

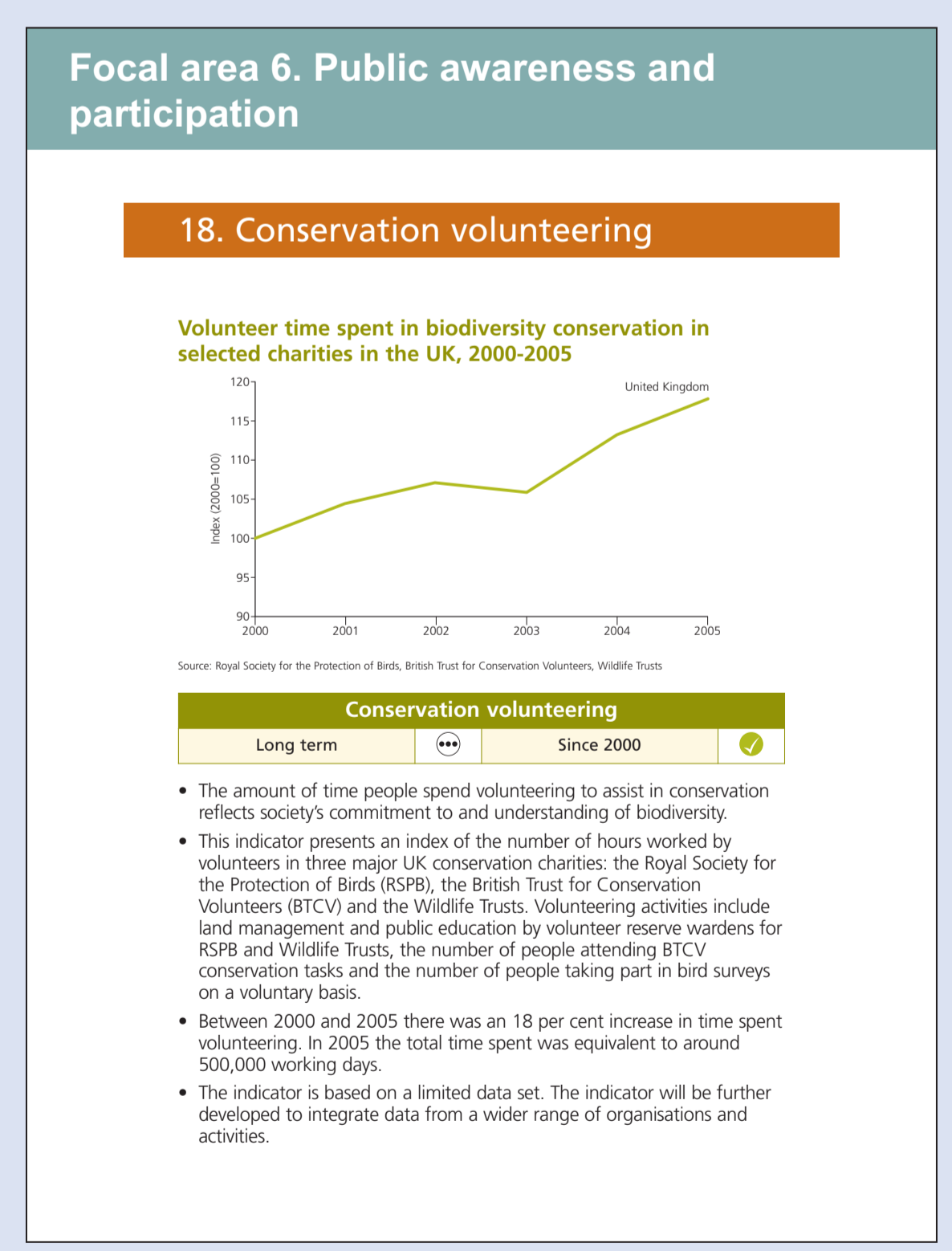
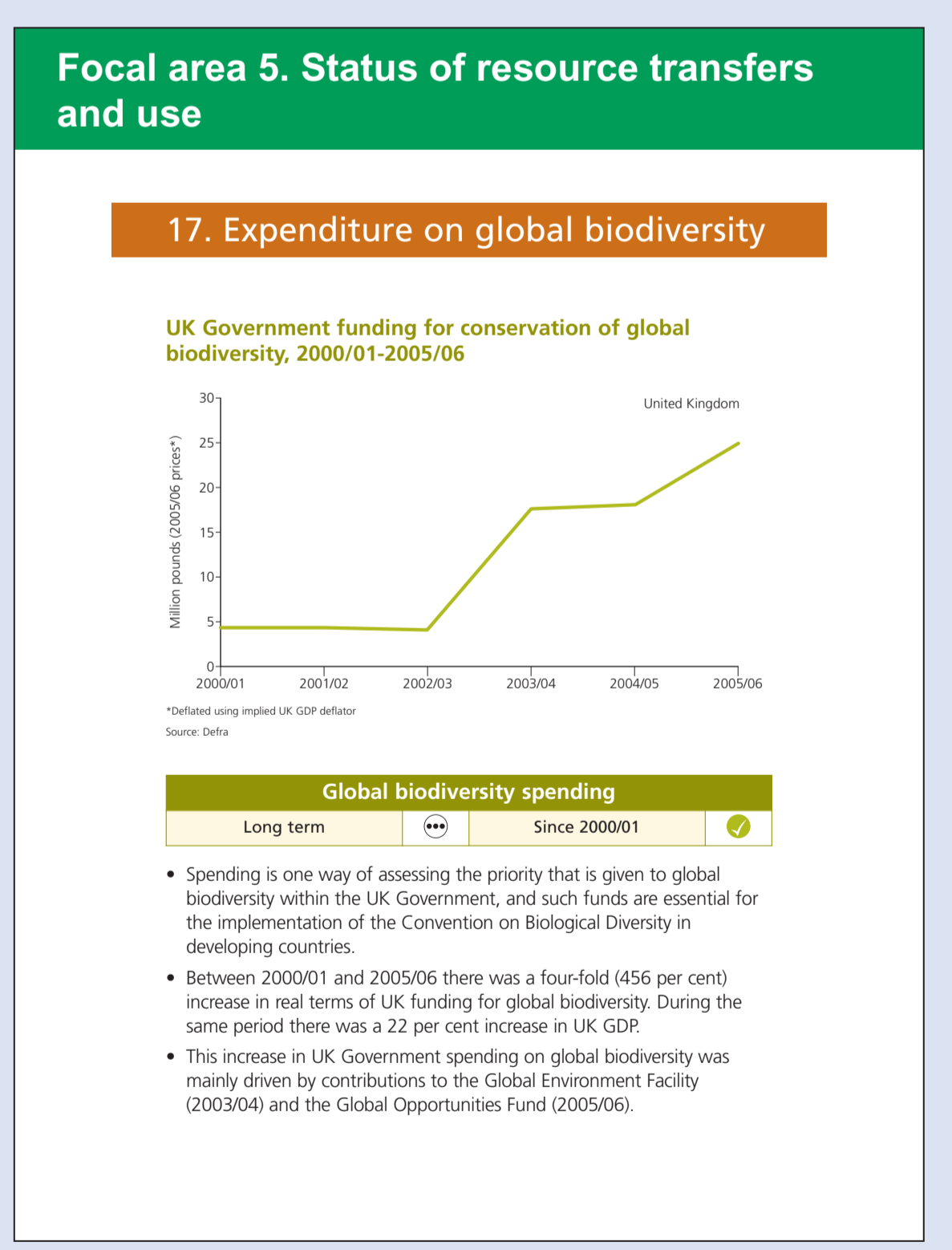
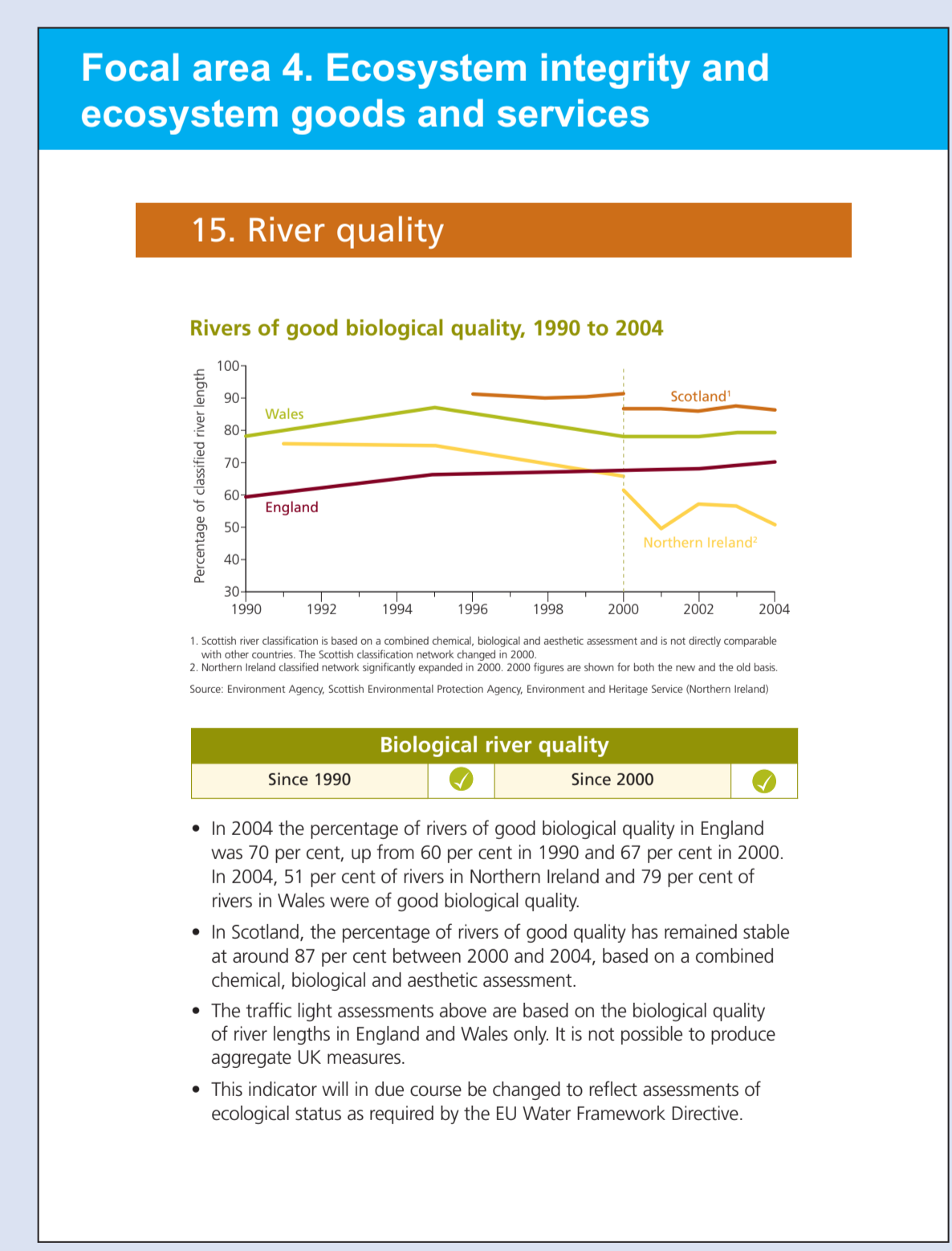
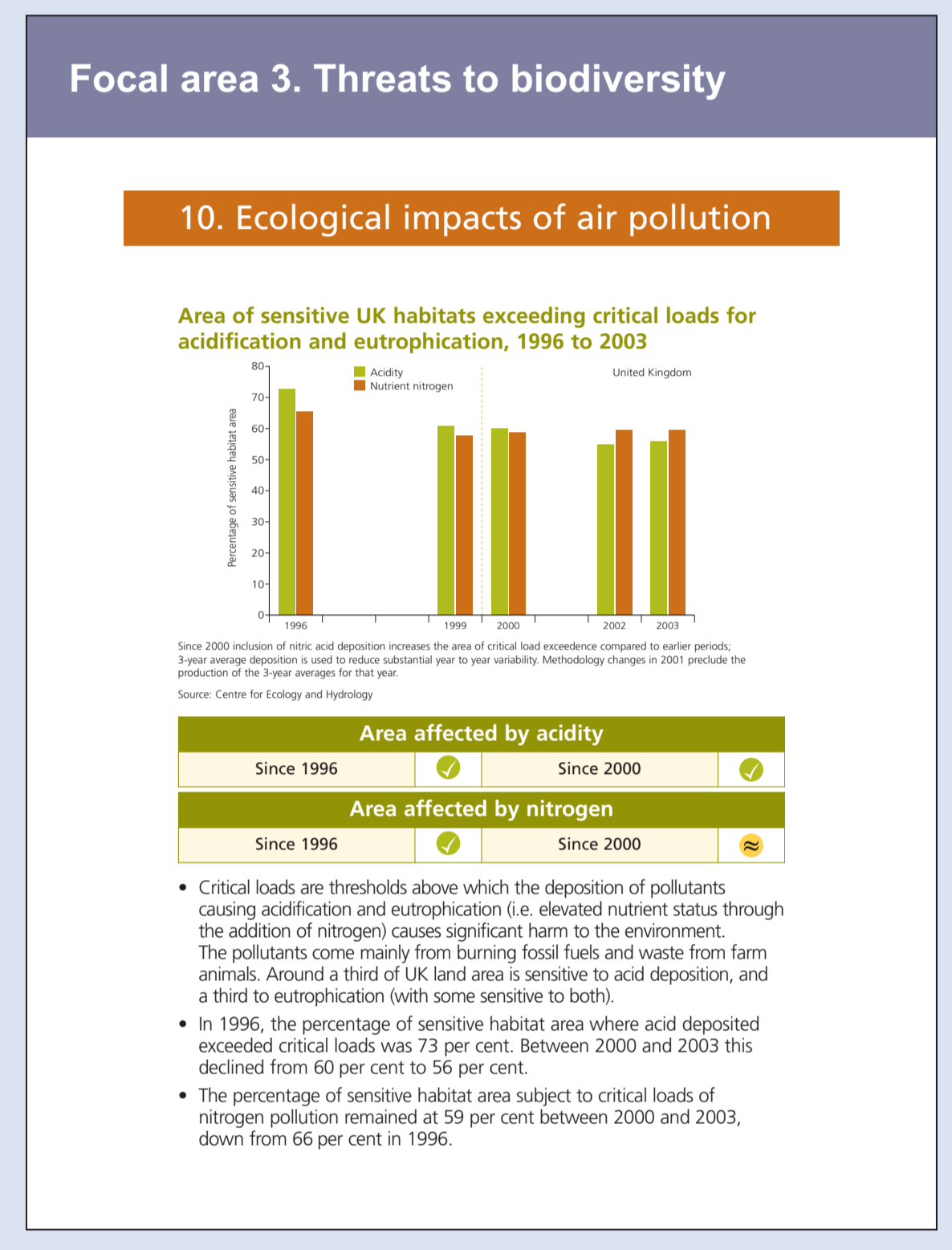
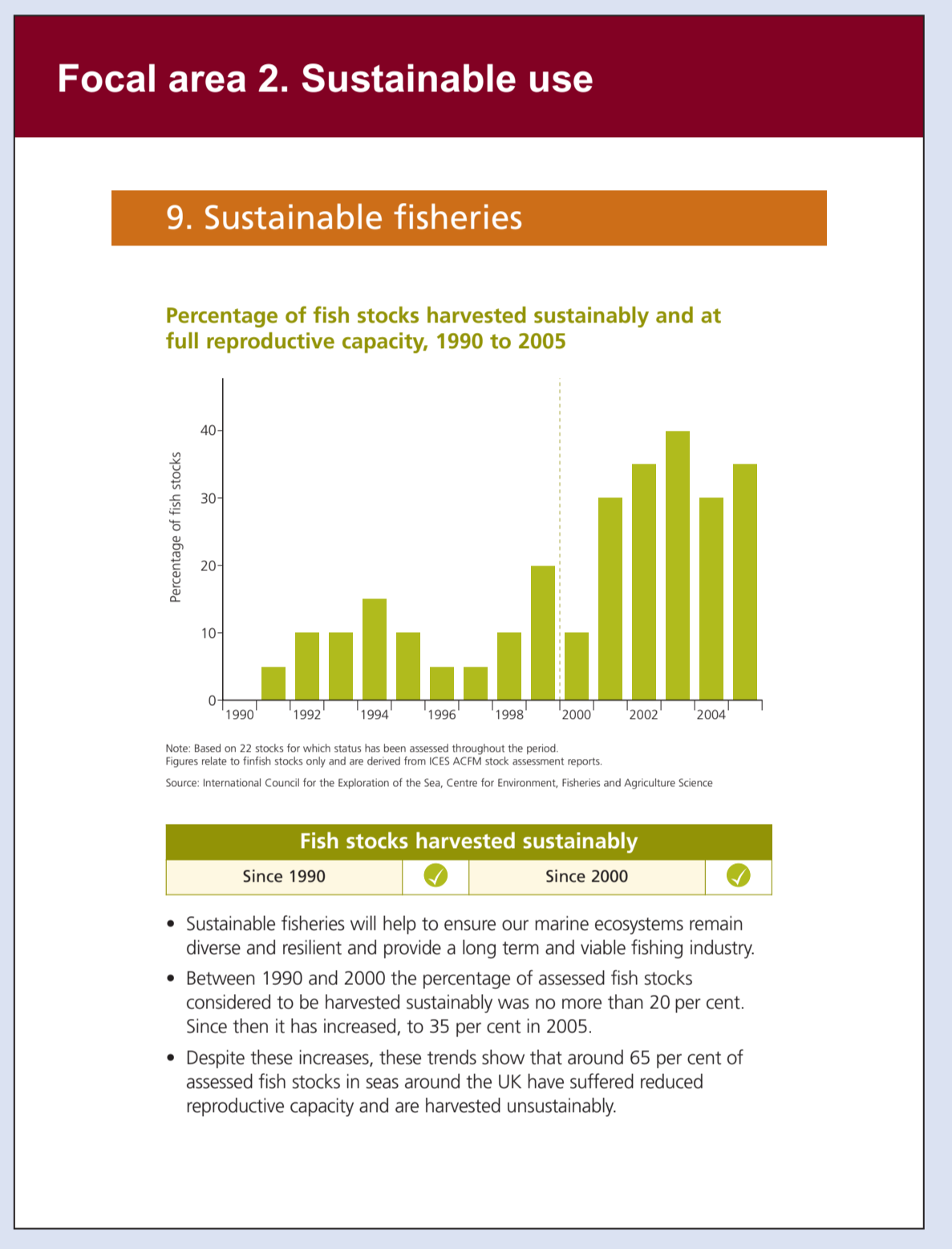
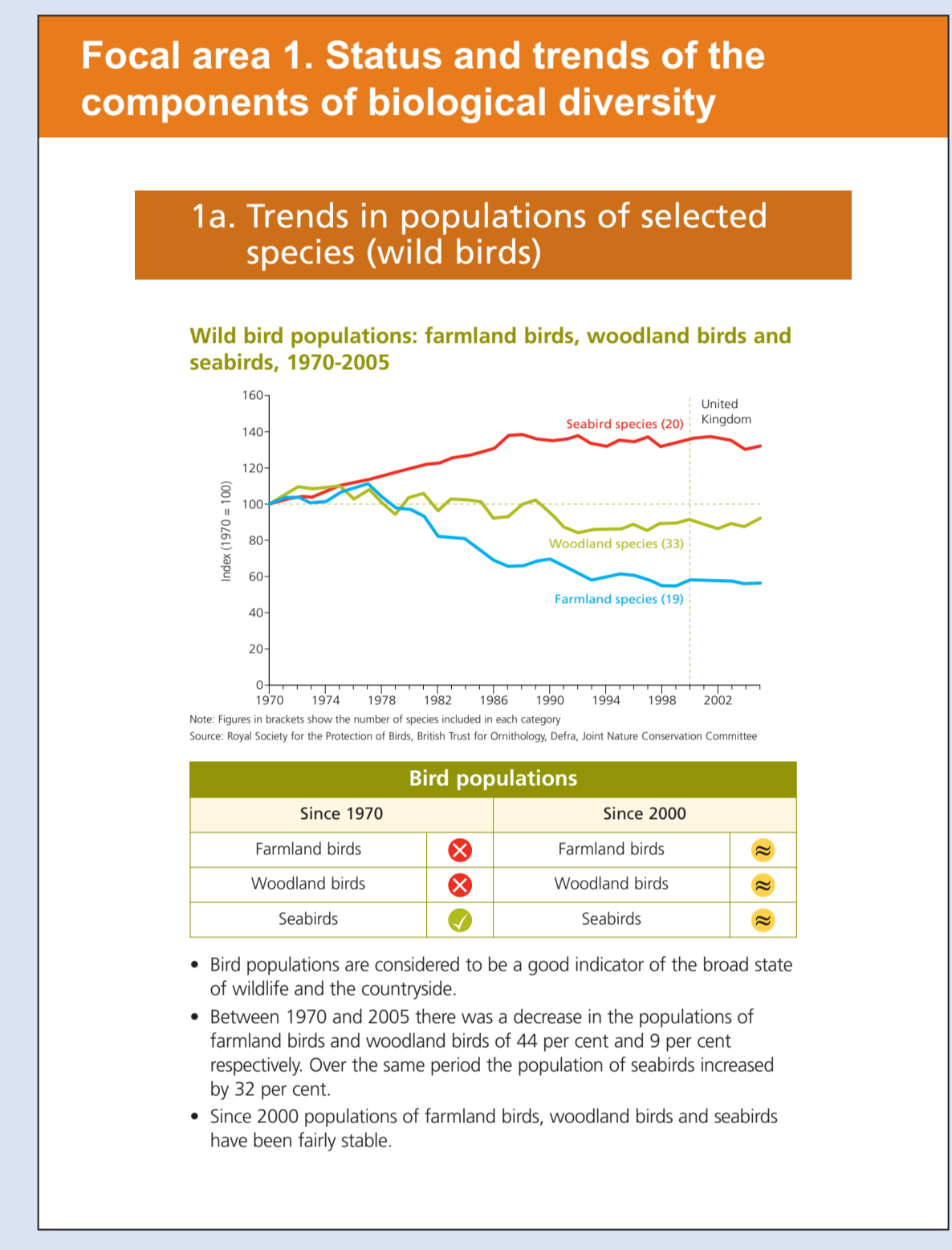
UK biodiversity indicators: measuring our progress towards the 2010 target

In 2002, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level. To assess progress, a set of indicators is being developed at global level and the framework is being promoted for use at national and regional levels. In the UK, 18 indicators within a framework of six focal areas have now been published. They have been developed in collaboration