



Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru Countryside Council for Wales

National Assembly for Wales Sustainability Committee
Wales Environment Strategy and Sustainable Development Scheme
12th May 2010

Introduction

The natural environment, its landscapes and biodiversity are important socially and culturally, as well as providing direct economic benefits or ecosystem services. These ecosystem services include the provision of food, clean water, a stable climate, resources for energy and industry, flood alleviation, crop pollination, recreational opportunities and amenity. Evidence¹ tells us that a healthy environment and ecosystems are fundamental to our existence, to supporting social and economic development and quality of life, integral to sustainable development - a strategic national resource for Wales.

Wales Environment Strategy

Alongside other Government strategies, the legislative framework, the Sustainable Development duty² and scheme, the Wales Environment Strategy (WES) provides a strategic framework for environmental action, to make progress towards achieving 39 key environmental outcomes in Wales by 2026. The Strategy and its action plans provide a long-term vision, and identify the actions and duties of responsible bodies, and those which require a partnership approach. Other important strategies and legislation that deliver Environment Strategy outcomes include European Directives, the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the Green Jobs Strategy, the Fisheries Strategy, Climate Change Strategy Adaptation Plan and schemes such as Glastir.

Our evidence identifies progress against the environment strategy and its two action plans (2006-2011). It notes significant progress, whilst acknowledging the challenges facing our natural environment. CCW welcomes the committee's focus on seeking views on both the implementation and delivery of the Wales Environment Strategy and the Sustainable Development Scheme simultaneously. During a period of increasingly scarce public

¹ Evidence e.g. The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change (2006): <http://www.occ.gov.uk/activities/stern.htm>; The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity (TEEB): <http://www.teebweb.org>; and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005): <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/About.aspx#>

² The Sustainable development Duty, as set out in Section 79 of the Government of Wales Act 2006: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060032_en_6#pt2-pb5-l1g79; and the Sustainable Development Scheme - One Wales, One Planet (2009): <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en>

resources, a key challenge will be to demonstrate the benefits of ecosystem services not only to the environmental resilience, but to economic renewal and long term well-being. Future progress on taking forward environmental outcomes and actions will increasingly need to focus on integrating environmental outcomes with the social and economic. CCW welcomes the emphasis on Sustainable Development as the central organising principle for public sector delivery in the 'One Wales, One Planet' Scheme³, which, alongside the Cabinet Statement on Biodiversity published in January⁴ this year, provide scope for better integration of biodiversity considerations into everything we do. The emerging Natural Environment Framework provides a mechanism to establish a real linkage between existing strategies, plans and programmes, producing synergistic sustainable development benefits through treatment and management of green infrastructure.

The Welsh Assembly Government published an Annual Report on the Environment Strategy in October 2009⁵. The document provides an update on progress against actions from the first and second Environment Strategy Action Plans for Wales. CCW recently provided information to the Sustainability Committee on delivering WES actions and outcomes as part of the scrutiny process in February 2010⁶.

Implementation of the Sustainable Development Scheme

CCW supports Sustainable Development as the overarching principle for policy and delivery in Wales, and considers the WES as an integral part of delivering on the Sustainable Development Duty. The Welsh Assembly Government acknowledges that biodiversity enhancement and protection is a key part of its commitment to sustainable development. Whilst there is always scope to do more, it is acknowledged that progress has been made in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Scheme. The revision of the Scheme in 2009 to confirm sustainable development as the central organising principle for public sector delivery was welcome, and provides an opportunity for integration with the public sector reform agenda, *Making the Connections*. The revision of WAG Indicators for

³ One Wales, One Planet, The Sustainable Development Scheme of the Welsh Assembly Government (2009):

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/;jsessionid=n4XCLvwDCg06xYbfFL2l5dGNLJVnJnrZwB1SzkLGwvZSGZQmDncFI-897520699?lang=en>

⁴ Written Cabinet Statement on Biodiversity, 12th January 2010:

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2010/100118bio/?lang=en>

⁵ Wales Environment Strategy Annual Report 2008-2009:

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/091118esaren.pdf>

Update against actions from the first and second Environment Strategy Action Plans:

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/091118esaraaen.doc>

⁶ Evidence to the Sustainability Committee for CCW Scrutiny (relevant to the Wales Environment Strategy), February 2010: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-scrutiny-committees/bus-committees-third-sc-home/bus-committees-third-sc-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=165887&ds=2/2010>; and additional information (April 2010): <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-scrutiny-committees/bus-committees-third-sc-home/bus-committees-third-sc-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=176834&ds=5/2010>

Sustainable Development in January 2010⁷, to include measures for reporting on well-being, was also welcome.

