

# UK contribution to sample 4<sup>th</sup> National Report

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# CBD Fourth National Report

- Fourth National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity are due to be submitted in March 2009.
- National Reports will contribute to the third Global Biodiversity Outlook, including:
  - an assessment of progress towards the 2010 target,
  - drawing upon an analysis of the current status and trends in biodiversity
  - actions taken to implement the Convention at the national level,
  - as well as to consider what further efforts are needed.

# Fourth National Report Guidelines

New guidelines were prepared according to recommendations by the first meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI), endorsed by COP 8 Decision VIII/14.

Each National Report will be composed of four main chapters:

- Chapter I – Overview of Biodiversity Status, Trends and Threats
- Chapter II – Current Status of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
- Chapter III – Sectoral and Cross-sectoral Integration or Mainstreaming of Biodiversity Considerations
- Chapter IV – Conclusions: Progress Towards the 2010 Target and Implementation of the Strategic Plan

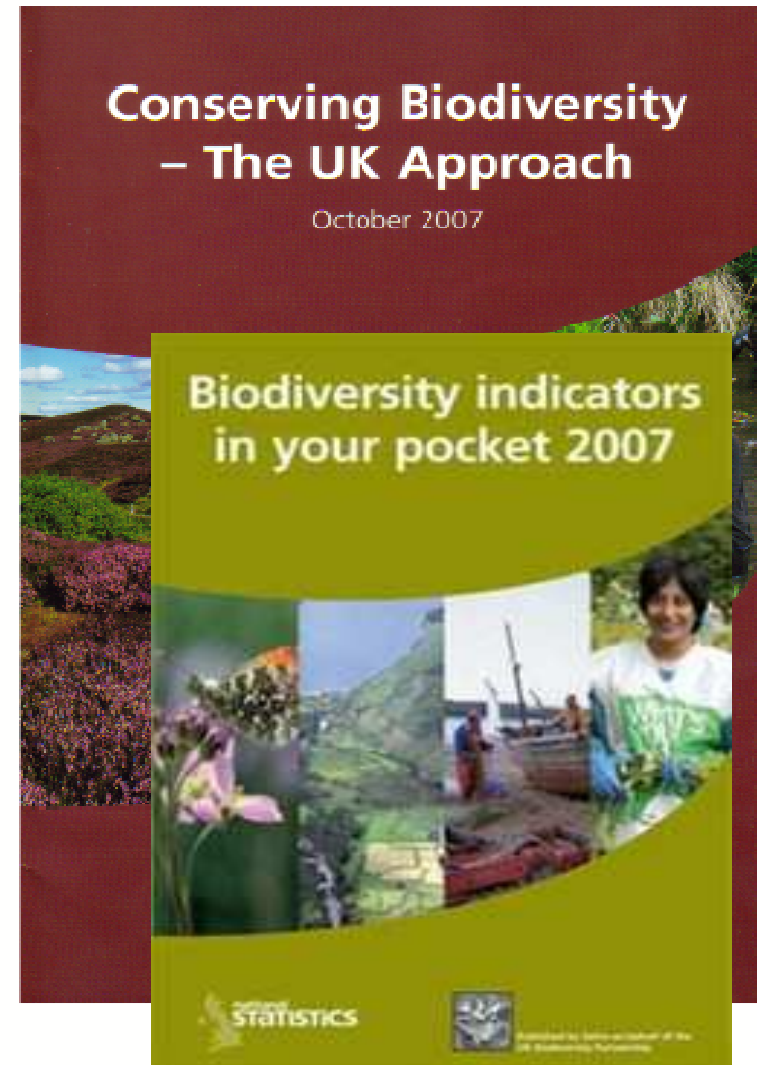


# Preparation of sample 4NR report

- COP Decision VIII/14 asked the Secretariat to provide a 'sample' Fourth National Report for use by Parties in preparing their own reports.
- UK volunteered to prepare a sample for Chapter IV.
- Based as far as possible on existing reports and published information.

# The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)

- In January 1994, the UK published its national biodiversity action plan in response to Article 6 of the CBD.
- The Plan was given a new strategic framework in 2007, “to reflect the changing context brought about issues such as devolution within the UK, climate change, and internationally agreed targets to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss globally and halt biodiversity loss in Europe by 2010.”
- Indicators to assess progress towards the 2010 target were first published in May 2007 and updated last week on International Biodiversity Day.

