

PEATLANDS AND UPLAND BIODIVERSITY DELIVERY GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE June 2006

1 Purpose

This paper sets the terms of reference for a Peatlands and Uplands Biodiversity Delivery Group to ensure that activity in relation to peatlands and uplands is well co-ordinated and supported within Northern Ireland. The activities of the Group will facilitate effective communication between the relevant government agencies, the private and voluntary sectors.

2 Scope

Relevant Habitat Action Plans to be considered by the group include:

- Lowland raised bog
- Blanket bog
- Lowland heathland
- Upland heathland
- Montane heath

Relevant action for Species Action Plans as agreed by the group.

3. Objectives

The main objectives of the peatland and upland HAPs are:

- To **maintain** the extent of existing habitats.
- To **enhance** the ecological condition of existing habitats to achieve *favourable condition*.
- To **increase** the area of each type of habitat through **restoration**.

The remit of the Peatlands and Uplands Biodiversity Delivery Group should include:

- 3.1 The co-ordination of arrangements for **monitoring** and **reporting** on habitats in the context of Biodiversity Action Plans and relevant policies.
- 3.2 The **co-ordination** of activity on peatland and upland habitats, including
 - Development of best practice
 - Advice on relevant BAP's
 - Providing guidance for landowners

- Liaison with peatland and upland interests in the Republic of Ireland and UK
- Interpretation, education and knowledge sharing

3.3 The identification and support of **research** needs.

3.4 Establish, deliver and review of the Peatlands and Uplands Biodiversity Work Programme.

3.5 The provision of peatlands and uplands biodiversity **advice** to government.

4 Representation

Proposed members of the Group are:

Chair EHS, Natural Heritage

DARD – Service Delivery Group

DARD - Central Policy Group

DARD - Forest Service

AFBI

DOE – EPG

DOE – Minerals Unit

DETI – Invest NI

UFU

NIAPA

NI Biodiversity Group

Quarry Products Assoc.

Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside

Peatland Consortium - 2 NGO reps

QUB

Irish Peatland Conservation Council

Forestry & Timber Association

Horticultural Trade Association

FWAG

NPWS

NILGA

5 Organisation

Each representative will be expected to meet their own costs of membership.

It is envisaged that the Group will hold a business meeting twice a year together with a field trip.

EHS will provide secretariat services to the Group.

6 Review

The effectiveness of the Group will be reviewed on a yearly basis.