Delivery of the Action Plans and Environment Strategy Actions and Outcomes

Environment Strategy Wales: The First Action Plan 2006

In Environment Strategy Wales: The First Action Plan (2006)⁸, which comprises 62 actions, CCW is identified as the lead in delivering 6 actions, as a partner in delivering 26 actions, and is also actively engaged in delivering a further 11 actions, a total of 43 actions.

Environment Strategy Action Plan 2008-2011

The second Environment Strategy Action Plan for 2008-2011, published in 2008 contained a streamlined set of actions, often amalgamating previous actions, although the Outcomes remained the same. In the second Action Plan, which comprises 41 actions, CCW is identified as a lead in relation to 14 actions, as a partner organisation in delivering 6 additional actions, and is also actively engaged in delivering a further 7 actions, a total of 27 actions.

Wales Environment Strategy Outcomes

CCW delivery of actions in the Wales Environment Strategy contributes towards achieving a total of 25 environmental outcomes of the 39 identified in the Strategy. The outcomes that are not directly relevant to CCW's remit are 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 25, 26, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, and 39. These outcomes relate to waste management including radioactive waste, drinking water quality, use of materials in the construction industry, environmental standards in new buildings, and providing information to the public on flooding and flood risk.

⁷ Welsh Assembly Government Cabinet Meeting, 11th January 2010:
<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetmeetings/frommay2007/2010/11jan10/?lang=en>

⁸ Environment Strategy Wales: The First Action Plan (2006)
<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/060517environmentactionen.pdf>

Wales Environment Strategy Actions where CCW plays a lead role, in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government and/ or others

1. Biodiversity & Designated Sites

Summary of relevant actions: Action 32 (Designated Sites) of the First Wales Environment Strategy Action Plan (2006) and Actions 1 to 5 (Biodiversity and Designated Sites) of the second Action Plan (2008-2011):

Relevant WES Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

The current state of play and the way forward

In 2002, the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity committed themselves to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level by 2010, as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. The Stromstad meeting of the European Union held in September 2009 confirmed that the European Union would not meet its 2010 biodiversity target. National reports have demonstrated that biodiversity continues to be lost at an unprecedented rate. The Convention on Biological Diversity is now developing a new Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020, which will include a 2050 biodiversity vision, 2010 targets and sub-targets, and means of implementation and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing Jane Davidson AM, issued a Written Cabinet Statement on Biodiversity on the 12th of January 2010⁹, outlining the Welsh Assembly Government's approach to achieving the outcomes for biodiversity in the Wales Environment Strategy, in support of the above. The statement confirms that Biodiversity enhancement and protection is a key part of the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to sustainable development and outlines the key areas of work where CCW is involved in delivery.

CCW together with WAG is currently participating in the DEFRA's Natural Environment Programme¹⁰ and ecosystem assessment, and is advising the Wales Environment Research Hub. This will help provide spatial evidence on the ecosystem services in Wales. CCW is also involved in the Welsh Assembly Government's Technical Project Group on Ecosystem Services, providing advice on the application of the ecosystem approach in relation to

⁹ Written Cabinet Statement on Biodiversity, 12th January 2010:

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2010/100118bio/?lang=en>

¹⁰ Further information on DEFRA's Natural Environment Programme can be found at:

<http://www.ecosystemservices.org.uk/>

terrestrial and marine environments, and its integration with the policy framework in Wales. This work will also inform the development of the Welsh Assembly Government's Natural Environment Framework for Wales¹¹. The aim is to develop an approach to local, regional and national scale planning that includes ecosystem assessment, and identifies the benefits that ecosystems provide to society.

