

UK POST-2010 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

JNCC November 2013

For further information and documents relating to the implementation plan visit:

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6583>

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1. Scope

1.1 UK Biodiversity Framework

This paper sets out a plan for implementation of the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. The Framework itself was signed off by Environment Ministers from all four UK countries and published in July 2012 (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>). The Framework is self-explanatory, but a few key points or assumptions are listed below, for extra clarity.

The UK Framework IS:	The UK Framework IS NOT:
Evidence of the commitment of the four UK governments to work together on the priorities in the Framework	Prescriptive on the four UK countries
Intended to 'set the scene' for necessary UK work	'Standing over' or governing the independent country biodiversity strategies and groups
Intended to enable collaboration and synergy	Intended to duplicate country biodiversity strategies (although some achievements from the country strategies will contribute to UK goals)
Designed to ensure that all international responsibilities are met, with no gaps	

1.2 Implementation Plan

The plan is relatively high-level, rather than a detailed work plan for all areas of the Framework. In many areas, the work of implementation will be carried out solely or mainly by a single UK or country organisation, in which case the detailed planning will be at their discretion. Other areas may be carried out by working groups on which a number of organisations are represented, in which case the group will be responsible for detailed planning.

The plan covers the period from 2012 to 2020, but with a strong focus on 2012–2014.

2. Who is the implementation plan for?

The customer is the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group. The plan is also for the organisations which will implement the work (or actors), and their staff. Others who may have an interest in the plan and its outcomes could include stakeholders interested in evaluating the conservation of biodiversity in the UK, such as NGOs or international bodies.

3. Importance of the implementation plan

The priorities identified in the Framework have been carefully scrutinised to ensure that only the most critical activities towards internationally agreed biodiversity goals are included; there is nothing here which is a luxury, or 'nice to do if we had the resources'. They have been agreed at Ministerial level across the UK.

The plan is intended to show how these priorities will be addressed, identifying the main actors, and supporting them in securing resources for the work.

