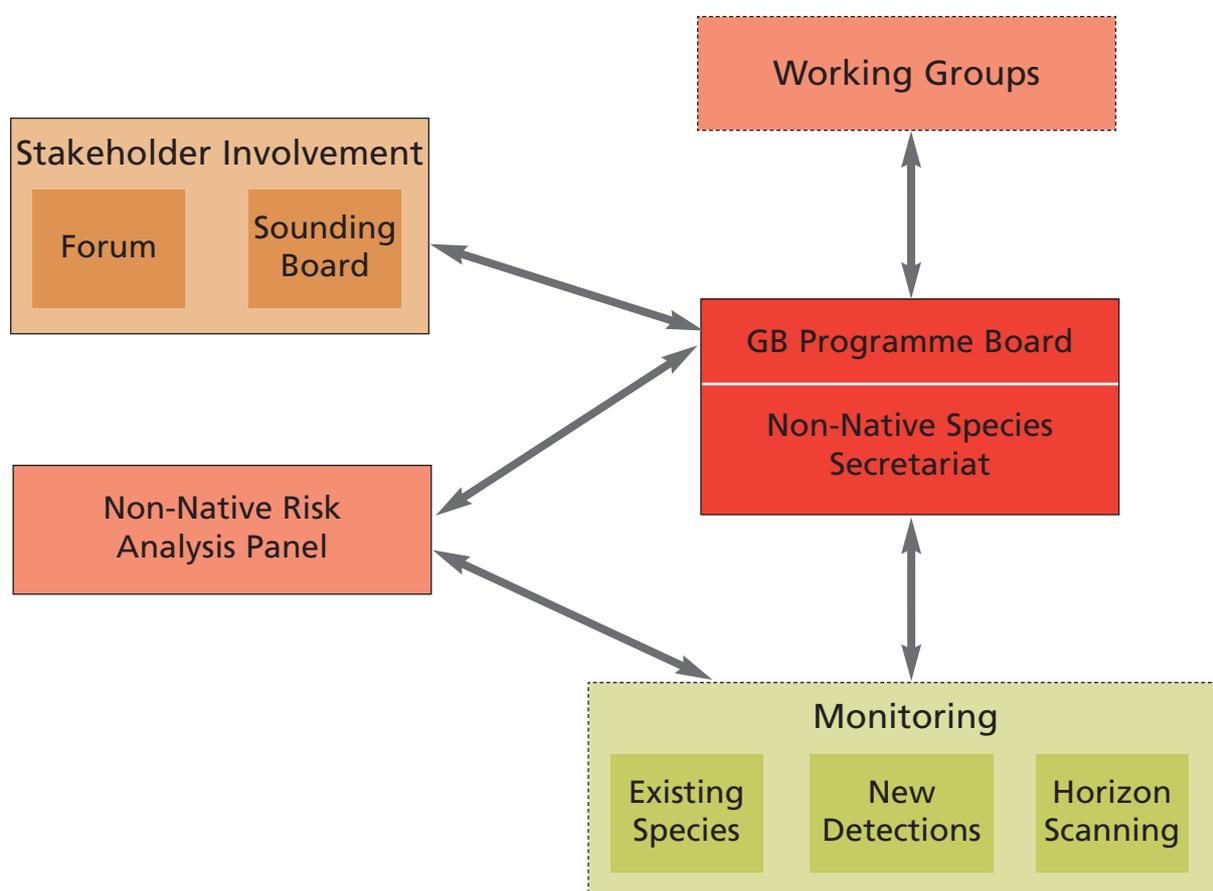


4 The GB Non-Native Species Mechanism – Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.1 One of the key recommendations of the Defra Non-Native Species Review was that there was a need for a single co-ordinating body. This has been implemented by the creation of the GB non-native species mechanism that is made up of the Programme Board and its Secretariat in conjunction with a Risk Analysis Panel (NNRAP), a Stakeholder Sounding Board (SSB), the Stakeholder Forum and the creation of working groups as necessary. The importance of stakeholder involvement in this overall co-ordinating structure will be reflected in the use of working groups, the Sounding Board and the annual Stakeholder Forum and this will be facilitated by the Secretariat both directly and through its website. The remits and aims of these components of the mechanism are outlined in Annex 4.



