
A Framework for a CaBA Catchment Management Plan: Version 1 December 2016

A CaBA catchment plan will develop as the partnership grows and becomes sustainable, delivering collaborative projects which reduce **Flood Risk** and improve **Water Quality, Water Resources** and **Bio-diversity**. The four components of a CaBA plan are:

1. Catchment Vision and Terms of Reference (including Collaborative Ways of Working);
2. Data & Evidence to underpin a weight of evidence approach;
3. Delivery or Project Plan;
4. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

This list is based on the developing good practice across the CaBA community and informed by work within the original CaBA Catchment Pilots and associated case studies, CaBA Knowledge Base and Defra Test Catchments (DTC).

Catchment management is an iterative, adaptive process. As a consequence this framework for developing and implementing a catchment plan will evolve and develop overtime, and will therefore be revised periodically, in light of experience.

The Benefits of a Catchment Plan

Partnerships whose plans incorporate these elements appear better able to build confidence with external stakeholders and leverage funds from a diverse range of sources. Plans that clearly articulate the environmental, social and economic benefits of a proposed programme of work lay sound foundations for the adaptive management of the catchment and a long term sustainable future for the partnership. Every partnership is different, some will not need all the components of a plan which are described in this framework; each component is only needed if it will increase delivery within a catchment.

This framework describes each element of a CaBA plan and provides **Case Studies** or **Templates** in the annexes which can be adapted as appropriate to suit your catchment. We are not aware of any partnership that has all four elements of a CaBA catchment plan. These plans should be viewed as 'work in progress' (as is this framework!) with each element added and improved as required. We have identified three levels '**Initial**', '**Growing**' and '**Sustainable**' to capture the fact that some case studies and templates may not be appropriate yet for your catchment. We will continue to collect good examples from the partnerships we are working with and update and improve this guidance as we do so. A recurring theme from many catchments is that the 'Plan' should not be a single large document which can be expensive and time consuming to produce. A CaBA plan includes only the elements necessary to support and maximise the delivery of projects which improve the catchment.

1.0 Vision for the catchment and terms of reference.

Frequency: Refresh every five years (or more frequently if significant changes in local circumstances occur such as changes in membership).

Length: One to five pages. Published as a hand out and/or online.

Objective: Establishing the partnerships objectives, role, responsibilities and credibility.

1.1 The vision (Initial) turns the language used in the strategic plans developed by key CaBA organisations including the Environment Agency, Natural England, Local Authorities and Water Companies into goals which mean something to the people who live and work within a catchment. Many CaBA hosts have engaged with the communities they serve to identify what they value about their catchment. The vision is local and reflects local values, it should help to articulate why people should be involved in the partnership and strengthen your local community support. This leads to the identification of a small number of shared goals which capture in plain English what the CaBA partnership wants to achieve. This vision for the catchment does not need to be revisited often, it is there to help civil society engage with, and value, the catchment based approach. **Annex 1.1** includes several examples from around the country. The Vision may build upon what the partnership provided into the 2nd cycle River Basin Management Plan catchment pages

1.2 Terms of Reference (ToR) for catchment partnerships (Growing - Sustainable) define the roles and responsibilities of the CaBA partnership and its Governance structure. ToRs can be time consuming to develop and agree, however, they help to draw the partnership together and build inclusivity. Defra's CaBA Policy Framework (2013) and the DTC survey identified that there is no set standard about how formal and legally binding the ToRs for a partnership should be. Local partnership should have freedom to develop ways of working that work for their local circumstances. However, the DTC survey identified that partnerships with a ToR tend to be able to maintain progress when there are difficulties or conflicts within the partnership. **Annex 1.2** includes an example terms of reference.

2.0 Data & Evidence to underpin a weight of evidence approach.

Frequency: Annual

Length: NA.

Objective: Provide a shared evidence base for CaBA delivery.

