



**CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY
STRATEGIC WORKSHOP**
Friday 2nd May 2008

WORKSHOP REPORT

Preface

The Conservation and Biodiversity workshop was held on 2nd May 2008 at Glasgow Caledonian University CPD Centre. The workshop was facilitated by Professor John Kelly of Axoss Ltd and recorded by Pamela Thomson of Glasgow Caledonian University. Contact details are below.

The workshop was tasked with informing the development of the Firth of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan through the identification of drivers for conservation and biodiversity and the strategic vision of those representing the sector.



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Contents

1	Executive Summary.....	4
2	Introduction.....	5
3	Issues Analysis.....	6
4	Key Drivers.....	10
5	Functional Vision Statement.....	11
6	Success Criteria for Sector.....	13
7	Strategic Options.....	14
	APPENDIX 1 – List of attendees.....	15
	APPENDIX 2 – Agenda.....	16
	APPENDIX 3 - Background Paper Circulated Prior to the Workshop.....	17

1 Executive Summary

The objectives of the conservation and biodiversity strategic workshop are to respond to the Firth of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) vision statement;

"the Firth of Clyde will have a healthy marine and coastal environment, rich in biodiversity and natural resources. This will enhance the quality of life for local communities and contribute to a diverse and sustainable economy for the West of Scotland"

This response to the above, determined issues, identified drivers, established strategic options and made explicit the criteria for success.

The issues recognise the three pillar approach to conservation (species protection, areas and site protection, wider policy measures). The issues also identified a cross cutting dimension of voluntary measures, Scottish legislation and European legislation. Complementary to this are the issues of raising awareness of all stakeholders and the necessity for an attitudes shift amongst many stakeholders. However, this could only be accomplished with the support of robust data gathered from existing data sets and new survey research.

The drivers for action on conservation and biodiversity include recognition of the legacy of past legislation, the appropriate use of current legislation and an anticipation of environmental legislation emanating from Europe. It was acknowledged that public concern for the environment and the increased pressures on the marine environment by various sectors are driving the requirement for a transparent and integrated approach to managing a sustainable resource.

The mission and the long term strategic objective of the conservation and biodiversity element of the Marine Spatial Plan is;

"Protect, restore and enhance biodiversity, natural heritage and ecosystem functions".

The four primary high-level strategic objectives were determined as;

- ❖ the sustainable management of the common resource,
- ❖ improving knowledge,
- ❖ measuring progress and
- ❖ stimulating action.

The measurable success criteria for the satisfaction of the mission and high-level objectives include;

- ❖ mapping species and habitat and sharing with regulators/developers
- ❖ identifying natural heritage data sets available for marine planning
- ❖ counting the number of decisions taken with reference to the Marine Spatial Plan
- ❖ determining the number of responses to the draft Marine Spatial Plan consultation which mention biodiversity.

The short term strategic options were identified as a; mapping the areas of high biodiversity value and identifying regionally important sites in the Firth of Clyde and setting up a number of protected reference control sites. Those areas having high biodiversity value and the reference sites should be protected from damaging activities.

2 Introduction

The conservation and biodiversity strategic workshop was held with the primary aim of informing the Strategy for the Firth of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan. The workshop comprised representatives of those organisations having a valid input to the sector. The specific workshop objectives were:

- ❖ Determine where the Conservation and Biodiversity sector wants to go (their 20 year vision)
- ❖ Identify the key internal and external drivers that are likely to affect the sector particularly over the coming five years.
- ❖ Establish the strategic position of the sector.
- ❖ Develop strategic options for the sector.

The objectives informed the agenda for the workshop that used five facilitated techniques namely:

- ❖ issues analysis
- ❖ driver analysis
- ❖ sector orientated functional vision statement
- ❖ evolving success criteria and
- ❖ formulating strategic options.

The following report details the consensus of the workshop group.

3 Issues Analysis

The project issues were summarised by the team by brainstorming and recording on post-it notes displayed on a 'working wall.' Once complete the team categorised the issues under issue headers that derived from an analysis of the documentation to date supplemented as necessary. The ten most important issues to individuals were highlighted by "spending" black dots as appropriate. The three issues considered critical by individuals were highlighted by red dots. The table below summarises all issues and their importance and critical weighting.