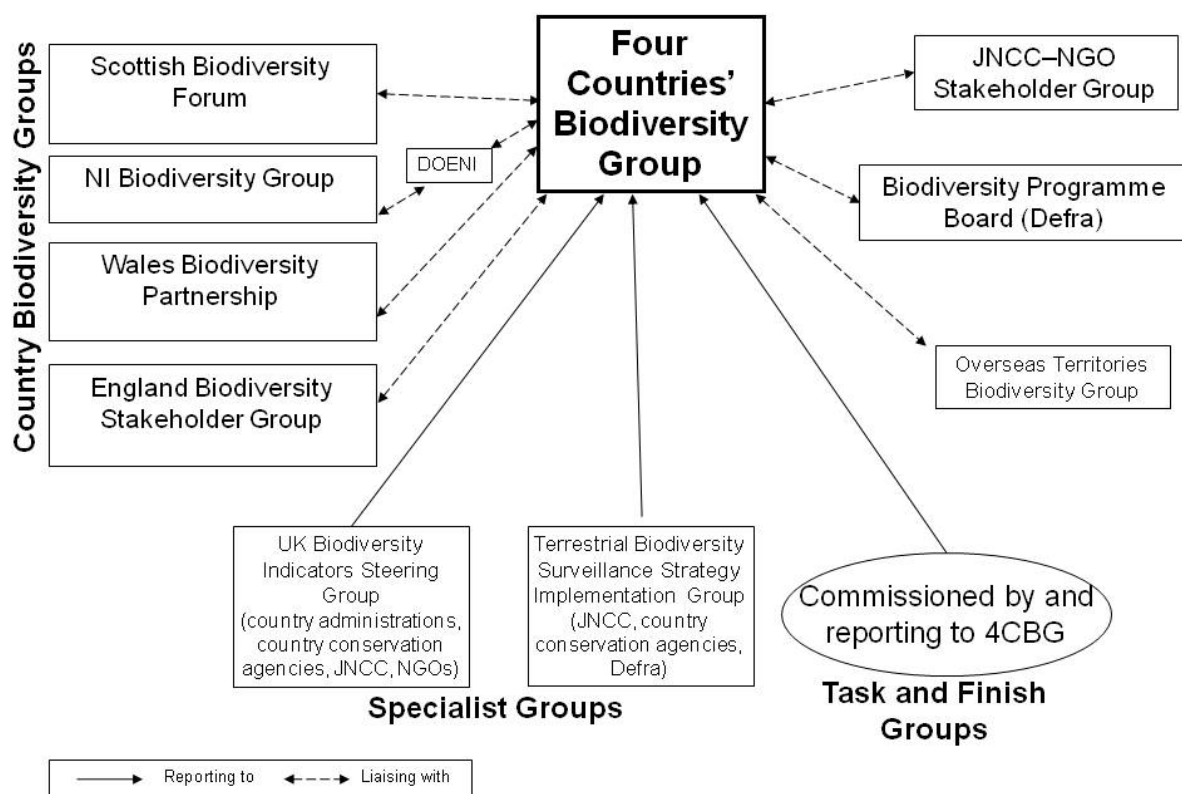
4. Governance

All work towards this plan is governed by the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group of UK governments and agencies; its terms of reference define the following roles¹:

1. To establish, co-ordinate and oversee work under the UK Biodiversity Framework, in order to meet EU and international biodiversity commitments.
2. To co-ordinate the UK response to new and emerging EU and international biodiversity initiatives.
3. To address other biodiversity-related matters which would benefit from strategic collaboration at the UK level.
4. To co-ordinate reporting of UK progress on the EU Biodiversity Strategy and Nagoya commitments including UK biodiversity indicators.
5. To establish and oversee UK-level sub-groups and events as necessary to support the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group in these tasks.

Figure 1 shows the main relationships of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group with existing groups, including partnership groups with which 4CBG liaises, and existing or future specialist groups, which work for and report to 4CBG.

Figure 1: UK Biodiversity Governance



Task and Finish groups would usually comprise agency or government staff, but could include stakeholders. They will have specific terms of reference, agreed by the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group, which specify their members, aim and outcomes or outputs, and set out the date by which their work will be complete and the group wound up.

¹ http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/Docs/FourCountriesGroup_ToR_Nov2012.doc

5. Activities towards our common purpose and shared priorities

The 23 actions or areas of work identified in the Framework are all linked to achieving at least one of the five Goals outlined in the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* (CBD 2010). They will all also contribute to the UK's agreed shared aims in one or more of four areas: international/European responsibilities; facilitating and contributing to common country approaches and solutions; provision of evidence; reporting.

The areas of work or activity are listed below, with a note of the statutory organisations (or actors) involved in implementing them. They are numbered according to which of the five Strategic Goals they contribute; thus for example there are three areas (A1-A3) which contribute mainly to Strategic Goal A. Since all the goals are interdependent, many activities will in fact contribute to more than one goal, but for simplicity this is not reflected here.

