

Evidence to Sustainability Committee 12 May 2010

Environment Agency Wales: Evidence on the Environment Strategy

1. Introduction

In this evidence we have identified our progress against the Environment Strategy Action Plan 2008-11. Demonstrating progress against the Environment Strategy Action Plans only describes part of the story. It is also important to demonstrate progress against the 2026 Environment Strategy outcomes. Using water-related outcomes as an example, we demonstrate what we do to meet the Environment Strategy Action Plan and its outcomes. We suggest some improvements to the Environment Strategy process and set out how we are embedding the Sustainable Development Scheme across Environment Agency Wales.

The Environment Strategy identifies ambitious environmental outcomes for Wales, to be achieved by 2026. When it was produced in 2006, the Environment Strategy energised discussions about the environmental priorities for Wales, and brought together organisations to deliver the necessary action in partnership. The Strategy has been supported by two action plans, published in 2006 and 2008.

The second Environment Strategy Action Plan sets out actions until 2010-11. It continues to emphasise collaborative work and we have been asked to lead a number of actions. The Action Plan is not the only delivery mechanism for Environment Strategy outcomes. There are other strategies, plans and policies in place, such as the Welsh Assembly Government Waste Strategy and Climate Change Strategy, which we also contribute to and which help deliver Environment Strategy outcomes.

Our Corporate Plan sets out how we will best use our resources to achieve environmental outcomes, which are closely aligned to the Environment Strategy outcomes. Each year we develop and agree an annual operational plan with the Welsh Assembly Government. This sets out how we will deliver the Environment Strategy Action Plan, the remit letter and our own Corporate Plan outcomes. We report our progress to Welsh Assembly Government each quarter and prepare an Annual Report and Accounts.

2. Environment Strategy actions 2008-11

We lead on three of the 41 actions in the second Action Plan:

- we have completed two; developing River Basin Management Plans (Action 15) and a Water Resources Strategy *Water for People and the Environment* to 2050 (Action 16); and
- there is more to do in order to scope work on contaminated land in Wales but this is subject to the availability of resources (Action 37).

We are a joint lead on two of the 41 actions:

- we have completed one; a plan to develop Environment Strategy indicators is in place and we are continuing to support the development of Environment Strategy indicators (Action 20);
- the other is ongoing; we continue to support the Wales Environment Research Hub (Action 19).

There are nine actions where we support other lead organisations and where our contribution is ongoing. For example,

- we supported the development of a new water related sport and recreation strategy *A better place to play in Wales* and with partners have allocated £800,000 (with match funding of approximately £750,000, bringing the total to nearly £1.5 m) to 49 projects in the last two years, creating new opportunities for water related recreation (Action 10); and
- as a result of flood defence schemes completed over the last 5 years, we have reduced the flood risk to over 3,000 new properties in Wales. We also lead the production of multi-agency response plans which promote joined-up working by emergency responders (Action 14).

We have summarised our progress against each action in Appendix 1

We have moved our own performance management system from action to outcome reporting, to demonstrate how we are maintaining and improving the environment. In the following section, we give an example of how we are helping to deliver the Environment Strategy outcomes.

3. Environment Strategy outcomes 2026

Whilst we have a lead role on 14 of 41 actions in the Environment Strategy Action Plan and support many more, much of our other work contributes to delivering the Environment Strategy outcomes. We directly contribute to 25 of the 39 Environment Strategy outcomes, particularly those that are water-related, either directly or through their associated actions as well as through other work we do.

Welsh Assembly Government measures the progress of Environment Strategy outcomes using Environment Strategy indicators. These were reported in the Welsh Assembly Government State of the Environment report in July 2009.

3.1 Water

Environment Strategy outcomes, indicators and actions

Environment Strategy Outcomes to 2026

Water resources are managed sustainably meeting the needs of society without causing damage to the environment (Outcome 13)

The quality of our groundwater, rivers, lakes and coastal waters is maintained and enhanced (Outcome 35)

Environment Strategy Indicators

13a Level of leakage - Status December 2009 – Improving.

There has been a downward trend in water leakage in Wales, from 249 megalitres per day in 2001-02 to 198 megalitres per day in 2008-09. Water leakage as a percentage of water distribution input has also decreased, from 27.4 per cent in 2001-02 to 23.5 per cent in 2008-09.

