



Cynllun Gweithredu Trawsbynciol Natura 2000

Natura 2000 Cross-Cutting Action Plans

Rhaglen Natura 2000 LIFE yng Nghymru
LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales



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October 2015

1. Cyflwyniad

Mae 92 Ardal Cadwraeth Arbennig (ACA) ac 20 Ardal Gwarchodaeth Arbennig (AGA) Cymru'n cynnwys 123 o nodweddion cynefinoedd a rhywogaethau dynodedig. Gyda'i gilydd, y rhain yw rhwydwaith Natura 2000.

Mae Rhaglen Natura 2000 LIFE yng Nghymru wedi datblygu blaen-gynllyn strategol i reoli ac adfer Natura 2000 yng Nghymru. Drwy weithio â rhanddeiliaid mae wedi pennu'r prif heriau sy'n wynebu'r safleoedd, y rhywogaethau a'r cynefinoedd hyn a warchodir gan Ewrop, a nodi'r camau gweithredu sydd eu hangen, y blaenoriaethau, y costau a'r cyfleoedd cyllido i fynd i'r afael â nhw. Cafodd y rhaglen ei chynnal gan Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru a'i hariannu gan gynllun LIFE+ Nature yr Undeb Ewropeaidd.

Y pwrpas yw galluogi Cymru i wneud cynnydd sylweddol tuag at sicrhau bod rhywogaethau a chynefinoedd Natura 2000 mewn cyflwr ffafriol a helpu i gyflawni ei hymrwymiaidau o dan Gyfarwyddeb Cynefinoedd ac Adar yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Mae'r Rhaglen yn ceisio darparu llwyfan hefyd i sicrhau rhagor o gyllid ar gyfer prosiectau sy'n gysylltiedig â Natura 2000 o bob ffynhonnell bosibl, ac i integreiddio cyllid Natura 2000 mewn offerynnau ariannol a meysydd polisi eraill.

Mae manylion llawn Rhaglen Natura 2000 LIFE a rhwydwaith Natura 2000 yng Nghymru yn *Ffeithiau a Ffigurau, Rhaglen Natura 2000 LIFE yng Nghymru: Adroddiad 1*.

Cynlluniau Gweithredu Trawsbynciol Natura 2000

Mae Rhaglen LIFE Natura 2000 wedi datblygu cyfres o bum Cynllun Gweithredu Trawsbynciol sy'n nodi camau strategol sy'n berthnasol ar draws rhwydwaith Natura 2000 ac sy'n gallu mynd i'r afael â materion blaenoriaeth a risgiau amrywiol¹. Mae'r camau strategol yn ymwneud yn bennaf â gweithgareddau meithrin gallu a fydd yn hwyluso camau gweithredu uniongyrchol i reoli ac i adfer nodweddion Natura 2000.

Mae'r Cynlluniau Gweithredu Trawsbynciol fel a ganlyn:

- **Cyfathrebu ac addysg** - sy'n ymwneud â chynyddu ymwybyddiaeth gyhoeddus a hyfforddi ymarferwyr, ffermwyr a thirfeddianwyr a defnyddwyr safleoedd.
- **Cyllid ac ariannu** - hwyluso gwell mynediad i gyllid ar gyfer Natura 2000.
- **Deddfwriaeth a pholisi** - cefnogi datblygiad a darpariaeth polisiâu a deddfwriaeth newydd ac addasu cynlluniau, polisiâu a deddfwriaeth gyfredol.
- **Integreiddio** - anghenion Natura 2000 i mewn i sectorau eraill megis amddiffynfeydd rhag llifogydd, coedwigaeth, amaethyddiaeth a thwristiaeth.
- **Ymchwiliadau** – sy'n ymwneud â mynd i'r afael â chamau i ddatrys y blwch o ran tystiolaeth ac archwiliadau mewn modd strategol a dod o hyd i gyllid newydd.

