

UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework: Revised Implementation Plan (2018–2020)

JNCC and Defra on behalf of 4CBG (June 2018)

1. Background to the *UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework* and Implementation Plan

The *UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework* was produced by JNCC and Defra, on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group (4CBG) in 2012, and was signed off by the Environment Ministers of the four UK governments. The *Framework* covers the period from 2011 to 2020, and was developed in response to two main drivers: the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and its 20 'Aichi Targets', published in October 2010; and the EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS), produced in May 2011.

The purpose of the *Framework* was to set a broad enabling structure for action across the UK between now and 2020, in order to:

- i. Set out a shared vision and priorities for UK-scale activities, in a framework jointly owned by the four countries, and to which their own strategies will contribute.
- ii. Identify priority work at a UK level which will be needed to help deliver the Aichi Targets and the EU Biodiversity Strategy.
- iii. Facilitate the aggregation and collation of information on activity and outcomes across all countries of the UK, where the four countries agree this will bring benefits compared to individual country work.
- iv. Streamline governance arrangements for UK-scale activity.

To achieve this, the *Framework* identified activities required at a UK level to complement the country biodiversity strategies. In total, 23 'activities' were originally identified where all the countries agreed that they wanted to contribute to, and would benefit from, a continued UK focus.

In 2013, the *Framework* was supplemented by an Implementation Plan. The original Plan focussed on the period from 2013 to 2015, and included 60 milestones, proposed by the relevant policy leads, for the 23 activities identified in the *Framework*. The first report on the Implementation Plan was published in December 2013, and the second report in September 2015.

2. Development of a revised Implementation Plan

Production of a revised Implementation Plan has become necessary because many of the milestones within the original Plan were due to be completed or to expire in or around the year 2015. In addition, there have been a number of changes both at a country- and UK-level since the *Framework* and the original Plan were produced. For example, approaches to biodiversity conservation have become more devolved, leading to the development of new country-level plans, strategies and legislation; and several new concepts relating to biodiversity conservation have emerged, including natural capital, ecosystem services, and natural resource management.

In 2017, the 4CBG discussed options for revising the Implementation Plan, and agreed that an overview of the shared responsibilities and outcomes at a UK level was still necessary, particularly for planning and reporting to CBD. In addition, there was agreement that, for the remainder of the life of the *Framework* (which extends to 2020), the Implementation Plan should be radically simplified, in order to focus on high-level activities and to reduce

unnecessary reporting burden. As a result, it was decided that the purpose of the revised Implementation Plan should be two-fold:

- To work together to enable the UK to demonstrate leadership in international MEAs, through delivering and reporting on international goals and targets, and informing UK negotiating positions.
- To add value to country delivery through the sharing of best practice and the development of common standards.

3. Scope of the Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan is intended to be 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 organisation. All work towards the Plan is governed by the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group (4CBG).

The aim of the *Framework* was to set out how the four countries of the UK would/could work together to implement the CBD and the EU Biodiversity Strategy in the UK and in the Overseas Territories. However, in reality it's important to recognise that the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group, and the activities within the *Framework's* implementation Plan (particularly the revised Plan) have primarily a UK, and a terrestrial and freshwater focus. Most UK Overseas Territories (OTs) and Crown Dependencies have Environment Charters which address biodiversity issues, and the UK government's strategy (*United Kingdom Overseas Territories' Biodiversity Strategy* (UKOTBS)) aims to enable the UK and Overseas Territories' governments to meet their international obligations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the UK OTs. The delivery of the Aichi Targets in the UK OTs will therefore be supported by the UK government via the implementation of this strategy. The marine elements of the *Framework* are likewise covered through the UK Marine strategy. Implementation of the *Framework* is therefore not only through the Implementation Plan.

4. The Revised Plan

The revised Implementation Plan (see Table 1 below) covers the period from 2018 to 2020, and is based around two key objectives, which reflect the two-fold purpose of the revised plan. For each objective, some high-level actions and associated deliverables have been proposed. These higher-level actions and deliverables provide a much simpler structure to produce evidence for, but are not necessarily fixed, and may therefore evolve or be adjusted with changing priorities over the next two years.

Note that the revised Implementation Plan is designed to be simple and high level, rather than a detailed work plan, and therefore will reflect only some of the work being undertaken to achieve the actions and objectives. In addition, beyond 2020, it is anticipated that there will be an opportunity to develop a new UK 'Framework' and reporting mechanism, in response to post-2020 ambitions.

Table 1. Revised Implementation Plan (2018–2020) for the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, including objectives, high-level actions, and deliverables.

