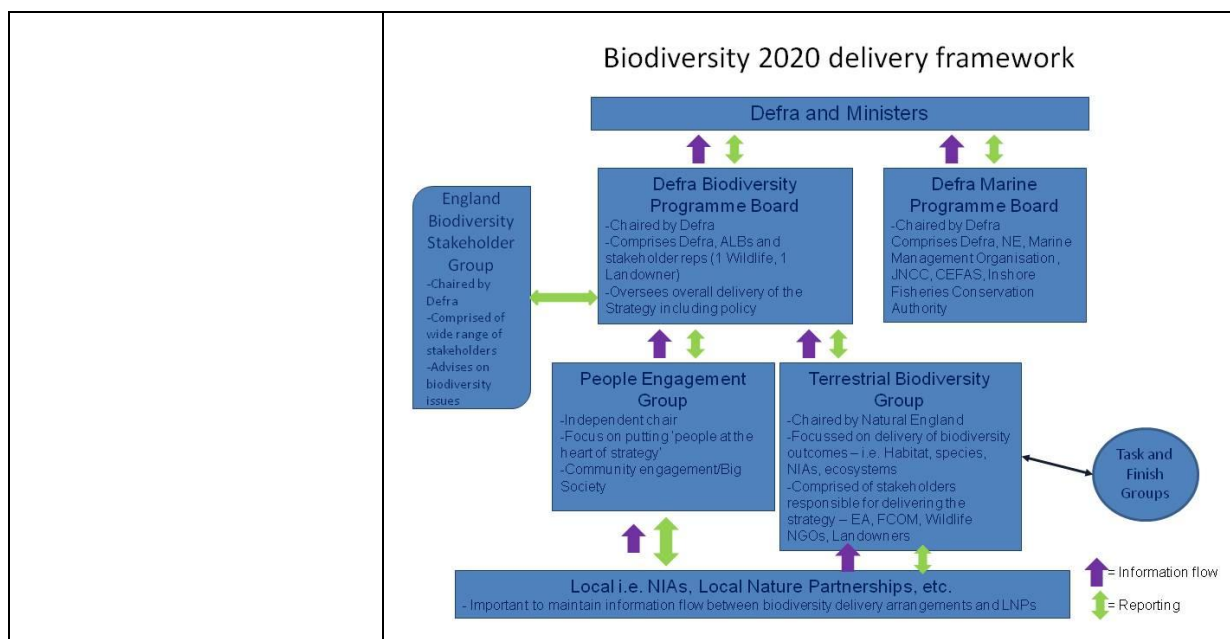


Biodiversity 2020: Frequently Asked Questions (July 2013)

Biodiversity 2020 Information	
Question	Answer
What is <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> ?	<p>Biodiversity2020: A Strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem Services is the Government's strategy for people and wildlife. Published in 2011 following the publication of the Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) it replaced the previous England Biodiversity Strategy <i>Working With The Grain of Nature</i>. Biodiversity 2020 forms part of the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity</p>
What does <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> set out to achieve?	<p><i>Biodiversity 2020's</i> ambition is to;</p> <p><i>'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'[text not highlighted in original]</i></p> <p>The Strategy contains four outcomes to be achieved by the end of 2020. These are:</p> <p>Outcome 1: Priority Habitats (incl SSSI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1A. Better wildlife habitats with 90% of priority habitats in favourable or recovering condition and at least 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition, while maintaining at least 95% in favourable or recovering condition • 1B. More, bigger and less fragmented areas for wildlife, with no net loss of priority habitat and an increase in the overall extent of priority habitats by at least 200,000 ha • 1C. By 2020, at least 17% of land and inland water, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, conserved through effective, integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services including through management of our existing systems of protected areas and the establishment of nature improvement areas • 1D. Restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems as a contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation <p>Outcome 2: Marine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2A. By the end of 2016 in excess of 25% of English waters will be contained in a well-managed Marine Protected Area network that helps deliver ecological coherence by conserving representative marine habitats • 2B. By 2020 we will be managing and harvesting fish sustainably • 2C. By 2022 we will have marine plans in place covering the whole of Englands marine area, ensuring the sustainable development of our seas, integrating economic growth, social need and ecosystem management

