



# The Business of Biodiversity

South East England Biodiversity Forum  
Summary Business Plan 2009-2015

[www.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk)



South East England  
Biodiversity Forum

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For the following detailed documents please see [www.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk) and follow the link to The Business of Biodiversity

## Annex 1.

- England Biodiversity Strategy – Regional agenda
- Core competencies
- Legal Status
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- Full Forum ToR
  - Executive ToR
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  - Secretariat (provider, role, ToR)
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- Six year work plan
- Reporting process
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# The Business of Biodiversity

## Summary Business Plan 2009-2015 South East England Biodiversity Forum

### 1. Introduction

The South East England Region is an area of great natural beauty with a wide variety of wildlife habitats, many of which are recognised as being of national and international importance.

The South East Biodiversity Strategy (SEBS) ([strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk)) provides a coherent vision and framework for action. It seeks to both inspire those individuals, groups and bodies with the power and resources to make a difference to our biodiversity assets, and to provide guidance on where the best opportunities exist for action that will make a significant difference.

Biodiversity is a vital asset to the Region. It contributes to the 'quality of life' of its people both intrinsically, by providing a beautiful and attractive natural environment in which to live, and directly, by helping to ameliorate the impacts of pollution and by promoting physical and mental well being.

#### **Regional Biodiversity Forum**

In response to the biodiversity needs in England. Defra has produced the England Biodiversity Strategy. This defines habitat and species groups with associated targets and priority actions to halt and then reverse biodiversity loss. These actions and targets are divided between the nine English regions. The South East England Biodiversity Forum is one of the nine regional fora in England established to coordinate and manage the delivery of these targets and actions.

The South East holds a significant proportion of England's species and habitat biodiversity targets. Regional biodiversity targets have been established for habitats delivering the South East contribution to the UK biodiversity targets [[strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk)].

**The purpose of this plan** is to guide the work of the regional biodiversity forum, prioritise delivery of the South East Biodiversity strategy, inform and influence the actions of others, and enable annual reporting.

#### **Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs)**

There are 8 local Biodiversity Partnerships in the South East (each generally covering a county). These partnerships work to deliver the regional and national targets and actions for habitats and species at the local level. This allows a direct link from the work on the ground to the national strategy through the regional forum. The South East Biodiversity strategy ([strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk)) is the regional translation of the national strategy and provides a framework for local delivery of habitat and species targets and actions.

# 1. Aims and objectives of the forum

## The South East England Biodiversity Forum

The South East England Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF) is a partnership of governmental and non-governmental organisations providing a focus for furthering biodiversity in South East England. The forum operates on a consensus basis, and the views presented in this document represent the balance of opinion across the forum.

### SEEBF Overarching Vision:

A region in which wildlife is cherished because of the significant contribution it makes towards people's quality of life, their health and prosperity and for its own sake.

### SEEBF Objectives:

1. Ensure that biodiversity in the region is sustained and enhanced.
2. Engage and influence key stakeholders to take action to deliver biodiversity objectives.

### SEEBF Aims to:

- Develop and review biodiversity objectives and targets for the region.
- Promote and champion regional biodiversity objectives and targets.
- Co-ordinate and service regional biodiversity monitoring, analysis and reporting.



To provide a coherent vision and framework for action and make clear the needs and opportunities for biodiversity in the South East SEEBF have developed two interlinked documents - the South East Biodiversity Strategy (see [strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk)) and a full Business Plan for 2009-15 (see [www.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk)).

### **South East Biodiversity Strategy** **[strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk)**

The strategy gives an overview of regional biodiversity priorities for the South East and sets regional biodiversity objectives, priorities and targets. It provides a framework for delivery that aims to :

- Be a clear, coherent and inspiring vision for the South East.
- Provide a framework for the delivery of biodiversity targets that guide and support all those who have an impact on biodiversity in the region.
- Embed a landscape scale approach to restoring whole ecosystems in the working practices and policies of all partners.
- Create the space needed for wildlife to respond to climate change.
- Enable all organisations in the South East to support and improve biodiversity across the region.
- Be a core element within the strategies and delivery plans of organisations across the South East.

### **Business Plan** **[www.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk)**

The full Business Plan sets out the work of SEEBF and makes clear the forum's role in delivering the South East Biodiversity Strategy during the period 2009-15. It includes this document detailing the aims and structure of the forum as well as a Work Plan detailing all planned actions of the forum. The SMART targets identified in the Work Plan will be reviewed and reported annually.