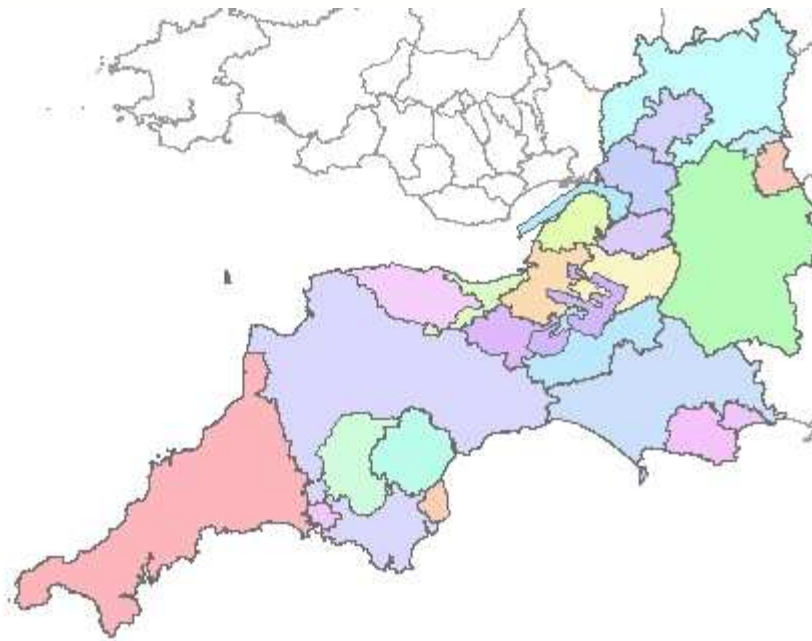


# Four country strategies - mainstreaming e.g. England Biodiversity Strategy



- **Agriculture**
- **Water & Wetlands**
- **Woodlands & Forestry**
- **Towns, cities & developments**
- **Coasts & seas**
- **Local & regional biodiversity**
- **Economics & funding**
- **Business & biodiversity**
- **Education & public understanding**
- **Climate change adaptation**

# Local Biodiversity Action Plans



[Avon Biodiversity Partnership](#)

[Wild things, A Biodiversity Action Plan for Bath and North East Somerset](#)

[Bristol Biodiversity Action Project](#)

[Cornwall's Biodiversity vol 1, 2 and 3](#)

[Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

[Action for Wildlife: The Dartmoor Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

[Devon Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

[Dorset Biodiversity Strategy](#)

[Exmoor Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

[Biodiversity Action Plan for Gloucestershire](#)

[Mendip Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

[Nature's Space - A Biodiversity Action Plan - North Devon](#)

[Action for Nature](#)

[Purbeck LBAP](#)

[Quantock Hills AONB](#)

[Sedgemoor District, Somerset](#)

[South Gloucestershire Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

[South Somerset BAP](#)



# Sample Chapter IV

**Chapter IV has three sections**

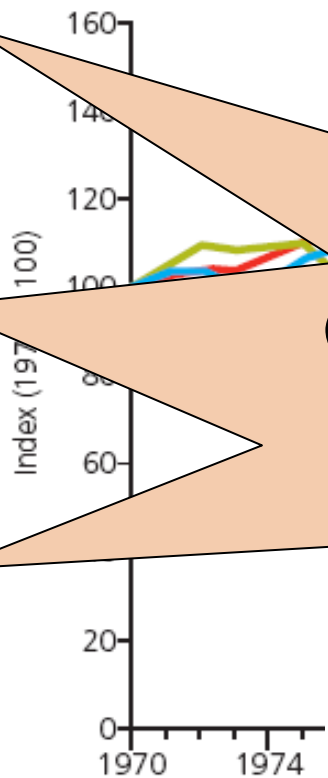
**Section A. Progress towards the 2010 Target:**

- Parties are requested to assess progress towards the 2010 target at the national level, using the CBD framework of global goals and targets.
- UK will map its 18 headline biodiversity indicators (BIYP) to the framework, to add reference to relevant national targets and set the context of the UK contribution to the global targets.
- If other countries use this format then there is some potential to combine into a global level assessment.