	<p>Outcome 3: Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2020, we will see an overall improvement in the status of our wildlife and will have prevented further human-induced extinctions of known threatened species <p>Outcome 4 : People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2020, significantly more people will be engaged in biodiversity issues, aware of its value and taking positive action <p>Unless stated otherwise above all of these outcomes are to be achieved by 31st December 2020.</p>
<p>Does <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> contain targets?</p>	<p><i>Biodiversity 2020</i> uses the term ‘outcomes’ rather than targets. There are no longer national habitat or species specific targets that are recognised as targets by Defra.</p> <p>However, the Terrestrial Biodiversity Group (TBG) – the national partnership facilitating delivery of outcomes 1 and 3 – has produced an indicative breakdown of outcome 1b (habitat creation) highlighting the habitat creation potential within each National Character Area (NCA). This breakdown can be found here.</p> <p>Many local partnerships and local authorities continue to use previous local or regional BAP targets and they are free to continue to do so if they feel it helps structure their contribution towards the strategy.</p>
<p><i>Biodiversity 2020</i> governance</p>	
<p>Question</p>	<p>Answer</p>
<p>Have there been changes to national and local governance and delivery structures for biodiversity?</p>	<p>Yes. <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> is being delivered through a new set of national and local governance and delivery arrangements (see also next question). New national delivery groups have been established and local delivery arrangements are set out in the NEWP including Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) and Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs). In some areas, local biodiversity partnerships have continued.</p>
<p>How is <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> governed?</p>	<p>The diagram below sets out the national governance arrangements for <i>Biodiversity 2020</i></p>



Biodiversity 2020 and Biodiversity Action Planning (BAP)

Question	Answer
<p>What happened to the UK BAP?</p>	<p>The UK BAP no longer exists. In July 2012 Defra and JNCC jointly announced the launch of a new UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework which replaced the previous UK BAP.</p>
<p>Does Biodiversity 2020 still reference BAP Species and BAP habitats?</p>	<p>No. <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> does not refer to BAP species or BAP habitats but instead refers to priority habitats and/or priority species. However, these priority habitats and species are derived from Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 as were the previous BAP lists. Thus, although the terminology has changed the relevant habitats and species remain the same.</p>
<p>What happened to local and regional BAPs?</p>	<p>The Government introduced new local delivery arrangements in its Natural Environment White Paper including encouraging the establishment of Local Nature Partnerships to.</p> <p>These arrangements have formally superseded previous regional or local BAPs that no longer receive direct support from Government. In many areas, local or regional biodiversity partnerships have evolved into LNPs or NIAs whilst in other areas biodiversity partnerships continue.</p> <p>The Government wishes local groups and partnerships to work together to support the achievement of local environmental priorities (including biodiversity) as a crucial element of achieving the outcomes of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i>.</p>
<p>What status do previous local, regional or national BAP targets now have?</p>	<p><i>Biodiversity 2020</i> does not contain any explicit individual habitat or species specific targets, referring instead to high level outcomes. Previous national species or habitat BAP targets are no longer recognised by Government and are no longer nationally reported against.</p>

	Many organisations continue to use or reference local or historic national BAP targets and may continue to do so for planning and other purposes. Equally, previous BAP targets (local, regional or national) provide a useful tool and guide against which to baseline and plan biodiversity delivery.
What happened to habitat and species action plans?	National Habitat and Species Action Plan groups were disbanded by Defra with the publication of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> . As such they have no formal status within <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> . However, a number of such action plan groups continue to meet and provide useful information and advice. At a local and regional level many habitats and species action plans continue to operate and be referenced in local plans etc. Where these can be clearly demonstrated as being of relevance to a local plan then these should continue to be a material consideration and are of relevance for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for specific developments.
Are the habitats focussed on as part of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> the same as those focussed on under the BAP approach?	Yes, the habitats which are focussed upon in <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> are the same as those under the previous England biodiversity strategy. These habitats are described as Priority Habitats (rather than BAP priority habitats as they were previously) but they remain the same habitats as listed as being ' <i>habitats of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England</i> ' under Section 41 of the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act see here for details. There are 56 such priority habitat types in England.
Are the species focussed on as part of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> the same as those focussed on under the BAP approach?	Yes the species which are focussed upon in <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> are the same as those under the previous England biodiversity strategy. These species are described as Priority species (rather than BAP priority species as they were previously) but they remain the same species as listed as being ' <i>species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England</i> ' under Section 41 of the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act see here for details. There are 943 such priority species in England.
<i>Biodiversity 2020</i> and planning policy	
Question	Answer
What impact does <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> on references to BAP species and habitats have in planning policy?	Previous planning policy (and some supporting guidance which is still current), refers to UK BAP species as being a material consideration in the planning process. Equally many local plans refer to BAP priority habitats and species. Both remain as material considerations in the planning process but such habitats and species are now described as Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for Conservation in England, or simply priority habitats and priority species. The list of habitats and species remains unchanged and is still derived from Section 41 list of the Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. As was previously the case when it was a BAP priority species hen harrier continues to be regarded as a priority species although it does not appear on the Section 41 list. So the same species and habitats are of material

