

Business and Biodiversity



A UK Business guide
for understanding
and integrating nature
conservation and
biodiversity into
environmental
management systems

THE
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The Corporate Environmental Responsibility Group was created by Earthwatch in 1990 to act as an interface between business and the environmental movement. Earthwatch has formed a reputation as an excellent partner for business because it is non-confrontational but at the same time is active in a wide range of disciplines and overseas markets. There are currently thirty-four blue-chip members of the CERG who work with Earthwatch in a wide range of activities such as reviewing environmental reports, planning community relations strategies and staff development. Membership of the CERG is also a public endorsement of the values which Earthwatch represents: that objective non-confrontational science should be the basis for understanding and managing the environment. The charity currently supports 150 research projects in 50 countries.

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FOREWORD

It might reasonably be asked why biodiversity has any connection with business. Research has consistently shown that biological diversity helps business: it is the key to maintaining an ecological balance which helps the planet to function properly – creating a stable and predictable environment in which business can operate successfully. Biodiversity, for example, guarantees supply of the raw materials for a huge variety of products, and a gene pool for developing new products, to say nothing of less tangible areas such as wetlands which regulate flood control. This is directly relevant to businesses of all sizes and in all sectors.

But even when the will is there, it is not always clear to businesses how they can take part in the process of biodiversity conservation.

This booklet has been written specifically for businesses. It provides a step by step guide for businesses of all sizes wanting to play their part in helping to implement the UK Government's Biodiversity Action Plan. As a long-term supporter of this project, I welcome its publication, and am sure it will play an important role in drawing the business world into the process of conserving biodiversity in the UK.

Sir Richard Sykes

Chairman

Glaxo Wellcome plc

INTRODUCTION

If biodiversity in this country is to be protected, business must be seen as part of the solution and not simply the problem. One of the most significant challenges facing the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development has been to find mechanisms through which business can be brought into the environmental debate.

This guide to Business and Biodiversity is part of that process. Although it clearly set out the business case for protecting biodiversity, and shows how that can be implemented through environmental management systems, there is another important dimension to this booklet. It emphasises how Government, Business and Non-Governmental Organisations can and must work together to identify problems and find solutions.

The booklet itself is a practical example of how that can be done. The UK Round Table, which seeks consensus on major issues of sustainable development, produced a report after extensive consultation. A working group consisting of business, NGOs and DETR officials, assisted by Glaxo Wellcome, has refined the text into this practical and user-friendly guide. The production and distribution has been undertaken by Earthwatch, an NGO with a proven track record of working with business. And it has been launched at the Natural History Museum, one of the world's foremost centres for biodiversity conservation.

We are fortunate in this country to have a corporate sector with an increasing sense of community responsibility, a thriving NGO movement and a government committed to implementing the targets agreed at the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. This combination of expertise, resources and goodwill means that through cooperation, we have an unequalled opportunity to achieve the national targets for nature conservation and the protection of biodiversity. I am delighted that this guide to Business and Biodiversity has been produced to take this process forward.

Professor Sir Richard Southwood

Chairman

UK Round Table on Sustainable Development

THE CONTEXT

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity is a new word. It means the entire variety of life on Earth, from mammals to micro-organisms such as bacteria and viruses. It includes:

- species
- genetic variation within species
- the ecosystems within which species occur
- the whole of the natural world, from commonplace to highly endangered species.

Biodiversity conservation is similar to the idea of 'nature conservation' but it places specific emphasis on threatened habitats and species. It also implies that social, cultural and economic values are important in conservation planning.

WHY DOES CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY MATTER TO BUSINESS?

The link between business and habitats, ecosystems, species lists and international conventions may not seem obvious. But consider the positive connections:

- many businesses depend on biological resources
- biodiversity 'services' us in ways that we could not replace – for example, flood control
- your company's relationships with regulators, customers and communities can be improved if you engage with biodiversity management and involvement
- staff get satisfaction and enthusiasm from being involved with their local environment
- bad press or reproaches following an incident (such as a spillage) will be less for a company that has a record of active involvement.

