

**PROGRAMME BOARD ON NON-NATIVE SPECIES
TWENTY FOURTH MEETING**

MINUTES

**ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH AGENCY, SAND HUTTON, YORK
Friday 03 October 2014, 10.30**

1. Attendance / Apologies

Present:

Chris De Grouchy (Defra, Chair)
Niall Moore (NNSS, Secretary)
Trevor Salmon (Defra)
Olaf Booy (NNSS)
Mark Diamond (EA)
Phil Boon (SNH)
Megan Ellershaw (NE)
Richard Ferris (JNCC)
Ant Maddock (JNCC)
Catherine Murdoch (Scottish Government)
Pete Robertson (APHA)
Martin Williams (WG)
Gabe Wyn (NRW)
Nick Bialynicki-Birula (NRW) – by telecon
Emma Boyd (Defra) – by telecon
Craig Lee (Defra) – by telecon
Sallie Bailey (Forestry Commission) – by telecon

Apologies received from:

Hugh Dignon (Scottish Government)
Adrian Jowitt (Natural England)
Colin Charman (Natural Resources Wales)
Julian Hosking (Natural England)
Dave Thomas (Welsh Government)

2. Minutes of meeting on 01 April 2014

Paper circulated PB Oct14-02

The previous minutes were signed off by the Board.

3. Actions/matters arising

Paper circulated PB Oct14-03

Most actions were discharged but with the following exceptions carried over:

ACTION 1 (previous Action 1) – **NNSS** to provide more detail at the next Programme Board meeting on progress with the list of rapid response species at Annex 1 of PB Oct13-08 (where an assessment of feasibility is ongoing).

ACTION 2 (Previous Action 2) – **MD** to circulate the Ponto-Caspian risk assessment report to the Board when it is finalised.

ACTION 3 (Previous Action 8 *modified*) – **NNSS** to start to develop a Framework for Pathway Action Planning (using Zoos as the model) for discussion at the next Programme Board meeting.

ACTION 4 (Previous Action 9) - **TS** to investigate the approach being proposed to wildlife disease issues in the proposed new EU Animal Health regulation and report back to the Board.

ACTION 5 (Previous Action 10) - **TS** to draft and circulate 'Duffer's Guide' for the EU Regulation.

4. Secretariat Report

Paper circulated PB Oct14-04

NM introduced the paper and highlighted several aspects of the Secretariat's work. **TS** discussed the recent arrival of two invasive marine species (Asian Shore Crabs: *Hemigrapsus sanguineus* and *H. takanoi*) and the potential need for a marine focussed working group. **GW** noted the work already underway with the marine pathways project. The Board recommended that a stocktake be undertaken to assess progress with marine pathways work.

ACTION 6: Defra, GW and Paul Stebbing to undertake a stocktake of work on marine pathways in the light of the recent arrival of new marine non-native species.

The Board discussed a number of updates including the Sacred Ibis court case, Defra's proposal for a Local Action Group coordinator, the CBD SBSTTA meeting that **NM** attended in Canada, and a presentation that **NM** gave to the first national INNS conference in France.

PB suggested that it should be made clear, in the new Strategy or elsewhere, why we are now moving to the use of rapid risk assessments in most cases (as directed by the Board) when all of our original assessments were the longer, detailed format.

NM introduced the section on future priorities for the **NNSS**. **PR** noted concern that when rapid response priorities arrive the **NNSS** may have to divert from other work. The Board discussed more broadly how priorities for species action were determined in GB. **GW** stressed the importance of maintaining the **NNSS** contact with country working groups. **NS** discussed the initiative to bring together different biosecurity functions across government in England and the importance of maintaining non-native species within this.

5. EU Regulation

TS updated the Board on progress with the EU Regulation: it has now been adopted by the European Parliament and Council. It awaits final sign off before coming into force on 1 January 2015.

TS then outlined how Defra would progress with the implementation of the IAS Regulation. He noted that the Management Committee would most likely meet first in spring 2015 with the scientific forum established in summer 2015. There is an intention to meet with member states that share similar issues to the UK to discuss issues of mutual concern, especially species listing.

There was some discussion about the cost associated with the EU Regulation. **TS** noted that costs will be largely dependent on what is on the list of EU concern (which is currently not known). At the point the list is proposed, Defra will undertake an impact assessment.

6. GB Strategy Review

Paper circulated PB Oct14-06

This was the substantive item of the meeting.

The Board broadly endorsed the actions, but gave a strong steer that:

- The Strategy should be concise, action-oriented and portray a sense of urgency. It should show a strong GB lead. Information about process should be covered in the introduction or moved to the end of the Strategy (or placed in Annexes) or otherwise managed to ensure it does not distract from the action focus of the Strategy.