Activity	Actors (reporting lead in bold)
A1: Integrate biodiversity values Framework text: Using knowledge and evidence from across the UK as well as internationally, to identify, measure and integrate biodiversity values in accounting systems, business and other sectors. This is covered by commitment 35 of the Natural Environment White Paper, which deals with UK accounting systems, and commitment 44, which aims to increase the businesses understanding of how to benefit from green goods and services.	Defra/DAs; Treasury/Natural Capital Committee/Ecosystems Markets Task Force
A2: Reform incentives Framework text: Linking work at EU- and country-levels to reform incentives and so improve benefits to biodiversity, using and sharing evidence and knowledge from all levels.	Defra/DAs/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH/JNCC
A3: UK global impact Framework text: Improving and sharing knowledge, and maintaining an overview, of the global impact on biodiversity of the UK's consumption of resources. This will include helping businesses to understand their impact on natural capital as outlined in Natural Environment White Paper commitments 40 and 41.	Defra/DAs/JNCC/Treasury
B1: Fisheries Framework text: Action at all levels to specify limits, set up instruments, and devise and implement appropriate policies, to ensure that the impacts of fisheries are within safe ecological limits.	Defra/DAs/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH; MMO?/EA
B2: EU payments Framework text: Improving the targeting of EU direct payments for environmental public goods including in agriculture and forestry.	Defra/DAs/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH/FC?
B3: EU policy & practice Framework text: Influencing EU policy and sharing best practice.	Defra/DAs/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH; FERA?
B4: Pollution Framework text: Gathering and assessing evidence, and developing tools and methods to understand the impacts of pollution.	Defra (inc Defra WQ)/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH; EA/SEPA/MMO/UK TAG (main players for water pollution)/ACP
B5: IAS Framework text: Addressing issues caused by invasive alien species, including evidence and policies.	Defra/JNCC/NRW/NE/SNH/DOENI/EA/SEPA/MMO

B6: Habitats & climate change	Defra/DAs/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH; EA/SEPA/FC/DECC?
Framework text: Developing a robust evidence base from which marine, terrestrial, and freshwater habitats which are vulnerable to climate change can be identified, including those which may need special management to increase their resilience to change and facilitate adaptation.	
C1: Genetics of useful species	Defra/DAs/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH?
Framework text: Review of practices and policies in the UK, to check if efforts to maintain genetic diversity of useful and valuable species need to be increased and if so, how this could be resourced.	
C2: QQR	Defra/JNCC/NRW/NE/SNH
Framework text: Provision of information to support the identification and listing of threatened species through the quinquennial review of schedules 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, quality assurance of UK species red lists and the provision of access to information on the changes in distribution of species.	
C3: A/SSSI guidelines	JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH
Framework text: Maintenance of guidelines for the selection of SSSIs and ASSIs.	
C4: CSM	JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH
Framework text: Maintenance of guidelines and standards for the assessment of the condition of species and habitat features on protected areas.	
C5: MPAs	Defra/JNCC/DAs/MMO?
Framework text: Identification, designation, management and monitoring of protected areas in UK offshore marine waters.	
D1: Ecosystems evidence base	Defra/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH
Framework text: Building and applying the evidence base to implement the ecosystems approach and support ecosystem assessments.	
D2: GI	Defra/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH
Framework text: Facilitating the sharing of best practice and providing the European and UK context in relation to innovative approaches to planning and resources as part of developments in the EU on climate change adaptation and green infrastructure.	
D3: ABS	Defra/DAs
Framework text: Researching options for UK implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and contributing to the Commission's work on the EU implementation of the Access and Benefits Protocol.	
D4: Common approaches & best practice	JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH
Framework text: All of the work to develop pilot projects and then roll out best practice, including restoration techniques, will be carried out within the countries and led at that level. The UK-scale activity focuses on the sharing of best practice and, when required, the co-ordination of common approaches and principles that help the development of common assessment frameworks.	
E1: Share international information	Defra/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH
Framework text: Collaborative work between the countries to share information about the international context.	
E2: Reporting	Defra/AHVLA/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH;
Framework text: Reporting progress towards achievement of the CBD targets and to other multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. CITES, CBD, Ramsar, CMS). This includes the development of coherent indicator frameworks at UK- and country-scales, and linkage to assessment and indicator frameworks at EU- and global-scales.	

