



Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management  
**Implications of the UK leaving the EU  
on the sector and the environment**  
Report of workshop held on 31 July 2015 at Atkins, Birmingham

**1. Welcome**

John Box welcomed everyone to Atkins.

There were introductions from all participants (see Appendix 1 below).

**2. Purpose and Format**

Sally Hayns introduced the purpose and format of the workshop. This included why this is an important issue for CIEEM and its members. Many members' work is based on EU legislation.

The audience for this work will primarily be our members, however the public and policy-makers are also key audiences to reach.

**3. Defining the Scope**

Participants were presented with a list of current EU environmental legislation (see Appendix 2 below) and asked (in small groups) to discuss and prioritise these in relation to the impact on members and the sector.

All of the groups identified the Habitats, Wild Birds, Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Directives as of significant importance to members and the sector.

Following these it was felt that freshwater, marine, agriculture and fisheries legislation is also important to members and the sector.

There was some uncertainty over the significance of pollution legislation for its impact on biodiversity, however it was noted that Air Quality Framework Directive, Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive and Environmental Liability Directive were probably important.

All of the groups raised the point that the legislation cannot be looked at in isolation and that the issues that they address interact with each other (e.g. the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives with the Water Framework Directive and the Common Agricultural Policy, and Green Infrastructure with air quality and human health and wellbeing).

EU funding mechanisms are intertwined with EU legislation and we will need to take account of this as part of our evidence gathering.

It was noted that EU legislation also interacts with international commitments (e.g. CBD and Ramsar), which need to be taken into account.

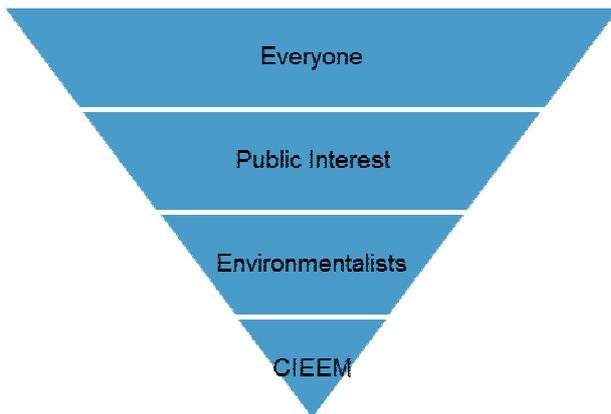
There was concern that CIEEM may not have the required expertise in all of the above areas, and that this is an opportunity to collaborate with other organisations. Related to this is the restriction on charities campaigning on this issue and that CIEEM may prove to be a useful outlet for some of their work.

Of concern to all professional bodies must also be the Free Movement of Citizens and Freedom of Access to Information Directives.

There appeared to be a hierarchy to the above issues:

There are issues that are only of interest to CIEEM and its members, then there are issues of interest to the wider environmental sector (including members of the Society for the Environment and other special

interest groups), then those issues that are of interest to the media and the populist public, and lastly those issues that affect everyone (such as the free movement of people).



There was a wider discussion on other issues, including the fact that the public message must be simple yet strong narratives/stories, and highlight the value of the environment to individuals personally. This public message must also link to economic implications and what the possibility of EEA/EFTA membership for the UK would mean.

Some concern was raised over the possibility of a legislation vacuum in the event of the UK leaving the EU, and whether government (and particularly Defra) has the financial and expertise resources to deal with putting new legislation in place in a timely manner.

We must also be careful not to say that everything is fine with EU legislation. There are issues, although it was felt that this is mainly as a result of national implementation.

It should be noted that all of the participants were from England, and that the differing implications and significance for the four UK nations was only very briefly touched on. This issue will need to be addressed in further work and our follow up actions.

#### **4. Identifying and Gathering Evidence**

Helen Bayliss from the Centre for Evidence-Based Conservation (Bangor University) gave a presentation on formulating questions and gathering evidence. See Appendix 3 (attached separately) for her presentation.

Helen was asked after her presentation what an evidence review on leaving the EU would cost if ECBE were to undertake for CIEEM. Helen replied that the average review costs around £70,000 and take about 6 months to complete.

