



BUSINESS and BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

1. WHY DOES BIODIVERSITY MATTER?

Biodiversity, short for biological diversity, is the total variety of life on Earth. It provides us with the products and services we require to survive. Biodiversity is therefore recognised as being key to the long-term survival and stability of all businesses, whether it is to supply your office with paper or to provide the show for tourism.

Local Importance:

Clackmannanshire may be Scotland's smallest mainland Local Authority, however from the Ochils to the Forth Estuary and Devon to Black Devon, the varied landscapes and habitats support a rich biodiversity. This variety of life can be found in every corner from woodlands and farmlands to urban spaces like gardens, roadsides and ponds. Some examples of Clackmannanshire's more rare species can be found on our logo, which depicts the red squirrel, northern brown argus butterfly and sticky catchfly plant.

It is vital that the people of Clackmannanshire are involved in the process of protecting and enhancing our local biodiversity so as to maintain our culture and sense of place. Businesses can become an important link between colleagues, customers and the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership and other initiatives. (See section 3 and 4).

Wider picture:

1992 Convention on Biological Diversity – An international agreement, which was a product of the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. To date the Convention has been ratified by 179 countries and was signed by the UK on 3rd June 1994. Signatories are required to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to integrate biodiversity considerations into all activities. Full details can be found at: <http://www.biodiv.org/convention/articles.asp>

Nature Conservation (Scotland) Bill – to be addressed by Parliament in 2004.

The Bill charges Local Authorities with the "...duty to further the conservation of biodiversity" for the first time in Scottish history, emphasising the growing awareness of the value of biodiversity. The Bill will also relate this duty to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

The *Scottish Biodiversity Strategy* will be recognised in statute once the Nature Conservation Bill has completed its passage through the Parliament. The Strategy has been through a public consultation period and will be published in 2004. The Scottish Biodiversity Forum is responsible for co-ordinating the process.

The *Scottish Biodiversity Forum* is a working partnership of Scottish Executive, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, volunteer bodies, local authorities, farmers, fishermen, foresters, *business* and scientists. The Forum has an open membership, allowing all who enjoy, manage and value our biodiversity to contribute to its future. More details can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/about/ERAD/CANH/CF/00014870/page962967264.aspx .



2. HOW DOES BUSINESS IMPACT BIODIVERSITY?

All businesses impact biodiversity in the course of their working because they:

- use natural resources,
- produce or consume products,
- own and manage areas of land,
- or finance other activities, which have direct and indirect impacts.

Most impacts are negative, for example:

- Depleting natural habitats – e.g. draining wetlands.
- Polluting air, water and land – e.g. producing runoff from business works.
- Consuming products – e.g. paper, water, and energy.

However, small steps towards minimising your business' negative impact can have big *positive impacts* on the natural world around you. See the following sections for some examples.

3. WHAT YOU CAN DO

There are many ways in which a company can engage with biodiversity issues and make a contribution, ranging from raising employee awareness of biodiversity issues and managing environmental impacts responsibly, to enhancing the conservation value of habitats on your landholdings and sponsoring threatened species. Doing something for biodiversity will not necessarily require a great deal of resources - in fact, you may already be engaging with biodiversity on a number of levels.

- **As a landowner:** by managing habitats and species to enhance and conserve biodiversity value by writing your own *Biodiversity Action Plan* and planting species of conservation value.
- **As a purchaser of raw materials or manufactured products:** by managing your supply chain to minimise impacts on biodiversity and selecting environmentally friendly or sustainable sources.
- **As a lender or insurer:** by setting minimum standards of environmental responsibility for your customers.
- **As an operator of a process or activity:** by minimising the environmental impacts associated with any emissions to air, land or water and the production of waste.
- **As a user of energy:** by implementing energy efficiency measures, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and the rate of depletion of natural resources.
- **As an employer:** by raising staff awareness of biodiversity issues; by encouraging staff to get involved in the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership (CBP); by seconding staff to biodiversity projects within the CBP



and other conservation organisations like BTCV; by holding team-building days which contribute to practical conservation plans.

- **As a corporate funder:** by providing finance for the conservation of one of the species or habitats listed in the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Action Plan, or becoming a Corporate Member of a conservation organisation, often at very low cost.

Green Office Goals:

Refuse

Reuse

Reduce

Recycle

Green Office Practices:

1. Reduce or avoid paper consumption and use recycled products.
2. Turn off lights and all office equipment when not in use (it is not more efficient to leave computers on for even half a day) and buy energy-efficient alternatives.
3. Create a wildlife garden by planting native flowers if you have a corner of land, or simply put up and plant nectar producing flowers in window boxes to attract butterflies.
4. Put up a bird feeder and bird and bat boxes where appropriate.
5. Recycle paper, cans, newspapers, glass and cardboard. Contact Clackmannanshire Council for more information (01259 450000).
6. Compost organic waste like coffee, fruit and veg.
7. Consider tele-working and home-working where appropriate.
8. Reduce staff travel by encouraging sustainable transport or providing bike mileage.
9. Monitor and audit your sustainable development performance.
10. Publicise your efforts to your customers and staff.

4. CLACKMANNANSHIRE CASE STUDIES

The following case studies provide information on the variety of ways local businesses can get involved in the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity process.

Quest International – Menstrie

- Yeast Extract producers
- direct liaison with biodiversity co-ordinator and access officer regarding Quest lands.
- 2003 commissioned a biodiversity survey of grounds.
- 2004 planning to finalise their own Biodiversity Action Plan. A public open day has been planned for the summer to present the Plan to the local community.



