

The recommendations from UK BRAG's work on these themes are available in a report summarising the Group's work between 2003-2006 ([www.ukbrag.org](http://www.ukbrag.org)).

### Future Work

New areas of work are addressing the provision of goods and services in marine ecosystems, deriving policy benefit from research programmes, and climate change risk assessment of UK BAP priorities.

### Collaborative activities

UK BRAG undertakes national reviews on key topics to inform the BioSTRAT project ([www.biostrat.org/](http://www.biostrat.org/)), which in turn supports the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy ([www.epbrs.org/](http://www.epbrs.org/)).

In order to optimise Knowledge Transfer activities, UK BRAG is working closely with the British Ecological Society ([www.britishecologicalsociety.org/](http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/)); and contributes ideas to the Environmental Research Funders' Forum, through its Research Coordination working Group ([www.erff.org.uk/about/organisation/workgroup/rescoor.asp](http://www.erff.org.uk/about/organisation/workgroup/rescoor.asp)).

Through a shared Secretariat, UK BRAG has a close relationship with the Global Biodiversity Sub Committee (GBSC) of the UK Global Environmental Change Committee ([www.ukgecc.org/dvl\\_Biodiversity.htm](http://www.ukgecc.org/dvl_Biodiversity.htm)). While UK BRAG focuses on the UK and Crown Dependencies, the GBSC considers global biodiversity issues and the needs of the UK's Overseas Territories.

### Further information

To find out more about UK BRAG and its activities, please contact the Secretariat:

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Biodiversity Information Service

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee

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Peterborough, PE1 1JY

[www.ukbrag.org](http://www.ukbrag.org)

### Member Organisations

The membership of UK BRAG represents UK biodiversity researchers, funders and practitioners. These are drawn from the statutory nature conservation agencies, the university sector, Wildlife and Countryside Link, the Natural History Museum, the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, the Forestry Commission, NERC, Defra, the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government, and the European Commission.



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## The UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (UK BRAG)

UK BRAG serves as the UK's National Biodiversity Research Platform. It exists to:

- Identify, promote and facilitate biodiversity research to support UK and individual country biodiversity action plan commitments;
- Coordinate effective and efficient UK engagement with European biodiversity research issues, fulfilling the role of a national biodiversity research platform;
- Contribute to effective biodiversity research networking in the UK, leading to increased interdisciplinary capacity;
- Support knowledge transfer activities in relation to biodiversity research.

UK BRAG does not act as a funding body for biodiversity research in the UK, and the success of the Group is not tied to formalised performance measures. Effectiveness is assessed in terms of:

- Improved networking within and between researcher, policymaker and practitioner communities;
- Increased capacity for biodiversity research in the UK, particularly interdisciplinary approaches; and
- More effective knowledge transfer, including science-to-policy, facilitated by the Group's activities.

## Research Themes

The work of UK BRAG has addressed a number of major cross-cutting themes, building upon the recommendations of a predecessor, the Biodiversity Research Working Group (BRWG) and responding to new, developing areas of research.

### Climate Change Adaptation

The threat of climate change to the UK's biodiversity is recognised, but impacts are understood only partially. While some mitigation measures may be possible, there is a need to explore options to enable adaptation to change.

### The Role of Biodiversity in Ecosystem Function

There needs to be an improved understanding of the mechanisms and processes that underpin ecosystem function, in order to more fully comprehend the role that biodiversity may play in maintaining such processes.

### Genetic Conservation

A better knowledge of genetic variation will help guide policy and practical action for biodiversity conservation and restoration, and has assumed a greater importance in the face of environmental change.

### The Impact of Non-Native Species

Non-Native Species (NNS) may present a serious threat to the UK's biodiversity. It is important to understand their status and trends, identify drivers and pressures, and initiate management and legislative responses.

## Socio-Economic Issues

Social sciences and environmental economics have much to contribute to the process of delivery for the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and commitments at the European level. The need for true interdisciplinary research is recognised and must be facilitated.

## Habitat and Ecosystem Management

Knowledge, best practice and tools need to be developed to enable management for biodiversity at a range of spatial scales, to address the wider landscape and integrate with sustainable development objectives.



## Monitoring of Biodiversity and Evaluation of Actions

Reliable biodiversity information depends upon development of robust approaches to biodiversity measurement, identifying negative impacts and evaluating the success of the actions we take.