13b the percentage of resource zones meeting target headroom requirements – Status – Improving

The percentage of resource zones in Wales meeting target headroom requirements continues to fluctuate, ranging from its lowest point of 66.7 per cent in 2002-03 to a peak of 88.5 per cent in 2008-09.

35a/36a River water quality: Status December 2009 – Stable.

The percentage of river lengths in Wales of good or fair chemical quality has been consistently higher than 98 per cent since 1994. The percentage of river lengths in Wales of good or fair biological quality has consistently been 99 per cent or higher since 2002.

35b/36b Bathing water quality: Status December 2009 – Improving.

The percentage of bathing waters complying with the mandatory EC standards in Wales has consistently been over 97 per cent since 2002, reaching 100 per cent in 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2009. United Kingdom figures have generally been slightly lower than Wales, with 97.7 per cent of bathing waters complying with mandatory EC standards in 2009. The percentage of bathing waters complying with the guideline EC standards in Wales has been over 80 per cent for all years since 2002, with the exception of 2008. In 2009, 88.9 per cent of bathing waters complied with the guideline EC standards in Wales, compared with 69.8 per cent in the United Kingdom.

35c/36c Compliance with “good” status under the Water Framework Directive: Status December 2009 – Baseline.

75 per cent of coastal water bodies assessed were given a good or better ecological status in 2008. 35 per cent of transitional water bodies, 29 per cent of rivers and canals and 20 per cent of lakes assessed were given a good or better ecological status in 2008.

Environment Strategy Action Plan 2008-11		Lead	EAW Progress
15	Ensure that the Water Framework Directive river basin planning process delivers an integrated approach to the management of pressures on the water environment and the sustainable management of water resources by December 2009.	EA, with WAG (CCWD)	We completed three River Basin Management Plans (Dee, Severn and Western Wales) in line with Wales' Water Framework obligations and set out how we, with our partners, will achieve the Water Framework Directive targets by 2015.
16	In support of this, develop the revised Water Resources Strategy for Wales by December 2008, accounting for climate change.	EA with stakeholder involvement, WAG (CCWD), CCW	Working with Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) we revised and launched our Water Resources Strategy in June 2009, which sets a plan for sustainable water provision to 2050. It considers future population growth, impacts of climate change and innovative ways to meet the demands in an uncertain future. Our first action plan to implement this strategy was published in March 2010.
17	In further support of this, we will influence a long term sustainable approach to the periodic review of water process to deliver maximum benefits for Wales, whilst aiming to ensure that water is affordable to all.	WAG (CCWD)	The Periodic Review 2009 (PR09) process stipulates the investment programme for the Water Companies for the period 2010 to 2015. It is a £22bn programme (Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water £1.2bn), which includes funding for environmental improvements. We influenced the size of Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water's programme of environmental improvements (referred to as the National Environment Programme for PR09. Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water's plan now includes actions to ensure that discharges from sewage treatment works do not damage the water environment they enter; the actions will also contribute to delivery of Water Framework Directive. The plans provide a targeted approach with better outcomes for less money and will ensure the environmental benefits for Wales are

			<p>maximised.</p> <p>As a statutory consultee, we provided technical advice to the Welsh Assembly Government on Welsh companies' Water Resources Management Plans so that climate change impacts and adaptation were also addressed in plans for Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water and Dee Valley Water.</p>
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Additional work that contributes to good water quality and quantity in Wales

We manage over 20 billion litres of water per day through our licensing system and regulate over 10,000 discharges to the water environment. We ensure dischargers and abstractors operate within their authorisations and we take action against those who operate illegally or damage the aquatic environment.

We are a Competent Authority for implementation of the Bathing Waters Directive and the Competent Authority for the Water Framework Directive. All bathing waters in Wales passed the mandatory standards in the 2009 bathing season, with 88 per cent complying with the stricter Guideline standard. 38 Welsh beaches also achieved blue flag status for the 2009 season. Key improvements that helped bring about these results have included increased use of ultra-violet (UV) disinfection of storm discharges at Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water's sewage treatment works and our promotion of sustainable drainage.

Water quality in Wales has steadily improved in recent years, but the new EU Water Framework Directive sets new and tougher standards for all water bodies. Whilst we have a legal requirement to ensure Water Framework Directive is delivered, public bodies have a duty to have regard to River Basin Management Plans in exercising their functions. Many other organisations do not have a duty or legal requirement and measures can only be taken forward on a voluntary basis: this presents a challenge. Achieving the more stringent standards of the revised Bathing Waters Directive will present an additional challenge. In aiming to achieve 'good status' under the Water Framework Directive, we will need to take into account the costs and feasibility of the actions that we and others take.