ISSUES ANALYSIS SUMMARY			
	Heading	Black	Red
	Organisation		
1	3 pillar approach to conservation (species, areas, wider measures)	4	1
2	Management in marine environment not co-ordinated	3	1
3	Building a community of people who understand issues	2	
4	Using existing system – River basin management planning	1	
	Research & Information		
1	Incomplete data for Clyde	6	5
2	Identifying areas which need protecting (data issues)	4	1
3	Lack of ongoing monitoring	1	1
4	Accessing data on mobile species		
5	Commercial fish species data wanting		
6	Future uses of Clyde		
7	How do we anticipate sites for Scottish Marine Bill?		
8	Lack of reference conditions		
9	Locally important sites		
10	Nationally important locations		
11	Quality of data on seascapes		
12	Uncertainty of future climate		
13	Value/worth of biodiversity – value of kelp beds for example		
14	What is sustainable		

	Stakeholder		
1	Raising awareness of stakeholder	3	
2	Bio-diversity seen as not important		
3	Framework for debate		
4	Managing expectations		
5	Use of voluntary measures		
6	Very high expectations of bio diversity delivery		
	Context/Culture		
1	Protection, enhancement & restoration	3	2
2	Biodiversity relevant and meaningful	1	
3	Dumping ground?		
4	Language of sustainability		
5	Maintaining habitats		
6	More to Biodiversity & conservation than protected sites		
7	Perception of what is sustainable		
	Legal/Legislation		
1	Lack of statutory basis for Marine Spatial Planning	4	3
2	Highlight gaps to be addressed by legislation	3	
3	Marine Spatial Planning & Biodiversity duty	3	1
4	Protected sites not there	3	
5	Taking account of national & international policy & legislation	2	1
6	Voluntary measures in place of legislation	2	1
7	Changing policy landscape	1	
8	Activities which require or do not require consent		
9	Anticipating the Scottish Marine Bill consultation		
10	European Marine Sites (legislation)		
11	For the greater public good		
12	Planning approach could deliver now		
13	Planning for future government policy		
14	SSSI Sub-Tidal Pool		
	Location		
1	Unhelpful nexus of activity		
	Capacity (resources/space)		
1	Impact of mobile gear	5	1

	Community/Politics/Local Planning		
1	Getting buy in from land use planners	3	1
2	Out of date perceptions	2	1
3	Assumed responsibility of voluntary organisations		
4	Faith in planning system to deliver		
5	Poor consideration of seascapes		
6	Skewed political lobby		
	Finance		
1	Economically driven pressures on site	1	
2	Higher cost associated with research & enforcement	1	
	Time		
1	What is achievable now?	1	
2	What is the horizon? (Scottish Marine Bill)		
3	Overcoming inertia (admin)		
	Parameters and Constraints		
1	'Commons' as a resource	2	1
2	Attitude of traditional users	1	
3	Historical legacies	1	
4	Lack of relevant legislative tools	1	
5	Designated sites drive planning?		
6	Existing land claim inter-tidal		
7	Identifying important features within MSP		
8	Incomplete Knowledge		
9	Scale of protection of features		
10	Unit used in setting policy		
11	What is a relevant definition of sustainability		
	Change Management		
1	Invasive non-native species	2	
2	Capacity building	1	
3	Climate Change	1	
4	Future proof plan ahead of Scottish Marine Bill	1	
5	Intractable quality problems - litter	1	
6	Lack of precedents or process		
7	Out of date practices		
8	Realising dangers of a statutory designation		
9	What needs to be achieved through other approaches?		

Commentary on Issues analysis

Issues surrounding the organisation of conservation and biodiversity in the Firth of Clyde focused on the necessity for a three pillars approach to conservation (species protection, areas and site protection, wider policy measures). It was recognised that the management of the marine environment was currently poorly co-ordinated and that it was necessary to build a community of people who understand the issues, and existing systems in place, with river based management planning cited as an example.

In the context of information it was accepted that information could not exist without research and that the incomplete data for the Clyde, particularly the identification of areas which need protecting and the current lack of on-going monitoring was a concern. Difficulties existed in accessing data on mobile species, monitoring the impact of mobile fishing units on the seabed (trawling/scampi trawling) and assessing trend data. It is stated that commercial fishing stocks are not in a good condition but the lack of data makes it difficult to determine their true state. Raising the awareness of all stakeholders and the necessity for an attitude shift amongst many stakeholders was seen to be important together with current culture and practice in the context of protection, enhancement and restoration.

Legal and legislative issues were identified by the workshop group as being the most important with concern voiced over the lack of a statutory basis for Marine Spatial Planning. In this context it was seen necessary to; highlight the gaps to be addressed by legislation, recognise Marine Spatial Planning and the existing biodiversity duty, take account of national and international policy and identify the importance of voluntary measures in place of legislation. The disproportionate amount of political lobbying from particular sectors was seen to disenfranchise many stakeholders. Traditional culture and practice meant that the fishing sector had a disproportionate voice amongst legislators. High-level policy will be contained within the Scottish Marine Bill although the lack of a clear policy horizon is a problem and therefore, over the next five years, it is important to establish a means for instituting voluntary measures to protect sites together with anticipating the Scottish Marine Bill consultation process.

