

**PROGRAMME BOARD ON NON-NATIVE SPECIES  
TWENTY FIRST MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**WELSH GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CATHAYS PARK, CARDIFF  
Thursday 11 April 2013, 11.00**

**1. Attendance/apologies**

*Present:*

Jeremy Eppel (Chair, Defra)  
Niall Moore (NNS, Secretary)  
Sallie Bailey (FC – via telecon)  
Nick Bialynicki-Birula (NRW)  
Olaf Booy (NNS)  
Emma Boyd (Defra)  
Hugh Dignon (Scottish Government)  
Alice Hiley (EA – via telecon)  
Adrian Jowitt (NE)  
Chris Lea (Welsh Government)  
Ant Maddock (JNCC)  
Catherine Murdoch (Scottish Government)  
Ron Macdonald (SNH – via telecon)  
Mike McCabe (NRW)  
Linda Raine (NNS – Minutes)  
Pete Robertson (AHVLA)  
Trevor Salmon (Defra)  
Mark Stevenson (Defra – via telecon (item 9 only))  
Dave Thomas (Welsh Government)

*Apologies received from:*

Colin Charman (NRW)  
Mark Diamond (EA)  
Richard Ferris (JNCC)

JE welcomed all to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

*Paper circulated PB Apr 13-02*

The Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting were signed off with one change – ‘NNS’ should be ‘INNS’ in Item 8.

### 3. Actions/matters arising

*Paper circulated PB Apr 13-03*

All actions had been discharged or were dealt with further down in the agenda. There were no matters arising.

**ACTION 1** (amended previous Action 1) – TS/NNSS to ensure that an examination of lessons learned, review of the framework and consideration of future approaches to rapid responses are an integral part of the Strategy Review.

**ACTION 2** (previous Actions 4 & 17) – EB to circulate diagrams and explanation of acronyms and groups and list of agreed targets and indicators for MSFD.

**ACTION 3** (previous Action 10) - AJ and PR to discuss the way forward on removal of satellite populations of Ring-necked Parakeet, to include investigating numbers, size and removal methods.

### 4. GB Strategy

*Paper circulated PB Apr 13-04*

OB introduced the paper and highlighted the issues on amber or green/amber in the backward look (priority ISAP progress and the re-convening of the rapid response working group). In the forward look the review of the GB Strategy was the only item for Board decision, but as all three items were being discussed elsewhere on the agenda, they were not discussed further here.

### 5. Strategy Review

*Papers circulated PB Apr 13-05A and 13-05B*

OB introduced paper 13-05A which presented a potential method of evaluation of progress against the Strategy's actions and tasks. Of the original 68 prioritised tasks in the implementation plan this initial review by NNSS shows good progress for most of them. Key areas which remain outstanding are pathway action planning and improving coordination of research.

The Board discussed making the tasks more specific in the revised strategy as some of the existing ones seem very broad. JE asked for an explanation of how satisfactory progress was defined, as the NNSS may not be objective enough to review these tasks. The Board commented they would prefer more text, rather than using a scoring system as it has more value especially the evidence, progress and

outstanding matters. The Board agreed that a version of the report (incorporating the points mentioned above) should be presented at the Stakeholder Forum in June.

**ACTION 4** - ALL to comment back to the Secretariat on proposed methodology for summarising achievements of the Strategy, including additional evidence to be cited in the main Annex (Paper PB Apr 13-05A).

Paper PB Apr 13-05B

TS introduced the paper highlighting the proposed scope of the strategy review, possible terms of reference and alternatives for its governance. There was considerable discussion on the document and how best the review should be conducted, including the importance of linking it with EU legislative developments. The Board agreed that the review should be wide ranging and should cover the aims, strategic goals and governance of the Strategy. It should also aim to put the Strategy in a broad international context.

The Board also agreed that linkages to other parts of government (especially animal and plant health but also areas such as transport) were important. On governance of the review it was agreed that a small core group would be formed within the government family to steer the review process and that Stakeholders input, which would be vital, would be sourced via focus group meetings.

**ACTION 5** - TS and NNSS to draft ToRs for the Strategy Review Core Group, based on document 13-05B.

**ACTION 6** - ALL to nominate members for the Strategy Review Core Group.

**ACTION 7** - ALL to send ideas for external review of the strategy review to NNSS. NNSS to collate them and circulate to the Board.

## 6. Secretariat report

*Paper circulated PB Apr 13-06*

NM introduced the paper and highlighted several issues especially the exemption that the Secretariat website had received from the Government Digital Service. This was mainly due to the sustained financial support from the Welsh and Scottish Governments, CCW and SNH for which NM thanked them. NM then outlined the secretariat future priorities and JE mentioned (and OB elaborated on) the BIC workshop at the end of April. The Board was keen to have more detail on what resourcing issues were associated with the Secretariat's priorities and instructed the Secretariat to provide more details on this in future.