CCW has a range of statutory and non statutory duties relating to biodiversity and nature conservation, and aims to protect and enhance the natural richness of the land, rivers, lakes and surrounding seas and their plant and animal life by, including:

- Continuing the implementation (through research, survey work and the preparation of management schemes) of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs)
- Responsibility for notification of Wales' most important biological and geological areas - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) - which merit the benefits of this protection; monitoring the condition of such sites; and advising on activities affecting them and preventing damage to them.
- Continuing to survey the marine and terrestrial habitats to provide advice to tiers of Government and partners to inform policy and planning
- implementing management works (for example, woodland, water or sand dune management) and surveillance arrangements in Wales' 63 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) to ensure that their habitats and species are in good health;
- Contributing to an ecosystem assessment in Wales

Designated Sites

Within the broader ecosystem approach and sustainability framework, CCW is working to achieve favourable condition of designated sites, in line with the targets outlined in the Wales Environment Strategy, European targets, and those of the convention on biological diversity. The Environment Strategy sets targets ('Outcome 21') for getting designated sites (SAC, SPA, Ramsar, SSSI and 'local sites') into favourable condition. Action on these targets is co-lead by CCW and WAG, with partnership inputs expected from a wide range of other organisations in the public, voluntary and private sectors. The Wales Biodiversity Partnership coordinates action, and a WBP subgroup chaired by the Welsh Assembly Government has been established to oversee delivery. CCW monitoring of SAC and SPA features shows that only 44% are in favourable or recovering condition.

CCW's Special Sites Project has spanned financial years 07/08, 08/09, 09/10. The WBP subgroup concluded that our highest short-term priority was to share practical information

¹¹ Refer to Written Cabinet Statement on Biodiversity, dated the 18th January 2010: <http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2010/100118bio/?lang=en>

about the state of individual sites and the actions needed to get them into favourable condition.

Special Sites Project: progress 2007-2010	
Year	Achievements to date
07/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management Plans for all Natura 2000 sites (SACS and SPAs) written and published on CCW's website¹² ▪ Divided SAC and SPA into practical 'management units' (e.g. landholdings, or marine units) to enable more precise communication about the needs of different parts of these often large sites. All this data captured in CCW Actions database.
08/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Database of the actions required on all units within SSSIs managed by public and voluntary sector bodies, to enable all partner organisations to understand, negotiate and plan their contribution to meeting the WES targets. ▪ Spreadsheet information on actions shared with partner organisations to facilitate work programming and budgeting.
09/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Actions data entry was circa 98% on the 31st of March 2010, with some marine data still to be entered. All sites are now unitised. Spatial and actions data for all sites entered in 2009/2010 will be available to extranet partners from July 2010 (Action 1 (a) WES Action Plan 2) ▪ Data sets have been exchanged with Environment Agency Wales, the National Trust (NT), the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). CCW has used the data (evidence) to plan action in 2009/2010 and 2010/2011. 7580 Hectares (Ha) of CCW's Actions were completed in year 2009-2010 (FY) (~3% terrestrial sites area) of which 4250Ha were Management Agreement Negotiations on better terms, and 1940Ha were new management agreements. In addition 1390Ha of actions were progressed and 5640Ha of investigation actions were completed. (Action 1 (b) WES Action Plan 2) ▪ The technical delay in the database being available over the extranet has led to a delay in the ability of partners to easily engage with the work planning process. This will now be the focus for planning effort for the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Outcome 21 Group during 2010. (Action 1 (c) WES Action Plan 2) ▪ Data used to inform planning and policy e.g. River Basin Management Planning process.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Action 2 WES Action Plan 2: WAG Lead)

¹² <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-sites-project.aspx>

CCW's Council has recently endorsed a proposal to align the organisation's work to meet the new approach to biodiversity action plan delivery. CCW remains committed to demonstrating leadership in promoting the importance of, and delivering support for biodiversity action in Wales

Wales Biodiversity Partnership, Targets and Biodiversity Action Plans

As a contribution to the core and strategic work of the WBP CCW employs a Biodiversity Policy Officer who works part time on behalf of WBP in North Wales. CCW also grants aid the Wildlife Trust to provide the same role in south Wales

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership has developed and implemented structures and processes to identify actions to meet its new BAP targets for Wales and this information is being shared through BARS. Nine new ecosystem groups have been established, supported by specialist groups for species, policy and non-native invasive species. CCW plays an active role on these groups. All of the original BAP habitat targets are on BARS as Wales-level targets. Some of the species targets are on the advisory pages on BARS and more work is in progress. Some of the Wales-level species and habitat actions have been published on the WBP website for consultation and more work is in progress. We now have lead partners for many of the species in Wales.