	consideration for planning purposes as previously was the case, they are just referenced using different terminology
Biodiversity 2020 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The National Planning Policy Framework makes explicit reference to such targets (where they locally exist) as part of the planning process. Where such local or regional BAPs can be clearly demonstrated as being of relevance to a local plan then these should continue to be a material consideration and are of relevance for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for specific developments.
Biodiversity 2020 and local delivery	
Question	Answer
How will local delivery partners be involved in Biodiversity 2020?	Local delivery is at the heart of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> . Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) and Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) launched in 2012, together with other local partnerships, have key roles to play in securing delivery of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> outcomes through local landscape-scale working. For many this will involve building on existing local partnership working, albeit at a landscape-scale where this was not done before, and through engagement with different sectors to maximise the benefits for wildlife and people. Such an approach also helps enhance ecosystem service delivery, itself a key ambition of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> .
What are LNPs?	The creation of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) was announced in NEWP with an ambition that they ‘ <i>work at a strategic scale to improve the range of benefits and services we get from a healthy natural environment. They will aim to improve the multiple benefits we receive from the good management of the land</i> ’. LNP’s are a Defra-led initiative. At the time of writing (Jan 2013) 48 LNPs had been announced to date. LNPs also have the right to identify locally determined Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs). Further information about LNPs (including how to contact) can be found here
What are NIAs?	Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) were announced in NEWP as landscape-scale partnerships that offered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>opportunities to deliver ecological networks, both in terms of large area scale and valuable benefits accruing to wildlife and people, are particularly high;</i> • <i>a shared vision exists among a wide partnership including statutory and voluntary sectors;</i> • <i>significant enhancements of the network can be achieved over large areas by enlarging and enhancing existing wildlife sites, improving ecological connectivity and/or creating new sites;</i> • <i>the surrounding land use is better integrated with the management of the ecological network; wildlife habitats and underpinning ecosystem processes are restored, helping to mitigate climate change impacts; and</i> • <i>people are inspired by their enhanced experience of the outside world.</i>

	<p>Following a national competition chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton 12 NIAs were formally launched in 2012 as 3-year Defra funded pilot projects with a further 8 shortlisted NIAs also given some financial support. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) references NIAs and also highlights the potential for local authorities, LNPs and/or other local partnerships to establish locally designated NIAs.</p> <p>Further information about these NIAs (including how to contact) can be found here.</p>
Landscape-scale delivery	<p>Encouraging partnerships to consider and work at a landscape-scale in order to maximise benefits for wildlife and people is a key part of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i>. The principles and approaches for landscape-scale working, set out in Making Space for Nature, are embedded in the Strategy. Locally such an approach often requires partners and partnerships working across political or institutional boundaries if they are to maximise the benefits to nature and their communities. To help this Natural England and the Environment Agency are developing resources and materials that will better assist local partners and partnerships understand the opportunities and potential that landscape-scale working could unleash in their area.</p>
Cross-sectoral engagement	<p>The ambitions contained within <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> cannot be delivered by the conservation community alone. Rather, engagement and delivery by a range of different sectors will be needed if these outcomes are to be achieved. Delivering such outcomes will also help other sectors manage some of their own risks and challenges and help drive growth. However, to achieve such cross-sectoral working connections need to be made to engage with such sectors on terms and using language they understand and can relate to. Local delivery partners and partnerships are encouraged to work with Local Enterprise Partnerships or other local business or farming, tourist, health, infrastructure and government bodies within their landscape-scale area to help embed <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> locally.</p>
What resources are available to help facilitate local delivery of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i>?	<p>The resources available to help local delivery of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> can broadly be broken down into financial and non-financial resources.</p> <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>A range of funding is available which can provide financial support to help deliver aspects of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i></p> <p><u>Non-Financial</u></p> <p>National Character Area profiles</p> <p>River Basin Management plans</p> <p>My Environment Portal (prototype)</p> <p>Biodiversity 2020 publications and products</p>