Liaising with and getting buy-in from land use planners was also seen to be important together with the necessity to address out of date perceptions and ensure a full understanding of the biodiversity duty. The workshop group acknowledged that they had to understand the concept of “the greater public good” in the context of conservation and biodiversity.

4 Key Drivers

Arising from the issues the key drivers for conservation and biodiversity are:

- ❖ Legislation - the legacy of legislation
- ❖ Legislation – the use of current legislation
- ❖ Stakeholder attitudes which are formed and entrenched.
Note: All 3 points above are closely linked

- ❖ Dissatisfaction with:
 - State of current resource
 - State of current management & legislative landscape
- ❖ Legislation is not even in application or monitoring.
- ❖ State of knowledge of resource
- ❖ Concern for the environment
- ❖ Need for transparency
- ❖ Need for a sustainable resource
- ❖ Need for an integrated approach
- ❖ Increased pressure on marine environment (e.g. the increase in aqua-culture)
- ❖ Trend for risk based proportionate regulation

Commentary on drivers

Legislation has a number of facets which impacts conservation and biodiversity. Firstly there is the legacy of past legislation operated within a complex framework of administration leading to frustration on the part of those making development applications. Secondly there is the impact of current legislation notably the Scottish Marine Bill and finally the prospect of future legislation driven by European directives. It was stated at the workshop that a very high proportion of environmental legislation emanated from Europe.

Although there is increasing concern for environmental matters it is the case that people have not historically studied marine life as much as terrestrial or freshwater life due to its inaccessibility. The exception is the study of birds in marine habitats.