with the UK Biodiversity Partnership, which co-ordinates the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and brings together Government organisations, conservation agencies and NGOs. Early in 2007 the indicators showed that whilst there has been clear improvement in sustainable use, public participation and expenditure on biodiversity the status of components of biodiversity such as farmland birds, after many years of decline, are only now perhaps showing some early signs of recovery. An overview of the assessment of change is given in the table to the left for each of the eighteen indicators. Six examples, one for each of the focal areas are given below.

Focal area, indicator title and individual measure(s) (where applicable)	Long term change ¹	Change since 2000	
Focal area 1. Status and trends of the components of biological diversity			
1a. Trends in populations of selected species (birds)	Farmland birds	⊗ 1970	⊖
	Woodland birds	⊗ 1970	⊖
	Seabirds	⊙ 1970	⊖
1b. Trends in populations of selected species (butterflies)	Butterflies of the wider countryside	⊙ 1976	⊖
	Specialist butterflies	⊗ 1976	⊖
2. Plant diversity	Open habitats	⊗ 1990-98	⊖
	Woodlands	⊗ 1990-98	⊖
	Boundary habitats	⊗ 1990-98	⊖
3. UK BAP Priority Species		⊙	⊖
4. UK BAP Priority Habitats		⊙	⊖
5. Genetic diversity		⊙	⊖
