

## DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

### Recommendation

- **SBC is invited to agree the recommendations in this paper on the development of the next set of Implementation Plans (2007-10)**

### Background

The SBS Implementation Plans 2005-2007 were produced through an extensive stakeholder engagement exercise that started in the autumn of 2003 and culminated with their publication in March 2005. This process itself was part of a long running and extensive exercise of stakeholder engagement through the SBF and its different groups. An aim of the process was to produce a set of actions that would make a substantive contribution to each of the five SBS objectives and, at the same time, ensure that all stakeholders had ownership of such actions and progress could be measured against them. These plans were developed to support the EU Member States commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and to progress towards the vision of Scotland as a world leader in biodiversity conservation.

In the absence of any other evaluation, and in recognition of both the importance of the Plans in ensuring Scotland meets its international obligations and the considerable stakeholder effort that went into their development, LINK's Biodiversity Task Force has produced: *Will we make a difference? A review of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plans (2005-2007)*. This report had two principal aims; firstly, to assess the extent to which the plans contribute to each of the SBS objectives and therefore to the 2010 target of halting the loss of biodiversity and secondly; to promote discussion amongst the SBC and its working groups so the next round of plans can be informed by the learning available from this original process.

### The Report

The report was circulated to all members of the SBC prior to its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2005 and was posted on the LINK website on the 16<sup>th</sup> December ([http://www.scotlink.org/About\\_LINK/work\\_areas.php#biodiv](http://www.scotlink.org/About_LINK/work_areas.php#biodiv)). The report finds that SBS Objectives 2 and 4 account for approximately 65% of the actions while approx. 7% of actions address Objective 1 of halting the loss of biodiversity. The report also describes 50% of the actions as lacking clear and measurable outcomes. The challenges this presents to the effective delivery and monitoring of actions was identified by a number of working group chairs at the event on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

### Next Steps

The current set of Implementation Plans expires at the end of 2007. The next round of actions will end in 2010, by which time Scotland must have halted the loss of biodiversity if it is to meet its international commitments. This new set of

Implementation Plans will have to be produced in parallel with the delivery of the current set, while at the same time building on the results from these. This challenging task will require a carefully considered and commonly understood process to ensure it manages expectations and produces a coherent and funded programme of actions that ensure we halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

It is important that the SBC seeks to learn from past experiences and establishes a process that is capable of meeting the requisite biodiversity 'ends' objectives. It is intended that this report and its recommendations be used to facilitate this discussion.

### **Recommendations**

Based on this report, the Committee is invited to agree the following recommendations in support of development of the next round of implementation plans:

- That the plans reflect the approaching 2010 deadline to halt the loss of biodiversity
- A sub group of the SBC is established to develop a statement of practice that will guide the production of the plans. This ensures a transparent process, allows for strategic planning and ensures common practices and language across working groups.
- This statement of practice should describe a set of common criteria that aim to make targets SMARTer.
- The statement should describe a participative process that clearly identifies the decision-making opportunities within that process. Throughout their production, working groups should have the autonomy to make the decisions on the content of their plans.
- The SBC establishes a monitoring framework, linked to plan implementation and biodiversity outcomes.

LINK

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