BAP TARGET TYPE DEFINITIONS

1.0 A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

A wide variety of terms are used across different plans at national and local levels. This makes it difficult for Country Biodiversity Groups and Regional Biodiversity Partnerships to accurately assess progress on achieving their targets and strategies and presents a significant obstacle to the integration of UK, country and local/regional targets. For example, habitat quality improvements are referred to by a range of terms including *restore, enhance, rehabilitate, improve condition, achieve favourable condition* and *arrest depletion*.

1.1 To achieve a consistent approach across both habitats and species plans, Lead Partners and LBAPs are requested to allocate targets to **one of the standard types** described below (see also the invitation to propose new target types in paragraph 4.0). For some this will mean using terms in a different way to which you have become accustomed. This is unavoidable if we are to achieve the desired level of integration and a common understanding, so please focus on the definitions and explanations rather than the category titles themselves.

Habitats:	**Species:**
Maintain extent	Range
Achieving condition	Population size
Restoration	
Expansion	

2.0 HABITAT TARGET TYPES

The HAP targets set the vision of what we are aiming to achieve in terms of the extent and condition of the priority habitats. To assess progress towards this vision, we need to know:

(i) how much of the habitat we have;
(ii) how much of the habitat we are aiming for;
(iii) how much of the resource is in good condition (e.g. meeting its conservation objectives);
(iv) how much good quality habitat we are aiming for; and
(v) whether we are on track to meet our targets?

You are asked to bear these questions in mind when proposing new targets and when interpreting the information below.