Schematic diagram to illustrate the main components of the GB Non-Native Species Mechanism. The dotted borders indicate that these components are currently in the process of being established.

Annex 4 – The Great Britain Non-Native Species Mechanism

The Non-Native Species Programme Board

The Programme Board was established in September 2005. It consists of senior representatives from across the Governments of England, Scotland and Wales and their agencies, each representing a range of interests.

Its aims are to:

- agree, develop and implement a GB-wide Strategy on non-native species;
- steer and give strategic direction to work undertaken across government on non-native species;
- establish working groups as a means to investigate specific issues, develop proposals and secure stakeholder input;
- decide on what action to take in response to working group feedback; and,
- agree clear priorities for action and drive implementation of the Strategy.

The Programme Board will be the key operational decision-making body on implementation of this Strategy.

The Non-Native Species Secretariat

The Non-Native Species Secretariat was set up in March 2006. Its principal role is to support the Programme Board in achieving its aims. The Secretariat reports to the Programme Board and is the main link between the Programme Board and the other components of the mechanism and wider stakeholders. It will, for example, maintain the annual Stakeholder Forum process that has been instigated.

The Secretariat will play a pivotal role in relation to delivery of actions instigated by the Programme Board, for example establishing working groups to examine specific issues and providing secretarial support for the risk analysis panel. The Secretariat will also become a central hub for information gathering and dissemination concerning invasive non-native species and action being taken to tackle them. There is scope for the Secretariat to become a particularly fundamental link for all partners involved in the GB strategic approach and we will look to stakeholders to support it in developing this role.

The Secretariat will also establish and facilitate links with non-native species interests in Ireland, the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and Europe in particular, but also more broadly overseas.

The Non-Native Species Risk Analysis Panel

This panel will be charged with the risk assessment and horizon scanning functions that will enable the Programme Board to make both strategic and more specific operational decisions on actions and resource allocation. It will consist of a central core panel of risk assessment experts with a suitably diverse knowledge base in relation to invasive species, and an outer circle of taxonomic experts and any other expertise identified as necessary to enable it to perform its functions. Individual risk assessments will be undertaken by subject experts and critically reviewed by the core panel before the approved assessment and any risk management options are submitted to the Programme Board for consideration. It may also be necessary for the Panel to review risk assessments from time to time as the state of knowledge improves.

The Great Britain Non-Native Species Mechanism

Working Groups

These will be established by the Secretariat on behalf of the Programme Board to examine specific issues or deliver specified outcomes and will operate for as long as is necessary. Each will have a remit, timeframe for reporting and a set of SMART objectives. They will be supported by the Secretariat and will report to the Programme Board.

The Non-Native Species Stakeholder Sounding Board

In order to facilitate timely interaction and consultation with key stakeholders on appropriate issues, which cannot be achieved so readily through the annual forum, an informal sounding board has been established. This consists of a range of stakeholders, who at the invitation of the Programme Board, have agreed to be consulted from time to time and to provide advice on a range of issues related to implementation of the measures set out in this Strategy.

Members of the sounding board are under no obligation other than to the extent they volunteer to participate. This mechanism is not a substitute for wider public consultation where that is appropriate but will help to ensure, for example, that any proposals put out to wider consultation have been carefully considered.

The Non-Native Species Stakeholder Forum

This will be held annually and will offer the opportunity for a stock-take on progress and emerging issues with stakeholders. It will provide an opportunity for discussion of high level strategic issues and another means for engaging stakeholders in the development of non-native species policy and objectives. It will help ensure the effective operation of the GB Mechanism and will also encourage debate and help facilitate information exchange.