¹ Problemau (neu bwysau) yw effeithiau niweidiol i nodweddion Natura 2000 sy'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd ar neu yng nghyffiniau Ardaloedd Cadwraeth Arbennig neu Ardaloedd Gwarchodaeth Arbennig ac sy'n atal y cynefin dynodedig neu'r nodweddion rhywogaeth rhag cyrraedd cyflwr ffafriol. Mae risgiau (neu fygythiadau) yn effeithiau niweidiol i nodweddion Natura 2000 sy'n debygol o ddiwydd erbyn 2020.

Mae tabl o gamau trawsbynciol strategol ym mhob cynllun, sydd i'w gweld yn Adrannau 6 i 10 isod.

Mae'r camau trawsbynciol yn seiliedig ar y camau a nodir yng Nghynlluniau Gweithredu Thematig Natura 2000 a Chynlluniau Gwella â Blaenoriaeth (PIPs) ar lefel safle. Mae camau a nodwyd dro ar ôl tro yn y dogfennau hyn wedi'u crynhoi a'u cyflwyno fel camau strategol trawsbynciol.

Mae'r Cynlluniau Gweithredu Thematig fel a ganlyn:

- Mynediad a hamdden
- Llygredd aer: dyddodiad Nitrogen
- newid yn yr hinsawdd a darnio cynefinoedd
- Llygredd dŵr tryledol
- Rheoli risg llifogydd ac erydu arfordiroedd
- Rheoli pori a da byw
- Pathogenau a rhywogaethau ymledol anfrodorol
- Newidiadau gwneud i amodau hydrologig
- Sbwriel morol
- Pysgodfeydd morol
- Rheoli coetiroedd

Mae'r Cynlluniau Gweithredu Trawsbynciol wedi bod yn destun proses o ymgysylltu a thrafod gyda rhanddeiliaid. Gweler Adran 5 am fwy o fanylion. Prif gynulleidfa'r cynlluniau yw rheolwyr, penderfynwyr a chyllidwyr Cyfoeth Naturlol Cymru, Llywodraeth Cymru a sefydliadau partner allweddol.

Gellid cyflawni'r camau strategol trawsbynciol ar lefel genedlaethol neu ranbarthol. Eu nod yw datblygu fframwaith strategol sy'n cefnogi a hyrwyddo rheolaeth briodol yn lleol. Mae camau'n cynnwys y rhai sydd eu hangen er mwyn mynd i'r afael â bylchau mewn tystiolaeth sy'n llesteirio dealltwriaeth lawn o anghenion rheoli. Hwyrach y bydd rhai camau strategol yn cynnig ffrydiau gwaith newydd a mentrau ar raddfa fawr; bydd eraill yn cyfateb yn agos i bolisiau, strategaethau a rhaglenni gwaith cyfredol neu rai sydd ar y gweill.

Y camau strategol yw'r rhai y gwelwyd eu bod yn ofynnol er mwyn adfer nodweddion rhywogaethau a chynefinoedd Natura 2000 i gyflwr ffafriol. Maent yn dibynnu ar gytundeb rhanddeiliaid a'r adnoddau sydd ar gael. Nid ydynt yn cynrychioli cynllun gweithredol cwbl ymrwymedig sydd wedi'i gyllido'n llawn neu yn yr ymrymwyd yn llawn iddo. Fodd bynnag, y bwriad yw y byddai'r camau'n cael eu defnyddio i lywio cyfres o gynlluniau gweithredol a rhaglenni gwaith yn y dyfodol.

Tra bod y camau strategol yn canolbwyntio ar gyfres Natura 2000, gellir cymhwyso llawer ohonynt yn eang, a gallent fod o fudd hefyd i Safleoedd o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig a gwaith atgyfnerthu ecosystemau a gwarchod bioamrywiaeth arall yn yr amgylchedd ehangach.

Mae'r camau strategol trawsbynciol wedi'u cynnwys yn y Fframwaith Gweithredu â Blaenoriaeth (PAF). Mae'r PAF yn ddogfen sy'n ofynnol yn ôl Erthygl 8 o'r Gyfarwyddeb Cynefinoedd, sy'n llywio blaenoriaethau'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar gyfer Natura 2000 ac yn disgrifio'r gofynion cyd-gyllido Ewropeaidd. Mae crynodeb o Raglen LIFE Natura 2000 yn y PAF.