If your business ignores biodiversity, negative effects may result:

- many habitats and species are protected under international and national laws
- locations of protected habitats and species can seriously affect planning applications and development proposals
- part of your supply chain may affect biodiversity directly or indirectly

- if you focus narrowly on basic compliance (for example, discharge consents, emissions), you may still not be enhancing local ecologies
- your use of water could affect protected habitats or species.

Possible consequences include:

- prosecution and fines
- restricted expansion or development
- loss of raw materials or products
- third party claims for damages (examples already exist from fishing clubs, surfers and local residents)
- damage to your reputation and the so-called 'license to operate'
- loss of market share
- bad press
- poor morale amongst staff and recruitment problems.

If your business does not comply with the law, fines can run up to £7,000 for each protected animal per incident. However, these fines (and the legal costs associated) are a small proportion of the total costs your business might incur if it:

- commits a pollution offence
- affects protected species
- suffers damages claims from, for example, local residents or fishing clubs
- has to clean up its pollution and restore the environment.

Discharge consents and other forms of permits are set to protect human health, habitats and species. Businesses should not just check whether they are within the numbers – they should actively try to minimise impacts. In best practice businesses, this also means assessing the sources and supplies of all materials used from machinery to office paper. Agenda 21 and the Convention on Biological Diversity emphasise that over and above the “business case” and self-interest, companies have a responsibility to be part of the broader efforts to conserve biodiversity. The Government’s Local Biodiversity Action Plans allow even small companies to take part in this at a local level.

UK BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

The UK Round Table on Sustainable Development has prepared this booklet to help UK businesses understand and take part in biodiversity conservation. It focuses on local action, because that is where government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have set up mechanisms to help businesses of all sizes contribute to biodiversity conservation. Global companies need to recognise that biodiversity conservation is a global issue, and that action in the UK is part of a global target which should be complemented by action in other markets.

The UK Round Table's first priority is to stimulate companies to help conserve those species and habitats identified as being threatened in the UK. However, the advice in this booklet can also be applied to nature conservation in general so that all companies can play a part in helping protect the environment.

Businesses do not need to deliver this by themselves. Conservation today is about partnership. The expertise of Britain's NGOs and the range of national biodiversity resources such as the Natural History Museum is unrivalled. This provides an opportunity for businesses to use NGOs in the delivery of their environmental and conservation strategies.

Conservation is more than just keeping within the law. Businesses that engage in biodiversity conservation will be able to build partnerships with government, national and local organisations, community groups and other parts of the private sector. The wider framework of laws and agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, also needs to be considered by companies when making policies and plans.

WHY FOCUS ON BIODIVERSITY NOW?

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and known as the Earth Summit, resulted in a Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Agenda 21, a global action plan for the 21st century, was another important result. Agenda 21 aims to bring about more sustainable development in the next century – that is, development which respects the environment while meeting present and future social and economic aims.

More than 160 governments signed the CBD. The UK was one of the first to do so. Signatory governments accept responsibility for conserving biodiversity, using biological resources sustainably and fairly sharing benefits stemming from their use. Both the CBD and Agenda 21 call for the private sector's active engagement. Biodiversity is now a political issue of concern to our whole society – not just the conservation lobby.

In January 1994 the Government published its response to the CBD: *Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan (UKBAP)*. The overall goal of the UKBAP is to 'conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms'. It is a framework for the next 20 years of biodiversity action in this country.

BIODIVERSITY ACTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The UK Biodiversity Steering Group was established to plan how UKBAP objectives should be reached. The Group report (December 1995, available from the secretariat office – see contacts list) set aims and targets to:

- develop costed plans for most habitats and species in decline or under threat
- improve access to and co-ordination of biodiversity data
- increase public awareness and action by getting key sectors involved

- promote Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) that roll out the national plan.

How were species and habitats selected? The Group took into account:

- the UK's national and international commitments
- the level of threat
- UK proportion of a species' world or regional population
- decline in numbers
- range
- rarity.