- Key actions should be more positive and less defensive throughout, e.g. refer to the Board 'setting direction' rather than focussing on 'strategic issues'.
- The structure of the Strategy should be made clearer; where there are cross linkages between actions and chapters these should be more obvious.
- More description of progress made and existing mechanisms should be provided, including a diagram showing the relationship between existing and proposed working groups and the Board.

A drafting team comprising officials from Scotland, England, Wales and the NNS will produce a first draft of the Strategy within 1 month. In the meantime, policy teams will brief Ministers on the general direction of the updated Strategy.

Specific comments on key actions:

Governance and funding

- Remove reference to funding from title.
- Add bullet to key action 1 '... Programme Board to oversee working groups'.
- Finesse key action 2 to make it less direct. (But note MD point that it is critical that we look at the way we spend money).
- (Whether agencies should report to the Board was discussed, drafting group to consider how best to handle this).

Prevention

- The structure of this section needs to be resolved, using sub-headings to cover key areas that fit under this section (e.g. pathways, horizon scanning, contingency planning, etc.). Prevention should be defined in the preamble.

Pathways

- Key action 2 to include specific reference to hotspots (cross link to surveillance section).
- The marine aspects of pathway management need to be considered at a more international scale.

Risk Analysis

- Key action 1 requires clarification – what do we mean by risk analysis and strategic prioritisation of resources.
- Key action 3 to be reconsidered – direct reference to transparency is not required. Action to be re-phrased to make it less coded.
- The risk analysis process needs to be explained in the preamble with an appropriate illustrative diagram.

Horizon Scanning and Contingency Planning

- Key action 2 delete 'more' and reference to funding.
- Key action 4 – delete entirely.

Early detection, surveillance and monitoring

- Key action 1 – separate data flow from maintaining the NNSIP.
- Key action 3 – remove capitalisation from 'Alert System'. Consider pluralising 'system' to 'systems'.
- Key action 6 – is there a mechanism for making species notifiable? If not this action should be deleted.
- Old Strategy key actions – no need to include, already covered in new draft key actions.

Rapid Response

- The preamble needs to clearly state that this section includes both action on newly arrived species and species here in small numbers/limited distribution
- Key action 1 – clarify risk analysis and prioritisation.
- Should we have specific reference on how to fund rapid eradication in this section?

Mitigation, control and eradication

- Title should be 'Long term management and control'.
- Eradication of well-established species should be discussed in the preamble to this section.
- Key action 1 – add the word sustainable as in 'help prioritise strategic *and sustainable* responses' and 'focus delivery of *sustainable* and strategic responses'.
- Key action 2 – delete 'and resource', possibly replace with 'facilitate'.
- Key action 3 – delete 'more'. Add reference to monitoring the ISAPs.
- Key action 6 – this is too specific, consider modifying to make it more strategic / higher level, e.g. 'support and facilitate local action against non-native species' or similar.
- Consider whether there is a need for a working group to share management expertise.

Building Awareness

- Key action 3 – remove reference to the media and comms group, sub-bullets should be stand-alone actions for the Strategy to implement.
- Key action 3c – add 'key pathways and sectors'.
- Key action 3e – delete.
- Key action 4 – emphasise that the NNS website is the de facto source of non-native species information in GB.
- This section needs reference to resourcing.

Legislation

- Delete key actions 1 and 3.

Research

- Key action 1a – make reference to gaps and priorities.

- In addition to new research needs, to make reference to making better use of existing research / information.

ACTION 7: Drafting group (comprising **NM, OB, CL, CM** and **Dave Thomas**) to draft the Strategy taking account of the Board's views.

ACTION 8: Drafting team to engage the Board once first draft is complete.

ACTION 9: Policy teams to brief Ministers in advance of the finalisation of the draft Strategy.

7. Programme Board ToRs

Papers circulated PB Oct14-07

The Board discussed and agreed the proposed terms of reference with two amendments: adding a mention of territorial waters and making reference to regular updates from working groups.

ACTION 10: NNSS to modify ToRs of the Board: adding mention of territorial waters and making reference to regular updates from working groups.

8. Rapid response working group

The Board agreed on the importance of this group reconvening. **CM** offered her services and was confirmed as the new chair for this group.

ACTION 11: NNSS and **CM** to reconvene the rapid response working group, with **CM** as chair.

9. AOB

TS updated the Board on the arrival of quagga mussel in west London. **MD** noted that plans to develop a protocol for handling communications in similar circumstances will be taking forward with **Defra**.

10. Date and Location of Next Meeting

To be decided.