

Lochaber Biodiversity Group

26/11/07

Present

Alison Hutchins SEPA  
Gareth Marshall (for Gary Servant)  
Christine Welsh SNH  
Ian Strachan SNH, LNHS  
Lorna Aness – Chair  
Jonathan Willett – HC  
Keith Hoole – Lochaber Geopark  
Alison Austin – JMT  
Mike Jones – FCS  
Johnny -NTS  
Alastair Stewart – HC – Mins

Apologies

Donald Kennedy  
Gary Servant

The previous minutes were accepted by Alison Hutchins and seconded by Mike Jones.

There has been a poor response to the request to compile a local contact list re: skills and specialisations. The group was requested to continue to contribute.

H.L.F – A.S reported that there was progress with the butterfly project. A recording postcard for the peacock and the I.D booklet should be ready for March/April.

DK sent in a summary on the progress of the Rhodi project. Demo site 2 – urban area FCS can offer site info. **Action: Mike Jones and Stuart Wilkie to contact D.K**

S.N.H, re-colonising project, looking for funding, contact I.S for more info

There are a few hard copies of the LBAP available from Jonathan Willett.

JW reported on the UK Biodiversity Partnership Annual Conference 2007 and handed out a list of local top scoring species.

Publications were recommended:

New guideline booklets from DEFRA: “Conserving Biodiversity in a changing climate”, “Research needs for UK biodiversity” and “Conserving Biodiversity, the UK approach.”

Future events:

- 1 March '08 Annual Highland Bio-diversity forum meet. Theme T.B.D
- July '08 Dragonfly fieldtrip to Eigg Contact: JW

The BBC has a fund “Breathing Space” and wishes to assist local groups on projects; they are looking for opportunities to film local action and can offer small grants.  
Contact: [Liz.Leonard@bbc.co.uk](mailto:Liz.Leonard@bbc.co.uk)

### Comments on reviews

#### Woodland:

Need greater emphasis on lower plants, epiphytes

Rhododendron invasion and the regeneration of sitka were identified as threats

More detail on social and educational aspects required

Actions require more objectivity

Recognition of upper margin, montain scrub

Woodlands to be seen as a mosaic of habitat

#### In-by crofting, farmland

Hay meadows important and threatened by changes in land use and shortages of funding and long term support.

The parallel roads are under threat of being obscured as the result of reduced sheep grazing

Stock management and the associated reduction of sheep and deer numbers are reducing eagle numbers

The removal of “tick mops” i.e. sheep may have implications for other host species

Much depends upon outcome of SRDP

#### Urban

Reduce No of objectives

This to be addressed/updated at next meeting

Annexe 4 – Errors were identified in the list of designated sites. **Action: C.W to contact J.W to rectify**

#### Agenda

JW update:

Comments and issues raised at SRDP meeting, Dingwall:

30 key targets and 4 bio-diversity targets identified.

Local lists linked to funding process

Annual or bi-annual reviews

Tier 3 money over Scotland – not ring fenced or regionalised

Launch for April

Donald Bailey is the contact for updates **LA to circulate contact info**

National priorities identified, invasive species and riparian habitats flagged up

NETREGS **AH to circulate link** dealing with invasives

HBP, scientific and technical advisory group to choose species on a scoring matrix

MBN gateway registration gives access to more info

BARS UK BAP site page. Biodiversity action recording system 8 places for Highland

Geopark week 08 is end of May-June on the 25<sup>th</sup> May I.S will lead a Bio/Geo-diversity walk. The Bio-diversity group will be mentioned on the Geopark website and a link to H.C established. K.H will send webmaster info to J.W.

Biodiversity project info past and present should be available to view on HC site.

Priorities of LBAP are to prepare an intro to site and prepare a trimmed down version of the plan made available to the public. **Action LA**

A diary of events is also to be prepared.

D.O.N.M 03/03/08

Venue F.C.S Torlundy 10.30-12.30