

Global Biodiversity Sub-Committee (GBSC)

Meeting papers

Review of evidence needs for Defra's Global Biodiversity sub-programme

March 2009

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Review of evidence needs for Defra's Global Biodiversity sub-programme

Background

The aim of the project is to identify evidence needs of the Global Biodiversity Sub-Programme and inform the content of the International Biodiversity Research Programme. This is a relatively new programme with a budget of c. £400k p.a.

The project objectives were:

- (1) To review and identify the evidence *needs* for delivering the UK commitment's to Global Biodiversity.
- (2) Review evidence *gaps* identified in other key sources including gaps identified by the GECC-GBSC (the specification lists a range of other sources).
- (3) Identify strategic priorities for the R&D Assessment Unit and, within each priority, identify a range of potential projects to be undertaken in the period to 2013

Summary of findings:

Strategic priorities	Specific proposals
Addressing the UK's global impacts and responsibilities, particularly with respect to the Overseas Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing the impacts and developing strategies for the management of IAS in OTs • Future threats to biodiversity in OTs • Case studies of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the OTs • Assessing habitat survey and baseline data requirements for decision making in OTs • Assessing the impact of UK trade on global biodiversity
Carbon markets and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining the impacts of emerging carbon markets on biodiversity • Assessing the impacts of the different REDD market mechanisms on biodiversity
Refining and implementing the ecosystem approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the nature and significance of trade-offs between ecosystem service beneficiaries
Global land-use change: drivers and impacts on biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK biofuel consumption and threats to agricultural frontiers
Research on biodiversity and ecosystem services for biomes other than forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study of biodiversity and ecosystem services value in marine areas • The carbon storage value of biomes other than forests.
Valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating direct and indirect impacts of UK activities on biodiversity and ecosystem services. • Feasibility study: biodiversity credits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional mapping in biodiversity hotspots • Communicating biodiversity to policy makers and the public • Making the case for high seas marine protected

	areas.
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