Biodiversity 2020 and other strategies	
Question	Answer
How does <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> link to Water Framework Directive (WFD)?	Government is working to ensure that actions delivered as part of realising WFD also contribute to <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> and vice-versa. Both WFD and <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> ought to deliver complimentary outcomes.
<i>Biodiversity 2020</i> – specific actions	
Does <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> contain any specific actions?	<p>Yes <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> sets out a detailed suite of actions. Many of the actions outlined in NEWP are contained in <i>Biodiversity 2020</i>.</p> <p>The following are the key actions contained within the Strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding a competition to support the creation of Nature Improvement Areas in twelve initial areas, providing £7.5 million in the period 2011 to 2015. Lessons learnt will help us extend this approach. • Increasing the proportion of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in favourable condition. • Establishing a well managed, ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). By the end of 2016 this will contain in excess of 25% of English waters. • Agreeing a programme of targeted action with partners for the recovery of priority species. 2. Putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with key stakeholders to consider how the nature conservation sector can engage the public even more effectively in future and how government might support this. • Getting more children learning outdoors, removing barriers and increasing schools abilities to teach outdoors. • Establishing a new green areas designation, empowering communities to protect local environments that are important to them. • Helping people ‘do the right thing’, at home, when shopping, or as volunteers. For example, we will provide funding to support the Big Wildlife Garden scheme and launch a new phase of the MuckIn4Life campaign, offering volunteering opportunities to improve the quality of life in towns, cities and the countryside 3. Reducing environmental pressures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture – We will improve the delivery of environmental outcomes from agricultural land management practices, whilst increasing food production by, for example, reviewing how we use advice and incentives, and how we use agri-environment schemes. • Forestry – We will bring a greater proportion of our existing

	<p>woodlands into sustainable management and expand the area of woodland in England.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Development – Through reforms of the planning system, we will take a strategic approach to planning for nature. We will retain the protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system. We will pilot biodiversity offsetting, to assess its potential to deliver planning policy more effectively. • Water Management – We will protect water ecosystems, including habitats and species, through a river basin planning approach. We will also promote approaches to flood and erosion management which conserve the natural environment and improve biodiversity. • Marine Management – We will develop 10 Marine Plans which integrate economic, social and environmental considerations • Fisheries – We will ensure fisheries management supports wider environmental objectives, including the achievement of Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. <p>4. Improving our knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing almost £5 million over the next three years in England to directly support national and local organisations, and groups that co-ordinate volunteer recording and to contribute to the work of the National Biodiversity Network. • Investing a further £1.2 million to support data sharing, creating a new fund for biodiversity recording in the voluntary sector and, in partnership with volunteer groups, develop new and innovative approaches to biodiversity recording. • Launching three area-based pilot studies to trial new strategic approaches to wildlife recording, data sharing and interpretation services to better meet both local and national needs, working with local partnerships and local centres of expertise. • Following the NEA, we will support a further phase of ground-breaking research to identify the mix of future actions most likely to secure best overall value from our ecosystems, for nature and for people. It will also develop practical tools to assist decision-makers. <p>Copies of <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> can be downloaded from the Government website.</p> <p>Copies of the Natural Environment White Paper can be downloaded from the official-documents website.</p>
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Biodiversity 2020 monitoring and reporting delivery

Question	Answer
How is progress against delivering <i>Biodiversity</i>	Defra is responsible on behalf of the Government for achieving the strategy’s outcome. The delivery of the Biodiversity 2020 outcomes is managed by a Defra Programme Board that monitors progress

<p>2020 monitored?</p>	<p>against all four outcomes and reports back to Ministers.</p> <p>In addition, Defra published 24 England Biodiversity 2020 indicators in Spring 2012, which took account of the outcomes and priorities in <i>Biodiversity 2020</i>. Some of the 24 indicators are still under-development. Defra will publish an annual progress update every October/November to coincide with the revised UK indicator publication date.</p>
<p>How will progress against <i>Biodiversity 2020</i> be reported?</p>	<p><i>Biodiversity 2020</i> habitat creation and restoration progress will be reported and monitored using the newly re-launched Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS).</p> <p>All partners are encouraged to use this system. The new BARS is spatially literate and is being populated with national Higher Level Stewardship, Environment Agency and England Woodland Grant datasets which will enable all partners to 'see' what land management agreements are in place in their area.</p> <p>Species progress will be assessed using a combination of data monitoring methods whilst it has not yet been agreed how ecosystem service outcome delivery will be monitored.</p>