2. Introduction

There are 123 designated habitat and species features on the 92 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and 20 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in Wales. Together these comprise the Natura 2000 network.

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales has developed a strategic forward plan to manage and restore Natura 2000 in Wales. Working with stakeholders it has determined the key challenges facing these European protected sites, species and habitats and identified the actions required, priorities, costs and funding opportunities to address them. The Programme was run by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and funded by the European Union scheme LIFE+ Nature.

The purpose of the Programme is to enable Wales to make significant progress towards bringing Natura 2000 species and habitats into favourable condition and help meet its commitments under the European Habitats and Birds Directives. The Programme also aims to provide a platform to seek further funding for Natura 2000 related projects from all potential sources, and to integrate Natura 2000 funding into other financial instruments and policy areas.

Full details about the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme and the Natura 2000 network in Wales can be found in the *LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales: Fact and Figures Report 1*.

Natura 2000 Cross-cutting Action Plans

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme has developed a set of five Cross-cutting Action Plans which identify strategic actions that apply across the Natura 2000 network and can address a range of priority issues and risks². The strategic actions predominantly relate to capacity-building activities which will facilitate direct action to manage and restore Natura 2000 features.

The Cross-cutting Action Plans are as follows:

- **Communication and education** – which relates to public awareness raising and training of practitioners, farmers and landowners and site users.
- **Finance and funding** – facilitating better access to funds for Natura 2000.
- **Legislation and policy** – supporting the development and delivery of new legislation and policy and the modification of existing legislation, policy and schemes.
- **Integration** – of Natura 2000 needs into other sectors such as flood defence, forestry, agriculture and tourism.
- **Investigations** – which relates to addressing investigation and evidence gap actions in a strategic matter and sourcing new funding.

² Issues (or pressures) are adverse impacts to Natura 2000 features which are currently taking place on or around SACs or SPAs and which act as barriers to the designated habitat or species features reaching favourable condition. Risks (or threats) are adverse impacts to Natura 2000 features which are likely to occur by 2020.

Each plan is comprised of a table of strategic cross-cutting actions, which are shown in Sections 6 to 10 below.

The cross-cutting actions are based on the actions identified in the Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans and site-level Prioritised Improvement Plans (PIPs). Actions which were identified repeatedly within these documents have been summarised and presented as cross-cutting strategic actions.

The Thematic Action Plans are as follows:

- Access and recreation
- Air pollution: Nitrogen deposition
- Climate change and habitat fragmentation
- Diffuse water pollution
- Flood and coastal erosion risk management
- Grazing and livestock management
- Non-native invasive species and pathogens
- Man-made changes to hydraulic conditions
- Marine litter
- Marine fisheries
- Woodland management

The Cross-cutting Action Plans have been subject to a process of engagement and discussion with stakeholders. See Section 5 for more details. The primary audience for the plans are managers, decision makers and fund holders within Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and key partner organisations.

The cross-cutting strategic actions could be delivered at national or regional level. They aim to develop a structural framework which supports and promotes appropriate management at a local level. Actions include those needed to address evidence gaps which are hindering full understanding of management needs. Some strategic actions may propose new work streams and larger-scale initiatives; others align closely to existing or developing policies, strategies and work programmes.

The strategic actions are those which have been identified as being required to bring Natura 2000 habitat and species features into favourable condition. They are subject to resource availability and stakeholder agreement. They do not represent a fully funded or committed operational plan. However, the intention is that the actions would be used to inform a range of operational plans and work programmes in the future.

While the strategic actions are focused on the Natura 2000 series, many have a broad applicability and may also be of benefit to Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience work in the wider environment.

The cross-cutting strategic actions are included in the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF). The PAF is a document required by Article 8 of the Habitats Directive, which informs the European Commission of priorities for Natura 2000 and describes requirements for European co-funding. The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales is summarised within the PAF.