The resulting aims and targets represented a consensus. They require wide co-operation if they are to succeed.

The report identified:

- 38 key habitats, where the UK has international obligations. These are habitats at risk or are important to key species
- 14 Habitat Action Plans (HAPs)
- 116 Action Plans for habitats and species most at risk
- 1200 species to be monitored.

By the end of 1998 the Group plans to publish three more batches of Action Plans for 290 species and 24 habitats. There is a related report that provides additional guidance on Action Plans, published by a consortium of conservation groups (*Biodiversity Challenge: an agenda for conservation in the UK* [2nd edition]).

Local Biodiversity Action Plans translate national targets into action at the local level. LBAPs require local partnerships between sectors and groups to focus resources and sustain programmes. LBAPs both identify priority action as well as long term implementation through the local partnership. The initiators of a LBAP (often biodiversity conservation experts) will identify key partners, including businesses, to collaborate in a wider partnership. They then set roles for groups and individuals. Over 100 LBAPs are written or being drafted. The UK Biodiversity Secretariat publishes guides about how to prepare a LBAP (see contacts list).

THE EU CONTEXT

Over and above the Convention on Biological Diversity, there are several other biodiversity initiatives in Europe and the United Kingdom, as well as environmental regulations. From the European Union (EU), the *Birds Directive* (1979) and the *Habitats Directive* (1992) shape national laws by directing the conservation of specific species and habitats. The Bern and Bonn Conventions (1979 and 1983 respectively) give policies about species and habitats, but make fewer legal requirements. The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diver-

sity Strategy responds to the CBD, and was endorsed by the environment ministers of 55 countries in Sofia in October 1995. It is a framework for efforts to conserve and improve nature and landscape throughout Europe, building on existing agreements. As its series of five-year Action Plans unfolds over the next 20 years, all social and economic sectors should begin to include biological and landscape diversity in their thinking.

The UK Government's commitment to the conservation of biodiversity, and the wider European framework, will ensure that the subject is of increasing relevance to business.

WHY USE A MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS APPROACH?

Environmental management systems (EMS) help you to reduce risk and maximise opportunity in a planned way. If a company has an EMS, it can identify, rate and manage risks, improve performance, reduce impacts – and learn to get better at it every year. The two main standards are:

- International Standards Organisation 14000 (ISO 14000) series
- the European Union EMAS regulation.

There are many books written about developing an EMS. Industry associations can give specialist guidance for each sector.

Figure 1 shows the main elements of an EMS and its relationship to biodiversity management:

- the five topics arranged in a circle are the main elements
- from the planning and implementation and operation phases there are five steps – these apply to all environment/business considerations, not just biodiversity
- the first three steps show how to understand the important issues
- the last two steps help you decide what actions to take.

Even if you cannot develop a formal EMS right now, you can use the five steps to examine your involvement in biodiversity issues. They may also be adapted to a business's own methods of management. Whatever you do, it is important that you set up a clear chain of accountability and responsibility for environmental matters that rises to Board level.

ACTION

FIVE STEPS TO INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY INTO AN EMS STEPS 1-3: UNDERSTANDING, SETTING PRIORITIES

STEP 1

List-building:

Activities, habitats, species and additional information.

In this step you:

- identify/characterise your activities, products and services
- collect information about the habitats and species your activities may affect
- identify sources of additional information.

The location and timing of an activity can be crucial in determining its impact.

When listing your activities, consider:

- how you source, supply and use raw materials and natural resources (including water resource management)
- effluent discharges
- emissions to air
- solid and liquid waste management
- nuisance (noise, odour, lighting, disturbance etc.)
- land use/management
- distribution
- product use and disposal.

