

Global Biodiversity Sub-Committee (GBSC)

Meeting papers

UK BRAG Report to GBSC

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UK BRAG Report to GBSC, 07/11/07

UK BRAG Report

The UK BRAG has recently published a report of the Group's work between 2003-2006 – *Research Needs for UK Biodiversity*. The report is intended as high-level summary of the research needs for seven cross-cutting themes, and can be read in conjunction with the individual research strategies for each of these themes (available for download from the UK BRAG website www.ukbrag.org)

Goods & Services from Marine Ecosystems

A new UK BRAG sub-group has been set up, to consider the current state of knowledge and research needs associated with the relationship between biodiversity and the provision of goods and services from marine ecosystems. Chaired by Mel Austen (Plymouth Marine Laboratory), the sub-group will be providing a draft report to the main UK BRAG meeting on 4th December.

Deriving Policy Benefit from Research Programmes

Another new sub-group, chaired by Paul Rose (JNCC), has been set up to consider current arrangements for shaping research programmes, synthesising research outputs and applying these in the formulation of biodiversity and associated policies; to consider how effective these measures are, and make suggestions as to how the process can be improved. A draft report will be prepared for presentation to the main UK BRAG meeting on 4th December.

Collaboration between UK BRAG and The British Ecological Society

The UK BRAG held a side event at the Annual Meeting of the BES, held in Glasgow in September. This took the form of a discussion, addressing the question *Is Biodiversity Research Leading to Action?* A panel of UK BRAG members was on hand to answer questions, and the event was attended by around 40 people. The discussion considered: How to make biodiversity a priority in a crowded policy & research arena? What are barriers to implementing UK BRAG recommendations? When & how should we co-ordinate? Where has biodiversity research led to action on the ground? How best to influence funders? How to ensure researchers know about UK BRAG? How best to network with research community? How best to influence practitioners? Future topics for UK BRAG?

The success of this event has led the UK BRAG to put forward a proposal for a thematic session at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the BES, to be held in London. A working title is *Ecosystem Services – developing scientific relationships and evidence as a basis for policy and decision making*. This has been considered by the BES Meetings Committee, and further work is now underway to refine the scope of the proposal.

Knowledge Transfer Strategy

Following the 2006 review of the UK BRAG, the importance of taking the Group's work into a new phase of disseminating information and influencing research funders has been recognised. To address this, work has begun on the development of a strategy paper, identifying who the UK BRAG needs to influence, how and when to do this, and what measures of success we should use.