## (1a) Trends in populations of wild birds

Wild bird populations: farmland birds, woodland birds and seabirds, 1970-2005



Note: Figures in brackets show the  
Source: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Seabirds

United Kingdom

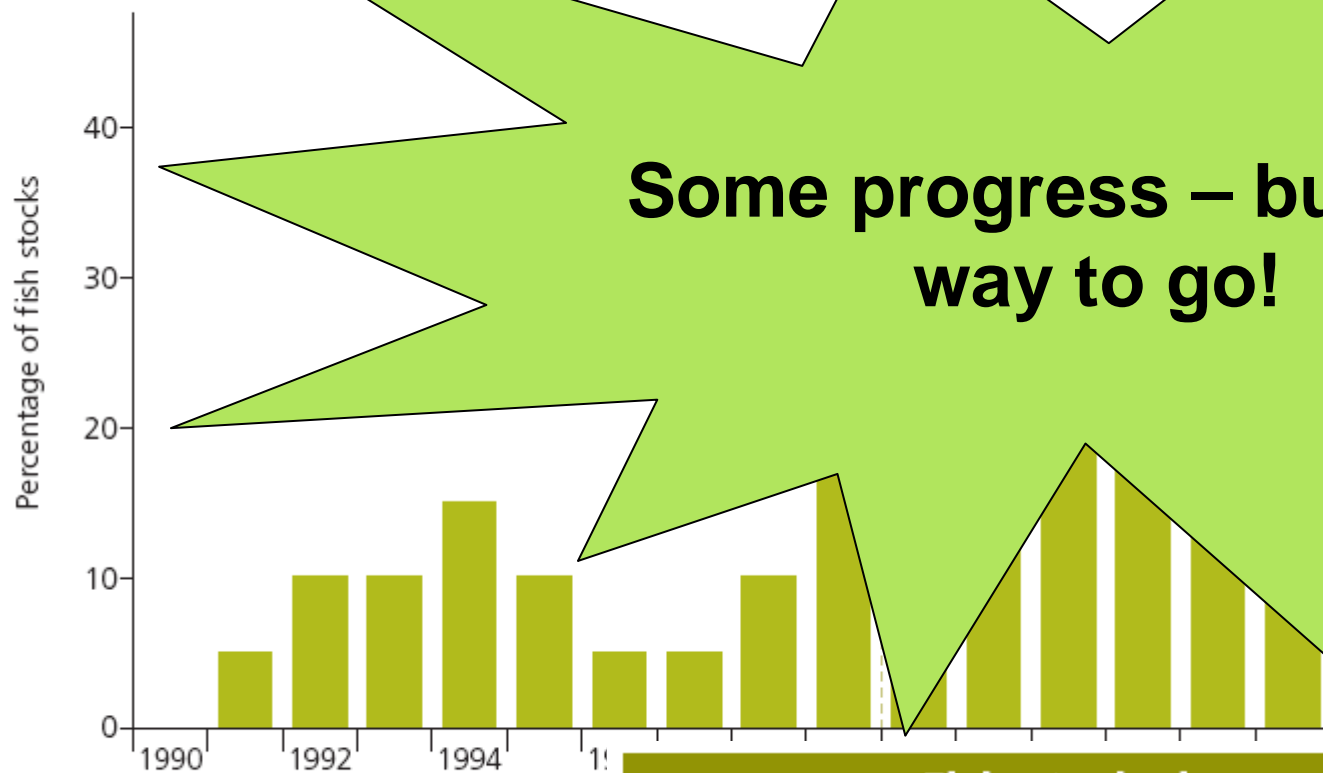


**Good progress – major losses halted??**

Year 2000			
Farmland birds	↓	Farmland birds	≈
Woodland birds	×	Woodland birds	≈
Seabirds	✓	Seabirds	≈