E3: Research, data & evidence-based advice	Defra/JNCC/SG/ WG/UKOTs/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH/other gov agencies/NERC/BBSRC/CEH/academic community/NGOs/MEAs
Framework text: Improving and sharing knowledge and science at a UK-, European- and global-level, including establishment and implementation of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), supporting the development of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, contributing to the Group on Earth Observations-Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON), and prioritising and promoting relevant research and developing practical advice and tools.	
E4: Resources for Biodiversity	Defra/DFID/Treasury?
Framework text: Gathering evidence and contributing to negotiations, mainly at EU- and global-scales, with regard to the mobilisation of resources for biodiversity, including innovative financial mechanisms.	
E5: Support the implementation of NBSAPs in developing countries	Defra/DFID
Framework text: Support to developing countries to develop their own strategies and implementation plans, for example through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), research and development investments through vehicles such as the Darwin Initiative, and capacity building.	

6. Reporting

For each of the areas of activity in the Framework, a brief report should be submitted to JNCC each October, in time for circulation before the next meeting of 4CBG (14 days before date of meeting). The lead actor from each of the 23 areas is responsible for submitting the report, including finding out and supplying the information to JNCC by the deadlines. JNCC will work with the 4CBG secretariat to ensure that all relevant partners are informed of the meeting dates and deadlines.

Reporting will be against milestones. Annex 2 shows the working milestones which have been agreed for the period up to 2015.

The reports can be submitted in spreadsheet (preferable) or table form, and need to address the headings, and contain an equivalent level of detail, as shown in the example in Annex 2. However, for work areas which have existing means of regular reporting, these can be submitted, so long as they are at a broadly similar level of detail.

Where necessary JNCC will amalgamate the reports for circulation to 4CBG.

Implementation of the Framework needs to be responsive to changes within and outside the UK governments and agencies. The details in the plan will be reviewed more thoroughly in 2015 and 2018. The review will re-assess, for each area of activity, the details and direction against the drivers listed in the Framework, and will refresh the implementation plan. The timetable is designed to tie in with international drivers including reporting for the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the Millennium Development Goals.

7. Communications

There will be a need for two-way communication between the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group and all the actors in the implementation plan. This will be the responsibility of JNCC, working with the 4CBG secretariat. It will cover:

- The implementation plan – progress and responsibilities
- Information about meetings, minutes, papers
- Up- to-date information about individuals and organisation involved, with contact details as appropriate.

Methods to be used will include:

- Web pages, with information to include Framework and implementation plan; 4CBG terms of reference, papers; supporting documentation as required; links to other sites including UK BAP archive, country strategy sites, BARS, international sites.

They may also include:

- Mailing lists (to receive updates)
- Occasional conferences or meetings (e.g. linked to reviews)
- Social media
- Members log-in areas of website or a set of documents available on a cloud-based collaboration platform such as Huddle.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

4CBG	Four Countries' Biodiversity Group
ABS	Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization
ACP	Environmental Panel of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides
AHVLA	Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency
BBSRC	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEH	Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
DAs	devolved administrations (The Northern Ireland Executive; The Scottish Government; Welsh Government)
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Defra WQ	Defra Water Quality
DFID	Department for International Development
EA	Environment Agency
FC	Forestry Commission
FERA	Food and Environment Research Agency
GI	Green Infrastructure
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NE	Natural England
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
QQR	Quinquennial Review of Schedules 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SG	The Scottish Government
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
UKOT	UK Overseas Territory
UK TAG	UK Technical Advisory Group for the WFD
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WG	Welsh Government

ANNEX 1: TEMPLATE FOR ANNUAL REPORTING

For each of the areas of activity in the Framework, a brief report should be submitted to JNCC once a year in October, in time for circulation before the next meeting of the 4CBG. The lead actor for each of the 23 areas will take on responsibility for submitting the report. The following template shows milestones agreed by 4CBG in October 2013.

The aim of reporting to the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework is to account to the governments of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, via their representative on the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group (4CBG), for work towards the Framework. This is work carried out at a UK level on behalf of all four governments.

We recognise that much of this work is carried out within the contributing organisations under long-established plans and programmes, with agreed milestones and targets, and separate reporting to their own sponsors.