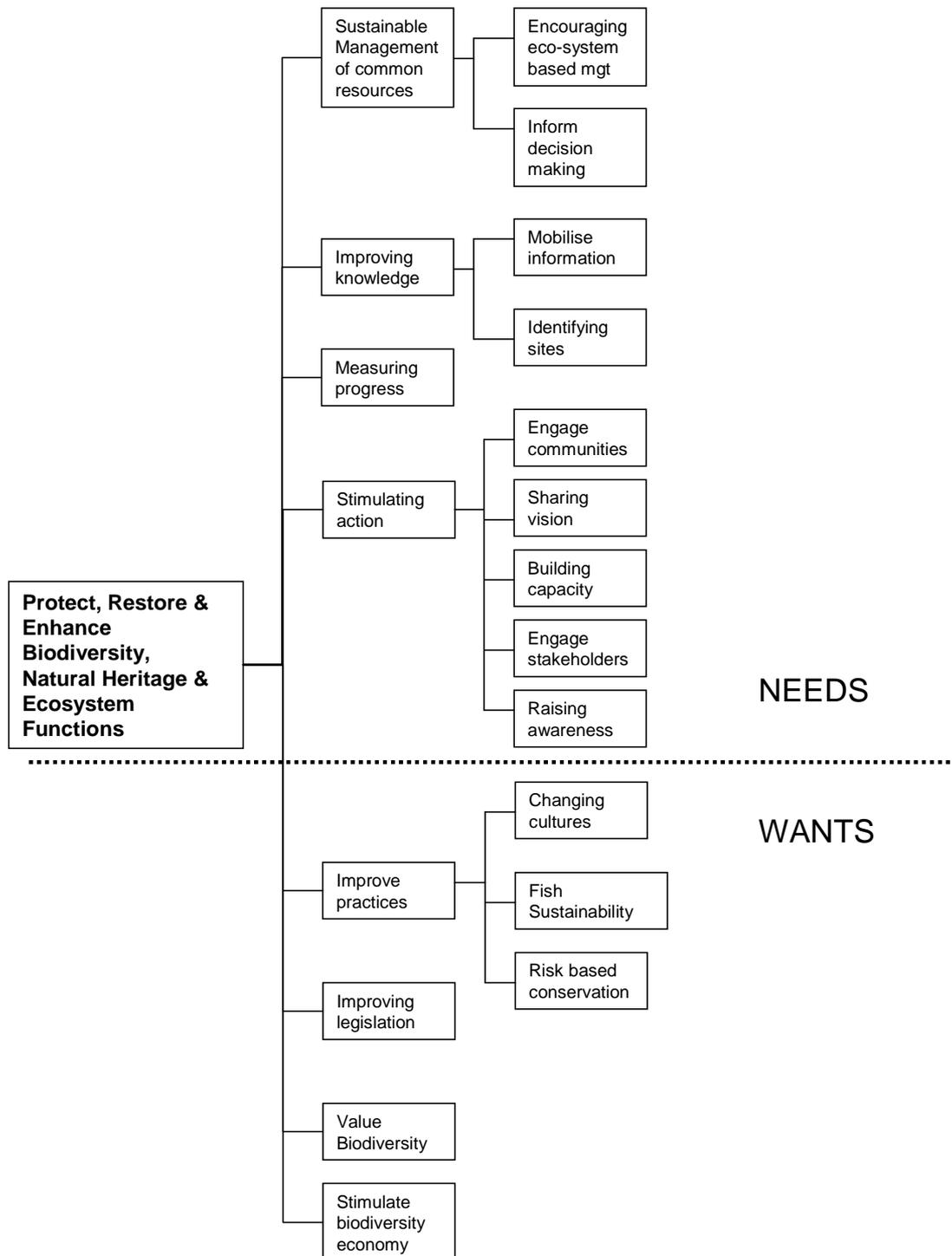
5 Functional Vision Statement

The functional vision statement was derived by brainstorming the function orientated requirements of conservation and biodiversity. The succinct statements were organised into a diagram with the mission on the extreme left. The diagram's logic answers the question how when reading from left to right and why when reading from right to left. The diagram is organised into needs and wants. The needs convey the essence and characterise the absolute requirements. Without the satisfaction of needs the mission is compromised. The wants on the other hand are those functions which are nice to have or those functions which are conducive to the mission but are outside of the responsibility of the representative group. The diagram is reproduced overleaf.

The mission for the conservation and biodiversity element of the Marine Spatial Plan is "protect, restore and enhance biodiversity, natural heritage and ecosystem functions". The four primary high level functions are:

- ❖ The sustainable management of the common resource
- ❖ Improving knowledge
- ❖ Measuring progress
- ❖ Stimulating action

These functions are the catalyst for two further workshop activities specifically; to determine the factors by which success of the function is measured, and ideas to operationalise the functions.



Function vision statement for conservation and biodiversity

6 Success Criteria for Sector

The success criteria are those criteria used to measure the satisfaction of the functions. It is important that they are made explicit at the outset of the project and that the individual criteria are indeed measurable.

The success criteria for the primary functions are:

Sustainable management of common resources

1. empirical measures of species or habitats
2. status of exploited species
3. number of decisions taken with reference to the plan

Improving Knowledge

4. sharing habitat map with regulators/developers
5. identification of Natural Heritage data sets available for marine planning
6. important biodiversity areas identified

Measuring progress

7. identification of data gaps

Stimulating action

8. partners signed up to plan
9. plan objectives incorporated into other plans
10. preparation of interim communities engagement plans
11. number of responses to the draft marine spatial plan consultation which mention biodiversity recording both positive and negative responses
12. identify needs and resources to deliver targets

Raising awareness

The workshop group decided that this would be difficult to quantify without extensive surveying. There was no surrogate dataset which could be accessed to assess the raising of awareness. Indicative actions could include community engagement initiatives ie adopt a beach, litter awareness, the numbers of recreational and commercial users bringing sea litter back to shore etc.

Wants

There was no relevant dataset which could be accessed to assess the satisfaction of wants. However, it was stated that a research project should be instituted to assess the measures to quantify the biodiversity value in Firth of Clyde.

7 Strategic Options

It was decided that the long term strategic options were embodied into the functional vision diagram. The following short term strategic options were described as below:

- 1) mapping areas of high biodiversity value
- 2) identifying regionally important sites in Firth of Clyde
- 3) recognising areas of national importance
- 4) determining reference/control sites
- 5) protect areas of high biodiversity value and reference sites from damaging activities
 - a) identify damaging activities
 - b) methods of alleviating damaging activities through existing methods
 - c) recommend appropriate management measures for protecting sites

APPENDIX 1 – List of attendees

Name	Organisation	Email address
Zoe Clelland	Snr Conservation Officer, RSPB	zoe.clelland@rspb.org.uk
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APPENDIX 2 – Agenda

**SECTORAL SUB GROUP WORKSHOPS
CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY
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09:45	Arrival & Coffee
10:00	Introductions Opening remarks – John Eddie Donnelly Project Officer
10:15	Issues Analysis Brainstorming of issues & sorting under headings
11:00	Coffee
11:15	Evaluating issues and identifying drivers
12:30	Lunch
13:15	Sector orientated functional vision statement
13:45	Diagrammatic representation of sector orientated functional vision statement
14.30	Confirm success criteria for sector Measures of success taking account of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Factors conducive to enhancing vision▪ Factors likely to compromise vision
15:00	Tea
15:30	Formalise strategic options
16:15	Action plan for developing strategic options
16:45	End