**ACTION 8** – ALL to feed in on future priorities for the Secretariat. In future, NNS priorities to be tabulated.

## **7. EU Legislation update**

*Paper circulated PB Apr 13-07*

TS introduced this item updating the Board on progress with the EU Legislative Instrument including what it is likely to contain and the most up to date information on likely timing (after April, according to feedback from the Commission since the Board meeting).

## **8. Presentation on Rhododendron in Snowdonia**

## **9. INNS Indicator**

*Paper circulated PB Apr 13-09*

MS spoke to this paper and there was considerable discussion on the development of the indicator and how it could best be tied in to the GB strategy with SB querying what other EU Member States used as INNS indicators. The Board decided that the decision on the indicator should be deferred and its development should be tied in to the strategy review process.

## **10. Rapid Response Priorities update**

*3 Paper circulated PB Apr 13-10A, B and C*

NM introduced the first two papers updating the Board on the priority rapid responses. Progress with the original six species is generally progressing well. There was some discussion of the hiatus in the American bullfrog response but this issue appears to have been resolved. There was discussion on the importance of risk management in helping make decisions on rapid response priorities and appropriate action. The importance of the linkage between NNS issues and general biodiversity issues was highlighted by CL and the Board agreed that this was important and that it would facilitate the movement of resources to help support INNS actions such as rapid responses. The Board applauded the good progress on most of the rapid responses and welcomed the resumption of the bullfrog eradication. On the second paper, TS specifically asked the Board for feedback on which risk management reviews to prioritise. SB then outlined the current position with OPM and there followed a discussion on the management of this species including on plans to spray a SSSI with a bacillus.

**ACTION 9** – ALL to provide feedback to NNSS on the rapid response priorities papers, particularly on priorities for management reviews in PB Apr 13-10B.

#### **11. Biosecurity working group**

OB updated the Board on progress with the establishment of the biosecurity working group. There has been one meeting at which Mark Diamond (EA) was elected chair. A paper updating the Board on progress is planned for the next Board meeting.

#### **12. Communications**

There was a brief discussion on progress with communications issues. The Board agreed that this is a key area that should constitute an intrinsic part of the strategy review, including how we make greater use stakeholders to deliver our agreed messages.

**ACTION 10** – Defra to consider the need to involve Simon Maxwell (Defra) in the Media and Communications Working Group.

#### **13. BIC Workshop**

This had already been covered under Item 6 so was not discussed further.

#### **14. Commercial exploitation**

*Paper circulated PB Apr 13-14*

TS introduced this paper outlining the main alterations that had been made to the draft policy position paper since the last Board meeting. HD and SB expressed some concern about the limited scope of the paper. After discussion the Board agreed that, with one small change to section b on page 2, the paper was fit for purpose and RM congratulated TS on getting the balance right. The Board also agreed that it was important to alert relevant agencies to the policy once it had been signed off by Ministers.

**ACTION 11** – ALL to provide any final comments on the Licensing of Commercial Exploitation paper to TS.

**ACTION 12** – Defra, Scottish and Welsh Governments to alert all potential regulatory bodies (who may license INNS exploitation) to the agreed policy position.

## 15. ISAP and Risk assessment update

*Paper circulated PB Apr 13-15*

OB introduced this item updating the Board on progress with risk assessments. TS welcomed the approach and CM agreed that it was worthwhile. AJ also reminded the Board about the successful eradication of fathead minnow and Italian wall lizard. The Board welcomed the approach overall and also agreed that it was important to collate information for the strategy review on progress with species (such as fathead minnow) for which there was as yet no risk assessment or ISAP.

**ACTION 13** – NNSS to ensure rapid responses on fathead minnow and Italian wall lizard are included in the strategy review.

## 16. Stakeholder Forum

*Paper circulated PB Apr 13-16*

NM introduced the paper and the Board discussed the possible format and content of the Forum programme. The Board agreed that the Forum should concentrate on the strategy review but there should also be room for an update on the EU IAS Legislative Instrument. The Secretariat should alert all potential attendees to the fact that the strategy review would be the main focus of this years Forum. The introductory talks should try to give a flavor of progress to date (a backward look) and include the update on tasks as agreed under item 5 (PB Apr 13-05A). AH was keen to have WFD (second round of consultation) mentioned in this update. The breakout sessions would have a more forward look, could be longer than usual and be used to explore how we take forward the strategy review.

**ACTION 14** – ALL to feed back to Secretariat on the Forum programme.

## 17. AOB

Pathway action:

NM and AJ raised the issue of escapes from zoos and wildlife parks. There was brief discussion and the Board agreed to consider a paper at the next meeting on this issue.

**ACTION 15** – NNSS to draft a paper for the next Board meeting on plans to take forward action on Zoo (and wildlife collection) escapes/releases.

**18. Date and location of future meetings**

The Board agreed that the next meeting should if possible be held in Edinburgh in September 2013. Dates would be circulated.

<p><b>ACTION 16</b> – NNSS to circulate possible dates for the next PB meeting in Edinburgh in September 2013.</p>
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