It was suggested that CIEEM could look into a consortium to jointly fund a review. Another alternative suggested was to find someone to do a literature review (including the grey literature), which would be considerably cheaper. In addition it was noted that many meta-analyses have already been conducted, for example, by the RSPB.

#### **5. What Are Our Questions?**

In small groups participants were asked to come up with questions that CIEEM would want to ask:

- A. Has EU environmental legislation been beneficial to the environment?
- B. Which areas/aspects of the UK would be most vulnerable if we were to leave the EU?
- C. What are the effects (over and above what we would do anyway) of relevant EU directives on the following?
  - i. habitats and species
  - ii. human health and wellbeing

- iii. natural capital and ecosystem services
  - iv. socio-economic benefits (e.g. green economy jobs)
  - v. education
- D. How would current UK environmental policies be delivered if we were outside the EU?
  - E. What would the UK have achieved in terms of nature conservation if we had relied only on international agreements (e.g. CBD)?
  - F. How would the UK's international nature conservation commitments be fulfilled if it were not a member of the EU?
  - G. What has been achieved with regards to nature conservation as a result of being part of the EU?
  - H. What is likely to be achieved as a result of being part of the EU?
  - I. What is the likely financial impact of leaving the EU on CIEEM members? How many members would still have jobs if the UK left the EU?
  - J. What is the size of the green jobs market (i.e. an economic analysis of the environmental industry)?
  - K. What level of legislation and funding would be required to deliver the Biodiversity 2020 targets if we left the EU?
  - L. To what extent is EU policy and legislation delivery dependent on EU funding mechanisms?

## 6. What Evidence Do We Need to Collect, From Where and How?

Following the discussion about what our questions are, participants were asked in their groups to identify issues that will be of public interest, and where we might find evidence for these.

Issue	Evidence (or where to find it)
Protection of the greenbelt for its wildlife, green access, landscape and health/wellbeing benefits	HS2 stakeholder evidence Ask Natural England and Defra National Ecosystem Assessment
Wildlife protection under the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives goes beyond what the Wildlife and Countryside Act does	Wildlife Link REFIT consultation evidence
Cleanliness and reduced pollution on English beaches due to Bathing Waters Directive	There are an increasing number of Blue Flag beaches in England
Socio-economic benefits of angling/fishing due to the Water Framework Directive (alternative suggestion to make this broader to include wider health and wellbeing benefits of access to aquatic environments, e.g. recreation)	Angling Trust Environment Agency IUCN

Recreational green space access local to urban human populations (e.g. heathland and downland)	Evidence on the number of people using sites Number of jobs maintained/created as a result of these sites Biodiversity offsetting by housebuilders (e.g. Thames Basin Heaths)
Value of National Parks and AONBs	Peak District Recreation Survey shows the socio-economic value of accommodation, dining and other recreational activities to the Park
Support for upland communities	CAP supports upland farming, rural development, farm diversification These are all linked to multiple ecosystem services
Improvements in air quality	Reduction in acid rain on people (e.g. health benefits), buildings (e.g. reduced damage) and nature (e.g. ecosystem services)
Reduction in nitrates in the environment	Water quality benefits and ecosystem services
Recovery of cod fisheries due to the Common Fisheries Policy	Has allowed cod fishing to start again Increased catches around MPAs (recent J.Appl.Ecol. paper and TEEB)
Flooding protection	Floods Directive has created new habitats upstream that hold water, which has benefits for wildlife, carbon storage, reduced flooding, human health and water supply Environment Agency
Risk of allowing the hunting of certain bird species and gamekeepers' impact on raptors (current protection under WCA, but better protection under Habs and Birds Directives because government cannot amend these easily)	Shooting Times and other game publications RSPB
Repealing the Hunting Act	Potential impact on otters
Improved water quality and the recovery of salmonid populations due to the Urban Waste Water Directive	SNCOs
The ability to harmonise land management across the Irish land border	Benefits for wildlife and water monitoring
Benefits to migratory species (e.g. birds)	Nature does not recognise political boundaries

