

Global Biodiversity Sub-Committee (GBSC)

Terms of Reference

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Global Biodiversity Sub-Committee (GBSC)
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GBSC Terms of Reference

Overall Aim

The GBSC brings together the key governmental and other major funders of biodiversity research in the UK, to ensure that there is an evidence base and scientific capacity which is fit for purpose to support [development of] Government policy on global biodiversity change, and that the needs of policy inform the work undertaken to develop the science base.

In order to meet this challenge, GBSC will:

1. Identify and keep under review, gaps in scientific understanding and emerging scientific questions concerning global biodiversity, evaluate their significance, and propose options for addressing them;
2. review the effectiveness of the national capacity, capability and performance in this area, and recommend improvements where needed;
3. make recommendations on strategic priorities for UK and EU science; and
4. where actions cannot be taken because of an absence of a clear departmental or RC lead, to elevate issues to GECC and if need be to GCSA (via CSAC).

The structure of the world's ecosystems changed more rapidly in the second half of the twentieth century than at any time in recorded human history, and virtually all of Earth's ecosystems have now been significantly transformed through human actions. (Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Ecosystems and human well-being Biodiversity Synthesis Key Messages).

Biodiversity benefits people through more than just its contribution to material welfare and livelihoods. Biodiversity contributes to security, resiliency, social relations, health and freedom of choices and actions. (Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Ecosystems and human well-being Biodiversity Synthesis Key Messages).
The GBSC is committed to recognizing the links between biodiversity and human well-being.

The GBSC will use a number of performance measures, including:

- raising the profile of key science issues
- access to and use of GBSC science reports (e.g. as measured by website hits)