## (9) Proportion of commercially exploited fish stocks around the UK harvested sustainably.

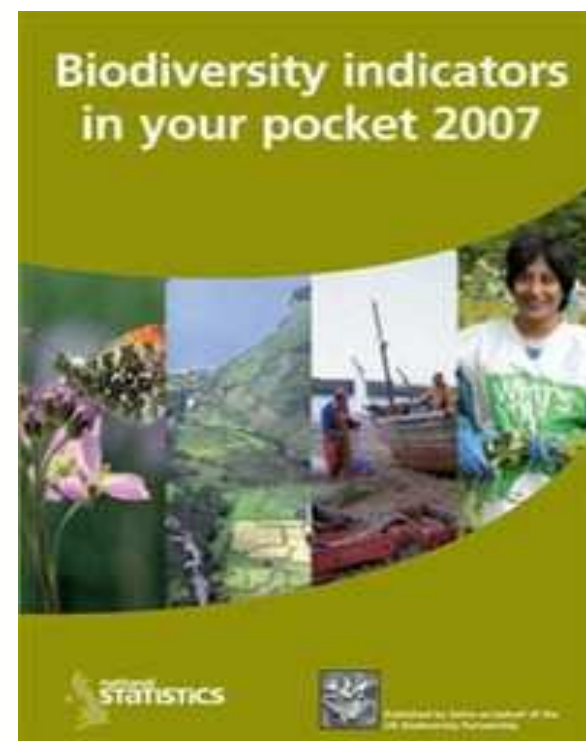
Percentage of fish stocks harvested sustainably and at full reproductive capacity, 1990 to 2007



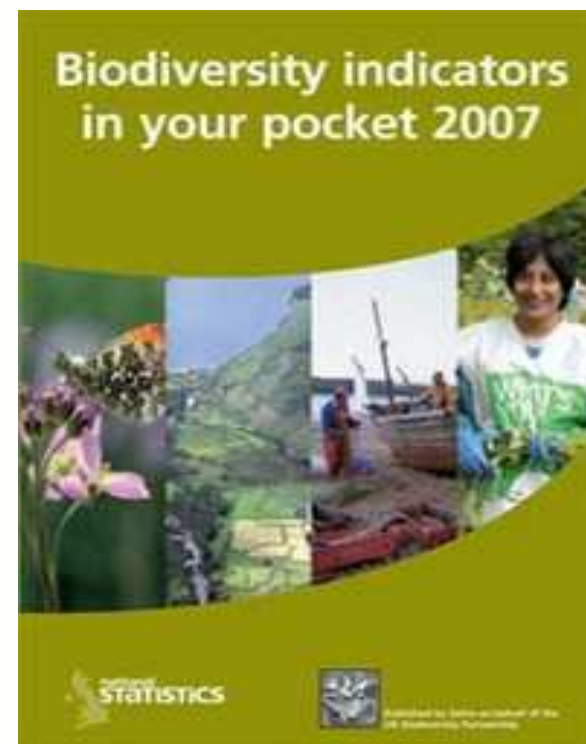
Note: Based on 22 stocks for which status has been assessed.  
Figures relate to finfish stocks only and are derived from ICES.  
Source: International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

Fish stocks harvested sustainably			
Since 1990	✓	Since 2000	✓



Focal area, indicator title and individual measure(s) (where applicable)		Long term change <sup>1</sup>	Change since 2000
<b>Focal area 1. Status and trends of the components of biological diversity</b>			
1a. Trends in populations of selected species (birds)	Farmland birds	✗ 1970	≈
	Woodland birds	✗ 1970	≈
	Seabirds	✓ 1970	≈
1b. Trends in populations of selected species (butterflies)	Butterflies of the wider countryside	≈ 1976	≈
	Specialist butterflies	✗ 1976	≈
2. Plant diversity	Open habitats	✗ 1990-98	...
	Woodlands	✗ 1990-98	...
	Boundary habitats	✗ 1990-98	...
3. UK BAP Priority Species		...	✓
4. UK BAP Priority Habitats		...	≈
5. Genetic diversity		...	...
6. Protected areas	Extent of protected areas	✓ 1996	✓
	Condition of species and habitat features	...	...
<b>Focal area 2. Sustainable use</b>			
7. Sustainable woodland management		...	✓
8. Area of agri-environment land		✓ 1992	✓
9. Sustainable fisheries		✓ 1990	✓