6. Protected areas	Extent of protected areas	⊙ 1996	⊖
	Condition of species and habitat features	⊙	⊖
Focal area 2. Sustainable use			
7. Sustainable woodland management		⊙	⊖
8. Area of agri-environment land		⊙ 1992	⊖
9. Sustainable fisheries		⊙ 1990	⊖
Focal area 3. Threats to biodiversity			
10. Ecological impacts of air pollution	Area affected by acidity	⊙ 1996	⊖
	Area affected by nitrogen	⊙ 1996	⊖
11. Invasive species		⊙	⊖
12. Spring Index	Not assessed	Not assessed	
Focal area 4. Ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services			
13. Marine Trophic Index		⊙	⊖
14. Habitat connectivity		⊙	⊖
15. River quality	Biological	⊙ 1990	⊖
	Chemical	⊙ 1990	⊖
Focal area 5. Status of resource transfers and use			
16. Expenditure on UK biodiversity		⊙	⊖
17. Expenditure on global biodiversity		⊙	⊖
Focal area 6. Public awareness and participation			
18. Conservation volunteering		⊙	⊖

⊙ improving
⊖ little or no overall change
⊗ deteriorating
⊙ insufficient or no comparable data

¹ The earliest available year is used as the baseline for assessment of long term change. The base year used for each measure is shown in the table. Where data are unavailable, or do not precede 1996, a long term assessment is not calculated.



‘This is the first time that a comprehensive set of biodiversity indicators for the UK has been published and the indicators will form the basis of our assessment of progress towards biodiversity targets. Despite long-term declines in indicators for many species and habitats such as farmland birds, butterflies and plant diversity in the wider countryside, there are some early signs of recovery or a slowing of the declines in some areas.’

Barry Gardiner MP, former Minister for biodiversity, landscape and rural affairs, June 2007

For further details on all the indicators, including data sources and assessment methods, please visit: www.jnc.gov.uk/biyp or order a copy free of charge from Defra publications, Admail 6000, London, SW1A 2XX, Tel: 08459 556000 E-mail: defra@cambertown.com

