**Threatened Species Recovery Actions project 2023-24**

**Further guidance on writing Actions (spreadsheet columns R, AC, AN)**

This guidance has been produced in response to comments on the Request for Quotation and should be considered part of the contract specification.

**Attributes**

Wherever possible, actions should be SMART. For the purposes of this project, SMART is defined as:

* *Specific* = sufficiently detailed to be understood and deliverable without misinterpretation;
* *Measurable* = can be determined whether the action has been completed or not, or action progress can be quantified;
* *Achievable & Realistic* = the action is considered deliverable in the below timeframe;
* *Time-bound* = covered by ‘Duration’ (columns U, AF, AQ). Most actions should be deliverable over the short term (1-2 years) or medium term (2-5 years).

**Length**

There is no word limit for actions but as a rule of thumb, we suggest no more than several sentences.

**Content**

The examples overleaf use one suitable format: a brief statement as context/justification, followed by the action.

Please do not cite third party sources of evidence as this can create licensing issues for Natural England.

Each action should address only one aspect of the recovery needs of the species and so link to just one Species Recovery Curve (SRC) step.

Actions can be site-specific, e.g. for rare taxa, or where a site supports a nationally important population.

It’s acknowledged that generic management approaches may be necessary for some taxa due to knowledge limitations but actions such as “manage each site appropriately” are not acceptable.

Because monitoring is implicit in many of recovery curve steps, combined with the existence of national monitoring schemes for some groups, we urge you to think carefully before setting priority actions for monitoring. Nevertheless, there can be exceptions where there are specific monitoring needs that cannot be met elsewhere, examples are:

* Species surveys to review national status (SRC Step 2);
* Species with low recovery potential where the aim is maintain/protect populations;
* Recovering species (SRC Step 8) in the absence of other monitoring mechanisms.

**Examples**

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| SRC STEP | ACTION |
| 1. Taxonomy established | *Recent evidence suggests this species is an aggregate of three taxa. Carry out research using morphometric/DNA techniques to resolve taxonomy and identification traits.* |
| 2. Biological status assessment exists | *Current GB Red List status is Data Deficient. Conduct a status review through a programme of targeted surveys, aiming to clarifying its Red List status at GB and England scales.* |
| 4. Autecology sufficiently understood | *The exact causes of this rapidly declining taxon are unknown but are suspected to be pesticide related. Carry out a correlative study across extant sites and investigate direct impacts on the species.* |
| 5. Remedial action identified | *Conservation techniques for this species have varied across the UK and in northern Europe. Conduct a literature review to identify the recovery solutions with greatest potential.* |
| 6. Recovery solutions trialled  | *Recent advances in reintroduction techniques show promise for this species. Conduct a controlled trial across parts of sites/populations to compare efficacy, strengths and weaknesses.* |
| 7. Best approach adopted and deployed at appropriate scales  | *Although recovery methods are known, take-up of these has so far been limited. Produce an illustrated practical guide for land managers on how to manage for this species and its habitat.* |