We monitor and report on the water quality of over 4,700km of rivers and canals as well as the bathing waters that attract so many people to Wales. As part of our work to reduce water pollution in Wales, we are developing a Water Plan which looks ahead to consider both the future quality and quantity issues for water to 2080. We are also preparing a Diffuse Pollution Plan, which will focus on increasing our understanding of the sources of diffuse water pollution and of the right solutions. It will provide a coordinated means of tackling diffuse pollution through effective action during the second cycle of the river basin planning (2015–21).

4. Conclusions and recommendations

- We have delivered our lead actions and supported other leads, although there is more we need to do with Welsh Assembly Government to better understand issues surrounding contaminated land in Wales and its return to beneficial use.
- We consider that good progress is being made towards delivering Environment Strategy outcomes. It is not possible to say at this stage, however, that all of them will be achieved by 2026.

- We suggest that Welsh Assembly Government and partners focus on those outcomes where delivery seems less certain. For example, we strongly support the Natural Environment Framework initiative to re-energise and clarify delivery of actions to halt biodiversity loss (Outcome 19), make the wider countryside more favourable for biodiversity (Outcome 20) and ensure protected sites are in favourable condition (Outcome 21).
- This type of initiative alongside existing obligations in our own and others' strategies and plans should help to ensure delivery of the Environment Strategy outcomes without the need for a new action plan.
- We suggest a light touch review of the Environment Strategy so it clearly articulates where and how the environment, through its natural resources and goods and services, supports sustainable economies and societies and thereby a sustainable Wales. This refresh could identify those outcomes requiring additional effort and give clarity on the indicators, actions and who should lead.
- There needs to be a stronger focus on delivering and checking delivery of the Environment Strategy outcomes as well as on indicators and actions. We suggest the Environment Strategy Reference group could take on this role.

5. Sustainable Development

Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development Scheme *One Wales: One Planet* sets a vision of Wales having a sustainable environment that has "healthy, functioning ecosystems that are biologically diverse and productive and managed sustainably". The environment is a key element of Sustainable Development: it provides natural resources, goods and services for the economy. The availability and condition of these natural resources, goods and services will directly affect the size of the economy and in turn the well-being of society.

The Environment Strategy and its Action Plan 2008-11 will continue to be an important delivery mechanism for sustainable development in Wales, with an overall aim by 2026 to "see our distinctive Welsh environment thriving and contributing to the economic and social well-being and health of people".

Sustainable development features in much of what we do. For example, by ensuring that soils and water are not polluted, aquatic habitats are protected or improved and biodiversity improves, we help support healthy functioning ecosystems which in turn provide services to society and the economy - provision of food, acting as carbon stores or generating income from recreation and tourism. In our work to protect people and property from flooding we aim to minimise the costs to society and the economy and to maximise the benefits to the community through the provision of new habitat and green spaces or cycle/walkways when we build a scheme.

We are also developing a decision-making framework with respect to our work on policies, programmes and projects.

Appendix 1 Performance against the Environment Strategy Action Plan 2008-11

Summary of all of the actions in the Environment Strategy Action Plan 2008-11

Our contribution	Environment Strategy Action Plan 2008-11 reference
ES actions that EA lead	15, 16, 37
ES actions where EA is a joint lead with other organisations	19, 20
ES actions where EA support other lead organisations	6, 7, 9a, 10, 14, 18, 33, 34, 38c
ES actions EA contribute to but we are not named	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 17, 21, 31
ES actions we do not contribute to	9b, 11, 12, 13, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 35, 36, 38a, 38b, 38d, 39, 40, 41

