

## NIA Event 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 25 year plan workshop output

Attendees were divided into 4 groups to consider the 3 questions, outputs were captured on flip charts, as summarised below:

### 1. The 3 biggest things you'd like to see feature in the 25 year environment plan

- Truly cross party.
- Buy in across all government departments so it is integrated into all relevant plans and strategies (planning system etc)
- Be clear on exactly who the plan is for (Defra "Group" or everyone/new audiences) and make it **relevant** to them (the importance of biodiversity to food provision for example. Use citizen science, develop apps)
- A defined vision, what does success look like and how will progress be monitored and measured.
- Landscape scale approach to long term, large scale restoration that includes short term milestones which have valuing nature at their heart
- Must apply to land outside of usual protected/designated areas and include urban GI, urban/rural fringe.
- Continuity – Build on existing knowledge/initiatives/partnerships (feature case studies, learn from the construction sector, BIM)
- Don't lose sight of the basic principles set out in "Making Space for Nature".

### 2. What are the most important ingredients of a successful NIA?

- Partners - committed, driven, innovative, energetic, diverse (not just the usual suspects) with **shared** goals/objectives
- Leadership – dedicated lead/champion/co-ordinator
- Local experience (understanding the potential) and buy in (bottom up approach)
- Funding - secure core funding, self-sustaining (don't under estimate the value of admin/back office funding)
- Recognition - status, leverage, influence, profile

- Good data/evidence – to permit monitoring, decision making

**3. What do you need to maximise your contribution to the plan (recognising the limitations in public funding) and what are the enablers and barriers to this?**

**Enablers**

- Make the consultation easy to respond to and the longer term benefits of responding to it clear to stakeholders
- Use examples of where governments have planned over the longer term
- A clear statement that nature is valued - Large landscape scale restoration (not just status quo)
- Clear baseline and monitoring of delivery/success (inc economic drivers)
- Be prepared to champion targets and standards.
- Use existing work and reporting mechanisms (be smart, don't duplicate) and structures/networks (e.g. LNPs)
- Ensure key sectors are engaged – Engineers / Farmers
- Not just England – migration networks, wider geography
- Update green book in line with the 25 year approach
- Influence resources to fund ambition (e.g. HLF, E.U.) The plan must be an “Enabling Tool” to maximise the “multiple benefit options” of projects.

**Barriers**

- 25 years is just the start, need to plan for longer
- Changing government

- Conflicting government policies

## Flip chart - Outputs

### 1. The 3 biggest things you'd like to see feature in the 25 year environment plan

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pick up on themes in “Making Space for Nature” (don’t lose sight of the basic principles)</li> <li>• Needs to be a truly cross party plan</li> <li>• Integrate the plan with other government plans and strategies.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who is the plan for ...? Defra “family” or everyone? People = focus</li> <li>2. What does “vision” look like specifically?  E.g. reach good ecological status as defined by ..... backed up by regulation and enforcement.  Clear “value” emphasis - “Eco-service”  A spatial target - 5 NIAs in every county etc</li> <li>3. Must have cross party buy in so longer than Gov &amp; integrated into food/farming/energy</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leadership, accountability &amp; a sense of direction from <b>government</b> to underpin and enable local action</li> <li>2. Landscape scale approach to long-term, large scale restoration</li> <li>3. Delivery through short term milestones which have valuing nature at their heart.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasise the importance of biodiversity in food provision</li> <li>• Ambition: New audiences</li> <li>• Continuity</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitoring / Measures of success – embedded indicators</li> <li>○ Applies to land outside of protected/designated areas e.g. use National Character Areas</li> <li>○ Join things up more, break down silos e.g. biodiversity/ES/Flood risk management</li> <li>○ Buy in across Government departments (cross cutting)</li> <li>○ Consider developing a national</li> </ul>			

<p>ecological network (link terrestrial and marine work)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Make it apply/be relevant to peoples everyday lives</li> <li>○ The right mechanisms to incentivise land managers</li> <li>○ Could ecology feature on the primary school curriculum</li> <li>○ Consider how the plan and planning system integrate</li> <li>○ Building on existing partnerships and initiatives</li> </ul>			
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## 2. What are the most important ingredients of a successful NIA? Please rank the top 5.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partners – commitment, variety, not the usual suspects</li> <li>○ Clear vision and common objectives (must be shared)</li> <li>○ Self-sustaining</li> <li>○ Leverage and influence</li> <li>○ Dedicated lead/co-ordinator (level of investment needed)</li> <li>○ Innovation and imagination</li> <li>○ Good data for monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>○ Bottom up approach – Local experience and buy in</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leadership -&gt; Clear champion (within gov) of landscape scale approach &amp; benefits of it. Consistent voice over longer term</li> <li>2. Singularity of focus on delivery for <b>nature</b> through partnership</li> <li>3. NIA partners work to deliver synergy &amp; also fill in gaps</li> <li>4. Capacity to develop and manage partnerships long term</li> <li>5. Recognition (National) &amp; status -&gt; No “Cinderella’s” please</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Partnership</li> <li>● Energy, drive and <b>vision</b> - a shared long-term goal/ambition</li> <li>● Security and core funding to support action/facilitation</li> <li>● Opportunities and alignment thereof - Understanding the potential of the area developing – the range of habitats and assets on which you can work</li> <li>● Good evidence to make good decisions and measure success</li> <li>○ Profile and advocacy</li> <li>○ Security of core-funding</li> </ul>	<p>Vision for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Urban GI, urban rural fringe, rural areas –uplands/lowland</li> <li>○ Urban and rural need to be considered as a whole</li> <li>○ The terms urban and rural will become less relevant</li> <li>○ NIAs should be increased beyond original 12</li> <li>○ Urban: important for people</li> <li>○ Rural: important for environment</li> <li>○ NIAs: important designation esp. planning system</li> <li>○ NIAs: powerful brand/badge – people get it – simple message</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Leadership and consistency in identifying ecosystems solutions</li> <li>○ Consistency in ecosystems approach in Defra Group</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Flex approach – don't restrict to certain areas</li> <li>○ Change of ethos</li> <li>○ "Designation" not a helpful term</li> </ul>

