

UK National Review Biodiversity and Companies

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Introduction

The UK BAP is the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity signed in 1992. It describes the UK's biological resources, commits a detailed plan for the protection of these resources and carries out major reviews of the priority of species and habitats (<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>). The UK BAP is divided into four groups: England Biodiversity Group, Scotland Biodiversity Committee, Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group, and Wales Biodiversity Partnership. These groups play an important role in promoting the distinctive elements of biodiversity in each of the four countries that make up the UK.

Most businesses use natural resources somewhere in their operations, such as paper; some businesses rely entirely on natural resources in order to deliver their products, such as the tobacco industry. As such businesses stand to lose out economically as a result of the current rapid loss of biodiversity. However, companies themselves impact on biodiversity in the use of these natural resources, by over-harvesting species, introducing non-native species – accidentally or intentionally, over-use of water, or building or development of land which destroys biodiversity rich habitats (<http://www.businessandbiodiversity.org/impact.html>). This report outlines how biodiversity and businesses are working together in the UK to try and reduce companies' impacts on biodiversity.

UK companies are trying to minimize their impact on biodiversity by identifying the actions that impact negatively on biodiversity and implementing regulations that aim at monitoring and/or minimising these impacts. Many companies have Environmental Management Schemes as part of their business strategy, which may incorporate Biodiversity Action Plans. In addition to this some companies have formed partnerships with NGOs to help protect biodiversity and promote conservation. Biodiversity offsets, biodiversity action plans and mitigation schemes have also been set in place by government, NGOs and ecological consultancies to help regulate biodiversity mitigation/compensation schemes for industry and infrastructures.

Business and biodiversity initiatives have been set up by a variety of sectors including government, NGOs, and institutes. These initiatives generally aim to raise awareness about the potential impacts businesses can have on biodiversity and set out ways in which companies can implement changes to help minimise their impacts.

A further way that some UK companies are trying to help with biodiversity loss is through the funding of UK and global conservation projects. Some companies have also set up their own projects in partnership with NGOs, such as the Kew-Rio Tinto Partnership, or have a system set in place for employees to attend conservation projects in the UK or around the world, such as Shell's 'Project Better World'. Some companies have taken a more direct approach and fund research related to the impacts of their activities on biodiversity, or into mitigation or restoration of biodiversity as a result of their actions, such as HSBC's Rainforest Preservation project in collaboration with WWF.

A - National regulations concerning impacts on biodiversity and their implementation

1 National regulations

1.1 UK regulations concerning biodiversity impact assessments

The promotion of biodiversity and environmental management is carried out at various levels by government, NGOs, institutes, ecological consultancies and industry-specific governing bodies. These different groups regulate companies impact on biodiversity by: working with the company to identify which activities impact negatively on biodiversity; implementing biodiversity action plans to help minimise their impacts; carrying out ecological, environmental and biodiversity impact assessments to monitor their impacts; offering advice on the use of biodiversity rich areas; producing regulatory documents for companies to follow; and implementing reward schemes to encourage good practice. Below is a list of some public and private agencies that manage impact evaluations for industry, infrastructures and agriculture.

INDUSTRY	
Government	
UK Biodiversity Partnership www.ukbap.org.uk	Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) (162 Local BAPs in England, Scotland, and Wales)
ALGE Association of Local Government Ecologists http://www.alge.org.uk/	Helps increase Local Authority (LA) awareness of biodiversity and nature conservation and recognition of their duties and responsibilities for nature conservation and the need to promote the integration of biodiversity into all relevant aspects of LA business.
Organisations	
Natural England http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/conservation/designated-areas/default.htm	Advises on the use of UK designated areas, such as: SSSIs, national and local nature reserves, national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty, special areas of conservation, special protected areas, ramsar sites, heritage coasts, marine protected areas
The British Association of Nature Conservationists www.banc.org.uk	Takes a critical look at the world of nature conservation. It analyses what is going on, debates the values behind conservation policies and legislation, and puts forward new ideas