#### **The purpose of the SEEBF Business Plan is to:**

- Set out priorities for the work of SEEBF.
- Enable effective allocation of resources.
- Coordinate partners activity.
- Inform and influence the actions of others.
- Enable annual review and reporting.



## 3. Implementation and delivery

Implementation of this regional Business Plan is prompted by the regional share of the UK BAP targets for habitats and species as expressed by the regional biodiversity targets. These are the amalgamation of the eight county/sub-regional plans covering Kent, Sussex (east and west), Surrey, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The regional biodiversity targets are set for the six years from 2009 to 2015 and cover maintenance, restoration, creation and achieving condition. These terms are defined in the Work Plan which also contains a table of all South East biodiversity targets (see [strategy.biodiversity.org.uk](http://strategy.biodiversity.org.uk)).

### Delivery – Six Year work plan

The detail regarding delivery of the South East Biodiversity Business Plan is contained within the Work Plan. This plan will be reviewed annually and updated as required, to inform and direct the work of the partnership.

The Work Plan is split into delivery following the six core services as follows:

1. Partnerships - Establishing and maintaining a broad partnership
2. Biodiversity delivery - Delivering BAP regionally/ locally
3. Resources for delivery - Fundraising for BAP delivery
4. Monitoring and reporting - Outlining progress made
5. Regional influencing - Integrating BAP into policy (regional/ local)
6. Representation on local and national fora

Please see [www.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk) and follow the link to The Business of Biodiversity for the Work Plan.

Delivery of the SEEBF Business Plan is the responsibility of SEEBF, not any one organisation or body. This Business Plan is shared and owned by the partnership as a whole and SEEBF members are vital to its successful delivery.



## 4. Monitoring and review

### **Biodiversity Action Plan targets**

The delivery of BAP targets (detailed in the SE biodiversity strategy) will be monitored and reviewed annually. For details of the process and of this review please see [strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk).

### **SEEBF Business Plan**

The Work Plan ([www.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk) and follow the link to The Business of Biodiversity ) will be tabled for updates at each meeting of the forum.

Following the production of this report a thorough review/revision of the Work Plan will be undertaken by the Executive annually.

