

# National Ecosystem Assessment

## Special Session jointly hosted by the BES and the UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009

### Speakers and discussion 11:00-12:30 Workshops and report back 13:30-15:30 Includes lunch for attendees.

The BES Science Policy Team and the UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (UK BRAG) are jointly hosting a Special Session on the "National Ecosystem Assessment". The UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) is an initiative that will produce the world's first national assessment of its kind. Jointly Chaired by Prof. Robert Watson, Defra's Chief Scientific Advisor, and Prof. Steve Albon FRSE, of the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute, it will give an assessment of the current state of all of the ecosystems in the UK. The NEA will also provide the evidence foundation for adoption of the ecosystem approach in policy. The session will be an excellent opportunity to look at how the NEA is operating and give direct feedback to the funding agencies. **The full programme is on the reverse of this leaflet.**

For more information about policy work at the BES, contact Ceri Margerison, Policy Officer, at [Ceri@BritishEcologicalSociety.org](mailto:Ceri@BritishEcologicalSociety.org). For further information about the UK BRAG please contact [UKBRAG@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:UKBRAG@jncc.gov.uk) or go to the website [www.ukbrag.org.uk](http://www.ukbrag.org.uk).



### The UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group

**The UK Biodiversity Research Group** is made up of UK biodiversity researchers, funders and practitioners, including members from statutory conservation agencies, academia, the collections, research councils and government departments. The BES is represented on the group, and participates in relevant sub-groups.

The UK BRAG is not a funding body and does not address specific research needs associated with individual sites. Its aims are;

- to identify, promote and facilitate biodiversity research to support UK and individual country biodiversity action plan commitments;
- to coordinate effective UK engagement with European biodiversity research issues;
- to contribute to effective biodiversity research networking in the UK;
- to support knowledge transfer activities in relation to biodiversity research.

UK BRAG also has a close relationship with the Global Biodiversity Sub Committee (GBSC). UK BRAG focuses on the UK and Crown Dependencies, while the GBSC considers global biodiversity issues and the needs of the UK's Overseas Territories.

Information on the GBSC can be found at <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4628>

For more information on the UK BRAG, including full terms of reference, please see [www.ukbrag.org.uk](http://www.ukbrag.org.uk) or e-mail [ukbrag@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:ukbrag@jncc.gov.uk)



The British Ecological Society's policy section exists to ensure that ecologists and ecology are represented at the highest levels within public policy-making and that policy decisions are built on the firmest possible scientific foundations. The Society's Public and Policy Committee (PPC), chaired by Dr Peter Carey, sets the agenda for the Society's engagement with policy-makers, in partnership with policy staff at the BES Secretariat. The Society's current policy priorities are: Climate Change; Ecosystem Services; Marine Policy and Research Funding. Work on these topics is assisted by our three 'Advisory Groups' who provide expert advice to ensure that the policy team is able to contribute the very best scientific evidence to policy development.

Both the BES and the UK BRAG are committed to ensuring that policy making is based on sound research evidence, and that an ecosystem approach that values all the functions of biodiversity is taken by policy makers. In 2008, the BES and UK BRAG jointly hosted a very successful special session on Ecosystem Services. The National Ecosystem Assessment is therefore seen by both organisations as very timely, and welcome. This session is to allow the research community to hear more about the project, and to give delegates an opportunity to contribute to the NEA process.

## National Ecosystem Assessment – Special Session Programme.

**Chair: Prof. Ken Norris**

Time	Presentation	Speaker
11:00 – 11:05	Welcome	Dr. Peter Costigan (Chair UK BRAG) and Dr. Peter Carey (Chair BES PPC Committee)
11:05 – 11:25	Overview, Status and Trends	Prof .Steve Albon, Joint Chair NEA.
11:25 – 11:45	Valuation	Dr Melanie Austin
11:45 – 12:05	Policy Options	To be confirmed
12:05 – 12:35	Discussion	Chaired by Prof. Ken Norris

12:35 – 13:30

LUNCH

Time	Workshops	
13:30 – 14:45	1. Future Directions	Chair: Prof. Rosie Hails Facilitator: Ceri Margerison
13:30 – 14:45	2. Status and Trends	Chair: Prof. Steve Ormorod Facilitator: Tina Yates
13:30 – 14:45	3. Valuing Ecosystem Services	Chair: Dr. Bridget Emmett Facilitator: Philip Bubb

14:45 – 15:00

Tea/Coffee

Time	Report back on workshops	Chair: Prof. Ken Norris
15:00-15:30	1. Future Directions	Rapporteur: Dr Laura Bellingan
15:00-15:30	2. Status and Trends	Rapporteur: Dr Helen Baker
15:00-15:30	3. Valuing Ecosystem Services	Rapporteur: Dr Claire Brown