Institutes	
IEEM Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management http://www.icem.org.uk	Develops Ecological Impact Assessments for businesses
IEMA Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment http://www.iema.net	Promotes ecology and environmental management
Industry specific governing bodies	
ICMM International Council on Mining and Metals http://icmm.com	Offers 'Good practice' guidance for mining and biodiversity
EBI Energy and Biodiversity Initiative http://www.theebi.org	Produces biodiversity tools, discussion papers and resources such as: A report on 'Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Oil and Gas Development'
IPIECA International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association http://www.ipieca.org	IPIECA-OGP Biodiversity Working Group is an international oil and gas forum fostering improved industry management of biodiversity impacts and positive engagement on biodiversity conservation goals.
INFRASTRUCTURES	
Ecological consultancies	
Thomson Ecology http://thomsonecology.com/inex.html	Environmental assessments and ecological and arboriculture impact assessments for: Roads, rail, housing and industrial development, on and offshore wind farms, managed coastline realignment schemes
Ecology Consultancy http://www.ecologyconsultancy.co.uk	Ecological impact assessments, biodiversity research and training and green roofs and biodiversity design for: Major infrastructure, rail, housing, civil engineering, roads, sports and leisure facilities
AGRICULTURE	
Government	
Natural England and DEFRA http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/es/default.htm	Implemented an Environmental Stewardship scheme, to provide funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development http://www.ruralni.gov.uk/environment/countryside/schemes	Countryside Management Scheme Launched in 1999, developed to maintain and enhance biodiversity on agricultural land.
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1.2 UK regulations concerning mitigation/compensation schemes for biodiversity

Biodiversity offsets, biodiversity action plans and mitigation schemes are set in place by government, NGOs and ecological consultancies to regulate biodiversity mitigation/compensation schemes for industry and infrastructures. Below is a list of public and private agencies that manage biodiversity mitigation/compensation schemes for industry, infrastructures and agriculture.

INDUSTRY	
Government	
UK Biodiversity Partnership www.ukbap.org.uk	BAPs (162 Local BAPs in England, Scotland and Wales)
Organisations	
Natural England http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/conservation/wildlife/default.htm	Species Recovery Programmes, such as Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund
Fauna and Flora International http://www.fauna-flora.org/offsets.php	Footprint zero – biodiversity offsets
Specific governing bodies	
ICMM International Council on Mining and Metals http://icmm.com	Biodiversity offsets
INFRASTRUCTURES	
Ecological consultancies	
Thomson Ecology http://thomsonecology.com/inex.html	Mitigation schemes, post-project monitoring For: Roads, rail, housing and industrial development, on and offshore wind farms, managed coastline realignment schemes
Ecology Consultancy http://www.ecologyconsultancy.co.uk	Mitigation schemes For: Major infrastructure, rail, housing, civil engineering, roads, sports and leisure facilities

B Measures taken by companies (private or public) concerning conservation, research and national business and biodiversity initiatives

2 Company case studies

2.1 List of companies that account for their impacts on biodiversity

The majority of large UK companies have some form of Biodiversity Action Plan set in place as part of their Environmental Management Schemes. In addition to this many companies have formed partnerships with NGOs to help protect biodiversity and promote conservation.

Company	Measures taken to minimize impacts	Partnerships with NGOs
OIL INDUSTRY		
BP http://www.bp.com/productlanding.do?categoryId=6913&contentId=7043155	BAPs Environmental Impact Management Processes	- A partner of EBI, 'Energy and Biodiversity Initiative'.
Shell http://www.shell.co.uk/home/content/gbr/responsible_energy/respecting_the_environment/biodiversity.html	Biodiversity Standard Develop BAPs and engage with key stakeholders when considering a new project or expansion of an existing project around an area of high biodiversity value. Conduct impact assessments for any new project or significant modification to existing projects. Conduct baseline biodiversity surveys for new and existing projects.	- IUCN - Wetlands International - Smithsonian Institute - The Nature Conservancy - Earthwatch Europe - GGFRP - IPIECA partnership task force - Living Earth Foundation
MINING INDUSTRY		
UK Coal http://www.ukcoal.com/environment-statement	Environmental Policy and Environmental Management System Control on dust pollution – mobile dust suppression units, static dust sprays. Blasting – continuous design change to reduce the potential for problems Noise – baffle mounds, acoustic fencing	