ES actions that EA lead - 15, 16, 37

ES Action Plan 2008-11	Lead	EAW Progress to December 2009
15 Ensure that the Water Framework Directive river basin planning process delivers an integrated approach to the management of pressures on the water environment and the sustainable management of water resources by December 2009.	EA, with WAG (CCWD)	We have completed three River Basin Management Plans (Dee, Severn and Western Wales) in line with Wales' Water Framework obligations and set out how we will achieve the Water Framework Directive targets.
16 In support of this, develop the revised Water Resources Strategy for Wales by December 2008, accounting for climate change.	EA with stakeholder involvement, WAG (CCWD), CCW	Working with Welsh Assembly Government we revised and launched our Water Resources Strategy in June 2009, which sets out how we need to plan for sustainable water provision to 2050. Our first action plan to implement this strategy was published in March 2010.
37 We will ensure that the important issue of land contamination in Wales, and the environmental issues that this creates, are addressed in a strategic way by:	EA with LAs and WAG	We recognise that actions have not progressed as quickly as planned but there is more we need to do with Welsh Assembly Government to better understand issues surrounding contaminated land in Wales and its return to beneficial use. Our mutual ability to meet these actions and outcomes in the long term will be dependent on the availability of resources. In the meantime we continue to discharge our statutory function under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
a) Scope contaminated land strategy for Wales by December 2009.		
b) Develop a contaminated land strategy for Wales addressing the environmental issues associated with this land for consultation by Spring 2011.		

ES actions where EA is a joint lead with other organisations – 19, 20			
ES Action Plan 2008-11		Lead	EAW Progress to December 2009
19	Develop Wales Environment Research Hub's role for horizon scanning, identifying key gaps in research and monitoring needs, and co-ordinating ways to meet the gaps ongoing.	EA, CCW, FCW, WAG (TSD)	Through our position on the Welsh Environment Research Hub (WERH) board, we provide direct support to Welsh Assembly Government staff and relevant multi-partner projects on ecosystem services evaluation and application of ecosystem approach e.g. WAG-CCW-led Cambrian Mountains project. We have also supported development of web-based mapping of all catchment-based field sites in Wales to aid future research planning into catchments.
20	Development of plan for Environment Strategy indicators to provide outcome data by March 2009.	EA, CCW, WAG (TSD)	A plan to develop strategy outcome indicators is in place. We are now working with Welsh Assembly Government and partners to gather evidence to develop the indicators.

ES actions where EA support other lead organisations - 6, 7, 9a, 10, 14, 18, 33, 34, 38c			
ES Action Plan 2008-11		Lead	EAW Progress to December 2009
6	Develop a framework for management of seas and coasts around Wales in a collaborative way:	WAG (NAMU), CCW, EA, Defra, other gov depts, LAs devolved Administrators, WCMP and other stakeholders	We have provided government with advice on proposals for implementation of the Marine Bill, Marine Policy Statements and the framework for port operations.
a)	Set out at an appropriate time how the proposals in the Marine Bill will be implemented in Wales, and will contribute towards sustainable development, the ecosystem approach and the protection and recovery of biodiversity.		
7	Ensure that a new system of marine spatial planning takes full account of environmental interests and is consistent with an ecosystem approach:	WAG (NAMU), CCW, EA, WCMP and other stakeholders	We are working with the Marine Fisheries Agency and the Marine Consents Unit to develop guidance to ensure the marine licence determination process reflects the needs of the Water Framework Directive. We contribute to the Wales Coastal Maritime Partnership (WCMP) and the Highly Protected Marine Conservation Zones steering group.
a)	Develop and use other tools (marine objectives, zoning and sensitivity mapping) to develop our approach to the use of marine plans in Welsh seas.		
9	Introduce targets to increase levels of cycling and walking (consistent with other strategies including Climbing Higher):	CCW, with FCW, EA and SCW	A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales 2009 – 2011 was published in December 2008. Our role was limited to encouraging our own staff to take up cycling e.g. Bike to work scheme, etc.
a)	Establish the baseline for participation in outdoor recreation – including walking and cycling – by the Welsh public by end March 2009.		

