

Integrating quantitative and qualitative data in assessing the cost-effectiveness of biodiversity conservation programmes

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Supplementary information B: Summary of interview questions sent to interviewee prior to each interview

SECTION A – OPTIONS AND SCHEMES

The funded Biodiversity options thought to be relevant to this [species/habitat] have been sourced using Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) website information. These consist of RP and LMO options as well as Natural Care Schemes. They will be sent to you in advance of the interview to allow you to check through them and to add any further options that you believe to be relevant to this [species/habitat].

Task 1:

Please state how familiar you are with each scheme, on a scale of 1-4.

SECTION B – COST DATA

The total expenditure data (actual and planned), for the options listed in Section A have been obtained from Scottish Government/SNH and will be shown to you for your information. Not all of the expenditure on each scheme will necessarily fund activities on this particular species/habitat alone, so we would therefore like to try and find out how much has been spent directly on the species/habitat in question.

Task 2:

Based on your experience and knowledge, please estimate the proportion of the actual and planned expenditure for each scheme that is spent on the species/habitat in question through action funded by that scheme.

Task 3:

To the best of your knowledge, has the spending been consistent across the years of 2005-2015? If not, have there been any years or groups of years where higher proportions of the total expenditure has been spent?

Follow-up questions for this section: Have there been other sources of expenditure funded by Scottish Government/SNH or through other sources in relation to achieving the desired objectives for the species/habitat? (Life projects for example).

SECTION C – CHANGE IN CONSERVATION STATUS OF SPECIES (OR PROPORTION OF HABITAT IN GOOD CONDITION FOR HABITATS)

We are interested in how the conservation status of this species/habitat has changed over time in Scotland. The IUCN conservation status index for measuring conservation status of a species will be sent to you in advance so that you can familiarise yourself with this type of assessment. For habitats we are interested in how the proportion (%) of habitat in good condition has changed over time.

Task 4:

We have converted the index into a graph. Please show on this graph how you think that the conservation status in Scotland has changed over time. Has the conservation status increased over time or decreased? Has this been constant or in step changes? Or has it been variable? Please also do this imagining what the situation would be if that spending and the actions associated with it hadn't taken place (this will provide us with a baseline).

Follow-up questions for this section: What are the above answers based on? Are they based on any formal monitoring? How confident are you in your answers? Are any of the funding options particularly influential in changing the status? Are there any other sources of funding or activities (e.g. management or advice) which have contributed?

SECTION D – EFFECTIVENESS OF SCHEMES IN TERMS OF EXTENT TO WHICH SPECIES/HABITAT OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN MET

We have identified a number of objectives that were outlined in the Species Action Framework for your species/habitat which have been sourced from the Scottish Government website. We are interested in the extent to which you consider these objectives have been met so far as a result of spending on the species/habitat as discussed in earlier sections.

Task 5:

Please state the extent (%) that you consider each one of these objectives has been met (so far) as a result of spending on the species. Please also give a score (%) to indicate how important you think that objective is in determining the overall effectiveness of the spending on actions for this species/habitat.

Follow-up questions for this section: What are your answers above based on? Are you aware of any changes over the period 2005-15 which have had an impact on scheme implementation and design? Are there any barriers either to the uptake of the options or the effectiveness of any of the options once implemented? How could the effectiveness be improved? Is it possible that factors not related to any spending (e.g. weather, diseases, neighbouring land uses) has contributed to achieving (or not) these objectives? To what extent do you think the objectives might have been met without the spending?