It is not desirable, nor is it expected, that comprehensive and detailed reporting will be replicated for 4CGB, which wants an overview of activities and progress and cannot use great depth of detail. Contributors are asked to include only their most significant milestones towards the goals outlined in the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*. It is understood that the simplified reporting to 4CBG, in focussing only on the major milestones, will omit some strands of work, which may be important building blocks towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. If contributors have supplementary material, such as their own corporate planning documents, they may submit these separately to the coordinator (JNCC).

4CGB does need to be informed of 'gaps', i.e. any parts of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets which do not have a UK mechanism or activity to achieve them. As the target date (2020) approaches, ways will need to be proposed to fill these gaps.

The implementation plan will be reviewed and refreshed in 2015 and 2018.

Activity	Activity code	Lead organisation	Other actors	HIGH-LEVEL milestones to 2015	Achievements towards milestones in this reporting period	Level of confidence in progress	Any issues requiring decisions by 4CBG	Gaps – is more needed to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets?
Integrate biodiversity values	A1	Defra	DAs/Treasury/ Natural Capital Committee; Ecosystems Markets Task Force	<i>(1) Office for National Statistics to publish Accounting for the value of nature in the UK - A roadmap for the development of natural capital accounts within the UK Environmental Accounts (by end of 2012). This workplan includes: first and improved estimates of natural capital by end of 2013 and 2015 respectively; accounts for carbon and water by end of 2014; a pilot habitat account (woodlands) by end of 2013, followed by farmland (2014), wetlands and marine (both 2015). (2) Carry out a baseline evaluation of guidance for environmental appraisal and sustainable development across government, to assess how well guidance works and delivers mainstreaming (by end 2013). (3) Publish a roadmap to describe successful integration of natural capital into business and explore the necessary steps to achieve long-term integration</i>				

Activity	Activity code	Lead organisation	Other actors	HIGH-LEVEL milestones to 2015	Achievements towards milestones in this reporting period	Level of confidence in progress	Any issues requiring decisions by 4CBG	Gaps – is more needed to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets?
				(by Spring 2014). (4) Contribute to the funding and steering of a report on the costs of environmental pressures (April 2013).				
Reform incentives	A2	Defra	DAs/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH/JNCC (for evidence)	(1) Carry out research into schemes piloting Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) in England (by end 2013). (2) Publish PES Best Practice Guide (May 2013). (3) <i>Publish the Peatland Carbon Code (Sept 13)</i> .				
UK global impact	A3	JNCC	DAs/Treasury	(1) To quantify, describe and report (every two years, commencing in 2014) on the UK's overseas biodiversity impacts arising from domestic consumption of biomass. (2) Produce options paper for future work on the impact of UK consumption of other resources, building on the work on biomass, for discussion by 4CG (by Summer 2015).				
Fisheries	B1	Defra	DAs/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH/MMO/EA	(1) Represent UK biodiversity priorities in EU during reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (by end of 2013).				
EU payments	B2	Defra	DAs/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH/FC?	(1) Represent UK priorities in EU, to maximise the environmental benefits from the Common Agricultural Policy through the reform (by Winter 2013/14).				
EU policy & practice	B3	Defra	DAs/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH/ FERA?	(1) <i>Representatives of the UK and devolved administrations influence implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy through high-level EU groups including: Nature Directors; Marine Directors; Coordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature (CGBN); Habitats Committee (Habitats Directive); Ornis Committee (Birds Directive); European Environment Agency management board.</i> (2) <i>Meet the UK's reporting obligations for EU directives including:</i> – <i>Habitats Directive Article 17 (Dec 2013)</i> – <i>Birds Directive Article 12 (Mar 2014)</i> – <i>WFD</i> – <i>MSFD (2018)</i>				