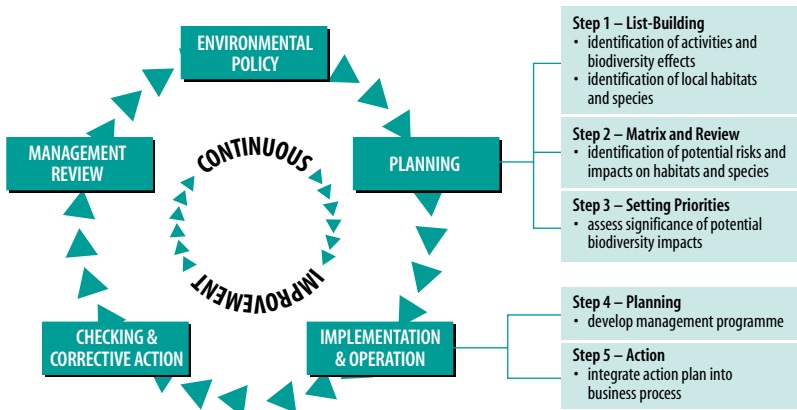


Figure 1 - Integrating biodiversity into an environmental management system

Include normal and abnormal operations (for example, start-up, shut-down and infrequent activities) and emergency situations. You should also look at:

- the broader risks to the environment
- developing appropriate control systems and test emergency procedures.

A number of sources can provide information about habitats and species (see page 15). Consider listing:

- the broad habitat types within an appropriate area of company influence/responsibility
- areas affected by specific regulations either because of their habitat or protected species within them
- information about other constraints/incentives such as specific designations, planning controls and grants.

The UKBAP and in particular the LBAPs can provide valuable ecological information about what is important, where action at the local level will be most useful and where to prioritise resources.

The list of areas where your company may have an impact helps you to decide your area of influence. This depends on the activity in question. If spillages could flow downstream to damage a Site of Special Scientific Interest then the SSSI is within your scope. Or if your sole supplier uses a plant species to make a key ingredient, then consider: is the source being sustainably managed? Is its habitat protected or regulated? Figure 2 below illustrates boundaries of control and influence to consider when characterising activities. The same factors apply when you survey the scope of your influence on habitats/species.

Most companies will work in stages, starting with the elements under their direct control. However an assessment of the business and environmental risks may suggest that you set different priorities. Step 3 deals with assessing risks.

The review may identify information gaps – particularly for ecological data. Step 3 deals with filling these gaps.

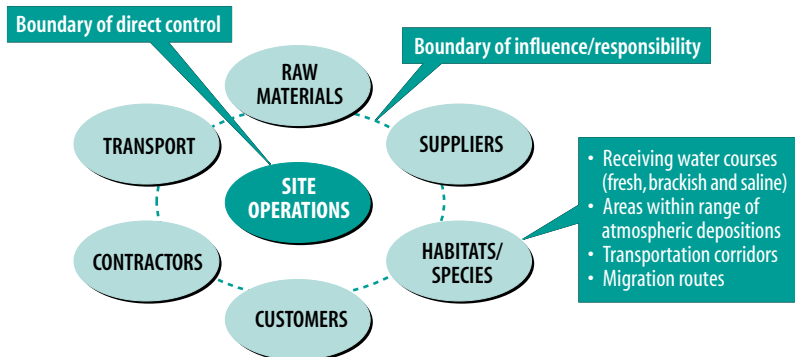


Figure 2 - Boundaries of control and influence

STEP 2

Matrix and Review:

What are the potential impacts on habitats and species?

A useful way of interpreting the information you have gathered in step 1 is to draw up a matrix. One axis will be your company's activities, and the other environmental aspects within your influence. This will help you to spot possible areas of impact. In step 3 you consider only the identified areas. Any remedies you propose to lessen impacts will have to be added to the activities matrix, so that you can assess their own impacts in other areas.

Local activities (for example, land management of green or fallow areas, deposition from chimney stacks or noise or light affecting nesting birds, discharges from drains into watercourses) are easier to manage, because your business' influence is greater. Your purchasing may have long-distance impacts that seem harder to manage. These should not be forgotten. Your supplier may not be aware of the effects they are having or the importance of biodiversity conservation. You may need to form a partnership to address this issue.

