 – All group co-ordinators to have draft list prepared for meeting in February.	Draft list to be prepared by October 2008.

It was agreed the minutes of these meetings, the Terms of Reference and the work programme would be placed on the internet.

4. Terms of Reference

Richard asked for comments/changes to the draft Terms of Reference.

Godfrey pointed out that under **4. Representation** 'DARD – Central Policy Group' should be changed to 'DARD – Countryside Management Branch'.

Action Point 1: Martin to amend TOR.

The group agreed the rest of the TOR.

5. Northern Ireland Priority Species Review

Richard pointed out that there were 3 stages to the process. The 1st stage is to look at the UK list to see if it is an accurate reflection of the NI situation. The 2nd would be to complete the review of the NI species review and thirdly to add any new species.

Martin tabled a timetable which covered the NI Priority Species Review, the NIBG 2009 report and the UK BAP Reporting.

Richard advised that the group co-ordinators should prepare draft lists with comments on how they were formulated by October 2008. The draft lists will then be given to the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group who can decide if it is necessary to go out to public consultation.

Godfrey enquired as to how often the finalised list would be reviewed. Richard reported that it would be every 3 or 5 years.

A discussion took place on whether or not to include a category for extinct species and it was agreed that there should be a column for extinct. It was also agreed to have a data deficient column.

It was pointed out that there could be better use made of the large amount of data that is held. It was also suggested that the use of a Biological statistician could be of benefit. Mark pointed out that the first thing to do would be to scope the data and see what could be done.

Action Point 2: Mark to explore the possibility of a scoping exercise.

Hugh enquired if someone from AFBI should be involved in the looking at the marine species list. It was agreed that a separate marine meeting should be set up before the next meeting of this group.

Action Point 3: Hugh/Martin to arrange meeting.

Dave suggested that the individual groups should meet with NIEA separately to discuss their draft lists rather than taking up too much time at the next meeting.

It was agreed that bi lateral meetings would be held prior to the next Species BDG meeting.

Action Point 4: Richard to arrange bilateral meetings with each group co-ordinator.

Action Point 5: Martin to send the spreadsheet that should be used to record the list of species to the group.

Martin informed the group that closer to the October deadline he would send out reminders.

Action Point 6: Martin to send out reminders to group co-ordinators.

6. Reporting

Martin gave a brief update on the UK BAP Reporting and the NIBG Report 2009. He explained that NIBG were putting pressure on the NIEA to provide data. He explained that he has to have the information on the BARS database by November 2008 and that he may need to call on some members of this group to provide information.

7. Work Programme

The work programme was discussed and it was agreed that the timetable he had tabled at the meeting is would be basis of the work programme. It was proposed that in the 2nd year a more detailed work programme could be established but for this year Martin should convert the information in the timetable into the format suitable for a work programme.

8. Signposting

Richard explained that a signposting exercise should be carried out for the NI list as a Species Action Plan may not need to be done for all on list. They need to be looked at to see which needs site management, research or more information and which are more general ie. looking at water quality.

Richard informed the group that he had received a copy of the country consultation UK signposting exercise. He agreed to circulate this paper to the group for them to look at and comment on how we use this in NI.

Action Point 7: Richard to send UK signposting exercise paper to members of the group.

9. AOB

There was no other business

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in October. Date and time to be confirmed.