Following the UK BAP review, the Wales Biodiversity Partnership, chaired by the WAG, has taken on overall responsibility for ensuring that Wales delivers BAP, and will hold others accountable for delivering and reporting on their commitments.

Framework for Biodiversity

A Biodiversity Framework for Wales has been developed by CCW's Biodiversity Network in partnership with a Wales Biodiversity Partnership Task and Finish Group. The Biodiversity Framework for Wales¹³ is on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership website.

Guidance on Developing Local Wildlife Systems in Wales

CCW was represented on the WBP Task and Finish group that produced the standardised guidance on the development of local wildlife site systems¹⁴.

Wildlife Crime

¹³ Wales Biodiversity Framework (Last Updated March 2010):
<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/content/uploads/documents/Guidance%20Legislation/Wales%20Biodiversity%20Framework%20FINAL%20MARCH%202010.pdf>

¹⁴ Wildlife Sites Guidance Wales: A Guide to Develop Local Wildlife Systems in Wales
http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/content/uploads/documents/Guidance%20Legislation/WS%20Guidance%20FinalWeb%20ver_Oct%2008Web.pdf

CCW is part of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW)¹⁵, a multi-agency body comprising representatives of the organisations involved in wildlife law enforcement in the UK. It provides opportunities for statutory and non-Government organisations to work together to combat wildlife crime, and its main objective is to promote the enforcement of wildlife conservation legislation, particularly through supporting the networks of Police Wildlife Crime Officers, HM Revenue and Customs officers and UK Border Agency officers. CCW is actively engaged with the review of the UK and Welsh environmental crime priorities.

CCW continues to fund and support the secondment of two police officers to deal with wildlife and environmental crime, such as illegal off-roading, and damage to protected species and sites. In addition one officer has been seconded to the Forestry Commission in South Wales and another to the Environment Agency in North Wales. Since 2008 there have been 36 new Police Wildlife Crime Officers (PWCO's) appointed and trained across Wales. At the end of 2009 a thematic review of wildlife crime within Wales was carried out under the direction of Chief Constable Ian Arundel, who replaced Richard Brunstrom as the Association of Chief Police Officers lead for Wildlife and Environmental Crime within Wales, the findings of this review are due to be published in the next few months. In November 2009 the 8th Welsh Wildlife and Environmental Crime Conference was jointly hosted by CCW and the Gwent Police in Newport. A data exchange protocol has been drawn up between the National Wildlife Crime Unit and CCW enabling the exchange of information between both organisations. Since 2008 there have been a number of successful prosecutions for wildlife and environmental crimes within Wales including the Illegal use of traps, illegal sale of endangered species, destruction of bat roosts, illegal egg collecting, badger baiting and the first ever case within Wales involving the destruction of Water Vole habitat.

2. Ecosystem Services and Landscape and Catchment Scale Management

Summary of relevant actions: Action 33 (Landscape Scale projects), and Action 44 (Landscape Characterisation) from the first Action Plan

Action 18 (Ecosystem Services) from the Second Action Plan

Relevant WES Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 8, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 35, 36.

CCW has supported the Wales Spatial Plan process from the outset. It provides a potential mechanism to integrate environmental, social and economic objectives nationally and regionally. CCW has provided evidence on environmental resources within each Wales Spatial Plan area and we sit on each WSP Ministerial and Officer Group meetings. This enables us, together with EAW, to highlight environmental opportunities and impacts. We have participated fully in Low Carbon Region workshops throughout Wales, and have

¹⁵ Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/paw/>

worked with WAG, EAW, and FCW to develop the Networked Environment Region approach. Together with WAG we are represented on the clients' group for the DEFRA led national ecosystem assessment and have ensured the preparation of a specific Chapter for Wales. This work will be completed in 2010-11 and will provide spatial evidence to integrate the ecosystem approach within the decision making framework in Wales. CCW has, together with Local Government and other stakeholders, played a key role in establishing and operating the Cambrian Mountains Initiative, and participated fully in other landscape scale initiatives such as the Heads of the Valleys, the Valleys Regional Park and the South East Wales Networked Environment Region. Together with the WAG, CCW is working to take forward the European Landscape Convention in Wales. We have completed an all Wales landscape character map, a seascapes assessment of Welsh seas and undertaken a LANDMAP assessment for each local authority area in Wales.

Further information was submitted to the Sustainability Committee as part of its scrutiny of CCW in February.

