

Biodiversity Deep Dive – Terms of Reference

Purpose

To develop a set of collective actions we can take immediately to support meaningful delivery of the CBD '30 by 30' goal, recognising the capabilities we have in Wales and reflecting our duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations and Environment Acts.

The '30 by 30' target:

Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.'

The deep dive will consider:

- How can the existing protected site network- land, sea and freshwater (SSSI, NNRs, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites including National Parks and AONBs) better deliver 30 by 30?
- How can 'Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures' – 'Exemplar Nature Recovery Areas be established and contribute to 30 by 30?
- How do we ensure that our protected sites are well connected and integrated into the wider land and seascapes?
- How do we address and reverse the key pressures and drivers of biodiversity loss?
- How do we deliver a programme of action over the next decade? What enablers are needed including resources, and how do we ensure progress is being made through effective monitoring and evaluation?
- Who are the key actors (public, private, voluntary and wider society) and how they all support and engage with delivery of the target?

Membership of the group

The deep dive will involve a small core group of critical thinkers led by the Minister for Climate Change with secretariat provided by Welsh Government. Members have been chosen based on their individual expertise and experience and as such, attendance is not to be delegated without agreement of Welsh Government officials.

Name	Organisation
Ceri Davies	Natural Resources Wales
Sharon Thompson	RSPB Cymru
Richard Unsworth	Project Seagrass and Swansea University
Paul Sinnadurai	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Tim Pagella	Bangor University
Philippa Pearson	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

Steve Ormerod	Cardiff University – Ecology
Richard Cowell	Cardiff University – Geography and Planning
Katie Medcalf	Environment Systems
Hilary Kehoe	Nature Friendly Farming Network
Mike Elliott	University of Hull - Estuarine and Coastal Science

Additionally, there will be separate focussed meetings covering topics where specific expertise is needed, for example on the marine environment. The outputs from these meetings will feed into the deep dive group, to support them with a broader range of opinions.

Ways of Working

These will be aligned to the Five Ways of Working outlined within the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

- Work collaboratively across organisations, and with other stakeholders and roundtable sub-groups;
- In proposing future actions and solutions, take account of relevant evidence and/or identify any key evidence gaps in respect of uncertainties;
- Seek to achieve integrated long-term solutions and take account of the short, medium and long-term consequences of actions; and
- Work with integrity and respectfully challenge each other to consider how we can do things differently/better.
- All outputs and recommendations from this group should be justified by reference to a sound evidence base or draw attention to the limitations of the evidence where this not available.

Timing

The exercise will begin on **12 May 2022**, with meetings taking place at regular intervals until the end of June 2022. The outcomes of the review will be announced in a Ministerial Statement ahead of summer recess.

The group may meet occasionally following this statement if actions are identified which require longer-term work.

Communications

Discussions in the group will take place on a confidential basis and there will be no communications about the outcome of discussions unless first agreed with Welsh Government. Meeting papers are to be treated as Official Sensitive unless stated otherwise and will be normally issued one week in advance of each meeting.

Welsh Government may publish these Terms of Reference at any point. A Written Statement will be published at the conclusion of the deep dive. Notes of each meeting will be circulated to the group but not formally published. Transcripts of each

of the deep dive meetings will be taken for the purposes of compiling meeting notes but will be destroyed shortly afterwards.