Activity	Activity code	Lead organisation	Other actors	HIGH-LEVEL milestones to 2015	Achievements towards milestones in this reporting period	Level of confidence in progress	Any issues requiring decisions by 4CBG	Gaps – is more needed to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets?
Pollution	B4	JNCC	Defra/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH/EA/SEPA/MMO (main players for water pollution)/ACP/UKTAG /Defra WQ	<p>A - Air pollution</p> <p>(i) <i>Mainstream the impacts of air pollutants on biodiversity into wider air pollution work and policy evaluation.</i> In 2013, summarise the implications of air pollution impacts for biodiversity commitments (such as the Habitats Directive) and evaluate effectiveness of emission reductions to inform UK position on the revision to the National Emission Ceilings Directive.</p> <p>(ii) By 2015 have established methods to provide future evidence of impacts (and recovery) via broad-scale vegetation surveillance.</p> <p>(iii) By 2015 identify 'remedies/actions' feasible to reduce pressure from air pollution on protected sites and work together across countries to share best practice for implementation.</p> <p>(iv) <i>By 2015 establish methods to assess air pollution policy impacts on ecosystem services and provide valuation.</i></p> <p>B - Water Pollution</p> <p>(i) <i>Continued development of Environmental Quality Standards for the Water Framework Directive via UK Technical Advice Group (UKTAG)</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>For work to support implementation of the UK Marine Strategy, see MPAs (C5).</i></p>				
IAS	B5	Defra	JNCC/NRW/NE/SNH/DOENI/EA/SEPA/MMO	(1) Review and refresh the GB Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy (by Summer 2014).				
Habitats & climate change	B6	Defra	DAs/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH/EA/SEPA/FC/DECC?	<p>(1) <i>Publish UK Climate Change Risk Assessment: Government Report setting out the main risks and opportunities for the UK, arising from climate change (Jan 2012).</i></p> <p>(2) <i>Publication of Living With Environmental Change (LWEC) report cards: Terrestrial Biodiversity Climate Change Impacts (May 2013); Water Climate Change Impacts (July 2013); soil biota impacts (March 2014).</i></p> <p>(3) <i>Research (BICCONET) to determine species responses to climate change, to develop a biodiversity climate change indicator (by Spring 2014).</i></p> <p>(4) <i>Research to assess potential impacts of low carbon energy technologies on habitats and species and</i></p>				

Activity	Activity code	Lead organisation	Other actors	HIGH-LEVEL milestones to 2015	Achievements towards milestones in this reporting period	Level of confidence in progress	Any issues requiring decisions by 4CBG	Gaps – is more needed to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets?
				<i>incorporate assessments into the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) 2050 Pathways Calculator (by end of 2013); expand species coverage (by end of 2014).</i>				
Genetics of useful species	C1	Defra	DAs NRW/NE/NIEA/ SNH?	(1) Produce a new UK Country Report on Farm Animal Genetic Resources (FAnGR), including a UK Inventory of farm animal genetic resources by Spring 2013 and regular (at least 3-yearly) Inventory data collected thereafter, for animal and plant genetic resources. (2) Maintain existing in situ and ex situ collections (existing contracts for National Fruit Collection and Vegetable Collection due to expire in March 2014). (3) Support genetic resources for food and agriculture through other international, EU and UK policies and programmes, including how genetic resources can be supported in the new EU Rural Development Programme from January 2014.				
QQR	C2	JNCC	Defra/NRW/NE/ SNH/DAs. Note that NIEA are not included. This is GB only.	1) JNCC to advise and provide recommendations to all 3 devolved governments by end 2013. 2) JNCC to liaise with devolved governments to produce options for next steps by 2014. 3) <i>Governments to embed results in relevant instruments.</i>				
A/SSSI guidelines	C3	JNCC	NRW/NE/NIEA/ SNH	(1) Revised guidance (Part 1) signed off and published (2012/13). (2) Ongoing process of updating selected chapters in Part 2.				
CSM	C4	JNCC	NRW/NE/NIEA/ SNH	(1) Any revisions necessary to incorporate new evidence re Air Pollution, made and published (2014).				
MPAs	C5	Defra	JNCC/DAs/MMO?	(1) <i>Special Protection Areas Completion of SPA network by end of 2015.</i> (2) Marine Strategy Framework Directive: the UK to submit an initial assessment of UK seas, and the determination of good environmental status (GES), including targets and indicators by 2012; establish monitoring programmes by 2014; develop a programme of management measures by 2015; and implement it by 2016, achieving GES by 2020.				