3. Development of Cross-cutting Strategic Actions

The draft strategic actions were developed by the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme team, by identifying and summarising types of actions which appeared repeatedly within the Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans and site-level Prioritised Improvement Plans (PIPs). Then they were made available for comment to a wider audience through a series of three workshops during the summer of 2015. The first workshop was open to sector leads from Welsh Government, while the second and third workshops (held on the 19 and 25 August 2015, in Garwnant and Bangor respectively) were attended by representatives of interested organisations in Wales, from, for example, the third sector, local authorities, farming unions and other user groups. There were a total of 84 attendees. The consultation drafts were also available to others unable to attend these events on request. The feedback received was reviewed and included in the actions as appropriate.

The strategic actions are intended to be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic and Time-related) and therefore information has been provided on costs and time-scales where possible. A proposed lead delivery organisation is listed against each action. The intention is that this organisation could drive the action forward, collaborating with other partners and stakeholders as necessary.

4. Cross-cutting Action Plan for Natura 2000 in Wales: Communication and Education

The following represent a list of proposed actions needed to make progress towards favourable condition of Natura 2000 (N2K) features. They do not represent a fully funded or committed operational plan.

Strategic actions relating to communication, awareness raising, training and understanding

	Action	Detail	Priority	Link to other work programmes/ Mechanism	Proposed lead organisation	Proposed partner organisation(s)	Estimated cost	Timetable
1	Deliver a programme of training for professionals (site officers, decision-makers, stakeholders) to fill gaps in skills and knowledge relating to N2K management.	To include, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRW staff Welsh Government Rural Inspectorate field officers Other staff undertaking farm visits. 	High	Nature Recovery Plan Area-based Statements RDP funding Glastir woodland creation Potential for funding from joint working partnerships	Natural Resources Wales Welsh Government	Third sector e.g. RSPB, Plantlife Potentially: CIEEM	Staff time and possible project costs TBC	2016 - ongoing
2	Develop teaching of N2K conservation within agricultural colleges, particularly via training the tutors approach.	Make link to marketing of produce, cost savings and other farm business benefits.	High		Natural Resources Wales	Agricultural colleges Farming Connect Glastir monitoring	Staff time and possible project costs	2016 - ongoing
3	Deliver a programme for landowners and farmers to raise awareness and understanding of conservation techniques applicable to farm management.	Through a variety of appropriate formats e.g. farm visits and other events, printed or digital format, courses.	High	Glastir Gwlad (WG publication for farmers)	Natural Resources Wales	RSBP (Farmland advice) Potentially: Farming Connect FWAG PONT	Staff time and possible project costs	2016 - ongoing
4	Deliver a campaign to raise awareness of Natura 2000, promote the network of sites and highlight their conservation importance and economic, social and cultural value to the people of Wales.	To target the public, site users, decision-makers, grant holders, regulators, conservation practitioners, landowners, farmers, fishermen. Using plain English/Welsh.	High	Potential externally funded project	Natural Resources Wales	Third sector Welsh Government Local Authorities	Project costs TBC	2016 - ongoing
5	Deliver targeted education projects to address specific issues on sites and produce changes in behaviour and measureable outcomes	E.g. Love Your Lake approach.	Medium	Potential externally funded project Area-based statements (stakeholder engagement)		Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) Local authorities Third sector	TBC	

5. Cross-cutting Actions Plan for Natura 2000 in Wales: Finance and Funding

The following represent a list of proposed actions needed to make progress towards favourable condition of Natura 2000 (N2K) features. They do not represent a fully funded or committed operational plan.

It has been identified, that the primary limitation on progress towards favourable condition of Natura species and habitats is lack of funding. However, research carried out by the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme (for example the Natura 2000 Funding in Wales report p.8-10) indicates that there is currently a reliance on a relatively small number of funds. There is the potential to access other funds but work is needed to facilitate this. There may also be scope to develop finance streams from novel and innovative sources, but this would require investment in trials and the establishment of new supporting frameworks.