Focal area, indicator title and individual measure(s) (where applicable)		Long term change <sup>1</sup>	Change since 2000
<b>Focal area 3. Threats to biodiversity</b>			
10. Ecological impacts of air pollution	Area affected by acidity	✓ 1996	✓
	Area affected by nitrogen	✓ 1996	≈
11. Invasive species		⋯	⋯
12. Spring Index		Not assessed	Not assessed
<b>Focal area 4. Ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services</b>			
13. Marine Trophic Index		⋯	⋯
14. Habitat connectivity		⋯	⋯
15. River quality	Biological	✓ 1990	✓
	Chemical	✓ 1990	≈
<b>Focal area 5. Status of resource transfers and use</b>			
16. Expenditure on UK biodiversity		⋯	✓
17. Expenditure on global biodiversity		⋯	✓
<b>Focal area 6. Public awareness and participation</b>			
18. Conservation volunteering		⋯	✓



# Section A

(1) Global goals and targets	(2) Relevance to UK, related national targets	(3) UK contribution to global target	(4) Relevant UK indicators	(5) UK 2007 assessment	(6) Remarks
<b>Protect the components of biodiversity</b>					
<b><i>Goal 1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes</i></b>					
Target 1.1: At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	The UK Government has a target to bring 95% by are of nationally important wildlife sites in England into favourable condition by 2010.	10% of terrestrial land area of the UK falls within protected areas. These areas have been selected to cover habitats and species of particular importance for the Atlantic biogeographic region. Representativity is ensured and co-ordinated under the EU Habitats Directive	6 (a). Extent of protected areas		The UK as over 6,800 protected areas underpinned by national legislation. The area protected increased from 2.4 m ha in 1996 to 3.5 m ha in 2006.
			6 (b). Protected Areas – Condition of species and habitat features		At a UK scale 69.9% of species and habitats features on ASSI, SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites were in favourable or unfavourable-recovering condition by end December 2006. No trend data currently available.

# Section A (cont.)

(1) Global goals and targets	(2) Relevance to UK, related national targets	(3) UK contribution to global target	(4) Relevant UK indicators	(5) UK 2007 assessment	(6) Remarks
<b>Protect the components of biodiversity</b>					
<b><i>Goal 2. promote the conservation of species diversity</i></b>					
Target 2.1: Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups.	The UK Government has a target to reverse the long-term decline in farmland birds in England by 2020.	Of the 1,149 species recently identified as the priorities for national conservation action 18% (211 species) have UK populations representing more than 25% of the biogeographic total. These are broken down as follows: Birds 23 Mammals 1 Inverts 56 Higher Plants 52 Lower Plants 71 Other 8	1 (a). Trends in populations of selected species (birds)		The long term decline in farmland and woodland birds in the UK appears to have halted. Seabird populations are also relatively stable.
			1 (b). Trends in populations of selected species (butterflies)		Since 2000, there has been little or no change in the populations of specialist and generalist butterflies in the UK.
			2. Plant diversity		No recent trend data are currently available. Plant diversity is assessed every 8-10 years as part of the national Countryside Survey

# Sample Chapter IV (cont.)

## Section B. Progress towards the Goals and Objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention:

- Parties are requested to assess progress in meeting, or contributing to, the relevant goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan.
- UK proposes to provide a summary text description for each objective drawing on existing UK and country level reports, Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) and indicators



# Biodiversity Action Reporting System

Windows Internet Explorer - Biodiversity Action Reporting System

http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/search/action\_map\_actions.asp

24 May 2008

**Biodiversity Action Reporting System**

Home > Actions & impacts > Action maps > Action map search results

**Actions & impacts**

Country: UK  
County: Gloucestershire  
Action type: Conduct habitat creation/restoration

[Back to search results](#)