10	Promote more opportunities for water-based recreation in Wales:		To promote greater water based recreation in Wales we developed – in partnership with Welsh Assembly Government – <i>A better place to play in Wales</i> – a new water related sport and recreation strategy. This strategy identified the opportunities in Wales as well as the investment needed to deliver maximum economic and environmental benefit.
a)	By end March 2009 develop an action and associated communications plan to guide future activity.	WAG (NAMU), CCW, FCW, SCW	
b)	Create a challenge fund to support projects aimed at creating new or enhanced opportunities for water-based recreation in Wales in 2008/9.	WAG (NAMU), EA, CCW, SCW	We administer Splash! – the challenge fund creating new opportunities for boating, fishing, sailing, and general waterside recreation across Wales. With partners, we have allocated £800,000 (with match funding of approximately £750,00 bringing the total to nearly £1.5m) to 49 projects in the last two years.
14	Continue work to develop and implement the new approaches programme to flood risk management in Wales, in particular in relation to the ongoing actions below:		We run annual campaigns to raise awareness of flood risk with the public, and have used various methods to raise flood awareness with the public, including: media adverts; roadshow flood events; articles in local press and magazines; flood advice booklets (also available online and on CD); sponsorship of the weather on S4C. We are ramping up our awareness activities in 2010/11 to concentrate on direct community engagement in locations at high risk of flooding.
a)	We will take forward a public awareness programme to ensure that those who are at risk of flooding are aware of the risk, its consequences and the action they need to take to address it.	WAG (CCWD) with EA and LAs	
b)	We will develop and implement programmes of flood and coastal erosion risk management activities, to address increasing risk. These programmes will be subject to regular review.	WAG (CCWD) with EA and LAs	As a result of schemes completed between April 2005 and March 2010 we have reduced the risk of flooding to 3,238 properties.
c)	We will increase Wales' resilience to emergencies by increasing our understanding of potential risk, ensuring that the needs and interests of vulnerable groups are fully reflected in emergency planning, highlighting the vulnerability of at risk infrastructure and by facilitating enhanced emergency response and recovery planning. We will carry out a pilot project in a specific locality, which will establish where vulnerable groups are located relative to flood risk, the information and support they need to minimise the risk they are subject to, and their specific requirements in the event of an emergency.	WAG (CCWD) with Local Resilience Forum, DCWW and other stakeholders	We undertake emergency planning preparation in association with Local Resilience Fora (LRF). In 2008/9 we worked with the four LRFs to lead the production of multi agency response plans, improving joined up working between emergency responders in the event of large scale incidents such as flooding. We participated in two multi-agency Flood and Evacuation Recovery Exercises in partnership with Carmarthenshire County Council. With the North Wales LRF we have included in our awareness initiatives specific actions to target the vulnerable sectors e.g. elderly; socially deprived, etc. Our report <i>Future Flooding in Wales: Flood Defences - an assessment of possible long term investment scenarios</i> was published in March 2010. We responded to consultation on the Severn Estuary and North West and North Wales (Cell 11) Shoreline Management Plans (SMP). (also see action 14a)
18	Landscape and catchment-scale management will help sustain the essential ecosystem services that underpin our	WAG (TSD) with CCW, EA, FCW	In conjunction with Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), CADW, Coed Cymru and the Forestry Commissions, we provide advice and support to the

	economy. We will work to ensure that our environmental priorities for land management – in particular biodiversity, water and soil carbon – are delivered in an integrated way. A technical project group will be established to set out leads to deliver the following actions in 2008-9:		Welsh Assembly Government on ecosystem services and their application into policy to deliver more sustainable land management practices.
a)	The ecosystems assessment framework will be developed by CCW/ EA/ FCW and WAG to identify conflicts and test tools to resolve these.		
b)	The Cambrian Mountains' project will be used to test ways to optimise ecosystem services options spatially, supported by Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Powys Local Authorities, the Princes Trust, CCW/EA/ FCW and WAG and backed up by modelling analysis.		We continue to support the Welsh Assembly Government's Pont Bren and Cambrian Mountains projects through our membership of their Steering Groups. We are providing data from our own GIS and database system for the ecosystem services analysis, as well as technical and knowledge brokering expertise. We contributed to the selection of the pilot area, provided links with other projects in the area and with possible partnerships elsewhere. We are currently supporting the project 'Measuring Holistic Carbon Footprint for Farms in Cambrian Mountains Initiative' which relates to the measurement of the existing Carbon Footprint of those farm businesses marketing produce as part of the Cambrian Mountains Initiative. We have recently held a Land Management Conference, developed a Land Management Charter - which many organisations across Wales have signed up to - and are running supporting workshops to demonstrate to practitioners the application of sustainable land management practices and how they deliver a better environment.
c)	The requirements on ecosystem services delivery will be reflected in the land management options that are consulted on as part of the review of Axis II of the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13.		We provided advice to Welsh Assembly Government as part of the review of land management in Wales. Through our membership of their Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) stakeholder group and Rural Development Management Committee influencing CAP reform. We contributed to: "Farming, Food & Countryside: Building a Secure Future"; and the development of Axis 2 review, where we provided a detailed consultation response. We gave evidence to National Assembly for Wales' Rural Affairs Sub Committee on the Axis 2 review. The review has resulted in Glastir, a new land management scheme for Wales, which includes more emphasis on measures by farmers to meet the challenges of the CAP Health Check addressing climate change, water management, soil carbon and biodiversity.
d)	Further work is to be done on developing management actions and planning for delivering an ecosystems approach to the coastal/marine environment (from 2009).		We are to working with Welsh Assembly Government, CCW & Wales Coastal Maritime Partnership (WCMP) to support and advise on how the proposals will be implemented in Wales and how effective management arrangements