The possible consequences of environmental impacts may depend on many factors, including:

- current (or future) laws that govern the impact
- the target your company or site sets about the impact
- the amount of interest/bad press from (for example) national, local interests, financiers, insurers, if you fail to control the impact
- how close your site is to rivers, breeding grounds, protected sites, waterways and groundwater sources, and residential communities
- the impact of your site compared to other local industries or similar sites
- the cost of, for example, raw material supply, waste disposal, effluent treatment or energy costs.

ACTIVITY		POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS								
Stage	Operation	Air Emissions	Water Discharges	Non-Haz Waste	Hazardous Waste	Visual	Noise	Resources	Socio-Economic	Ecology
Building Works	Site Clearance	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	High
	Buildings Erection	High	Medium	Low	Low	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
	Spoil Removal	Medium	Low	High	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low
	Facilities	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Production	Batching	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low
	Mixing/Blending	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Filling	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Washing	Low	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	High
	Packaging	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
Warehouse	Storage	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low
	Distribution	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low
Others	Laboratory	Low	Medium	Low	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Site Services	High	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	High	High	Medium	Medium
	Canteen	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low
	Offices	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	High
	Grounds	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low

Table 1 - Effects/Activities matrix for a fictitious manufacturing plant on a greenfield site

STEP 3

Setting Priorities:

How large are the possible impacts identified in step 2?

The matrix of possible impacts is not much help on its own – it may be long. The important thing is to decide which are critical. The following list of points can help. Clearly, each business has its own range of activities. But many, such as the use of resources and emissions to water, are common to all organisations.

LANDTAKE Habitats lost through conversion to other use(s).

- How much land has been lost?
- What habitats/species are present?
- Do any of the sites have 'designated' status?
- What proportion of a particular habitat/species will be lost or significantly disturbed?
- Are there similar habitats or populations in the region or locally?
- Can other areas be used for enhancement/reinstatement?

DISTURBANCE Activities that may disturb habitats and species (for example, light and noise).

- Are there any habitats/species that are sensitive to disturbance?
- What is the level of disturbance?
- How often does the disturbance happen: continuously, occasionally, rarely?
- Will habitats/species be lost or degraded because of the disturbance?
- Are there other local habitats/species that will not be affected?

SEVERANCE OR FRAGMENTATION Habitats lost through isolation, size reduction or shape change.

- Are there any key habitats or species within your area of influence?
- Will the size or shape of them be significantly changed by your activities or will key connections (for example, migration corridors) be broken?
- Are there similar habitats/species located in the region?
- How important are the habitats/species nationally?
- Could management of these habitats be offered as suitable compensation for severance or fragmentation?

LAND MANAGEMENT Ways of managing land that change habitats/species (for example, chemical use, grazing and drainage).

- Are there any key habitats or species within your area of influence?
- Do you manage land appropriately and take steps to enhance habitats/species (for example, mowing, planting and scrub clearance)?
- Are there similar habitats/species located in the region and how important are they nationally?

RESOURCE CONSUMPTION Extraction and use of water, peat, timber and minerals that affect habitats such as wetlands, rivers and forests.

- Where do you get your resources (for example, fuels, water and raw materials) from?
- Are the resources regulated, or sourced from a regulated habitat?
- Does the habitat/species have a recognised ecological value?
- Does obtaining the resource significantly affect any habitats (for example by changing water tables, river flows, food chains, nesting sites and shelter)?
- How much of each resource do you extract or use?
- How significant is the habitat/species affected in local, regional and national terms?
- Are the resources being managed sustainably?

EMISSIONS TO AIR Emissions may cause acid rain, nutrient enrichment, physical damage or global effects.

- What are your emissions to air and what are the quantities?
- Where are the emissions likely to fall?
- Are there any habitats or species in the area that may be sensitive to these emissions?
- Is there a danger from emissions combining with other sources?
- Can you minimise emissions either at source or at the affected habitat?

EMISSIONS TO WATER Pollution of lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater by normal, abnormal and emergency discharges and/or run-off.

