

UKGAP Theme 6: Sustaining resources for our geodiversity

UKGAP Indicator 15: Funding - The source and value of grants received by local geoconservation groups

Relevance

Funding is generally required to assist in delivering action for geodiversity. The source and value of grants received by local geoconservation groups provides an indication of the importance placed on geodiversity activities and the financial support available for geodiversity at both a national and local level.

Data Sources

A short email survey was completed in February 2012 of all existing local geoconservation groups within England. This included all groups affiliated to the Geology Trusts and all groups affiliated to GeoConservation UK. The email survey was sent to a total of 43 groups and 17 groups provided data. One group provided data discretely for four separate areas, giving a total of 20 data returns.

Background to the Data

Total figures for the 20 data returns are reported. The local geoconservation groups within England were asked to identify the organisations from which they had received funding for each year for the period 2006 to 2011 inclusive and the total value of grants received from all organisations during each year.

Data

Tables 1a and 1b show the data relating to the sources of funding for local geoconservation groups within England. Table 1c shows the data relating to the total value of funding received each year from the identified funding sources. The data are presented in the following three charts.

It cannot be specified how many individual funding grants may have been provided by each funding organisation in any one year. For example, one individual group received funding from Natural England in 2008. This may have comprised any number of separate grants for any number of individual projects, but this situation would be represented on the survey as a single response. Therefore, only the number of groups supported by selected funding organisations each year can be identified.

Table 1a: The number of local geoconservation groups within England supported by selected funding organisations

Year:	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund	2	2	5	4	2	0
Heritage Lottery Fund: Heritage Grant	1	0	1	1	1	1
Heritage Lottery Fund: Landscape Partnerships	0	1	0	0	1	1
Curry Fund	1	0	5	1	2	2
Natural England	3	2	6	8	9	3
Local Authority	3	3	5	6	7	1
"Other"	2	4	5	6	6	3
Total	12	12	27	26	28	11

Note: no funding was received from 'BBC Breathing Places' or 'Heritage Lottery Fund: Other' between 2006 and 2011

Note: "Other" includes all other organisations specified by local groups who responded to the survey (see Table 1b)

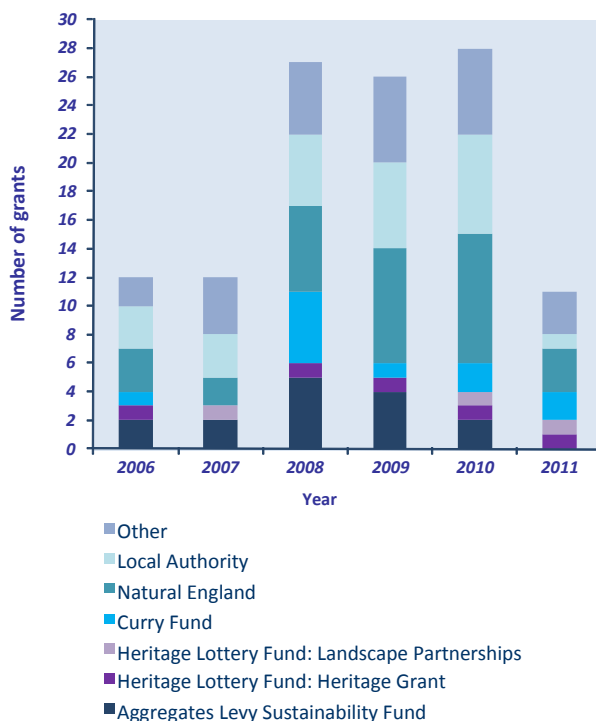
Table 1b: The number of local geoconservation groups within England supported by ‘other’ funding organisations not specified in the survey

Year:	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Other: National Trust	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other: English Heritage	0	1	1	2	0	0
Other: British Geology Survey	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other: UK RIGS	0	0	1	1	1	0
Other: Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service	0	0	0	1	1	0
Other: Grassroots	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other: Geological Society of Norfolk	0	1	1	1	1	0
Other: North Wessex Downs AONB	1	1	1	0	1	1
Other: Greenham Common Trust	0	1	0	1	0	0
Other: Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other: Private Practice / Consultancy	0	0	1	0	1	0

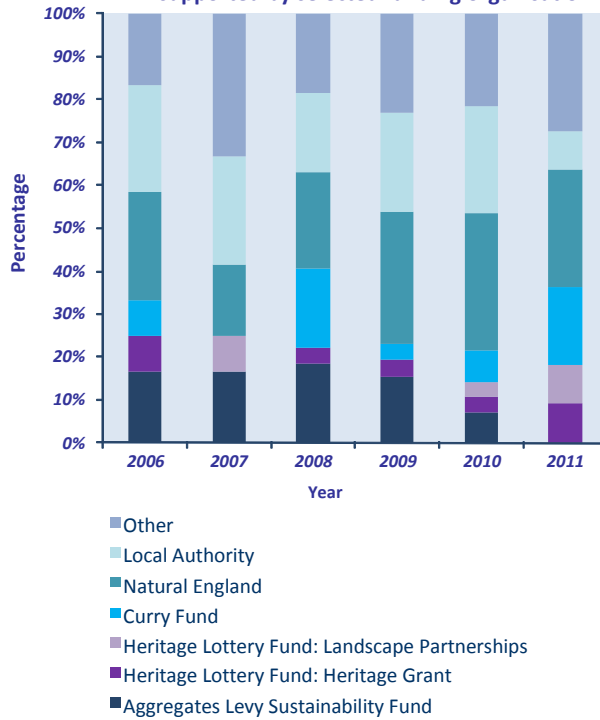
Table 1c: The number of local geoconservation groups within England that received funding for geodiversity action within a funding value range

