

UK SPAR SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP

TELECONFERENCE MEETING 1 October 2014

10:30 – 12:00, JNCC Offices, Peterborough

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome

Greg Mudge SNH

Ian Enlander Northern Ireland

Ian Bainbridge Chair SNH

Sarah Anthony Natural England

Sally Baillie Forestry Commission

David Stroud JNCC

Richard Evans Scottish Environment Link
(for Jerry Wilson)

Ant Maddock JNCC

Kate Jennings RSPB

Daniel Hall Scottish Government

2. Apologies

Nigel Buxton SNH

Sian Whitehead NRW

Louise Leighton Defra

Cherry – Ann Vickery JNCC

Andy Tully Defra

Jerry Wilson RSPB (Scotland)

3. Minutes of last meeting

Draft minutes of the meeting held in June 2014 were approved.

Draft species account revisions: In response to queries it was noted that all comments that had been received regarding the species accounts will be addressed and a final draft will be sent out for review. If people have specific comments, or wish follow-up on comments made, these should be sent direct to David.

It was also agreed that the 1999 SPA selection guidelines would not be changed but an explanation of how the minimum 50 rule – now guideline - has been interpreted in the context of this review, will be included in the phase 1 report.

ACTION 1: Ant to check that CAV uploaded the Goosander report to the SWG website in 2014 following finalisation by RH.

ACTION 2: Matt Parsons to produce an intersessional paper on marine monitoring recommendations (Note that the timetable for this work will be driven by JNCC not SWG.)

4. Timetable for the review

Major tasks for David are completing the species accounts, drafting the methods chapters, checking the decision framework values and cross-checking all the SPI values. Complete final edits of the decision framework spreadsheet and cross-check the results chapters and dealing with the referees' comments on the SPI paper. This paper had been accepted by the journal *Bird Study* subject to addressing the referees' comments.

David pointed out that addressing the referees' comments on the SPI paper first will mean that the final report will be ready by the second half of 2015.

It was agreed that some time could be saved by doing this work in parallel and that the first priority was for David to complete editing of the remaining 64 species accounts and send them out for comment. This is estimated as three days' work. Next, while waiting for comments on these species accounts, work on the SPI paper could proceed. Meanwhile JNCC should discuss resources needed for the review with Defra i.e resources to help David and Dave with Phases 1 and 2

ACTION 3: David to complete editing the remaining species accounts and send them out for comment

ACTION 4: Ian to invite David and Jerry to discuss the referees' comments on the SPI paper and break the comments into tasks. Then get an estimate of time needed to do this work.

ACTION 5: Ant to discuss resourcing with Paul Rose and ask him to speak to Louise Leighton about her concerns about the way to progress this work.

5. Use of WinGS data to support identification of SPAs for wintering gulls

There are limited data for wintering gulls and this has been an ongoing problem. It was recognised that the group cannot produce third review of the SPA network stating that there are insufficient data for wintering gulls - not least as there has been a national survey published since the second review.

In order to deal with this, it was agreed that the WinGS data from 2003/04-2005/06 which provide a total count, should be used initially to identify sites with nationally / internationally important numbers of birds. These sites could provide an initial list of possible sites to consider. Other sources of data such as county bird reports and from WeBS should then be used to corroborate the WinGS data to see whether these large numbers occur regularly at these sites. If the WeBS, county bird reports or other data sources cannot corroborate the WinGS data, a survey of that site may be a further option.

It was noted first, that some / many of these sites are already SPAs and second that relative small population provision for wintering gulls needs to be sought using SPI values as a guide.

ACTION 6: Sarah to summarise this approach and circulate to the group for comment.

6. Any other business

David: next year is Ramsar COP 12 and AEWA's fifth Meeting of Parties. The AEWA Technical Committee will be generating Conservation Status Review with updated population estimates based on international waterbird censuses and other data. These estimates will be available for review soon. David will circulate these estimates to SWG members on request.

Ian Bainbridge: announced that he was now working part-time but has retained some time for the SPA review until the review is completed.

7. Date and venue for next meeting

ACTION 7: Cherry-Ann to set up the next meeting once JNCC has had discussions with Defra and progress with Actions 3 and 4 has been made.