Strategic actions to maximise access to major external funds including EU funds

	Action	Detail	Priority	Link to other work programmes/ Mechanism	Proposed lead organisation	Proposed partner organisation(s)	Estimated cost	Timetable
1	Deliver a continuous rolling programme of major externally-funded projects addressing major priorities for N2K in Wales.	Aim for least two major projects to be operational in any year in Wales.	High		TBC	Natural Resources Wales Third sector organisations	TBC	2016 - ongoing
2	Develop the necessary support structures and means to facilitate more timely bid preparation, higher levels of successful applications and successful project delivery, through the following means:- (see actions below)	This action refers to the externally funded projects described in 1.	High	NRW External Funding Strategic Board	Natural Resources Wales	Welsh Government Third sector organisations	TBC	2016 - ongoing
a.	Implementation of a more co-ordinated and strategic approach to the process of selecting and supporting high priority bids.	E.g. Pipeline approach, with clear and transparent process and governance for gaining support from NRW and WG and developing broad partnerships. To be developed in agreement with third sector.	High	Green Book guidance on Cost Benefit Analysis	Natural Resources Wales Welsh Government			
b.	Develop access to discretionary funds to support major external funding applications. E.g. match funding, funds to support bid preparation.	To be aligned with external fund timetables. To involve WG Departments in other sectors, not only Biodiversity.	High	NRW Partnership Funding WG funding	Welsh Government	Natural Resources Wales		
c.	Undertake capacity building, for example, via training, mentoring, networking, advice, handbooks, shared resources, etc. in relation to bid preparation, project management, financial management, reporting etc.		High	Green Book guidance on Cost Benefit Analysis	Natural Resources Wales Welsh Government Defra			

d.	Carry out dissemination of best practice/case studies from Wales and further afield.	Including in bid preparation, project management, financial management and reporting.	High	Green Book guidance on Cost Benefit Analysis	Natural Resources Wales Welsh Government			
3	Carry out further research, Conduct feasibility study/proof of concept and/or trial new financing initiatives e.g. visitor payback schemes, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), marketing of produce, biodiversity offsetting/banking, citizen reparation schemes etc.	Publicise and promote existing successful schemes and Welsh case studies.	Medium	PES Programme	Welsh Government	Natural Resources Wales	TBC	2016 - ongoing
4	Carry out further research and conduct feasibility study/proof of concept and or trail new technological solutions/roll-out.	E.g. biochar or biofuel from N2K sites, use of arisings for bedding etc. Develop framework initially to steer investment.	Medium	Innovation Programme – SRRI	Natural Resources Wales		TBC	2016 - ongoing
5	Carry out a financial benefit analysis of Natura 2000 features and sites.	To develop existing work on “Inventory of Ecosystem Services provided by N2K in Wales”.	Medium	Feasibility study “Calculating the economic values of the ecosystem services provided by N2K features and sites.	Natural Resources Wales		TBC	2016 - ongoing

6. Cross-cutting Action Plan for Natura 2000 in Wales: Legislation and Policy

The following represent a list of proposed actions needed to make progress towards favourable condition of Natura 2000 (N2K) features. They do not represent a fully funded or committed operational plan.

Strategic actions relating to changes in policy and legislation

	Action	Detail	Priority	Link to other work programmes/ Mechanism	Proposed lead organisation	Proposed partner organisation(s)	Estimated cost	Timetable
1	Acknowledge and ensure coherence of implementation of Welsh, UK and EU legislative approaches, in relation to N2K.	Relevant legislation includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Framework Directive • Marine Strategy Framework Directive • EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species • Habitats Regulations • Environmental Impact Assessment agricultural semi-natural habitats 	High	Externally funded project	Natural Resources Wales	Welsh Government Local Authorities	Staff time only	2016 - ongoing
2	Support Glastir agri-environment scheme to address drivers and opportunities in relation to N2K site management.	Influence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small grants • Scheme design • Glastir Advanced 	High	Rural Development Plan LIFE N2K Report 3: Addressing the Challenges on Natura 2000 sites.	Welsh Government	Natural Resources Wales	Staff time TBC	2015 - ongoing

7. Cross-cutting Action Plan for Natura 2000 in Wales: Integration

The following represent a list of proposed actions needed to make progress towards favourable condition of Natura 2000 (N2K) features. They do not represent a fully funded or committed operational plan.

