



Response to Catchment Based Approach to freshwater management and conservation in the UK

The Blueprint for Water coalition supports Defra's aspiration for a Catchment Based Approach to freshwater management and conservation in the UK, announced today by Richard Benyon MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Natural Environment, Water and Rural Affairs.

The Blueprint for Water believes today's announcement is the first step towards a historical moment for UK freshwater conservation. But this is only the start and it is now essential that the detail surrounding the Catchment Based Approach be agreed and the delivery frameworks be put in place, if this approach is to be fit to deliver the ambitious second cycle of River Basin Management Plans that we need.

Kathy Hughes, spokesperson for the Blueprint for Water coalition and WWF Freshwater Programme Officer says, "The roll out of the Catchment Based Approach is an exciting moment in the history of UK freshwater conservation and we are closer than ever before to adopting true integrated catchment management that holistically links all the issues within the catchment. We urge the Government to make the Catchment Based Approach deliverable now."

Notes to editors

- For more information and to view the Blueprint for Water's vision for the Catchment Based Approach in full, please go to www.blueprintforwater.org.uk, or contact Kate Hand, on 020 7820 8600, or at kate@wcl.org.uk.
- The Blueprint's vision for the Catchment Based Approach is supported by the following organisations:
 - Angling Trust
 - Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust
 - National Trust
 - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
 - The Rivers Trust
 - The Wildlife Trusts
 - Salmon & Trout Association
 - Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
 - WWF-UK
- The Blueprint for Water coalition is a unique group of environmental, water efficiency, fishing and angling organisations which call on the Government and its agencies to set out the necessary steps to achieve "sustainable water" by 2015. The Blueprint for Water is a campaign of Wildlife and Countryside Link.

Media enquiries

For all media enquiries or interview bids, please contact: Justin Avern, Media Relations Manager, 01483 412367, javern@wwf.org.uk.