	<p>Water – all water properly treated before discharged</p> <p>Topsoils and subsoils are stripped and stored separately on site in order to be used during restoration of the site</p> <p>Relocation of identified flora or fauna species or establishment of specific habitats after the restoration of a site</p>	
<p>Anglo American plc http://www.angloamerican.co.uk/aa/development/environment/biodiversity/</p>	<p>BAPs Since 2004, review biodiversity performance at 35 sites within the context of BAPs.</p>	<p>- 3 year biodiversity conservation programme with FFI.</p>
<p>Rio Tinto http://www.riotinto.com/SustainableReview/Landaccess/programmes/Biodiversity/pdf/BiodiversityStrategy.pdf</p>	<p>Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>Responsible stewardship of the land they manage</p> <p>Prevention, minimisation and mitigation of biodiversity risks</p> <p>Identification and pursuit of biodiversity conservation opportunities</p> <p>Involvement of communities and other constituencies in their management of biodiversity issues</p> <p>Rehabilitation and restoration of land disturbed by mining</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australian Museum - Birdlife International - CVA - Earthwatch - The Eden Project - FFI - Royal Botanic, Kew - UNEP-WCMC
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY		
<p>Balfour Beatty http://www.balfourbeatty.co.uk/bbeattyr07/environment/biodiversity.html</p>	<p>BAPs developed for sites near to sensitive environmental areas</p>	
TRANSPORT INDUSTRY		
<p>Network Rail http://www.networkrail.co.uk/asp/1051.asp</p>	<p>BAPs</p> <p>Works with English Nature to help get 95% of SSSIs in England to a favourable or recovering condition by 2010</p> <p>Nesting birds and protected animal species – before vegetation is cleared surveys are carried out. If a nest is found,</p>	<p>- Work with CEH to create suitable habitat for the Large Blue Butterfly</p>

	an exclusion zone of at least 2m is set up and advice is sought from environmental groups	
National Express http://www.nationalexpressgroup.com/news1/corporate/environment/otheriss/	<p>Corporate Biodiversity Strategy, developed together with the Wildlife Trusts</p> <p>Strategy involves: complying with legislation that protects wildlife, raise awareness of biodiversity issues and minimise pollution arising from operations.</p>	- The Wildlife Trusts
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY		
British American Tobacco http://www.bat.com/group/sites/uk_3m.nfen.nsf/vwPagesWebLive/DO52A08L?opendocument&SKN=1	<p>Aim to reduce reliance on natural forests</p> <p>Embedded biodiversity management into British American Tobacco activities</p> <p>Manage impacts on high risk biodiversity locations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Earthwatch Europe - FFI - Tropical Biology Association
Land Rover Group Ltd http://www.landrover.co.uk/gb/en/about-us/our-planet/our-planet.htm	'Fragile Earth' commitment is an ongoing approach to ensure that their actions have a lower impact on the environment	- Earthwatch
PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY		
GlaxoSmithKline plc http://www.gsk.com/responsibility/cr_iss/ues/ehs_mf_i_biodiversity.htm	<p>Works only with organisations with expertise and legal authority to collect plant and other natural material samples</p> <p>Ensures appropriate authorities in source countries are informed of and consent to the nature and extent of any proposed natural materials collection</p> <p>Only investigate species if their supply is reproducible and sustainable</p> <p>Work with small quantities of natural materials to discover bioactive principles</p> <p>Develop sustainable harvesting procedures to preserve the ecosystem</p> <p>Collaborate with organisations to educate and train local people in collecting and screening skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environment Council - Earthwatch Institute - Forum for the Future

FINANCE INDUSTRY		
HSBC Holdings Group http://www.hsbc.co.uk/1/2/personal/green/what-we-are-doing#3	Global Environmental Efficiency Programme ‘Green Option’ banking – removing as much paper as possible from banking Only source wood from TFT or Forest Stewardship Council certified forests	- Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) - Earthwatch Institute - WWF - TFT
Aviva plc http://www.aviva.com/files/reports/csr/2003report/partners/index.htm		- WWF - Earthwatch - BTCV Business in the Community

3 National and regional business and biodiversity initiatives

3.1 Who manages these initiatives and how are they regulated?

Business and biodiversity initiatives have been set up by a variety of sectors including government, NGOs, and institutes. These initiatives generally aim to raise awareness about the potential impacts businesses can have on biodiversity and set out ways in which companies can implement changes to help minimise their impacts. Some examples are given below.