3. Marine

Summary of relevant actions: Action 46 (Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009) and 47 (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) from the First Action Plan
Actions 6 (Framework for Marine and Coastal Management), 7 (Marine Spatial Planning) and 8 (Designate Highly Protected Marine Reserves (HPMR) of the second Action Plan
Relevant WES Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 8, 20, 22, 23, 35

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and Marine Spatial Planning

The Countryside Council for Wales provided advice to the Welsh Assembly Government on the development of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to deliver sustainable development and an ecosystem approach to managing the marine environment. The Marine and Coastal Act 2009¹⁶ is now in place, and CCW continues to work with the WAG to inform the timely and effective implementation of the Act, including advice on the new marine licensing system, developing new regimes for marine planning, including marine nature conservation, to be underpinned by the ecosystem approach, and the selection of Marine Conservation Zones.

CCW is developing tools for Marine Spatial Planning, including marine sensitivity mapping for zoning e.g. identifying Marine Conservation Zones, and fisheries management. CCW provided advice to the WAG during 2009 on an appropriate process for the selection and designation of highly protected Marine Conservation Zones (under the Marine and Coastal

¹⁶ The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2009/ukpga_20090023_en_1

Access Act 2009) in Welsh waters. The WAG has now established a governance structure for the delivery of these sites, through which CCW continues to provide advice and expertise. Through its Special Sites project, CCW is reviewing management issues in existing marine protected areas and providing advice on ensuring marine protected sites across Wales are well-managed. CCW is working closely with WAG through the UK MPA Policy Group to support the delivery of the UK commitment to an ecologically coherent, representative network of well-managed MPAs.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

In line with the EU Recommendation on ICZM, the WAG published 'Making the Most of Wales' Coast' in March 2007. The strategy was well received and set out some clear objectives and actions intended to take forward ICZM in Wales and identified priority actions. CCW was identified as a lead or contributing partner for a number of these actions. CCW has taken forward a number of important work areas identified in the strategy. Specifically, CCW has:

- Supported the WAG in taking forward the coastal access improvement programme
- Worked with partners in the Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership to review gaps in coastal information to inform our future research programme;
- Commissioned CoastNet to take forward with CCW our work to support the integration of ICZM principles into community strategies and local development plans through the development of guidance (in partnership with local government);
- Developed in partnership with Europarc, National Trust, Natural England and others, guidance on how the planning and management of coastal protected landscapes of Wales can be integrated with the planning and management of adjacent coastal waters.

CCW also continues to input proactively to the Wales Coastal Maritime Partnership via the steering group, partnership meetings, working groups and the annual conference. CCW contributed to the work of the partnership in developing a suite of ICZM indicators for Wales and providing advice to the Minister on how these indicators could be taken forward in the context of the Welsh ICZM strategy.

Fisheries Strategy

CCW worked with the Welsh Assembly Government on the development of the Wales Fisheries Strategy 2008¹⁷, and will continue to work on implementation, and provide advice on emerging issues such as scallop dredging. CCW provides advice to Government on meeting European obligations under the marine thematic strategy and common fisheries policy in relation to nature conservation and management.

¹⁷ Wales Fisheries Strategy 2008:
<http://wales.gov.uk/strategy/strategies/walesfisheriesstrategy/walesfisheriesstratjuly08.pdf?lang=en>

4. Access, Recreation, Green-space and Health

Summary of relevant actions: Actions 26 and 27 from the First Action Plan

Actions 9 (Outdoor Recreation), 10 (Water Based Recreation), 11 (Coastal Access Improvement Programme) 13 (Green space Toolkit) and 31 (Come Outside) of the Second Action Plan

Relevant WES Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 20, 23, 27, 29, 30

CCW has a statutory remit in relation to outdoor access and recreation, which is important for regeneration, health and well being, environmental quality, and quality of life - all key components of sustainable development. CCW works with local planning authorities on a range of access and recreation issues, such as Rights of Way Improvement Plans, access routes such as national trails, green-space assessments, and the Coastal Access Programme.