APPENDIX 3 - Background Paper Circulated Prior to the Workshop

SSMEI Clyde Pilot

Background Paper

Conservation & Biodiversity Strategic Workshop

1 Introduction

The SSMEI Clyde Pilot is taking a novel approach to the development of a conservation and biodiversity strategy for the Firth of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan (FoCMSP). Facilitated workshops have been identified as the most appropriate way of engaging with the key stakeholders from each sector to inform development of Sectoral Plans. Through these facilitated workshops a strategic option for each sector will be developed that will guide the creation of policies and proposals for the FoCMSP.

2 Background

Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative

The Scottish Executive instigated the Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative (SSMEI) in November 2002. The SSMEI is intended to inform future Scottish Government policy with respect to management of the marine environment. The Clyde Pilot is one of these schemes, with the others being located in the Shetland Isles, Berwickshire Coast and the Sound of Mull.

SSMEI Clyde Pilot

The SSMEI Clyde Pilot is tasked with the development and delivery of more integrated and sustainable management of the marine and coastal areas of the Firth of Clyde through an effective and integrated stakeholder-regulator partnership. It aims to achieve this through the creation of a Marine Spatial Plan, together with improved decision support mechanisms and integrated decision making. These will be underpinned by the application of an ecosystem based approach to sustainable development.

Firth of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan

The FoCMSP will establish an overarching policy framework to guide the sustainable development of activity within the Firth of Clyde. It is intended to streamline the development applications process encouraging investment and sustainable development. It will be strategic in nature and in this respect may be likened to a terrestrial structure plan.

Vision

The FoCMSP will support the delivery of the following 20-year sustainable vision for the Firth of Clyde:

"The Firth of Clyde will have a healthy marine and coastal environment, rich in biodiversity and natural resources. This will enhance the quality of life for local communities and contribute to a diverse and sustainable economy for the West of Scotland"

High Level Aims

In the context of this long-term vision, the FoCMSP's high-level aims are:

- Social: Maintaining the well being and cultural diversity of coastal communities.
- Economic: Providing a framework that supports current economic activity, opportunities for growth and attracts investment.
- Environmental: Maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity, landscape and seascape of the Firth of Clyde, by protecting and improving its natural resources.

Sectoral Plans

An important aspect of the FoCMSP is the integrated management of future sectoral developments. Through the development of Sectoral Plans a better understanding of the cross-sectoral and intra-sectoral measures needed to enable businesses operating in the Firth of Clyde to develop sustainably will be achieved.

These strategic forward plans will be fed into the development of FoCMSP. They will be formed through identifying the key drivers that are likely to affect the sectors, both externally and internally which will enable the strategic position of the sector to be recognised.

Location

The SSMEI Clyde Pilot and the FoCMSP encompasses all the marine or tidal extents within the Firth of Clyde, from the tidal weir at Glasgow Green, to the heads of Loch Long and Loch Fyne. The seaward boundary is from the tip of the Mull of Kintyre across to Finnarts Point, north of Loch Ryan. The project area includes at least 620 miles of coastline and a surface water area of some 3,650 km².



1 Strategic Sectoral Planning Workshops

These workshops are strategic in nature. The aim of this workshop is to identify the strategic objectives of the Conservation and Biodiversity sector within the Firth of Clyde and consider how the FoCMSP can assist in delivery.

Workshop Objectives:

1. Determine where each sector wants to go (their 20 year vision)
2. Identify the key internal and external drivers that are likely to affect the sectors, particularly over the coming 5 years
3. Establish the strategic position of the sector
4. Develop strategic options for each sector

Preparation

We ask that you read the [Environment Baseline: Issues by Sectors](#) and [Sectoral Interaction Survey Summary](#). These are a starting point of what we have identified as key issues that can be addressed by the FoCMSP. Please consider what issues of a strategic nature you wish to raise.

Outputs

It should be noted that the outputs of the workshops must be considered in terms of the existing legislative and regulatory mechanisms and frameworks, or within what might be a realistic expectation of the legislative framework over the next 5 years. However, this does not preclude the potential for voluntary approaches to be utilised in the delivery of any strategy.

The output of the workshop will be the development of strategic options that respond to issues and requirement highlighted during the workshop process. These will then be used in the development of the policies, proposals and targets in the FoCMSP.