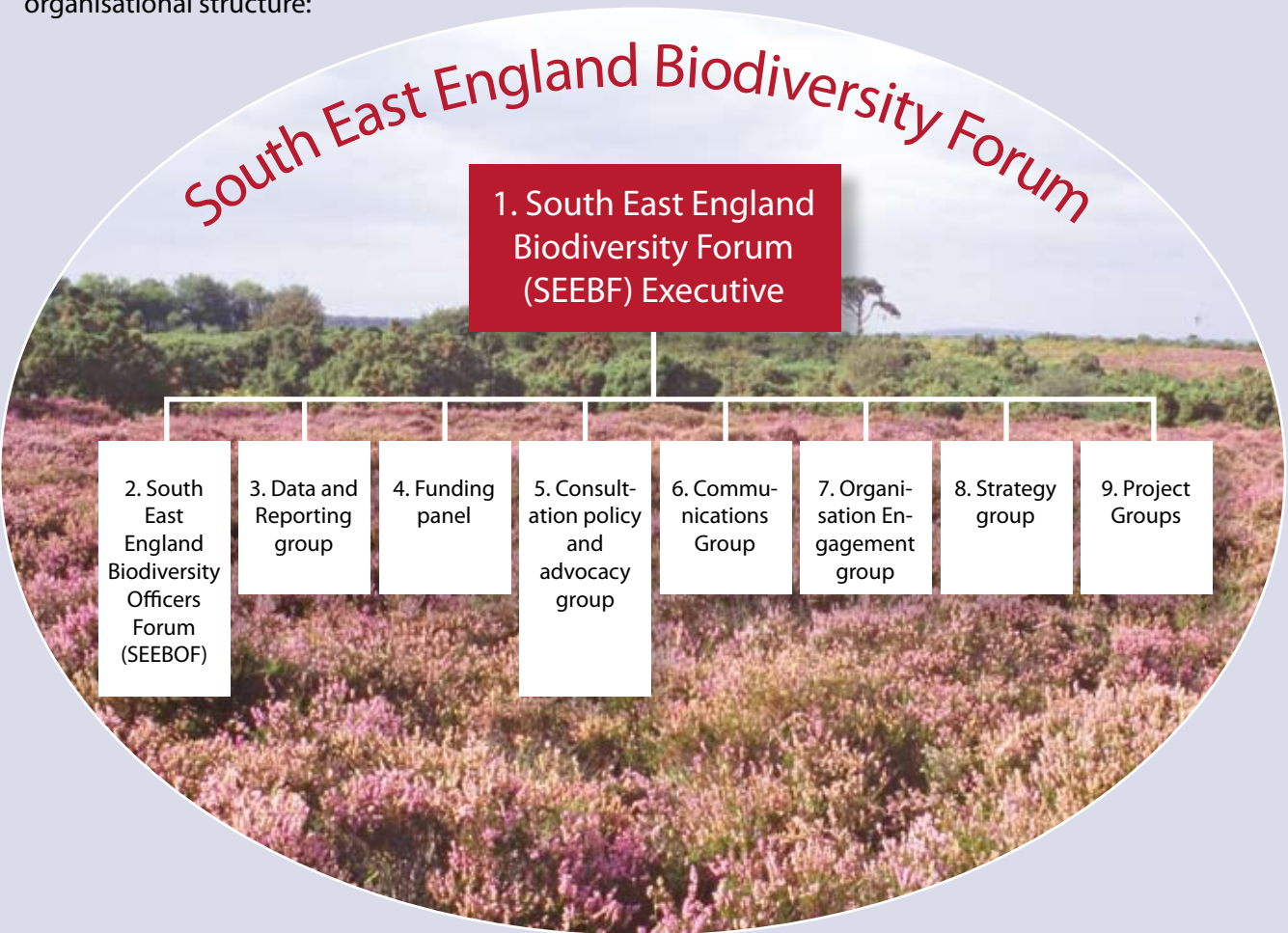


# 5. The Structure of the forum

## South East England Biodiversity Forum

Currently SEEBF is a forum of over 35 organisations from the public, business and voluntary sector, covering Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, East and West Sussex, Kent and Unitary Authorities of the South East (for the list of the partners see [www.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk) and follow the link to The Business of Biodiversity – Annex 2).

The forum has the following organisational structure:



1. The **South East England Biodiversity Forum Executive (SEEBF-E)** is the executive group made up of fifteen members working on behalf of SEEBF, with responsibility for the Regional Business Plan, steering the work of the Regional Biodiversity Coordinator, managing relationships and contracts with major funders for regional programmes and projects and managing relationships with the Regional Assembly (SEERA), Government Office South East (GOSE) and the South East Development Agency (SEEDA) on the regional biodiversity service.

A Chair is appointed on an biannual (financial year) basis by the Executive Group, subject to review and/or extension. The main function of the Chair is to:

- chair the quarterly forum meetings.
- champion the forum's key biodiversity messages.
- raise the profile of biodiversity and the forum by networking with key regional stakeholders.
- chair forum events.
- support the Regional Biodiversity Coordinator.

2. The **South East England Biodiversity Officers Forum** is drawn from the LBAP officers in the South East. It acts to coordinate the work and share good practice between the local biodiversity partnerships to manage the logistics of delivering the regional and local service including relationships between Business Plans, Officers posts and funding. Chairs of local partnerships are invited to this meeting as appropriate.

3. The **Data and Reporting Group** works to improve the evidence base within the region and coordinates the reporting against regional biodiversity and natural environment targets. Reports are submitted to SEERA for the Regional

Spatial Strategy (RSP), and Regional Economic Strategy (RES) and the UK BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System). This includes reporting on the BAP habitat targets for 2010 and 2015 ([strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk)).

4. The **Funding Panel SE** advises the SITA Trust ([www.sitatrust.org.uk/](http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/)) and Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN [www.wren.org.uk](http://www.wren.org.uk)) on project bids made within the South East.

5. The **Consultation group/ policy group** is responsible for drafting responses to consultations and draft policies on behalf of SEEBF.

6. The **Communications Group** acts to ensure the work of the forum is effectively communicated in order to maximise its impact. This includes better engagement between business and biodiversity and championing the benefits for business.

7. The **Organisation Engagement Group** acts to develop working relationships with SE based businesses and organisations with the aim of gaining wider support and delivery of the South East Biodiversity Strategy.

8. The **Strategy group** is responsible for developing and promoting the South East Biodiversity Strategy. This includes encouraging all relevant organisations to engage with the strategy and embed it into their work.

9. **Project Groups** are time limited subgroups with a specific task. These are set up to coordinate specific time limited projects where necessary.

