

Scotland's changing rural biodiversity - context

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Topics to cover

- Biodiversity working group structures
- 2010 biodiversity targets
- Challenges for rural biodiversity

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

- Published in 2004
- Implementation Plans
- Refreshed every 3 years
- Assumed UKBAP process



SCOTTISH BIODIVERSITY
COMMITTEE



SCOTTISH
BIODIVERSITY
FORUM

ACTION COORDINATION
GROUP

BIT Steering
Group

SCIENCE
GROUP

Upland ecosystems

Woodland

Marine & Coastal
ecosystems

Freshwater &
Wetland

Lowland &
Farmland

PEOPLE
GROUP

Cross-cutting :
LBAP network
Species Lead Partners

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Drivers for new approach

- Integrate devolved UK BAP with new SBS Implementation Plans
- Facilitate an ecosystem approach
- Greater efficiency and streamlining
- Focus on delivery of targets and outcomes



Number of new implementation plan actions by SBS objective and Working Group



SBS Objective	People	Upland	Marine	FW	Woodland	Farmland	Common
Species & habitats	14	0	17	6	2	0	11
People	39	2	14	0	0	4	0
Landscapes & Ecosystems	9	4	7	2	1	3	0
Integration & coordination	11	0	4	0	0	2	24
Knowledge	20	3	10	2	2	0	6
Total	93	9	52	10	5	9	41

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Number of UK priority habitats in Scotland mapped to each Ecosystem Group (provisional).



Freshwater & Wetland	Lowland & Farmland	Marine & Coastal	Upland	Woodland	Total
9	10	26	8	7	60



Number of UK priority species in Scotland by taxonomic category and primary Ecosystem Group (provisional).



Taxonomic category	Freshwater & Wetland	Lowland & Farmland	Marine & Coastal	Upland	Woodland	Total
Algae	1		10			11
Bryophytes	7	4	8	26	14	59
Fungi & Lichens	4	19	5	14	85	127
Invertebrates	24	35	38	30	37	164
Vascular plants	13	28	12	45	13	111
Vertebrates	26	21	64	7	20	138
Total	75	107	137	122	169	610



Remit of Ecosystem Groups



- Deliver an ecosystem approach to biodiversity conservation.
- Coordinate the planning, delivery and reporting of biodiversity action using:
 - A set of priority habitats
 - A set of priority species
 - A set of SBS Implementation Plan targets and actions



Remit (continued)



- Review priorities for action using tools such as SAF and HAF
- Advise Local Biodiversity Partnerships on appropriate local actions
- Considering the economic, social and cultural needs of people who depend on and use the ecosystem services
- Maximise the contribution that the SRDP makes to delivery.



2010 biodiversity targets

- EU/UK top level target
 - “halting the loss of biodiversity by the year 2010”
- EU/UK anticipate failure
- Target was unrealistic, but set a useful challenge



EU action plan (2006) adapted for Scotland



- 8 priority objectives
 - With 28 separate targets
- 4 supporting measures
- 3 monitoring, evaluation & review targets



8 priority objectives



- 1: to safeguard Scotland's most important habitats and species.**
- 2: to conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside.**
- 3: to conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider marine environment.**
- 4: to reinforce compatibility of planned development with biodiversity.**
- 5: to substantially reduce the impact on biodiversity of invasive alien species & alien genotypes.**
- 8: to substantially reduce the impact of international trade on global biodiversity and ecosystem services.**
- 9: to support biodiversity adaptation to climate change.**
- 10: to substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.**

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Key challenges for rural biodiversity



- Achieving appropriate grazing regimes
- Changing agricultural practices
- SRDP
- Management of land for field sports
- Sustainable deer management



Key challenges for rural biodiversity



- Fragmentation of habitats and species
- Afforestation
- Adapting to climate change
- Public access and recreation



