

Business and biodiversity - the UK approach

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Summary

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (<http://www.ukbap.org.uk>) contains specific action plans for 45 habitats and over 400 species. 160 Local Biodiversity Action Plans are being developed and implemented throughout the UK.

Business has been identified as a key partner in the Biodiversity Action Plan process in the UK, but business awareness and understanding need to be improved. To assist in raising awareness, guidance notes, case studies and a resource centre providing advice on integration of biodiversity into business management processes have been developed.

Northumbrian Water, part of the Suez Group, has used the framework provided by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan to develop a company biodiversity action plan aimed at contributing to national and local biodiversity targets. The plan identifies and addresses four key elements of the company's impact on biodiversity and integrates fully with the national and local biodiversity action plan processes in areas where the company operates. The key elements are viewed from the following perspectives:

- as an OPERATOR;
- as a LANDOWNER and manager;
- as a FUNDER of the biodiversity process;
- as an ADVOCATE and catalyst for change.

The oral presentation covers these elements in making the business case for the company's commitment to the conservation of biodiversity in the UK.

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