

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The group agreed at the meeting on 2.9.03 that there was a need to revise the terms of reference of the group following the Forest Devolution Review and similar changes in the UKBAP process. These changes require the group to take a stronger role in the implementation of the HAP targets in Scotland as action is now clearly led at country level. Revised Terms of Reference are given below. They are intended to complement the revised role of the UK Native Woodlands HAP group which is summarised in the Annex.

Aims of the NWPS

- To lead the implementation of native woodland Habitat Action Plans in Scotland, by undertaking and facilitating action and advising on all relevant issues, including policies, mechanisms, best practice and research.
- To help deliver other parts of the Scottish Forestry Strategy and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy relevant to native woodlands.

Functions

- Develop and promote advice on native woodland management to help achieve HAP and relevant SAP targets as part of the wider sustainable management of native woodlands
- Co-ordinate programmes of action undertaken by partner bodies
- Monitor and report on progress, and advise on possible revision of HAPs, to relevant Scottish and UK BAP bodies
- Liaise with LBAPs and with other lead partners for HAPs and SAPs
- Undertake specific tasks which assist implementation of wider strategies for native woodlands where appropriate, eg in developing policy ideas or identifying best practice

Scope

All native woodland HAPs, and also the Scottish elements of the Wood pasture and parkland HAP.

Reporting

The group will be chaired by FC Scotland, as lead partner for native woodland HAPs (*except for wood pasture and parkland, for which lead partner in Scotland is SNH*).

It is envisaged that NWPS will need to report in several directions:

- to the Partner organisations in the group
- to the Scottish Biodiversity Forum and SBS steering group
- to the Scottish Forestry Forum and SFS steering group

- to the UK Native Woodlands HAP group
- to the UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (UKBRIG)

The group will need to have regard to advice from all of these groups to some extent.

Devolved responsibility for forestry and biodiversity implies that the first three listed above should have the most influence.

Composition

Composition should be widely drawn to include key stakeholders with an active role to play at national level, and also include representation from the local level.

Methods of working

The group should meet at four monthly intervals with permanent or temporary sub-groups working between full group meetings. Email networking should also be used in between meetings. Additional members may be involved via correspondence only.

The minutes should be open and posted on the internet. A dedicated page attached to the FCS website is being developed for promoting the work of the group.

Part-time support for the group is available from FCS staff. A dedicated project officer with partnership funding is desirable to add to the resources of the group.

**Gordon Patterson, FCS,
Chair.**

2 March 2004

Annex

Revised role of UKNWHAP group

To facilitate the achievement across the UK of native woodland HAP targets and the monitoring of progress towards them, focussing on complementing action at country and local levels.

Main functions

- Exchange best practice and ideas.
- Develop and promote common UK-wide messages about the native woodland HAPs targeted at various audiences, and other biodiversity groups.
- Report on progress at UK level, and advise UKBRIG and country groups on possible HAP revisions as appropriate.
- Undertake specific tasks which are agreed by country groups to be carried out at UK level.

Scope

All native woodland HAPs together with the wood pasture and parkland HAP.