

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme



Newsletter 1
May 2013

Natural Resources Wales

Introducing the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme is producing a strategic plan for the management and restoration of all Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in Wales, both on land and at sea for the period 2014 to 2020 and beyond. The project is run by Natural Resources Wales and is financially supported by the EU LIFE+ fund.



Q&A at Maes y Ffynnon

Meet the Project Team

The full LIFE N2K team have now been appointed, they are:

Programme Manager: Kathryn Hewitt

Programme Administrator:

Hayley MacDonald-Jones

Terrestrial Coordinator: Ian Hughes

Freshwater & Wetlands Coordinator:

Theresa Kudelska

Marine Coordinator: Jennifer Kelly

Species Coordinator: Patrick Lindley

Data Manager: Scott Griffiths



Some of the team, (left to right, Theresa Kudelska, Jennifer Kelly, Patrick Lindley, Hayley Macdonald-Jones, Kathryn Hewitt)

Inception Events

We held two inception events in early February which were attended by 87 representatives from a wide range of organisations and stakeholder groups with an interest in Natura 2000. The introductory days in Bangor and Merthyr Tydfil gave participants an overview of the aims and benefits of the project and outlined activities and events which will be delivered over the coming months. Participants also contributed to workshops on:

- Priorities for Natura 2000 in Wales
- Funding Natura 2000 in Wales

A report from the event can be obtained by emailing hayley.macdonald-jones@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

What we've been working on...

The first task of the project has been to compile evidence on the main issues and risks (pressures and threats) affecting designated species and habitat features on Natura 2000 sites. Information has been obtained from NRW's Actions Database and other key data sources and the top issues for each feature have been identified.

What's next?...

Work is now underway looking at the mechanisms currently used to address the pressures and threats on Natura 2000 sites (e.g. agri-environment schemes, direct action, incentives and regulation) and how effective they are. This will be followed by an assessment of potential new mechanisms and approaches – drawing on experience from across Wales, the UK and further afield.

Contracts are due to be let, to study current and potential funding opportunities and to fill evidence gaps.

Upcoming Events: Technical Seminars

We are currently organising technical workshops which will be held in June at various locations throughout Wales. At each event there will be the opportunity to review the work carried out so far and contribute information, opinion and expertise. Separate workshops will run for each theme: Terrestrial, Freshwater & Wetlands, Marine and Birds and Bats.

Invitations to these events will be sent out in the near future. If you require further information please email Hayley MacDonald-Jones (hayley.macdonald-jones@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)



Workshop at Garwnant, Merthyr Tydfil

Actions Database

After considering business and technical requirements with NRW users, we are proposing that the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme will use and enhance NRW's Actions Database. We will work with interested parties to develop the database's capacity to hold additional data (for example on costings), produce Action Plans and answer strategic questions. Alongside this, we will be updating and expanding the data within the database.

We are keen to hear your views as users - more information and a current list of development requirements is available for consultation by contacting us

hayley.macdonald-jones@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

How to contact us:

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Data Manager: Scott Griffiths:

scott.griffiths@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Or call us on 0300 065 5273.

Web pages: www.naturalresources.wales/LIFEN2K

IPENS

Our sister project in England hosted its first event for stakeholders on 24 April in London. The Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS) is run by Natural England and also funded by LIFE+. Their aim to produce a strategic programme and action plans for all Natura sites is the same as for Wales, but the process and approach may differ. The two projects will be collaborating closely to share best practice and establish compatible methods for cross-border sites like the Severn Estuary.

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000



Change to Natural Resources Wales

As of 1 April, the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales became Natural Resources Wales. This change will not have any significant impact on the operation of the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme, although there will be some administrative changes such as new email addresses for the team – see 'How to contact us'.