Company/Organisation	Initiatives
International	
IIED (UK based)	http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/biodiversity-and-conservation/policy-works-for-biodiversity-and-poverty-reduction ‘Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Business’ A policy that works for biodiversity and poverty reduction
Earthwatch Institute (Europe)	http://www.earthwatchoxford.co.uk/europe/get_involved/involved_corporate Work with companies to raise environmental awareness in the corporate sector
FFI	http://www.fauna-flora.org/ United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative – working with the finance sector, Natural Carbon Programme, Footprint zero – biodiversity offsets
IPIECA-OGP	http://www.iecea.org/activities/biodiversity/downloads/publications/brochure.pdf Business Working Group
BBOP	http://www.forest-trends.org/biodiversityoffsetprogram/index.php A partnership between companies, governments and conservation experts to explore biodiversity offsets
National	
Business and Biodiversity Resource	http://www.businessandbiodiversity.org/index.html Managed by the Earthwatch Institute, English Nature, DEFRA

Centre	
Biodiversity Economics	http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/ Online resource for biodiversity economists
Business Link	http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=1079068363&r.s=tl Provides practical information for companies on how to improve their environmental performance
DEFRA – Envirowise	http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/ Practical environmental advice for businesses
WRAP	http://www.wrap.org.uk/ Helps businesses and local authorities make better use of resources by reducing waste and recycling more
EBI	http://www.theebi.org/ Integrates biodiversity conservation into oil and gas development
Regional	
Local Biodiversity Action Plans	http://www.ukbap.org.uk/ Managed by the local county councils
WildCRU Business and Biodiversity Initiative	http://www.wildcru.org/research/old/business.htm BP Business and Biodiversity Scholarship
Biodiversity for Business, Wales	http://www.businessbiodiversitywales.co.uk/english/index.asp Developed by the ARENA network and supported by the Countryside Council for Wales
Egeneration	http://www.egeneration.co.uk/ Kent Sustainable Business Partnership

4 Biodiversity research supported by private companies

4.1 Research activities in partnership with the private sector and public companies for conservation

Below are some examples of conservation projects/initiatives carried out by companies. Some companies simply fund conservation projects, others have set up their own conservation projects or have a system set in place for employees to attend conservation projects in the UK or around the world.

Industry	Company	Conservation projects/initiatives
Oil	Shell Chemicals http://www.shellchemicals.com/env_soc/1,1098,1099,00.html	‘Project Better World’ Shell employees are given the opportunity to volunteer on conservation projects around the world organised by Earthwatch or Voluntary Service Overseas.
Mining	Rio Tinto plc	Funds Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) who organise biodiversity protection programs in Western Australia Kew-Rio Tinto Partnership, set up in 2004 to enhance their contribution to environmental conservation through jointly planned and managed programmes

		http://www.kew.org/conservation/riotinto/index.html Works with Earthwatch to fund field research projects Rio Tinto Birdwatch event in collaboration with Birdlife International
Manufacturing	British American Tobacco plc http://www.batbiodiversity.org/	Internships to build capacity for South East Asian bat research with Earthwatch Institute Conservation of Great Ape Habitats in the Forests of Nigeria and Cameroon with FFI
	Land Rover Group plc http://www.landrover.co.uk/gb/en/about-us/our-planet/our-planet.htm	Sponsor the following conservation organisations: The Born Free Foundation Earthwatch The Royal Geographical Society Biosphere Expeditions China Exploration and Research Society
Pharmaceutical	GlaxoSmithKline plc http://www.gsk.com/responsibility/cr/report_2004/ce_eshm_stakeholder.htm	Funds Earthwatch to develop its field research and conservation projects in the UK Funds Earthwatch initiative to send school teachers on these conservation projects
Financial Services	HSBC Holdings plc http://www.hsbc.co.uk/1/2/personal/green/what-we-are-doing#3	Financially supported the BBC's 'Saving Planet Earth' 'Investing in Nature' – a 5 yr eco-partnership

