

**Species Biodiversity Delivery Group Meeting
Room S1 Klondyke Building
Wednesday 21st November 2007 10.00AM**

Attendees

Michael Meharg	(EHS)
Richard Weyl	(EHS, Chair)
Martin Bradley	(EHS)
Mark Wright	(EHS)
Hugh Edwards	(EHS)
Christine Butler	(DARD)
Bernard Picton	(Ulster Museum)
Brian Nelson	(Ulster Museum)
Damien McFerran	(CEDaR)
James Robinson	(RSPB)
Roy Anderson	(Consultant)
Dave Allen	(Consultant)
Helen Paul	(EHS, Minute Taker)

1. Introduction

Richard explained that the UK had carried out a review of Priority Species and we now planned to review the NI Priority Species. Once the NI Priority Species have been selected the next stage would be to look at what action would be required for each species. It was planned to follow the UK approach where signposted actions were being developed for each priority species. For many priority species wider actions for priority habitats or the management of designated site features would be sufficient to ensure that success criteria for individual species are met. Species action plans may only be required for limited range of species.

2. Membership of the group

Richard pointed out that he realised there were a lot of people not invited to be on the group but that he was trying to keep the numbers to a minimum. He wanted a core group of people to get the process started and that he envisaged sub groups being formed.

3. Terms of Reference (TOR)

Richard went through the draft TOR and asked for comments/amendments.

3. Objectives

- 3.2 Bullet Point 1 – ‘and modified as necessary’ to be added at the end.
Bullet point 6 – ‘peatland & Upland interests’ to be removed.

‘Establishment of lead partner’ to be added to the TOR.
- 3.3 ‘research’ to be changed to ‘research, monitoring & surveying’.
- 3.5 ‘co-ordinating’ changed to ‘facilitating’.
‘government’ at end of sentence to be removed.

Action Point 1: Martin to make above amendments to the TOR.

Roy Anderson enquired about information on planning control.

Action Point 2: Richard to send SLNCI selection guidelines to Roy Anderson.

4. Representation

Maurice Hughes, Butterfly Conservation, to be invited to join the group.

A representative other than James Robinson to be invited to join the group.

A representative from NPW to be encouraged to join the group.

Liam Lysaght, National Data Centre

Action Point 3: Richard to send out invites to the above.

5. Organisation

'together with a field trip' to be removed.

Action Point 4: Martin to amend TOR

4. Northern Ireland Priority Species

A paper on the Priority Species had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Dave Allen pointed out that the list on the EHS web was very confusing and changes were necessary.

Bernard pointed out that the SLECI report had disappeared from the website.

Action Point 5: Martin to amend web page.

Action Point 6: Hugh to put SLECI report on the web.

5. Review of the UK Priority Species

Dave Allen said that many moth species were not noted as occurring in NI. This will likely be the case for the other groups. It was agreed to look at the list and check for presence of the various groups in NI.

Action Point 7: Dave Allen to send the list of Priority Species he has produced to Martin who will issue to the group.

6. Review of the NI Priority Species

It was agreed the timescale would be 7 months.

It was agreed to use the existing criteria.

The following group co-ordinators were agreed:

Species	Co-Ordinator
Birds	James Robinson
Vascular Plant	Mark Wright
Fungi	Mark Wright
Marine (including marine fish)	Bernard Picton
Non-marine Invertebrates	Brian Nelson
Lichens	Mike Simms (to be confirmed)
Bryophytes	Richard Weyl
Mammals & Freshwater Fish	Lead to be sought by EHS

Action Point 8: Richard/Martin to send out 2004 NI Priority Species spreadsheet and the Revised UK Priority Species including signposts.

Action Point 9: All group co-ordinators to have draft list prepared for meeting in February.

7. Work Programme

This was discussed and it was agreed EHS would create a draft work programme.

Action Point 10: Richard to draft work programme.

8. AOB

Mark informed the group that EHS are planning to tender for another research partnership.

9. Date/venue of next meeting

The next meeting is to be in February 2008. Date and time to be confirmed.