Objective 1. Work together to enable the UK to demonstrate leadership in international MEAs, through delivering and reporting on international goals and targets, and informing UK negotiating positions	
Action	Deliverables
<p>Action 1.1: UK Biodiversity Indicators Develop and publish the UK Biodiversity Indicators, ensuring that the indicators support UK reporting and the country indicator sets, and integrate the indicators into relevant MEA reports.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Update and publish the UK biodiversity indicators in July 2018 and July/August 2019. (Lead: Defra/JNCC)</p> <p>1.1.2 Scope the development of relevant metrics/indicators linked to the UK elements of the 25-year Environment Plan (including international components). (Initial ideas anticipated in June/July 2018). (Lead: Defra/JNCC)</p>
<p>Action 1.2: Reporting & communicating Produce relevant national reports to MEAs, and develop a set of UK position papers, to demonstrate how the UK is delivering specific CBD (and other MEA) priorities. These should set out clearly what actions are taking place in each country and how they relate to CBD commitments.</p>	<p>1.2.1 Produce and submit UK reports, incorporating reporting against country biodiversity strategies, for relevant MEAs, including Ramsar (to be submitted in April/May 2018) & CBD (December 2018). (Lead: JNCC)</p> <p>1.2.2 Develop UK narratives and position papers which set out clearly what is happening in each country, for example to support interventions at MEA meetings or responses to notifications seeking information, including, in 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering the CBD in the UK. (Lead: JNCC) • Action for pollinators. (Lead: Defra) • Financing for biodiversity. (Lead: Defra) • Action for protected sites. (Lead: Defra)
<p>Action 1.3: Share international information Share international information and support the formulation of UK positions for international and European negotiations, to enable the UK to play a leading role in international MEAs.</p>	<p>1.3.1 Share information on international agreements and initiatives, through 4CBG meetings. (Ongoing; Lead: JNCC)</p> <p>1.3.2 Arrange, in early 2018, post-2020 workshops with the four UK countries to discuss and agree a UK approach & ambition to CBD post-2020 targets. (Lead: JNCC)</p> <p>1.3.3 Agree UK negotiating lines for CBD meetings in 2018 and 2019, including SBI 2 & SBSTTA 22 (July 2018) and CoP14 (Nov 2018). (Lead: Defra)</p>

Objective 2. Add value to country delivery through the sharing of best practice and the development of common standards	
Action	Deliverables
Action 2.1: Common standards Maintain, develop, revise, and update common standards, to ensure they remain up-to-date and fit for purpose.	Undertake a review of Common Standards' Monitoring guidance and SSSI Guidelines, by end of 2018, to ensure they remain fit for purpose. (Lead: JNCC) 2.1.2 Undertake the 7 th Quinquennial Review of Schedules 5 & 8 of the WCA, commencing in 2019. (Lead: JNCC)
Action 2.2: Research engagement Engage in relevant UK, European, and international research initiatives, partnerships, programmes, and projects (e.g. NERC Innovation, BiodivERSA, Darwin), in order to shape funding priorities and research activities, and to enhance collaboration and scientific credibility.	2.2.1 Engage in, or develop, UK, European and international initiatives, partnerships & networks to help shape funding priorities, and to enhance research engagement and collaboration. (Ongoing; Lead: JNCC) 2.2.2 Seek opportunities to undertake relevant research projects to develop new collaborations, and enhance research profiles. (Ongoing; Lead: JNCC). 2.2.3 Publish outputs of projects in scientific journals to enhance scientific credibility. (Ongoing; Lead: JNCC)
Action 2.3: Monitoring & evidence Develop/maintain relevant surveillance and monitoring schemes to ensure provision of high quality terrestrial UK evidence.	2.3.1 Facilitate knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practice and guidance in monitoring and surveillance (e.g. through the development of the UK Terrestrial Evidence Partnership of Partnerships (TEPoP)). (Ongoing; Lead: JNCC) 2.3.2 Fund and implement a programme of terrestrial monitoring and reporting to support country delivery and UK reporting (including a review (in 2018/19) of JNCC's terrestrial evidence programme to ensure it remains contemporary and informative). (Ongoing; Lead: JNCC) 2.3.3 Engage with, and share knowledge through, the UK Environmental Observation Framework (UKEOF), which aims to improve co-ordination of the observational evidence needed to understand and manage the natural environment. (Ongoing; Lead: JNCC/Defra)
Action 2.4: Knowledge exchange, best practice & mainstreaming Facilitate knowledge exchange and the sharing and embedding of best practice, in particular to promote a natural capital/resources approach, and to mainstream biodiversity in other sectors to advocate sustainable consumption and production.	2.4.1 Through 4CBG and other fora (e.g. UK BISG) identify areas where knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practice would be beneficial for the UK and the four countries, and set-up sub-groups and/or organise/participate in events to facilitate. (e.g. BES/UK Conservation Agencies Symposium (May 2018)). (Ongoing; Lead: JNCC) 2.4.2 Engage with relevant (natural capital) initiatives (e.g. VNN, NCI, EKN, UKEOF Natural Capital Working Group), to promote a natural capital or natural resources approach and to explore options for mainstreaming biodiversity in other sectors. (Ongoing; Lead: JNCC)