For the Terms of Reference of these groups please see [www.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk) and follow the link to The Business of Biodiversity – Annex 3.

## 6. Operating Costs

### a. Total operating costs of work of SEEBF and members

The total operating cost for SEEBF for 2007/8 was £82,000 including in-kind contributions. For details please see [www.seebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.seebiodiversity.org.uk) and follow links to The Business for Biodiversity – Annex 2. This includes all items over and above staffing costs.

### b. Staffing costs

The successful delivery of the SEEBF Business Plan and the eight county/sub-regional plans relies significantly on the funding of eight full time Local Biodiversity Managers, the Regional Biodiversity Coordinator, the SEEBF Chair and Secretariat.

Annual Staff Costs	
Post	Overall annual cost
Regional Biodiversity Coordinator	£ 37,000
SEEBF Chair	£ 8,700
SEEBF secretariat	£ 2,000
<b>TOTAL annual funding</b>	<b>£ 47,700</b>

At present funding to support SEEBF core activities is provided by the Environment Agency, Natural England and the South East England Development Agency with in-kind support from other partners.

## 7. Contact Information

### **South East England Biodiversity Forum chair**

Dr Tim Bines  
 parnassia@vfast.co.uk

### **South East England Biodiversity Forum coordinator**

Tom Butterworth  
 Tom.Butterworth@NaturalEngland.org.uk  
 07500 608 458

### **South East England Biodiversity Forum secretariat**

Heather Parr  
 Heather.Parr@RSPB.org.uk  
 01273 775333

### **Chair of sub groups**

South East England Biodiversity Officers Forum (SEEBOF) – Jez Elkin (jelkin@buckscc.gov.uk)  
 Data and Reporting Group – Steve Gilbert (Steve.Gilbert@RSPB.org.uk)  
 Funding Panel SE – Tim Bines (parnassia@vfast.co.uk)  
 Communications Group – Tom Butterworth (Tom.Butterworth@naturalengland.org.uk)  
 Management Work Plan Group – Tim Bines (parnassia@vfast.co.uk)  
 Consultation group/ policy group – Tom Butterworth (Tom.Butterworth@naturalengland.org.uk)  
 Project Groups – please contact Tom Butterworth (Tom.Butterworth@naturalengland.org.uk) for details

### **LBAP officers and chairs**

Kent – William Moreno (william.moreno@kent.gov.uk)  
 Sussex – Laurie Jackson (lauriejackson@sussexwt.org.uk)  
 Isle of Wight – Tina Williamson (tina.williamson@iow.gov.uk)  
 Hampshire – Jacklyn Johnston (jacklyn.johnston@hants.gov.uk)  
 Surrey – Sue Webber (Sue.Webber@surreywt.org.uk)  
 Berkshire – Kelly Thomas (kellythomas@bbowt.org.uk)  
 Buckinghamshire – Jez Elkin (jelkin@buckscc.gov.uk)  
 Oxfordshire – bap@oncf.org.uk

## Members of the South East England Biodiversity Forum

Association of Local Government Ecologists; Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust; Berkshire Nature Conservation Forum; Biodiversity International; Brighton and Hove Unitary Authority; BTCV; Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Partnership; Buckinghamshire County Council; Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre; Chilterns Conservation Board; Defence Estates – Ministry of Defence; Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra); East Sussex County Council; Eastleigh Borough Council; Environment Agency; Fareham Borough Council; Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group; Forestry Commission; Government Office South East; Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust; Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre; Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership; Hampshire County Council; Isle of Wight Unitary Authority; Isle of Wight Biodiversity Partnership; Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre; Kent Biodiversity Partnership; Kent County Council; Kent Wildlife Trust; National Trust; Natural England; Oxfordshire County Council; Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; Rushmoor Borough Council; Southampton Unitary Authority; South East Marine Programme; South East England Development Agency; South East England – Intelligence Network; South East England Regional Assembly; Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre; Surrey Biodiversity Partnership; Surrey County Council; Surrey Wildlife Trust; Sussex Biodiversity Partnership; Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre; Sussex Wildlife Trust; Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre; West Berkshire Unitary Authority; West Sussex County Council; Wildlife Trusts in the South East; Woodland Trust.



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Biodiversity Forum

[www.sebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk)

The South East England Biodiversity Forum is an independent advisory group made up of statutory bodies, local authorities and non-government organisations which identifies, advises and responds to the biodiversity challenges in the South East. It engages key regional stakeholders to ensure that development in the South East is truly sustainable.