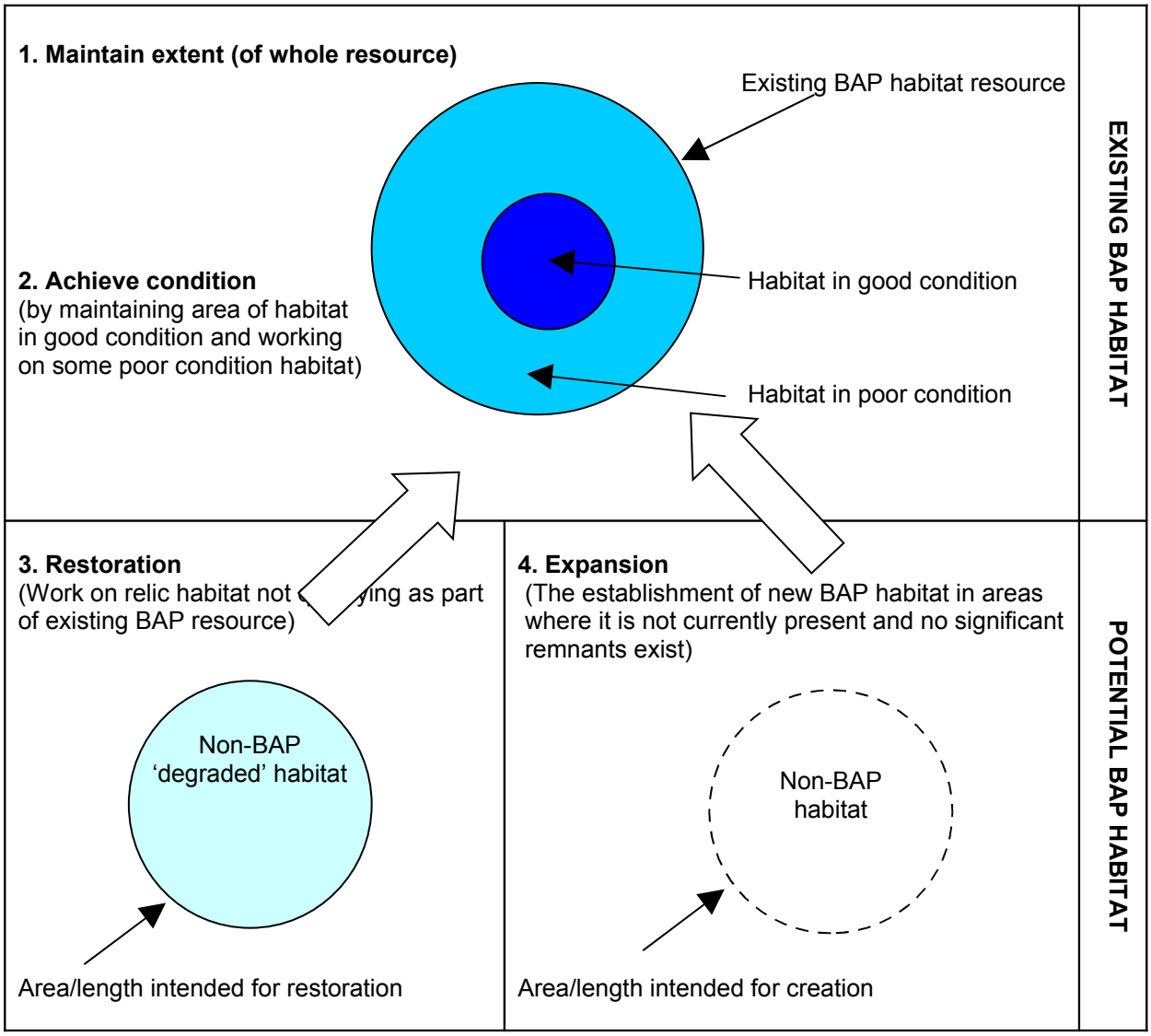
Table 1 - Standard habitat target types

Target type	Definition	Reporting / other information
1. Maintain extent	**Maintain current extent of resource.** **Aim:** no reduction in the area of habitat that qualifies as the BAP type, based on the estimate at time of plan publication, or the current estimate, whichever is greater. Maintenance entails securing the ecological function of the habitat, and this may involve some change in the habitat distribution over time (e.g. on a dynamic coast, or due to climate change). Hence, for certain habitats a maintenance target can be met without every occurrence of the habitat being retained provided there is no net loss and its overall integrity is sustained. Lead Partners have specified whether maintenance represents "no net loss" or "no loss" for their habitats (see draft targets).	**Reporting:** Progress towards maintenance targets will be reported by recording: **(i)** the latest estimate of the total extent of resource.
2. Achieving condition	**Maintain or improve condition within existing resource.** **Aim**: to maintain the condition (where it is good), and improve the condition (where it is poor) of the existing BAP habitat resource, compared to the baseline i.e. the amount of the resource in good condition at plan publication or currently, whichever is greater. The target value is the sum of the area that is already considered to be in favourable condition and the area	**Reporting**: Progress towards achieving condition targets will be reported by recording: **(i)** the total area of the BAP habitat in good condition (within / outside SSSIs/ASSIs) and, **(ii)** the area of the existing BAP habitat under rehabilitation, i.e. that is currently in poor condition but action is underway to improve its condition.

	proposed to be in favourable condition following appropriate conservation action. The target is for the total area both within and outside SSSIs/ASSIs.	
3. Restoration	**Improve the condition of relict habitat so that it qualifies as BAP habitat.** **Aim**: to restore areas of degraded habitat or remnant elements to a state where it is considered to be BAP habitat in good condition. This leads to an **expansion** of the extent of the BAP habitat and ultimately an increase in the area in good condition. Restoration should be where substantial effort is needed to bring a site with relict features (or historically former habitat) into consideration as part of the BAP resource. The targets should be set for the total amount of restoration to be achieved since plan publication.	**Reporting:** Progress towards restoration targets will be reported by recording: **(i)** area over which restoration has been completed, i.e. the habitat now qualifies as BAP and is in good condition, and **(ii)** the additional area that is under restoration (i.e. action has started but more work is needed). In both cases, the reported value should be the amount since the plan was published.
4. Expansion	**Increase the extent of the resource** **Aim** is to establish BAP habitat on land where it is not present and where no significant relicts of the BAP habitat currently exist. The targets should be set for the total amount of expansion to be achieved since plan publication.	**Reporting:** Progress towards expansion targets will be reported by recording: **(i)** area of BAP habitat created and is now considered to be in good condition, and **(ii)** the additional area under expansion (i.e. action has started but more work is needed). In both cases, the reported value should be the amount since the plan was published.

2.3 It is useful to consider “Maintaining extent” and “Achieving condition” as activity on the existing BAP resource, while “Restoration” and “Expansion” represents activity on areas that do not currently qualify as BAP (i.e. the potential BAP resource), as shown in figure 1.