Fenton and Sons (Contractors) Ltd – Meadowhill Opencast Coal Site

- The Company sponsored a significant part of the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Project during the first two years.
- One member of the LBAP Steering Group, a representative from Dalgleish Associates Ltd, was funded by the Company.
- The writing of the Minerals Excavation HAP was funded by Fentons.
- The Company has made significant donations to SWT to aid their upland survey programme and management of Listed Wildlife Sites.
- The Clackmannanshire Rivers Project received support through donations from Fentons.
- The creation and management of a wetland at Parklands Muir has proved very successful and contributed to local biodiversity.
- The extension of long-established woodland at Foad Wood has been undertaken by the Company with the planting of native broadleaved trees.
- Additional coniferous woodland habitat for red squirrels has been planted at Forestmill.
- Annual ornithological surveys of the Forestmill area are made available to the Biodiversity Project and other interest groups.
- Invertebrate surveys of the new wetland and an old pond in Foad Wood were undertaken and the results shared.
- Contact is maintained with the biodiversity co-ordinator and the Company is currently looking at new ways to assist with the Biodiversity Project.

Nike Factory Outlet Store – Tillicoultry

- In 2000 and 2001, employees of Nike and the Territorial Army completely cleaned the Devonside-Coalsnaughton Glen of fly tipping and other rubbish to benefit the local wildlife and people. Tips were provided by Clackmannanshire Council.
- Nike ran 'Nike Earth Week' in 2001.
- Meetings have been ongoing with the biodiversity co-ordinator to consider new projects for the Tillicoultry employees.

DIAGEO – Menstrie and Cambus

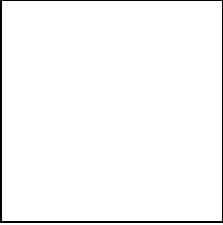
- Meetings with the biodiversity co-ordinator regarding the management of the grasslands between their bonded warehouses.
- A representative is a member of the Scottish Biodiversity Forum's Business Group.
- DIAGEO employees have the opportunity to take part in Earthwatch overseas field trips, supported by the company.
- DIAGEO employees at the Brand Technical Centre Menstrie have planted a variety of native plants like hawthorn, dog rose and honeysuckle to form a natural hedge for wildlife.



Other examples of businesses involved in local biodiversity initiatives include:

- **Tilhill Forestry Limited.** One ecologist from Tilhill is the author of several HAPs and a regular contributor to CBP Working Groups and projects.
- **Boll Farm,** tearoom and self-catering cottages. A pond has been created on site for waterfowl and bird feeding is promoted to customers.
- **Dollar Butcher, Muckhart Heritage Society** and **Klondyke Garden Centre Edinburgh** all donated birdseed and / or feeders for the CBP *Feed the Birds* annual Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) public competition in October 2003.
- **Aitkenhead Farm.** A CBP grassland project received a gift of fencing from this local company.

5. BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES for SCOTTISH BUSINESSES

- Display this badge on your company's web site to show you care for biodiversity. Just email bbrc@earthwatch.org.uk with a brief description of your initiative, plus a link or contact details for obtaining information. In return, Earthwatch will send you this electronic badge. When you have visits to your site, people can click on it they will be taken to an information page. 
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) grants are available for businesses that involve local communities in biodiversity projects. Contact the local SNH office listed below for more information.
- Scottish Business and Biodiversity Study (2004). Earthwatch is working on a study of how Scottish businesses are involved in biodiversity projects. See their website above for more information.
- The Scottish Biodiversity Forum's Business and Biodiversity Initiative produced a poster and leaflet campaign aimed at encouraging businesses to "Count Think Act" in August 2001. Material is available through the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Co-ordinator or through the Scottish Biodiversity Forum (see below).

6. OBJECTIVES and TARGETS

Objective 1 Encourage businesses to participate in the local biodiversity process.

Target 1.1 CBP to establish and maintain a database of businesses currently working to protect and enhance biodiversity, either on their lands or by other means (financial, awareness raising etc) by 2004.

Target 1.2 CBP to actively target businesses not currently engaged in biodiversity-related work, with the aim of adding them to the database.



8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Plan author: Lynn Campbell, Biodiversity Co-ordinator
Elaine Cameron, Dalgleish Associates

9. CONTACTS and RESOURCES

Businesses

- Earthwatch
 1. Business and Biodiversity leaflets on various aspects, including:
The integration of biodiversity into environment management systems.
Internationally operating companies.
Case studies.
Site Biodiversity Action Plans.
 2. www.businessandbiodiversity.org/publications/index.html for access to publications.

Biodiversity

- Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership www.clacksweb.org.uk/biodiversity
- Scottish Biodiversity Forum
www.scotland.gov.uk/about/ERAD/CANH/CF/00014870/page962967264.aspx
- National Biodiversity Network www.nbn.org.uk
- UK Biodiversity Partnership www.ukbap.org.uk

General Environmental Advisory

- Scottish Natural Heritage www.snh.org.uk
- SEPA www.sepa.org.uk
- Scottish Wildlife Trust www.swt.org.uk

Agricultural

- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group www.fwag.org.uk
- Scottish Agricultural College - SAC www.sac.ac.uk

Mammals

- The Bat Conservation Trust www.bats.org.uk and the Central Scotland Bat Group.
- Mammal Society www.abdn.ac.uk/mammal/newsite/index.shtml
- Central Scotland Squirrel Group, Red Squirrels in South Scotland Project
www.red-squirrels.org.uk

Birds

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds www.rspb.org.uk
- Scottish Ornithologists Club www.the-soc.fsnet.co.uk
- British Trust for Ornithology www.bto.org

Local Communities and Groups

- Community Councils www.clacksweb.org.uk/dyna/commcouncils
- Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society
www.clacksweb.org.uk/dyna/lochboard or
www.clacksweb.org.uk/dyna/lhcontacts
- Muckhart Heritage Society www.clacksweb.org.uk/dyna/lhcontacts