Challenges for Scotland's Biodiversity Conservation: From the Soils to the Skies

Joint BES/BSSS/SG meeting, 8th-9th March 2012

Location

Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR

Details

Taking place at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on the 8th and 9th of March, 2012, this meeting is an exciting joint venture between the British Ecological Society, the British Society of Soil Science, and the Scottish Government's Biodiversity Science Group.

Its main aim is to help bridge the gap between excellent ecological science and the needs of policy makers. It will focus in particular on the current revision of Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy, providing an important forum where scientists and policymakers working on biodiversity issues in Scotland can meet, discuss areas where excellent science is needed, and explore opportunities and objectives for future work.

We particularly welcome the participation of students in this conference, and shall be awarding a prize for the best poster. Students will have an opportunity to meet researchers and policy advisers working actively on biodiversity issues in Scotland.

The meeting will:

- Introduce the science community in Scotland to the revision of **Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy**;
- Explore the scale of the challenges facing the implementation of an **ecosystem approach** in Scotland;
- Provide an opportunity for the science community to find out about the **needs of policy-makers**;
- Provide an opportunity for **networking** between the science and policy communities.

Thursday 8th March

The meeting will begin on the 8th of March at **6.30pm**, with a public lecture in the Royal Botanic Garden's Lecture Theatre by a senior ecological scientist (TBC). This will be followed by an **evening reception to celebrate the launch of the BES Scotland Policy Group and dinner** in the Botanic Garden's Conference Room.

Friday 9th March

Activities on Friday 9th March will be structured around the chapter headings for Scotland's draft Biodiversity Strategy. In both the morning and afternoon sessions, expert speakers will address the topics covered by the draft strategy chapters. These short talks will be followed by break-out sessions to discuss the content of the talks, and the science needs with respect to each chapter. Break-out sessions will explore:

- Research opportunities in relation to the Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy and an ecosystem approach;
- Opportunities to help develop Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy.

Lunch will include a poster session/competition and the opportunity for networking. The afternoon's talks and break-out session will be followed by a plenary session prior to the close of the meeting.

Registration

- Please register in advance
- **For members of the BES or the BSSS, registration is free**.
- Cost for non-members is £20, and for students (non-members of either Society) is £10.
- An additional fee of £28 will be payable by all delegates (including Society members) for attendance at the dinner on the 8th of March.
- Further details will be released on the BES and BSSS websites in due course.

Poster session

There will be approximately 20 poster boards available. Submission of poster abstracts should be made (via the booking form) by 31st January 2012. Poster topics should be relevant to Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy. Please do not start to prepare a poster until we have confirmed that your poster has been accepted. Information on poster production will be circulated at this time.

Travel Grant (BES Members)

The BES has a small fund available to help members of this Society attend the meeting. **Early-career researchers (no more than 10 years post PhD)** can apply to the Society to claim up to £50 towards the cost of their travel. Grants will be awarded on the basis of submitted expenses claims once delegates have purchased their travel.

Those wishing to apply for this assistance must contact the BES Policy Manager (ceri@britishecologicalsociety.org) prior to the meeting as this grant will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

09.30	**REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**	
09.50	**CHAIR : MARY GIBBY, ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH** **WELCOME FROM STEPHEN BLACKMORE – REGIUS KEEPER OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH**	
10.00	DES THOMPSON, SCOTTISH NATURAL HERTAGE and CHARLES STEWART ROPER, SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT: 'The 2020 Biodiversity Challenge for Scotland - looking ahead'	
	SCOTLAND'S BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY: CHAPTER	SPEAKER
10.10	Natural capital and resource use and efficiency • Natural resources contributing to economic growth	**Ralph Blaney**, **Scottish Natural Heritage** The development of the Natural Capital Index in Scotland
10.30	Ecosystem health and ecosystem services • Action taken to enhance scope and effectiveness	**Helaina Black**, **James Hutton Institute** Soil biodiversity and ecosystem services
10.50	Promoting benefits through biodiversity: health • Wellbeing	• **TBC**
11.10	Priority species and habitats and protected areas • Healthy, ecologically coherent networks of protected areas: looking at protected areas, instead of priority habitats and species, is a large shift in nature conservation in Scotland.	**Ken Norris**, **University of Reading** The intrinsic value of biodiversity and the provision of cultural ecosystem services
11.30	**COFFEE and instructions for breakout sessions**	
11.45	BREAK OUT SESSION 1, focussing on the first four talks	
12.30	**LUNCH AND POSTER VIEWING** (including poster competition)	
	SCOTLAND'S BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY: CHAPTER	**SPEAKER**
	CHAIR, IAN BAINBRIDGE, SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE	
13.30	Agriculture and forestry/ land-use • Issues around the CAP and the impact of this on biodiversity	**Chris Quine, Forest Research** Challenges for the conservation and enhancement of woodland biodiversity
13.45	Fisheries and marine	**Colin Moffat, Marine Scotland**
14.00	Surveillance and monitoring (1) • What's happening and why?	**Ed Mackey, Scottish Natural Heritage** Indicators for 2020
14.15	Surveillance and monitoring (2) What's happening and why?	**Andy Taylor, James Hutton Institute**
14.30	BREAK OUT SESSION 2 (COFFEE AVAILABLE TO TAKE INTO BREAK-OUT SESSIONS)	
15.15	FEEDBACK AND PLENARY DISCUSSION **CHAIR, IAN BAINBRIDGE, SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE**	
16.00	CLOSE	