Year:	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total number of instances of funding within each range:
< £5000	2	5	2	6	7	7	29
£5,001 to £10,000	0	0	3	1	2	0	6
£10,001 to £25,000	3	2	3	4	4	0	16
£25,001 to £50,000	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
£50,001 to £100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
>£100,001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of groups that did not receive funding	14	12	12	9	7	13	

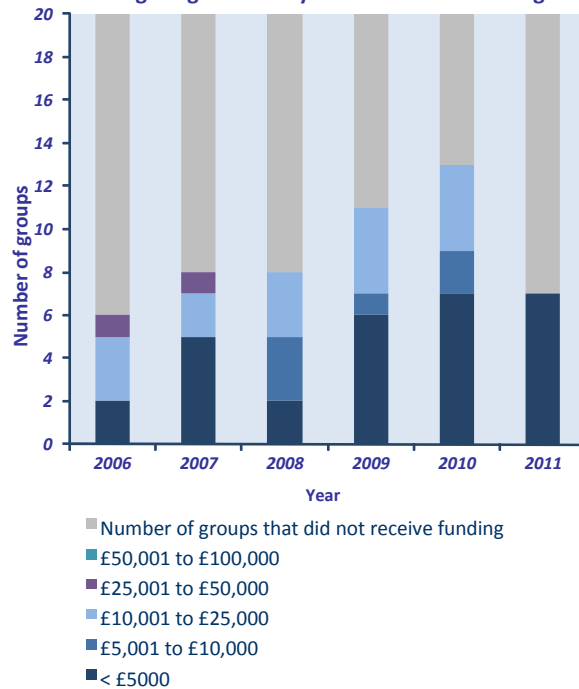
Number of local geoconservation groups within England supported by selected funding organisations



Proportion of local geoconservation groups within England supported by selected funding organisation



Number of local geoconservation groups within England that received funding for geodiversity action within a funding value range



Assessment of Trend within England

The total number of local geoconservation groups supported by different funding organisations was much greater for the years 2008 to 2010 inclusive. 2011 has shown an obvious decrease in the number of local geoconservation groups supported, with figures returning to the earlier years of 2006 and 2007. However, some of the geoconservation groups are relatively young in age and were not in

existence or at least so active in 2006 and 2007, so in fact the figure for 2011 shows a more limited number of funding sources for a greater number of groups.

For the entire period considered, Natural England, local authorities and the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) have made up both the majority of funding sources and the greater proportion. However from 2011, the ALSF became unavailable and both Natural England and local authority funding sources decreased. Therefore, the proportion of funding from other sources such as Heritage Lottery Funding and the Curry Fund were considerably greater in 2011. The number of local geoconservation groups receiving funding from the Curry Fund was also particularly high in 2008. A smaller number of other funding organisations supported local geoconservation groups throughout the period.

With the exception of 2006 and 2008, the majority of funding received by groups each year from the identified funding sources is in the range 'less than £5000'. Funding in the range '50,001 to 100,000' was not identified by any group for any year. During the earlier years of 2006 and 2007, some groups received higher levels of funding in the range: '25,001 to 50,000' but these higher levels of funding are not identified in subsequent years. However from 2008 to 2010 inclusive, some groups did receive funding in the ranges: '5,001 to 10,000' and '10,001 to 25,000'. No funding above the 'less than £5000' range was identified by groups for 2011. It would appear that the typical value of funding has decreased over the period.

Data Limitations and Future Recommendations

Although the data are limited to those groups who responded to the survey, the response rate (of 40%) is good for a survey of this type.

It might also be useful in the future to identify the proportion (number and value) of grants from a range of national organisations that are used for geodiversity action.

Appendix: Questions Asked in Survey

For each year, please can you indicate your funding source(s), marking the appropriate box(es) with an 'X'.	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund						
Heritage Lottery Fund: Heritage Grant						
Heritage Lottery Fund: Landscape Partnerships						
Heritage Lottery Fund: Other						
Curry Fund						
Natural England						
BBC Breathing Places						
Local Authority						
Other (Please list)						
What total levels of funding were received from the organisations indicated above for each of the following years?	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
< £5000						
£5,001 to £10,000						
£10,001 to £25, 000						
£25,001 to £50,000						
£50,001 to £100,000						
>£100,001						