- What type and quantities of substances do you discharge?
- Regardless of compliance with consents, do you understand the discharges' ecological impacts locally and downstream ?
- Have you minimised the risks of a spillage, or contaminated fire-fighting water reaching watercourses?
- Are there any sensitive/important habitats/species in your area of influence?

- Have you or can you take steps to enhance lakes, rivers, streams or groundwater?
- Do you use any agrochemicals and do they reach watercourses? (Harmful results include abnormal algal growth, oxygen depletion or toxic effects to sensitive habitats/species.)

EMISSIONS TO LAND Transportation and landfilling of waste.

- Does your waste landfill site replace important habitats? (For example, a filled-in gravel pit might have a lower ecological value than a well-managed lake.)
- Does your waste landfill site have adequate leachate control?

Determining significance can take a number of different forms but in terms of biodiversity any methodology must address the following types of areas:

- How great is the impact?
- What is your company's/supplier's relative contribution to the impact?
- How valuable are the potentially affected environments in nature conservation/ecological terms?
- Have any habitats/species reached the limits of viability (or are they near these limits)?
- How likely is a biodiversity impact, and for how long?
- How does the law or regulation affect the situation?
- How costly would it be if the raw material source was no longer available?
- What does the public think?
- How could action/inaction affect your company's/products' public image?
- How technically easy is it to lessen the impact, and can you afford it?

Three possible criteria for a significant effect are:

- loss of biodiversity or irreplaceable habitat (for example, ancient countryside)
- loss of strategic resources
- prosecution.

STEPS 4 AND 5: PLANNING AND ACTION

STEP 4

Planning:

How are you going to address the issues identified?

Most EMSs have a programme to manage environmental impacts. This normally includes:

- objectives
- measurable targets
- responsibilities assigned to all relevant people.

Table 2 gives more information. The EMS integrates with your existing management programme, so it will be shaped by it.

In setting objectives, see and consider:

- the UK Biodiversity Action Plan
- the Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- local initiatives by conservation, natural history and amenity groups.

Possible impact	Effect/activity	Objectives/targets	Action	Who	When
Nutrication of adjacent pond	Fertiliser run-off from playing fields in sports and social club	Reduce fertiliser running into pond by 50%	With contractors, look at fertiliser dosing levels and alternative fertilisers	Sports and social club manager	By March 1999
Nightjars roosting in neighbouring woodland are disturbed by our noise	Noise effect from site alarms and tannoy system	Reduce noise levels/frequency outside boundary fence to 35 DbA	Investigate alternatives to alarms and tannoys	Facilities manager	Before next nesting season
Loss of rare plants in wild areas overseas	Purchase of bulbs for landscaping	Buy all bulbs from sources certifying cultivated origin or having a CITES license	Ask supplier	Contracts manager	Before we have to renew the contract

Table 2 – Example of a biodiversity plan

In setting targets, see draft ISO14031 Environmental management - Environmental performance evaluation - Guidelines. It explains how to use environmental indicators to track performance and measure progress against objectives and targets. It has examples relevant to biodiversity and nature conservation. Your objectives may aim to:

- maintain or control the impact – that is, continue managing the effect in a way that prevents the impact from getting worse
- improve the habitat or conditions for species through different operating or management practices
- influence your suppliers' environmental performance
- educate your customers about the biodiversity implications of how they use/misuse and dispose of your products.

Various mechanisms exist for local authorities to achieve their objectives, including agreements under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or under section 39 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

STEP 5

Action: integrating the action plan into your business process

Now you need to integrate your biodiversity management programme into your wider management system. Naturally, your management methods and style, and existing business objectives, need to be taken into account when you do this.

Activities overlap: many may combine to cause a single effect, or one activity may cause many effects. For this reason, businesses need to tap observation and expertise at all levels.

Your biodiversity management programme may benefit from financial rewards for action, and a budget for examining impacts, opportunities to improve habitats, and for long-term issues such as land reclamation. The example in Table 2 is taken a step further in Table 3 to illustrate these principles.

