

Joint UK BRAG and BRIG Workshop on UK BAP Research

Proposal

A workshop in March 2008 is proposed, involving members from UK BRAG and BRIG, to consider research actions arising out of the *UK BAP Species and Habitat Review*. This paper outlines the proposal.

Background

In August 2007, the new UK List of Priority Species and Habitats was published¹. Currently, groups of species experts are identifying priority actions for each of the 1149 species on the UK BAP list. One of the action categories is *Research*, and BRIG and UK BRAG have been asked by the Standing Committee to make recommendations on how to implement the research actions that will be identified by these experts (the research needs of the UK BAP species and habitats are expected by February 2008).

Categorising the research actions

The "research list" as identified from these data requires a detailed assessment, to provide greater focus, reduce duplication, and set out some priorities for action. For example, it might be possible to categorise research entries into:

- Strategic research (answering key Qs, generic in application)
- Strong policy imperative
- "Quick wins"

It is possible that single species research could fall outside of these, but nonetheless requires some thought with regard to its funding.

The Workshop would bring together a small group of experts from UK BRAG and BRIG communities to:

1. develop spreadsheet entries in order to frame a clear research question, where possible
2. categorise research and, if possible, identify priorities for action
3. specify a research timeframe
4. identify possible research funders
5. estimate cost of delivery

BRAG supported this proposal at their meeting on 4 December 2007 and is identifying people to join this group. Both Kevin Watts and Mark Spencer from BRAG have offered to join the group.

Actions

- Seek approval from BRIG to form a joint research working group with BRAG
- Identify people from BRIG who fulfil the requirements for this role
- Confirm a date and location for the workshop.

¹ <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/NewPriorityList.aspx>