Activity	Activity code	Lead organisation	Other actors	HIGH-LEVEL milestones to 2015	Achievements towards milestones in this reporting period	Level of confidence in progress	Any issues requiring decisions by 4CBG	Gaps – is more needed to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets?
Ecosystems evidence base	D1	Defra	DAs/WCMC/JNCC /NRW/NE/NIEA/ SNH/WCMC	<p>(1) <i>Living With Environmental Change Ecosystems Task Force established (May 2013) and roadmap for realising nature's value published, research & tools needed identified and monitoring action plan published (2015).</i></p> <p>(2) <i>UK National Ecosystem Assessment Follow On published (July 2013).</i></p> <p>(3) <i>The Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) research programme, funded by UK: produced high quality, multi-disciplinary knowledge; built research capacity; increased use of knowledge; produced new partnerships, increasingly led by developing-countries, and delivering ecosystem services and poverty alleviation (by 2017).</i></p>				
GI	D2	JNCC	Defra/NRW/NE/ NIEA/SNH	Track developments in the EU and respond as needed with a focus on ensuring that evidence required for the EU Biodiversity Strategy Target 2 is available. In medium-term:				
ABS	D3	Defra	DAs	(1) ABS Protocol fully implemented in UK by the end of 2015.				
Common approaches & best practice	D4	JNCC	NRW/NE/NIEA/ SNH	(1) UK biodiversity evidence standards: each country will develop its own standards, but will liaise to share experiences and monitor issues and drivers, so as to detect and be prepared if a need for pan-UK standards arises in the future.				
Share international information	E1	JNCC	Defra/NRW/NE/ NIEA/SNH	<p>(1) Implement by end of FY 2013-14 the option preferred by 4CG with respect to the updating of the UK Clearing House Mechanism and arrange for subsequent updating and maintenance from 2014 onwards.</p> <p>(2) Provide quarterly to 4CG an updated calendar of future international MEA meetings including links to agendas & meeting documents and identifying the relevant lead contact.</p> <p>(3) Provide twice yearly to 4CG a report from any</p>				

Activity	Activity code	Lead organisation	Other actors	HIGH-LEVEL milestones to 2015	Achievements towards milestones in this reporting period	Level of confidence in progress	Any issues requiring decisions by 4CBG	Gaps – is more needed to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets?
Reporting	E2	Defra	AHVLA/JNCC/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH	<p>previous MEA meetings cascading key outcomes and highlighting issues relevant for UK implementation.</p> <p>(1) New set of K indicators, compatible with Aichi and EUBS and disaggregated to country level (2013/14).</p> <p>(2) UK reports, incorporating reporting against country biodiversity strategies, for relevant MEAS: CBD (Mar 2014); CMS (Apr 2014); Ramsar (Dec 2014).</p>				
Research, data & evidence-based advice	E3	Defra	JNCC/SG/WG/UKOTs/NRW/NE/NIEA/SNH/other gov agencies/NERC/BBSRC/CEH/academic community/NGOs/MEAs	<p>(1) Consult UK stakeholders and contribute to development of IPBES work programme (Dec 2013) and first IPBES deliverables (2015).</p> <p>(2) Consult UK stakeholders and contribute to development of clear recommendations from CBD SBSTTA-17 and -18 meetings (Oct 2013, May 2014) and effective use of evidence to support CBD COP Decisions (Oct 2014).</p> <p>(3) Contribute to the development of efficient and effective EU mechanisms to improve the availability of evidence to support biodiversity policy development (2015).</p> <p>(4) Ensure effective information exchange with the academic sectors to improve the flow of evidence into policy, including through liaison with the UK Biodiversity Science Committee (2015).</p> <p>(5) Update the UK Terrestrial Biodiversity Surveillance Strategy and provide guidelines for implementation (March 2014).</p> <p>(6) Increase availability and use of biodiversity data and promote data sharing capacity and infrastructure in the UK (October 2014).</p> <p>(7) Agree with stakeholders priorities for data sharing with the global research community, to cover both funding and priorities for data mobilisation, as a response to the recommendations in the Global Biodiversity Informatics Outlook (October 2014).</p>				
Resources for Biodiversity	E4	Defra	DfID/Treasury?	<p>(1) Provide, through the International Climate Fund (ICF), £2.9bn to help the world's poorest adapt to climate change, and to promote cleaner, greener growth. Funding is from DFID (£1.8bn), DECC (£1bn) and Defra (£100m) and is to be allocated by March</p>				