Operational activities and responsibilities	Impact or effect	Incentive for action	Performance standards/objectives	Operational procedures and guidelines (company documents)
Sports and Social Club Manager	Chemical Use	Improved stream water quality Improved image of company with neighbours	Reduce playing field fertiliser run-off to achieve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>increased dissolved O₂ concentration in the stream to 80% of saturation</i> • <i>reduced nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations</i> 	See sections x.xx Monitoring of receiving waters x.xx Selection of contractors in Site Operating Manual See also MAFF guidelines of fertiliser application rates and Environment Agency guides on improving river water quality
Production and distribution	Noise	Neighbours complaints Nightjar disturbance	Reduce noise levels to achieve a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>50% reduction in complaints; and</i> • <i>noise level in sensitive areas of 30dB(A)</i> 	See sections: x.xx complaints procedure x.xx noise monitoring x.xx equipment specification (noise) x.xx operation of tannoy and alarms in Site Operating Manual

Table 3 – Integration of biodiversity (using two of the examples cited in step 4)

IMPROVING HABITATS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

When you use the five step approach, you may find your business has no significant biodiversity impacts. However, there may still be many ways for it to improve habitats and nature conservation in general. Many of the contacts given on pages 15–16 can advise you as to how to improve habitats by using native rather than non-native species, and so taking account of UK needs.

Once you have understood how your business interacts with the environment, it can benefit in many ways by involving local communities in its EMS. Working with regulators, local council, conservation groups, neighbours, suppliers and customers can be rewarding for all parties. Staff get involved, and the business takes the lead in corporate citizenship. The positive local image

that results may help your business when you negotiate development plans. It may also help to underline the credibility of your messages – for example, when you are explaining an unforeseen event such as a spillage.

HABITAT/SPECIES SURVEYS

Sometimes you may not have enough information to understand fully how your business impacts on biodiversity. In such cases you may need to carry out a survey of habitats/species. Usually this involves desk research. If after the desk research your business can be confident that you know the habitat types within your areas of influence, and whether or not there are key species present, then a field survey is not necessary. Otherwise, see below for more advice.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON DESKTOP AND FIELD STUDIES

Desk research

Consult with local and national interested parties: employees with local knowledge; academic institutions; local groups (for example, local Wildlife Trusts and RSPB and naturalist groups); national bodies¹ such as English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Services – Countryside and Wildlife Branch (Northern Ireland); or consultants, to identify:

- any sites within the area of influence designated as statutory² or non-statutory sites of nature interest
- land use of the area of influence
- habitat types and species present³.

Field Survey

The organisations listed above can also advise, and sometimes carry out the field survey. The survey methods should be consistent with a standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey⁴, and

- be presented consistently with the classification of habitat and species types in the BAP and LBAP
- show the location of the habitats/species
- state the key threats to habitat/species, using the BAP and LBAP as reference and other sources of impacts/effects in the area
- conducted at the right time of year: surveys in winter may not be as accurate as those in spring/summer.

1. *These organisations may be able to suggest other organisations to contact.*
2. *A key indicator of potential significance is the presence of designated sites (for example, SSSIs).*
3. *With reference to the UKBAP and Biodiversity Challenge.*
4. *Nature Conservancy Council, Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit.*

CONTACTS

The following organisations have preliminary information about habitats and location of protected species.

British Standards Institution

0181 996 7000

The British Standards Institution provides general advice and standards on EMAS and ISO 14000 series on environmental management.

Countryside Council for Wales

01248-385500

The Countryside Council for Wales is the Government's statutory adviser on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters.

Earthwatch

01865 311600

Earthwatch is a science and education foundation. Through its Corporate Environmental Responsibility Group (CERG), it acts as a consultative body to the corporate sector in designing and implementing community and environmental programmes both in the UK and overseas.

English Nature

01733 340 345

English Nature is the government agency responsible for nature conservation in England. English Nature is in charge of designating SSSIs and NNRs, and many other functions including advising the government and undertaking research. See telephone directories for local offices.

Environment Agency (England and Wales)

0645 333 111

The Agency exists to provide high quality environmental protection and improvement. The telephone number given is the general inquiry line.