Historically other sectors, (e.g. tourism, flood and erosion defence, transport, housing) and funds have set strategic policy and delivered extensive programmes of public funded works without specific regard for the management and restoration needs of Natura. A targeted approach to integrating Natura needs into these programs could produce multiple mutual benefits. A focused programme of liaison, awareness-raising and negotiation would be needed.

Strategic Actions relating to the integration or mainstreaming of N2K needs into other sector programmes to deliver mutual benefits

	Action	Detail	Priority	Link to other work programmes/ Mechanism	Proposed lead organisation	Proposed partner organisation(s)	Estimated cost	Timetable
1	Integrate N2K needs into Natural Resource Management Area Statements.	Need to incorporate measures from other plans, for holistic approach to Area Statements. Cf. Action 5.	High	NRW Special Sites Programme	Natural Resources Wales	Site owners Third sector organisations Utilities Industry/private sector Farming unions	Staff time only	2016 - ongoing
2	Integrate N2K into other elements of developing natural resource management strategy and policy, in such a way that conservation objectives are met.	Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Natural Resource Policy Nature Recovery Plan SoNaRR WBP/LBAPs 	High		Natural Resources Wales Welsh Government		Staff time only	2016 - ongoing
3	Work with area-based cross-sectoral stakeholder groups/fora to promote N2K management within an ecosystem/natural resource management context. e.g. NRM area groups, management catchments, Landscape scale projects, LBAPs, National Parks, AONB etc.	Use such groups as one means of liaising with landowners/site users and implement PIP delivery within a multi-use, multi-benefit framework. Invite members from a range of sectors to bring solution to the table.	High	Rural Development Plan	Natural Resources Wales Welsh Government	Site owners Third sector organisations Utilities Industry/private sector Farming unions	Staff time and could be project costs TBC	2016 - ongoing
4	Deliver a review of NRW landholdings to ensure all issues affecting N2K features are being addressed and to maximise benefits for N2K.		High		Natural Resources Wales		Staff time	2016 - ongoing
5	Deliver a coordinated programme of integration of N2K needs into plans and programmes of works e.g. Flood Risk Management Plans.	To include creative approaches to positive management and restoration and more compatible methods (e.g. natural flood	High		Natural Resources Wales	Welsh Government Local Authorities	Staff time and could be project costs	2016 - ongoing

	Deliver coordinated programme of integration of N2K needs into policies and strategic plans. E.g. Shoreline Management Plans	defence), rather than solely focusing on harm prevention.					TBC	
6	Deliver of a coordinated programme of integration of N2K needs into EU and other finance sources.	Via Operational Plans. To include RDP (EAFRD)	High		Natural Resources Wales	WEFO NR (Agri)	Staff time TBC	2016 - ongoing
7	Improve the integration of Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan and Prioritised Action Framework review cycles, to include the updating of programmes of work, managerial oversight, data systems and reporting.		High		Natural Resources Wales	Welsh Government Defra	Staff time only	

8. Cross-cutting Action Plan for Natura 2000 in Wales: Investigations

The following represent a list of proposed actions needed to make progress towards favourable condition of Natura 2000 (N2K) features. They do not represent a fully funded or committed operational plan.

	Action	Detail	Priority	Link to other work programmes/ Mechanism	Proposed lead organisation	Proposed partner organisation(s)	Estimated cost	Timetable
1	Review and collate N2K investigation actions, and develop strategic, co-ordinated and efficient programmes of delivery for marine and terrestrial N2K sites.	Use LIFE N2K Programme data to inform the review. Identify areas of weakness and opportunities for improvement.	High	Potential externally funded project Evidence Plans Monitoring Strategy Wales Biodiversity Partnership Evidence Gaps Project MEDIN Marine Planning Evidence Plan Seacams	Natural Resources Wales	Potentially:- Universities Natural England Third sector	Staff time only	2016 – ongoing
2	Investigate further external sources of funding for investigation actions.	e.g. Horizon 2020	High	Link to action 1.			Staff time only	