**Actions that match the search criteria - 7 results**

Work programme <a href="#">[sort A-Z]</a>	Action code and text <a href="#">[sorted A-Z]</a>	Start / end date	Organisations (lead shown bold)	Status	
Biodiversity Action Plan for Gloucestershire (HAP Lowland Heathland)	<b>5.2.2</b> Continue heathland restoration projects in the Forest of Dean.	01/03/2000 - 31/12/2004	<b>Forestry Commission England, SITA Trust</b>	Underway (behind schedule)	<a href="#">More &gt;</a>
Biodiversity Action Plan for Gloucestershire (SAP Great Crested Newt)	<b>5.2.2</b> Encourage and facilitate habitat management for this species, including habitat corridors and creation of 20 new ponds.	01/03/2007 - 31/03/2010	<b>Gloucestershire County Council</b>	Underway (on schedule)	<a href="#">More &gt;</a>
Biodiversity Action Plan for Gloucestershire (HAP Lowland Heathland)	<b>5.2.4</b> Continue experimental management work at Cleeve Common.	01/03/2000 - 31/12/2003	<b>Gloucestershire County Council</b>	Unknown	<a href="#">More &gt;</a>
Biodiversity Action Plan for Gloucestershire (HAP Ancient and/or species rich hedgerows)	<b>5.2.4</b> Maintain and increase the overall numbers of hedgerow trees (especially veteran trees) across the county by encouraging ongoing planting of appropriate native species hedgerow trees.	01/03/2000 - ongoing	<b>Gloucestershire County Council</b>	Unknown	<a href="#">More &gt;</a>
Standalone action	<b>CBAF/06/066</b> Severn Vale Biodiversity Partnership; The project is a partnership project between Stroud Valleys Project (SVP), the Severnside Project, and the Gloucestershire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). The aim of the partnership is to create a network of wildlife – rich corridors connecting the biodiversity-rich sites throughout the project area and from Gloucester along the River Severn to Slimbridge. It will result in intensive work on the ground leading to high quality, very visible landscape scale habitat improvements. The entire 42 square km's of the project area will be surveyed, to assess basic land use, wildflowers, farmland birds, water voles & otters. As well as providing baseline data against which we measure and monitor progress towards habitat and species targets	01/04/2006 - 31/03/2008	<b>Countdown 2010, Stroud Valleys Project</b>	Underway (on schedule)	<a href="#">More &gt;</a>
Standalone action	<b>NTWessexMayHill1</b> May Hill Heathland Restoration Pilot Project To investigate the potential of heathland restoration on recently felled woodland plantation. Involving widening of rides, creation of glades, instigation of annual cutting to encourage the regeneration of heathland.	01/01/2004 - 31/12/2007	<b>National Trust</b>	Underway (on schedule)	<a href="#">More &gt;</a>
Standalone action	<b>TAL0185</b> Friday Island Reed-bed Establishment, Coppicing & Felling Bankside Trees	13/07/2007 - 21/03/2008	<b>Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.</b>	Completed	<a href="#">More &gt;</a>

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# Section B

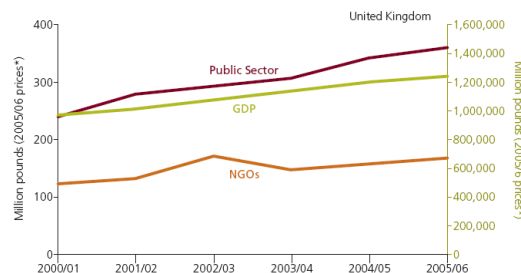
## Goal 2: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention

### 2.1 All Parties have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans

The UK was the first country to produce a national biodiversity action plan and now has more than 10 years of experience in managing the UK Biodiversity Action Plan ([www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk) (first published in 1994)). The UK BAP is a robust document that has stood the test of time and has driven many conservation successes. Currently the UK BAP is under review in order to take the plan forward, however the structure is already in place and much expertise has already been developed over the last 10 years.

One of the suite of UK Biodiversity Indicators concerns expenditure on biodiversity in the UK by the public sector and non-governmental organisations (<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3970>). Since 2001/01 there has been a year on year increase in biodiversity expenditure from the public sector in real terms, resulting in an overall increase of 33% (over the same period GDP increased 22%).

Expenditure on biodiversity in the UK by the public sector and non-governmental organisations, 2000/01-2005/06



\*Deflated using implied UK GDP deflator  
Source: Defra

#### UK biodiversity spending

Long term



Since 2000/01



# Sample Chapter IV (cont.)

## Section C. Conclusions:

- Parties are asked to provide an overall assessment of whether implementation of the Convention has had an impact on improving conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Suggestions for actions that need to be taken at the regional and global levels to further enhance implementation of the Convention at the national level, including:
  - **refining existing programmes of work or developing new ones to address emerging issues;**
  - **suggesting goals and objectives that may be included in the future Strategic Plan of the Convention; and**
  - **identifying mechanisms that need to be established at various levels.**