The Environment Directorate

0171 215 1873

The DTI's Environment Unit implements the DTI's interest on the environment.

Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland)

01232 251477

Environment and Heritage Service is an executive agency within the Department of Environment for Northern Ireland. It has primary responsibility for implementing the government's environmental strategy and policies in the Province. The Service's remit extends from pollution control to conservation of the natural environment and protection of the built heritage.

The Environmental Technology Best Practice Programme

0800 585 794

The environmental helpline is the first point of contact for the DTI/DETR Environmental Helpline. It is a freephone service which provides up to two hours free advice to firms on environmental issues affecting their business.

Green Business Clubs

0171 629 1834

(for details of your nearest club)

The DETR and DTI sponsor Green Business Clubs which provide a forum for discussing environmental matters with other business people.

Local County Council

See local phone book

Ask for the County Ecologist or Biodiversity Officer.

Natural History Museum

0171 938 9123

The Biodiversity Information Unit at the Natural History Museum creates high-quality biodiversity information, products and services. These will be tailored to meet the needs of a variety of users including natural resource managers, conservation planners and biodiversity specialists.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

01603 661662

The RSPB is a charity dedicated to the protection of wild birds and the environment.

SCEEMAS

0345 023 423

The Small Company Environmental and Energy Management Assistance Scheme is a grant scheme offered by the DETR, which is designed to help smaller companies establish recognised environmental management systems and register their site(s) under the EC Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

01786 457700

SEPA is a new body which is responsible for the protection of the environment in Scotland. SEPA's task is to protect the land, the air, the water, the core elements forming the very fabric of the environment.

Scottish Natural Heritage

0131 447 4784

Scottish Natural Heritage is a government body whose task is to secure the conservation and enhancement of wildlife, habitats and landscapes in Scotland. It advises on policies and promotes projects that aim to improve the natural heritage and supports its sustainable use.

UK Biodiversity Secretariat

0117 987 8974

The UK Biodiversity Secretariat is located within the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. The role of the Secretariat is to support the UK Biodiversity Group in securing progress on biodiversity work in the UK. A key task of the Secretariat is to promote the integration of biodiversity in the policies and programmes of Government and other key sectors. The Secretariat publishes a newsletter, 'Biodiversity News', three or four times per year.

The Wildlife Trusts

01522 544 400

This is the national office for the locally based Trusts.

GLOSSARY/KEY

CITES	Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
Habitat	The area that a plant or animal lives in
HAP	Habitat Action Plan
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plans
LEAP	Local Environment Agency Plan
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAP	Species Action Plan
Species	A group of individuals that interbreed with each other but not with other such groups
UKBAP	The UK Biodiversity Action Plan

REFERENCES

- Implementation of ISO 14001: 1996. Environmental management systems – Specification with guidance for use**, BSI
- Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report**, volumes 1 and 2, HMSO, 1995
- Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan**, HMSO, 1994
- Biodiversity Challenge: an agenda for conservation in the UK**, (2nd edition), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 1995
- Guidance for Local Biodiversity Action Plans**, UK Local Issues Advisory Group
- Integrating Biodiversity into Environmental Management Systems**, The UK Round Table on Sustainable Development

The Government's Biodiversity Action Plan provides a framework for involving the private sector in biodiversity conservation. This booklet has been produced as a guide for all businesses, large and small, which wish to play a part in this initiative.

It explains both why and how companies should take part in preserving threatened species – outlining the business case for such involvement, and describing how it can be integrated into a company's activities and planning.

"I welcome the publication of this guide, and am sure it will play an important role in drawing the business world into the process of conserving biodiversity in the UK."

Sir Richard Sykes

Chairman, Glaxo Wellcome plc

"We have an unequalled opportunity to achieve the national targets for nature conservation and the protection of biodiversity. I am delighted that this guide to Business and Biodiversity has been produced to take this process forward."

Professor Sir Richard Southwood

Chairman, UK Round Table on Sustainable Development

Further copies available from:

THE EARTHWATCH
CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY GROUP

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