

## REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCOTTISH BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY - MAY 2007

### COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR – BIODIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2007

The table below provides insights from Comhairle nan Siar’s perspective on two key achievements for each objective listed in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy that have benefited biodiversity in the period May 2004- 2007.

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Objective	From your organisation’s perspective, one or two key achievements (strategic level)	A paragraph explaining the impact of this achievement for biodiversity in Scotland during the reporting period
1 Species and Habitats	1 Partner in the Hebridean Mink Project	Phase 1 of the project resulted in the eradication of mink from the islands of North Uist, Benbecula and South Uist. Phase 2 commenced in early 2007 and aims to eradicate mink from Lewis & Harris. Mink eradication will help protect internationally important ground-nesting bird populations in the Western Isles, prioritised under the EC Wild Birds Directive.
	2 Production of <i>Our Nature</i> – A Framework for Biodiversity Action in the Western Isles and 8 species and habitat action plans	Implementation of the action plans is helping to protect and enhance Western Isles species and habitats.
2 People	1 Designation of Loch Stiapabhat Local Nature Reserve in Ness, a first for the Western Isles	Increased awareness of local biodiversity and the LNR designation encourages community involvement in management of the site. The LNR provides an excellent opportunity for local schools to learn about biodiversity.
	2 Schools Biodiversity Programme pilot	The aim of the pilot programme was to learn about biodiversity through a creative experience such as art or storytelling. It has proved successful and has allowed the integration of biodiversity with the school curriculum. This has increased awareness of biodiversity to primary school pupils and the programme is being rolled out more widely to schools throughout the Western Isles.

<b>3 Landscapes and Ecosystems</b>	1 Production and implementation of the Western Isles Woodland Strategy	Implementation of the strategy has resulted in the protection and enhancement of existing native woodland habitat. In addition, new planting supported by the Locational Premium Scheme and SFGS has resulted in expansion of native woodland habitat.
	2 Review of the Loch nam Madadh EMS Management Scheme	The review has helped to maintain stakeholder input in management of the marine SAC and encourage the development of future projects in and around the site.
<b>4 Integration and Co-ordination</b>	1 Development of a draft Comhairle Biodiversity Policy Statement to be approved by Comhairle Members in June 2007	Development of the Biodiversity Policy Statement has raised the profile of biodiversity in general and the biodiversity duty within the Council. The Comhairle's Management Team has registered the importance of the biodiversity duty and agreed to deal with the duty corporately. An associated Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan will be developed for the next 3 year reporting period.
	2 Establishment of the Outer Hebrides Coastal Marine Partnership	This voluntary forum brings together commercial, regulatory, environmental, and community interests and is chaired by the Comhairle. The forum deals with issues affecting the coast and inshore waters such as coastal erosion as well as identifying and implementing projects. The work of the forum is helping to protect and enhance the internationally important machair habitat.
<b>5 Knowledge</b>	1 Production of a Western Isles Biodiversity Audit Report	In the absence of a Local Record Centre for the Western Isles, the biodiversity audit provides a snapshot of the variety of species and habitats in the Western Isles. The report has been used to inform the Western Isles Local Plan SEA and is also used, for example, by developers when undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments.
	2 Saline Lagoon – In-house training for LA staff	Funding has been obtained to develop and deliver in-house training for LA staff such as planners, engineers and architects to raise awareness of saline lagoons. The saline lagoon habitat is one of the Western Isles Habitat Action Plan habitats. Training will be delivered in 2007 to Comhairle staff regularly involved with assessing development proposals and undertaking developments which may impact on this habitat. The training will help maintain and enhance the quality of the saline lagoon habitat.