			are to be achieved, particularly where estuaries and coastal waters straddle national boundaries. We have providing WCMP with an officer on a part-time basis to undertake the WCMP partnership officer role. We will also contribute to the working groups planned for the Marine Act implementation which includes Marine Spatial Planning.
33	Spatial Plan Groups will set out a delivery plan for the environmental priorities identified in each Spatial Plan Area by March 2009, and will monitor progress on these on an annual basis. This Action Plan will be sent to each Wales Spatial Plan Area Group for consideration and, where appropriate, implementation.	Support from EA, CCW, FCW, LAs in partnership with other organisations	We sit on each Area Spatial Plan Programme Board enabling us to give presentations to partners highlighting the importance of the Water Framework Directive and to encourage responses to consultation on River Basin Management Plans. We have contributed to Low Carbon Regions (LCR) workshops throughout Wales and are developing delivery against LCR work by using the Networked Environment Region approach to support the land management strand of LCR in SE area. We are also working with Countryside Council for Wales and others to promote greater availability and access to urban green spaces in SE Wales. We have also started to provide local information packs to support Community Strategy partnerships in Local Authority areas.
34	Collate information on the contribution that partner environmental organisations make to delivery of the Environment Strategy by March 2009 and ongoing.	WEL with WAG (CSU) EA, CCW, FCW and other stakeholders	We have submitted information to Wales Environment Link when requested and input to Welsh Assembly Government for their Annual Report on the Environment Strategy.
38	Develop and implement an LEQ strategy. All communities to enjoy improved local environment quality by March 2011:	WAG with LEQ forum. WLGA and LAS. Voluntary Sector. KWT. Groundwork. BTCV, EA, CS, CF/CN & RCA/LEADER Partnerships. Other LEQ Forum Stakeholders	Our Fly-Tipping Action Wales (Taclo Tipio Cymru) partnership initiative coordinated three Total Focus events in Ebbw Vale, Holyhead and Rhymney to raise awareness of this issue and evidence shows the number of recorded fly-tipping incidents in Wales has fallen to 55,300 incidents in 2008-09, compared to more than 62,513 in 2007-08 (also see action 31a)
c)	Promote effective action on fly-tipping.		

ES actions EA contribute to – 1a, 1c, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 17, 21, 31		
ES Action Plan 2008-11	Lead	EAW Progress to December 2009
1	WAG (NAMU)/CCW	
a)		We have completed the Habitats Directive Review of Consents for all 109 N2k sites in Wales where we are the lead Region. We have already started to implement changes to consents that were identified as having an adverse effect on N2k sites.
c)	Public bodies and major landowners, supported by WAG and others	We have staff who will use the Special Sites database. We will work with CCW to develop and report on progress of programmes of actions – these actions will tackle the issues that are preventing designated sites from being under favourable management.
2	WAG (NAMU)	We are fully engaged with the Wales Biodiversity Partnership with active representation and input to the Steering Group and the Non Natives Sub Group. We are supporting Welsh Assembly Government to develop a Competent Authority Checklist for bodies delivering Environment Strategy Outcome 21. As a result of our involvement the Glastir scheme also supports aquatic and wetland biodiversity. We are also supporting a pilot project on tackling invasive species
3	WAG (NAMU)	We have provided full and detailed responses and support to all formal consultations ensuring that future strategies and plans recognise the value and importance of protecting water related wildlife.
4	WBP supported by FCW and others	We provide active support and input to a range of Wales Biodiversity Partnership groups and have identified lead representatives for the most relevant ones. We've established an internal system to ensure our biodiversity work is uploaded to BARS.
5	PAW, WBP	Our Environmental Crime Service, as part of our National Enforcement