Figure 1: Habitat Target Types



3.0 SPECIES TARGET TYPES

The SAP targets define the vision of what we are aiming to achieve in terms of the **population size** and **range** of our priority species. In doing so, they need to be realistic in terms of climate change scenarios, and so they need to allow for range shifts and the loss of some populations over time. You are requested to set targets using the standard types set out in table 2 below.

Table 2 - Standard species target types

Target type	Definition	Reporting
Range	**Targets should be set for the maintenance / increase of species range** Values for 2005 define the baseline: they should be set for the range occupied at the time the plan was published, or the current range, whichever is the greater *. Targets for 2010 and beyond should be set as a series of realistic goals moving the species towards long-term viability. As a minimum, extent of range should be maintained, and so no subsequent targets should be less than the 2005 baseline.	**Reporting**: Progress will be reported as the latest estimate of range (as defined by Lead Partners/LBAPs) * If, as a result of survey, Lead Partners and/or LBAPs consider it likely that the estimate on which the target was based is incorrect, the target should be adjusted accordingly.
Population size	**Targets should be set for the maintenance / increase of population size** Values for 2005 define the baseline: they should be set for the population size at the time the plan was published, or the current estimate, whichever is the greater*. Targets for 2010 and beyond should be set as a series of realistic goals moving the species towards long-term viability. As a minimum, the population size should be maintained and so no subsequent targets should be less than the 2005 baseline.	**Reporting**: Progress will be reported as the latest population size estimate. * If, as a result of survey, Lead Partners and/or LBAPs consider it likely that the estimate on which the target was based is incorrect, the target should be adjusted accordingly.

3.1 Note that "**reintroduction**" is not listed here as a target type because it is an action that contributes towards achieving an expansion of range or increase in population size. Not

including this as a target type means that the method of achieving these ends is not pre-judged (increases might also be achieved by, for example, encouraging natural colonisation or regeneration from seed banks).

3.2 In addition, in the case of species for which it is not currently possible to set biological outcome targets (e.g. those for which numbers are very difficult to measure), it may be appropriate to have proxy targets associated with maintaining or restoring their habitats (see below).

4.0 PROPOSING NEW TARGET TYPES

The standard target types may be insufficient or inappropriate for achieving and monitoring progress towards the recovery of our priority habitats and species. You are therefore encouraged to be innovative and creative in proposing new types of targets that go further or better suit the needs of your plan. Examples include:

4.1 **Qualitative targets for improving the connectivity or resilience of habitats and species populations**. The aim of these targets will be to improve the long-term viability of habitats and species populations. Fragmentation of semi-natural habitats into smaller and smaller units has been a major trend in the last century. As a result, many BAP habitats and species currently exist in small, isolated pockets within an impoverished matrix. Populations of the species supported by these habitat fragments may be unsustainable and movement between suitable patches may be impossible because of the unsuitability of the intervening habitat. The risk of extinction of isolated populations is exacerbated by the effects of climate change and it is crucial that we begin to create more ecologically robust landscapes to allow for change.

4.1.1 The standard types of BAP targets (listed above) can help to address the resilience and connectivity issues, especially through restoration and expansion of habitats and through increasing the population size and range of species. Some Lead Partners and LBAPs may consider these to be sufficient. However, others may choose to propose specific targets for improving habitat connectivity or improving the resilience and stability of species populations. Examples include setting minimum patch sizes, or aiming for maximum distances between occupied sites for species (while not losing overall range).

4.2 **Targets using indicators.** It is proving impractical to monitor some species and habitats individually, especially in the **marine** environment. In many of these cases, the current targets have not proved helpful in terms of directing conservation effort and have been impossible to report against. This review presents an opportunity for you to propose new types of targets that are SMART and make sense in the context of your plan, or group of plans. Examples include indicators of ecosystem health for marine habitats.

4.3 **Targets that encompass more than one plan.** These cross-plan targets might include targets for transitions between habitats or for habitat mosaics. They might also include targets that better integrate species and habitat action plans, for example setting targets for features of habitats that are important for species. Please note that all steering groups involved need to agree cross-plan targets.

4.4 **Targets for improving the population structure or maintaining / enhancing the genetic diversity of species populations.** For example, targets for improving recruitment to the population of a long-lived species whose population is ageing.

Please note: If you choose to propose new types of target, you are asked to ensure that these targets are SMART – in particular explaining how the targets will be measured and to give a full explanation of their relevance and expected conservation value.