

Status of UK BAP priority species

Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) have been prepared for species considered threatened within the UK. They include 197 'priority' species occurring, or known to have occurred, in Scotland until recently. The species are taxonomically and ecologically diverse, and are likely to be sensitive to change in the ecosystems and natural processes on which they depend. They therefore provide indicators of change in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. Trends across the suite of BAP priority species, as reported here, indicate progress towards halting biodiversity loss.



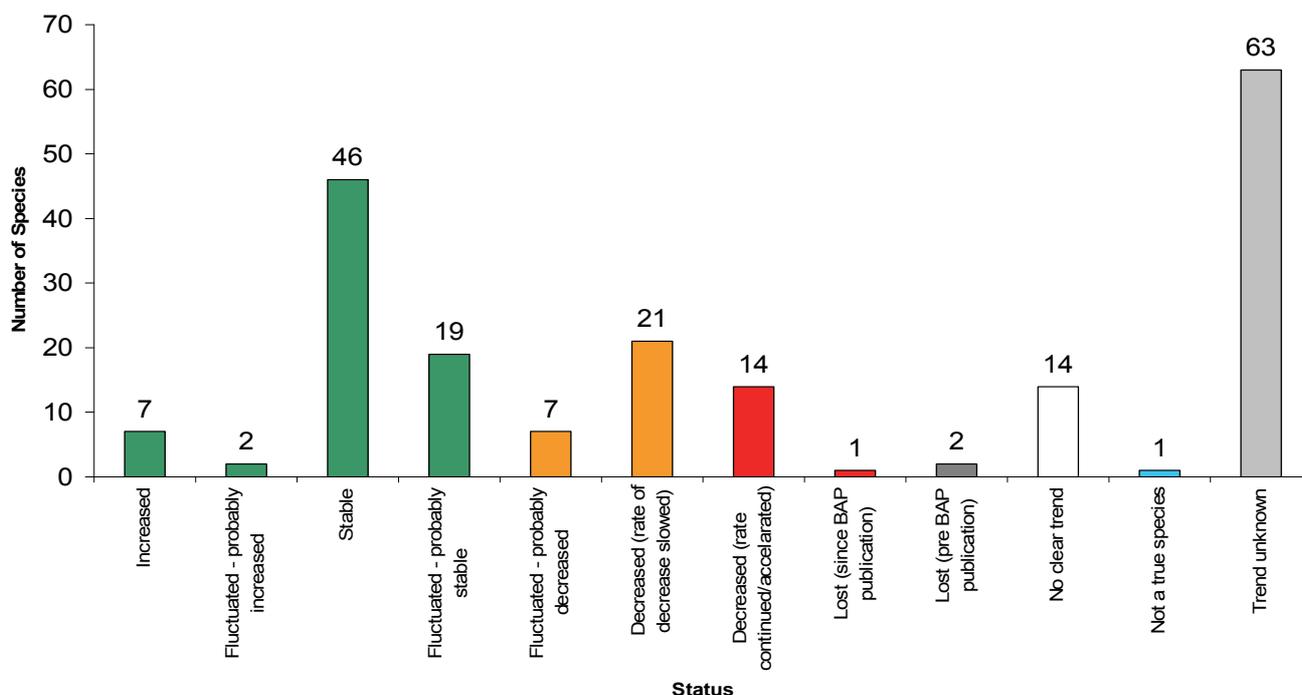
Red squirrel, ©SNH Images

Evidence

Species trends are assessed by [Lead Partners](#), based on their specialist expertise and best data available. Since 2005, the data from the web-based Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) has been used for the planning, monitoring and reporting requirements of national and local BAPs.

Scottish trend for BAP species

The status of 197 BAP species occurring in Scotland in the 2008 assessment



Assessment

Of the 197 BAP species in Scotland:

- 9 (5%) increased / fluctuated probably increased;
- 65 (33%) were stable / fluctuated probably stable;
- 43 (22%) decreased or lost since the start of BAP in 1994;
- 14 (7%) showed no clear trend and for 63 (32%) the trend was unknown;
- 3 (1%) are thought to be no longer present in Scotland and 1 (<1%) is no longer considered to be a true species.

TREND No trend available

DATA CONFIDENCE Good/ satisfactory



Commentary

The results from 2008 are the latest trend assessment of the species determined by the Lead Partners.

- Species which continued to increase from the previous assessment include otter (mammal), dark bordered beauty (moth) and vendance (fish).
- Species which have only recently shown an increase include water vole (mammal), reed bunting (bird) and marsh fritillary (butterfly).
- Species in continued decline include common skate (fish), black grouse (bird), freshwater pearl mussel (invertebrate) and twinflower (plant). The red squirrel (mammal) has shown an increased rate of decline since 2005.
- Species considered no longer present in Scotland include wryneck (bird) and mossy stonewort (plant).
- As a result of taxonomic work mountain scurvy grass is now not considered to be a true species.

Source data

Data are from the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS).

The number of species assigned a biodiversity action plan will increase due to the revision of the UKBAP priorities list in 2007/08.

UK Indicators

Results for Scotland are similar to those for the UK as a whole (increasing 10%; stable 35%; declining 24%; lost 4%).

References

Further reading is available from:

Biodiversity Action Plans is available from www.ukbap.org.uk

Species Action Framework www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/species-action-framework/

Biodiversity Reporting System www.ukbapreporting.org.uk

Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/environment/sbiiyh-00.asp