Coastal Access Improvement programme

Work has been progressing on the Coastal Access Improvement Programme. The programme is supported by £2 million of Welsh Assembly Government Funding for 2009/2010, and CCW has also been successful in obtaining £3.89m additional EU convergence funding to support the delivery of the All Wales Coastal Path by 2012 over the next 4 years. Updated Local Coastal Access Improvement Full Programmes have recently been submitted to CCW and are currently under consideration. These are the plans produced by local authorities setting out the work required for the Programme and are updated regularly, and subject to agreement with CCW. Environment Strategy targets have been incorporated into the overall delivery plan for the Wales Coast Path, which sets out the kilometres of new and improved access for walkers and other users. Some examples of work undertaken as part of this project are:

- High tide roost screening at Tan-Lan in Flintshire
- New barrage path linking Cardiff and Penarth

Outdoor Recreation: Walking and Cycling

CCW plays a full part in the Walking and Cycling Steering Group and has specific duties, identified under the Walking and Cycling Action Plan 2009-2013¹⁸.

Wales Outdoor Recreation Survey 2008

¹⁸ Walking and Cycling Action Plan 2009 - 2013:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/publications/walkcycleactionplan09/?lang=en>

The Wales Outdoor Recreation Survey was commissioned jointly by Countryside Council for Wales and Forestry Commission Wales to inform the delivery of the Welsh Assembly Government's policy and strategy relating to walking and cycling and outdoor recreation. As well as preparing a policy interpretation of the headline results, CCW is currently analysing all the relevant data to provide a robust quantitative evidence base to inform approaches to walking and cycling, woodland recreation, inland water recreation, and marine and coastal recreation. CCW has also undertaken a review of its Outdoor Recreation Survey 2008 in each Wales Spatial Plan area.

Water Based Recreation (Action 10, WES Action Plan 2)

Lead: WAG (NAMU) with CCW, EA, FCW, SCW, WAG (NAMU), EA, CCW, SCW.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 20, 23, 27, 29, 30.

CCW supported this work by delivering 5 exemplar projects on access to water, and continues to work in partnership with the WAG and EAW on the action plan, and through membership of the panel for the challenge fund, Splash. The evaluation of the exemplar projects also informed the approach to implementing the Splash Fund Project.

Green-space Toolkit (Action 19 WES Action Plan 1 and Action 13 WES Action Plan 2)

Lead: CCW with LAs

CCW developed a Green space assessment planning tool¹⁹, launched in 2006, which has now been rolled out to all Local Planning Authorities to utilise for their local development plans and community strategies. The majority of local authorities have received CCW grant aid and have either completed a greenspace assessment or are due to complete one by the end of March 2010 (the end of the 2009/2010 financial year).

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

CCW continues to manage the ROWIP funding programme in its second year of operation. The [3 year] £1.7m p.a. programme was fully spent last financial year and is fully allocated for the 2009/2010 financial year. Funding is allocated according to the priorities authorities' themselves identified in ROWIPs. Feedback from local authorities on the way this programme has been run has on the whole been very positive.

Motorised Recreation: Off-roading

CCW is working to improve the management of motorised recreation in Wales through better enforcement to tackle illegal activity, education for responsible use and appropriate

¹⁹ Information on CCW's Green-space Toolkit can be found at:
<http://www.ccw.gov.uk/about-ccw/newsroom/press-releases/green-space-toolkit.aspx>

provision to help off-roading problems at a community level. CCW is working with the Forestry Commission and partners in the Wales Off-Road Motors Steering Group to explore opportunities for structuring and managing off-road motorcycling. CCW is working to implement actions stemming from key recommendations in the report of the joint FC/CCW led group on off-road motorcycling in Wales as well as work with partners and local authorities to deliver projects on 3 new suitable sites or routes in Wales. CCW is already supporting the following projects with partners in Wales:

- Elan Valley Enforcement and Education Initiative - Rural Crime Police Community Support Officer
- Cambrian Mountains Partnership Pilot

5. Research and Evidence/ Data/ State of the Environment

Summary of relevant actions:

Actions 19 (Wales Environment Research Hub) & 20 (ES Indicators) from the Second Action Plan

Relevant WES Outcomes: 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10

State of the Environment Reporting

CCW contributes to WAG's State of the Environment Reports through involvement in the Indicators Reporting Group, and through provision and analysis of data to produce and update several WES indicators. Recent CCW-supported work on tranquillity, Green-space and outdoor recreation, and ongoing work monitoring the condition of SACs have contributed to progressing work to produce new, or to update existing, indicators. CCW has contributed to work to develop WES indicators through its regular participation in the Indicators Reporting Group.