4.2 Research activities in partnership with the private sector and public companies on the impacts of the company's activities, mitigation or restoration

Some examples are given below of companies that fund research directly related to the impacts of the company's activities on biodiversity, or into mitigation or restoration of biodiversity as a result of their actions.

Industry	Company	Initiatives to research impact assessments and mitigation/ compensation schemes
Oil	BP http://www.riotinto.com/media/5157_6367.asp	Supports research into clean coal (with Rio Tinto)
Mining	Anglo American plc http://www.angloamerican.co.uk/aa/development/environment/biodiversity/	Tarmac in Northumberland Engaging public interest through a schools' biodiversity challenge. Schools will assess Tarmac's business and biodiversity plans and develop a BAP for their own school grounds.

		There are plans for this project to extend to include schools throughout Northern England.
	Rio Tinto plc http://www.riotinto.com/media/5157_6367.asp	Supports research into clean coal (with BP)
Construction	Balfour Beatty http://www.balfourbeatty.co.uk/bbeattycr07/case_studies/cs_env_schools.html	‘I Love my Environment’ – an initiative set up by Balfour Beatty, designed to help schools to become more sustainable in their buildings, curriculum and community Balfour Beatty Construction Northern implemented several systems in Joiner’s Square Primary School in Stoke on Trent to allow them to produce clean, renewable energy.
Manufacturing	Cadbury Schweppes http://csr2006.cadburyschweppes.com/community/growingworld.html	Earthshare A project funded by Cadbury Schweppes and co-ordinated with Earthwatch and Ghana NCRC to research, conserve and increase biodiversity in the cocoa farming on regions in Ghana
Financial Services	HSBC Holdings plc http://www.hsbc.co.uk/1/2/personal/green/what-we-are-doing#3	HSBC Rainforest Preservation Project in collaboration with WWF

4.3 Earthwatch Initiative (Europe)

The Earthwatch Initiative (Europe) set up a Corporate Environmental Responsibility Group (CERG) in order to work with corporate partners to respond to the challenge of sustainable development. CERG provides a cross-sectoral forum for exchanging ideas and raising awareness about and engaging companies in sustainability issues (http://www.earthwatchoxford.co.uk/europe/get_involved/involved_corporate/stakeholder_involvement).

A number of companies have joined CERG: the table below gives some examples.

Industry	Company	Date joined CERG
Oil	Shell International Ltd	1999
Mining	Anglo American plc	2003
	Rio Tinto plc	1999
Manufactures	British American Tobacco plc	1990
	Cadbury	1999
	ICI plc	1990
	Land Rover	2007
	Nestle UK	2005
	Sony International (Europe) GmbH	1999
	Mitsubishi Corporations	1993
Financial Services	HSBC Holdings plc	1999

	Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc	2001
Insurance	Aviva plc	1997
Property Companies	Land Securities Group plc	2002
Media companies	Pindar	2007
Public Ltd Company	Royal Mail Group plc	2005
Agri-businesses	Syngenta Crop Protection AG	2005

Abbreviations

ALGE	Association of Local Government Ecologists
BANC	The British Association of Nature Conservationists
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BBOP	Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme
BGCI	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
BP	British Petroleum
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
CEH	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
CERG	Corporate Environmental Responsibility Group
CVA	Conservation Volunteers Australia
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EBI	Energy and Biodiversity Initiative
FFI	Fauna and Floral International
GGFRP	Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership
ICMM	International Council on Mining and Metals
IEEM	Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IPIECA	International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association
IPIECA-OGP	International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association – Oil and Gas Development
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NCRC	Nature Conservation Research Centre
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TFT	Tropical Forest Trust
UNEP-WCMC	United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WRAP	Waste Resources Action Plan
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature