

BRIEFING NOTE

MEASURING THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET IN THE UK

UK 2010 biodiversity target indicators

1. Following from the adoption of the indicator framework in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Feb 2004)¹ and the EU (June 2004), the Standing Committee of the UK Biodiversity Partnership decided to develop a similar framework of headline indicators for reporting on the 2010 target. The indicators build on existing initiatives at the country² level and enable the UK to meet reporting commitments under the CBD.
2. Proposals were discussed at the annual Biodiversity Partnership Conference in June 2005 and a provisional set of 18 indicators was agreed in October 2005 (see Table 1). The indicators cover six 'focal' areas:
 - Status and trends in biodiversity;
 - Sustainable use
 - Threats to biodiversity
 - Ecosystem integrity/ecosystem goods and services;
 - Resource transfers (ie funding)
 - Public opinion
3. In order to minimise reporting burdens and to build coherence, the UK set of indicators draws on indicators already used in country biodiversity and sustainable development strategies, taking account of the availability and consistency of data at the UK level. In order to assess trends, the indicators rely on data collected over a number of years leading up to 2010. 12 of the headline indicators are already published at UK or country levels. The other 6 require some development work.
4. The UK Standing Committee aim to publish the indicators for the first time in Spring 2007. Defra is leading on the work in partnership with the devolved administrations, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the country agencies and others.
5. The headline indicators are intended to present high level messages about overall progress towards the 2010 target. They select some key issues with public resonance and do not attempt to cover, or integrate all aspects of biodiversity into a single index. They are underpinned and extended by a large evidence base comprising surveillance, monitoring and research.

UK Sustainable Development Framework indicators

6. Several of the 2010 target indicators are also used in the set of UK Sustainable Development Framework indicators, including the 'headline' indicator on trends in wild bird populations.

England Biodiversity Strategy: Measuring Progress

7. The Government made a commitment in 2002 to publish a full set of indicators for the England Biodiversity Strategy (EBS). A baseline assessment

¹ Amended at COP8 in 2006

² i.e. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

of 46 indicators, relating to nine sector themes was published by Defra in 2003, including measures of Defra's Public Service Agreement target on protected areas³ and farmland birds and the status and trends in Biodiversity Action Plan priority species and habitats in England.

8. These indicators have been updated regularly since 2003 and will be re-assessed, supplemented and published again in November 2006 as part of the review of the Strategy.

9. Data from several of the EBS indicators are included, with comparable data from the Devolved Administrations, in the UK headline indicators.

Summary

10. Flexible frameworks for reporting on the 2010 target have now been endorsed at global, European and UK levels and processes are in place to measure achievement of the 2010 target at global, European and UK levels through the global 2010 Biodiversity Indicator Partnership, the Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators initiative (SEBI2010), the UK Biodiversity Partnership and the England Biodiversity Group (subject to resource availability at all levels). The UK headline biodiversity indicators and the England Biodiversity Strategy indicators provide the means of assessing the 2010 target in UK and England, and reporting on these outcomes in an international context.

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³ Sites of Special Scientific Interest, including SACs and SPAs.

Table 1
List of UK 2010 biodiversity target indicators.

EU/CBD ⁴ Focal Areas	2010 Indicators (<i>indicators shown in italics require further development</i>)	Lead	When
Status and trends of the components of biological diversity	1. Trends in populations of wild birds: (a) farmland birds; (b) woodland birds; (c) coastal and sea birds + other taxa (eg butterflies)	Defra	Annual
	2. Plant diversity in the wider countryside	Defra/CEH	08
	3. Status of BAP Priority Species	JNCC	05,08
	4. Status of BAP Priority Habitats	JNCC	05,08
	5. <i>Trends in genetic diversity of cultivated plants</i>	Defra, University of Birmingham	04 baseline
	6 (a) Extent of SACs, SPAs and SSSI/ASSIs; (b) Proportion of features of SACs and SPAs in favourable condition.	JNCC	06, then annual
Sustainable use	7. Proportion of woodland area under certified management	FC	Annual
	8. Area of land under agri-environment scheme agreement	Defra	Annual
	9. Proportion of commercially exploited fish stocks around the UK harvested sustainably.	Defra	Annual
Threats to biodiversity	10. Ecological impacts of air pollution	CCW	Annual
	11 (a) Number of invasive alien species; (b) <i>Costs of invasive alien species</i>	JNCC	06 baseline
	12. <i>Timing of biological events</i>	Defra/CEH	07?
Ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services	13. <i>Marine trophic index</i>	Defra, CEFAS	08?
	14. <i>Habitat networks</i>	EN/SNH?	08?
	15. Rivers of good chemical and biological quality	Defra	Annual
Status of resource transfers and use	16. <i>Public sector environmental protection expenditure on biodiversity in the UK</i>	Defra	07
	17. <i>UK Government funding for conservation of global biodiversity</i>	Defra	07
Public opinion	18. Volunteer time spent in conservation and number of people volunteering for conservation activity	Defra, SNH	Annual

⁴ CBD Focal Area 'Status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices' has been not adopted by EU. EU added a new Focal Area on 'Public opinion'.