### 3. What do you need to maximise your contribution to the plan (recognising the limitations in public funding) and what are the enablers and barriers to this?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Using existing work &amp; reporting mechanisms (be smart, don't duplicate) &amp; use structures/networks (e.g. LNPs)</li> <li>○ Make consultations open &amp; easy to respond to (good mechanisms to engage a wide range of people)</li> <li>○ The Plan must be clear on the benefits to stakeholders (of engaging with the consultation &amp; how it will benefit them in the longer term otherwise people won't buy-in.</li> </ul> <p><b>Barriers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 25 years is not long enough. Need to plan for next 100 years.</li> <li>○ Changing Government &amp; changing priorities within government.</li> </ul> <p><b>Enablers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use existing examples of where governments have planned over the longer term</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure other key sectors are well engaged:  Engineers -&gt; Drainage Highways  Farmers -&gt; LEPs &amp; Economic regions</li> <li>2. Influence resources to fund ambition (e.g. HLF, E.U.) Plan must be an "Enabling Tool" to <b>maximise</b> "multiple benefit options" of projects</li> <li>3. Clear baseline &amp; monitoring of delivery</li> <li>4. Facilitate &amp; enable others through support &amp; expertise &amp; "cash flow" (kick start loans?)</li> <li>5. Be prepared to champion targets &amp; standards! (they are important)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Landscape scale approach</li> <li>○ Links to <b>F&amp;E</b> – Soil, agri, water</li> <li>○ Large scale restoration (not just status quo)</li> <li>○ P.E.S. -&gt; rules</li> <li>○ Clear government ideas, not saying it can all be – Leadership</li> <li>○ Sustainability not fashion – 25 years just the start.</li> <li>○ Clear statement that nature is valued</li> <li>○ Underpinning with government support (budget line)</li> <li>○ Not just England – migration networks, wider geography</li> <li>○ Measuring success needs targets; economic drivers.</li> <li>○ Evidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Flexible/integrated funding</li> <li>● Make current funding work better aligned to NIA/landscape approach – funders need to buy into ecosystems approach</li> <li>○ Next agri-env schemes. Flexible approach to CAP.</li> <li>○ LIFE, HLF: influence them to be flexible and fund what works</li> <li>○ Reach kids through apps, games etc – technology</li> <li>○ Better join up between NIAs &amp; WFD catchment co-ordinators</li> <li>○ Regulation?</li> <li>○ Protect current funding e.g. landfill tax has worked well</li> <li>● Knowledge exchange and networking are key. Most successful NIAs look outwards to learn and share knowledge</li> </ul>
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- Education (curriculum)

#### **Barriers**

- Conflicting policies (eg perm ineligible features)
- Support for agriculture needs to enhance not undermine
- Proliferation of approaches = confusing, competing scene
- Underpinning core-funding
- Long-term policy uncertainty “short termism”

#### **Enablers**

- Get the balance right (e.g. in context of localism)
- Boost sustainability by encouraging engagement
- Funding
- Keep partnerships fresh and energised
- Clear message on need for NE/EA/FC input
- Consistency with agri-policy
- Clarity on breadth of expectation around different funding schemes
- Sign-up/buy-in

- Cross-gov support, understanding and investment
- Update green book in line with 25 year plan approach.

## **Post-it note suggestions and questions related to the 25 year plan**

Additional comments and suggestions regarding the 25 year plan captured on post-it notes throughout the event:

- 1) Strategic plan (25yr) should cover VIRE (after P Jackson)
  - Vision
  - Information (Intel)
  - Regulation
  - Enabling
- 2) Involve the SNP in 25 year plan, also parties important in Eire
- 3) 3 things in plan  
Vision for Urban GI, Urban/rural fringe especially London's, Rural land management
- 4) Mobilise citizen science + NBN + apps  
Coordinate with professional bodies
- 5) Learn from what is happening in the construction sector – BIM – to encourage collaboration and data sharing with Conservation
- 6) Encourage universities to teach and research related to NIA philosophy/outcomes/practice especially if funded or accredited by ecological bodies
- 7) Consider importance of capturing non-priority habitat in monitoring