When asked who we should be collaborating with, participants suggested the following organisations:

- Society for the Environment (SocEnv)

- Environmental Policy Forum (EPF)
  - CIWEM, IES, IEMA, IFM, RGS and CIWM
- Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)
- Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)
- Landscape Institute (LI)
- UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA)
- Institute for Air Quality Management (IAQM)
- British Ecological Society (BES)
- Wildlife and Countryside Link
  - separate groups for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
- British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
- Marine Conservation Society (MSC)
- National Trust
- National Trust for Scotland
- Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)
- Joint Natural Conservation Committee (JNCC)
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
- Department for the Environment Northern Ireland (DOENI)
- Forestry Commission GB
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- Lantra
- Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)
- Local Government Association (LGA)
- Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime UK (PAW UK)
- Green Alliance
- Aldersgate Group
- Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
- National Farmers Union (NFU)

## **7. Next Steps**

Participants were asked what they individually think CIEEM's next step should be.

The most common suggestions were:

- Gather relevant data and evidence (e.g. literature review)
- Gather evidence from the membership
  - Ask for case studies
  - Poll of importance of Directives
  - (note: must give members the context in which the questions are being asked)
- Formulate a PR strategy and advocacy plan, with associated timeframes
- Research the impacts and consequences of leaving the EU

Other suggestions included:

- Collaborate with the Society for the Environment
- Ask Bill Sutherland if he will do an horizon-scanning exercise on the issues
- Be realistic and focused on what we can do
- Be politically relevant
- Look at when Directives were introduced, how they interact with each other, and how they have changed over time
- Write a short briefing on the importance of relevant Directives (e.g. one sentence for each) to the UK
- Start a dialogue with those individuals who want to leave the EU (the "out" or "no" camp)
- Set up specialist workshops for specific issues (e.g. freshwater and marine)
- Set up a web resource for members and the public to refer to on environmental issues relating to the referendum

### **Appendix 1: Workshop Participants**

Penny	Anderson	Retired
Andrew	Baker	Baker Associates
Debbie	Bartlett	Greenwich University
Helen	Bayliss	Centre for Evidence-Based Conservation, Bangor University
Simon	Boulter	RSK Ecology
John	Box	Atkins
Robin	Buxton	Retired
Jackie	Caine	British Ecological Society
Penny	Evans	WWF-UK
Paul	Goriup	FieldFare
Angela	Graham	Angela Graham Bat Consultancy Services Ltd
Gary	Grant	Green Roof Consultancy
Tom	Gray	Arup
Sally	Hayns	CIEEM
Philip	James	Salford University
Martyn	Kelly	Bowburn Consultancy
David	Lowe	Warwickshire County Council
Jason	Reeves	CIEEM
Jim	Thompson	Retired
Frances	Winder	Woodland Trust

## **Appendix 2: Current EU environmental legislation**

### NATURE CONSERVATION

- Habitats Directive
- Wild Birds Directive
- Invasive Species Regulations

### PLANNING

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive
- Environmental Impact Assessment Directive
- INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) Directive

### FRESHWATER AND MARINE

- Water Framework Directive
- Freshwater Fish Directive
- Revised Bathing Waters Directive
- Floods Directive
- Groundwater Directive
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Maritime Spatial Planning Directive
- Shellfish Waters Directive

### POLLUTION

- National Emission Ceilings Directive
- Renewable Energy Directive
- Air Quality Framework Directive
- Environmental Liability Directive
- Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive
- Assessment and Management of Ambient Noise Directive
- Industrial Emissions Directive
- Urban Waste Water Directive
- Sewage Sludge Directive
- Mining Waste Directive
- Waste Framework Directive
- Carbon Capture and Storage Directive
- Landfill Directive
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive
- Large Combustion Plant Directive

### FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE

- Common Agricultural Policy
- Common Fisheries Policy
- Nitrates Directive

### OTHER

- Free Movement of Citizens Directive
- Posted Workers Directive
- Freedom of Access to Information Directive
- REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulations