

## **Biodiversity Target Advisory Group: Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose**

To provide advice to Defra specialists developing the evidence base for legally-binding biodiversity targets.

### **Setup**

3 Science Advisory Council (SAC) members and 1 Economic Advisory Panel (EAP) member, including a chair. These members will make up the core membership for the group, with the option to bring in additional members to plug gaps in expertise e.g. Marine, Freshwater. Beyond that core group there is also an option to supplement the group with additional attendees with specific expertise as necessary, including economic expertise.

### **Meeting Format**

The meetings will vary in structure depending on the Advisory Group input required and nature of the work elements being brought to the group. This is largely to reflect the new and developing evidence in this field and links to the wider programme. The structure for the next meeting will be discussed and agreed at the close of each meeting. The meetings will either be based around papers which are shared on the run up to the meeting, presentations, or a mixture of the two.

### **Remit**

Provide technical advice to inform the development of legally-binding targets for biodiversity. A high-level advisory group to oversee the wider target-setting process will be initiated separately and is out of scope of this group. This group will cover both terrestrial and marine targets.

- Review quality of the evidence base for target-setting
- Provide advice on the overall approach to delivering the evidence to support legally-binding biodiversity targets
- Provide advice on data and indicators used to measure progress towards targets
- Provide advice on the approach and methodologies for the development of trajectories used to determine the feasibility and deliverability of targets
- Provide scientific advice to support economic cost-benefit analysis
- Quality assure the evidence that will underpin the setting of target levels.

We are not looking for recommendations on the scope or number of biodiversity targets to be developed; or recommendations on the levels the targets are set at.