	Against Wildlife Crime, the Police, CCW, EAW and other stakeholders such as RSPB in enforcing the law against wildlife crime, for habitats, fisheries and species.		Service, is the nominated point of contact for the High Level Group (HLG), a multi Agency group supporting the work of the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU). We support the NWCU through information and intelligence exchange and the sharing of our national Strategic Assessments. We have worked with DEFRA and the Association of Chief Police Officers in understanding national crime and incident recording processes as well as development work on threat identification and prioritisation matrix. Through the HLG we also support the work of the Partnership against Wildlife crime (PAW) that covers both law enforcement and none law enforcement partners ensuring the highest level of coordination as possible within this area of interest.
8	Designate Highly Protected Marine Reserves (HPMR) by 2012 to support ecosystem recovery and meet International, European and UK commitments to develop an ecologically coherent, representative and well managed network of marine protected areas.	WAG (NAMU), CCW, with stakeholder involvement	We will contribute to the working groups planned for the Marine Bill implementation - Highly Protected Marine Conservation Zones steering group, technical advisory group and stakeholder & citizen engagement group.
17	In further support of this, we will influence a long term sustainable approach to the periodic review of water process to deliver maximum benefits for Wales, whilst aiming to ensure that water is affordable to all.	WAG (CCWD)	As a statutory consultee, we review water companies' Water Resources Management Plans. We provided technical advice to the Welsh Assembly Government on Welsh companies' plans to ensure climate change impacts and adaptation were adequately addressed.
21	Calculate the carbon emissions which current and proposed policies generate, and use this information to adjust policies to deliver carbon savings: current report for July 2008, but ongoing analysis to link with work of Climate Change Commission.	WAG (CCWD / TSD) WAG	We have been involved in the work of the Climate Change Commission for Wales from the outset, contributing to each of its initial four sub-groups. We work closely with those that we regulate in order to improve their energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Through regulation, auditing and advice, landfill operators have made improvements to landfill gas infrastructure, which has delivered methane savings of 41,096 equivalent tonnes of CO ₂ , in 2008/09. We have a robust Internal Environmental Management system that has shifted its focus to reduce our own greenhouse gas emissions. In 2008/09 we achieved an 8% reduction in our carbon dioxide emissions from a 2006/07 baseline.

31	Encourage more use of the countryside by ethnic minority and socially disadvantaged groups on an ongoing basis through a variety of related approaches:	CCW, Communities First Partnerships, FCW	<p>We worked with Communities First (CF) coordinators in Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr to develop material which would help CF partnerships know what types of environmental action they can take and benefit from. A Pilot “Eco-guidance” pack was developed with Merthyr. This is now being replicated through Welsh Assembly Government’s contract for CF with Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), for all the local Authority areas across Wales. The pack also includes information about organisations who can help or support Communities First on Environmental activity, e.g. British Trust for Conservation Volunteers; Wildlife Trusts in Wales; WCVA; Planning Aid Wales. It also includes case study examples of the sort of activity and resulting benefits to communities e.g. The Green Town project which aimed to set a framework for using the environmental resource to support the economy, community and culture of the community.</p> <p>Get Hooked on Fishing projects to engage with hard to reach groups such as those not in education or employment have been supported through Sustainable Fisheries Programme and Splash! funding.</p> <p>Also, during 2009/10, we completed canal access work at Five Locks in Cwmbran to open up angling facilities to disabled anglers. This work received a silver classification from the British Disabled Angling Association (BDAA).</p>
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List of Abbreviations

BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
EA	Environment Agency
ESDGC	Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship
FCW	Forestry Commission Wales
KWT	Keep Wales Tidy
LA	Local Authorities
LEQ	Local Environment Quality
NHS	National Health Services
NPA	National Park Authority
PAW	Partnership for Action Against Wildlife
RCA	Rural Communities Association
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SCW	Sports Council Wales
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
	WAG (CCWD) – Climate Change and Water Division
	WAG (CSU) – Corporate Strategy Unit
	WAG (DPHHP-HID) – Department for Public Health and Health Professions – Health Improvement Division
	WAG (NAMU) – Nature and Maritime
	WAG (TSD) – Technical Services Division
WBP	Wales Biodiversity Partnership
WBWN	Wellbeing Wales Network
WEL	Wales Environment Link
WCVA	Wales Council for Voluntary Action
WCMP	Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership
WLGA	Welsh Local Government Association