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				<p>2015. All ICF projects must deliver biodiversity, carbon and poverty benefits.</p> <p>(2) The UK government co-sponsors the High-Level Panel on the Global Assessment of the Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Phase 1 report on the costs (October 2012); Phase 2 report on cost-effective opportunities to achieve benefits (October 2014).</p> <p>(3) Support, with funding and expertise, the implementation of Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) and its objectives (to 2015) to: establish environmental accounts in six to ten countries; develop guidelines for ecosystem accounting; spread environmental accounting through a global partnership.</p> <p>(4) Fund production of guidance for NBSAPs (March 2013).</p>				
support the implementation of NBSAPs in developing countries	E5	Defra	DFID	<p>(1) Contribute agreed resources to Global Environment Facility's (GEF) fifth replenishment (by July 2014).</p> <p>(2) Participate in negotiations for the 6th GEF Replenishment and determine the allocation of resources for biodiversity 2014-2018 (by June 2014).</p> <p>(3) Maintain funding of £8 million per annum for projects under the Darwin Initiative and Darwin Plus (by end March 2015).</p> <p>(4) Continue to provide technical support and capacity building through DFID's bilateral aid programmes (by end of 2015) where requested by partner governments.</p>				

Annex 2: CBD Strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets

NOTE: most of the work towards these targets is carried out within the countries (i.e. it is not UK-level). The UK framework and reporting concentrate only on work at a UK level, which complements the country-led activities.

STRATEGIC GOAL A ('mainstreaming'): Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.

Target 1 – Awareness: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

Target 2 – Values/accounting: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

Target 3 – Incentives: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.

Target 4 – Mainstreaming sustainable use: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

STRATEGIC GOAL B ('pressures'): Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.

Target 5 – Habitat loss: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Target 6 – 'Fisheries': By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

[Note: Although the target does not say so, the technical documentation supporting the targets CBD 2011 suggests that this target applies to marine rather than freshwater harvesting, in that freshwaters are not once mentioned and a marine context is assumed.]

Target 7 – Sustainable land use: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

Target 8 – Pollution: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Target 9 – Invasive aliens: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Target 10 – Climate Change impacts: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

STRATEGIC GOAL C ('safeguarding'): To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

Target 11 – Protected areas: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water [areas], and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, 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 landscape and seascapes.

Target 12 – Threatened species: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Target 13 – Domesticated species & wild relatives: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

STRATEGIC GOAL D ('benefits'): Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystems.

Target 14 – Ecosystem services: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Target 15 – Restoration: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

Target 16 – Access to genetic resources: By 2015, the Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

STRATEGIC GOAL E ('knowledge & capacity'): Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Target 17 – NBSAPs: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Target 18 – Local communities: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Target 19 – Science base: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

Target 20 – Resources: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resources needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.