2.1 The CaBA Data&GIS packages 1, 2 & 3 (Initial) are available for all catchments in England and provide the baseline data to underpin the weight of evidence approach that is so critical to the credibility and effectiveness of any partnership, **Annex 2.1a** for the user guide and link to request data for your catchment. The packages include harmonised national datasets. The funding application success rate of partnerships that make good use of the available data has been well

proven; It is highly **unlikely** that funding organisations will commit significant resources to projects which are not supported by the readily available data and evidence. However, the CaBA Data&GIS packages are just the start. Many partnerships have developed their own local evidence base that complements and/or adds temporal and spatial detail to information in the data package. There is a growing resource, including training, which has been developed to allow partnerships to build internal capacity to use GIS data **Annex 2.1b**

2.2 Environment Agency Environment Programme WFD Priority water bodies (Initial) EA Catchment Coordinators are providing Catchment Partnerships evidence on priority water bodies from a River Basin Management perspective and seeking views on their relative priority for action. The aim is to develop shared priorities for a catchment, talk to your Catchment Coordinator for more details. This resource, combined with the Catchment Data Explorer and a wealth of OpenData released by the Environment Agency provides a sound evidence base on which to build local understanding and consensus, **Annex 2.2.**

2.3 Local data and evidence (Growing - Sustainable) is key to engaging with both the public and local business. The CaBA GIS project is organised in such a way as to allow the addition of local data and evidence. This component of the catchment plan will grow and change over time. The use of GeoDataBase to hold local data, including the CaBA Data Packages, will allow partnerships to develop a more sustainable evidence base, **Annex 2.3a.** As the evidence base grows it becomes increasingly difficult to manage. Experience has been developed within the community to manage very large quantities of data, this is captured in **Annex 2.3b.**

2.4 Derived data (Growing - Sustainable) aids understanding of the catchment and effective targeting of projects. Many CaBA partnerships are using both simple and complex models to augment the basic data from the CaBA Data Package. Examples include Ecosystem Services mapping and My.scimap. Incorporation of this data back into the CaBA data and GIS package provides real added value, especially if it is incorporated into a Geodatabase for the catchment. **Annex 2.4** provides links to key sources of derived data and any online training material

2.5 Data & evidence sharing platforms (Growing - Sustainable) are available for all partnerships and are an increasingly popular component of many catchment plans. There are a number of ArcGIS Online templates which have been developed by the CaBA Support Group which can readily be used and adapted by any partnership. **Annex 2. 5a.** CaBA organisations including the Environment Agency, Freshwater Biology Association and Local Authorities have all developed excellent evidence sharing platforms which should form an integral component of the evidence base available to all partnerships. **Annex 2.5b** provides the links to the key evidence sharing platforms.

2.6 Data sharing and licensing (Sustainable) As partnerships collect their own data and share data between partners it will become increasingly important that they are able to easily and securely share data. The Environment Agency has developed an efficient model of conditional licensing which CaBA will copy, **Annex 2.6** In development.

3.0 Delivery or project plan.

Frequency: Refresh at least annually

Length: Preferably published online so it can be kept up to date.

Objective: Provide a focus for ambitious CaBA delivery; aids strategic and project-based collaboration and opportunistic project delivery.

The main component of a CaBA catchment plan is a list of projects and activities that move the partnership towards its vision for the catchment, whilst delivering the strategic objectives of key CaBA organisations including the Environment Agency, Natural England, Water Companies and Local Authorities. A key feature of highly effective partnerships is to think big, designing larger projects which deliver significant multiple benefits. These projects are often made up of a series of smaller projects that each contribute to the wider project aim and can be delivered opportunistically as funding allows. Securing funding for more ambitious multidisciplinary projects requires an understanding of the business and strategic drivers that influence key stakeholders (water industry, LEP's, businesses etc) and including them within the goals of each project. This plan should build on 2nd cycle RBMP Catchment Pages. Four elements to capturing delivery, both current and potential, are identified.

3.1 List of what partners are already doing (Initial) can be used to champion the expertise and capacity of the partnership, showcasing the environmental, social and economic benefits realised and building confidence in it as a delivery partner. This is often done in partnership workshops where partners identify current projects. There are lists of projects published by the Environment Agency, **Annex 3.1**. As a minimum the Catchment Plan should capture what projects catchment partnership are, or intend to support with regard to the Environment Agency's Environment and FCRM Programmes. Water Companies do have investment plan for each AMP cycle. These may be available from the relevant water company.

3.2 Aspirational project plan (Growing - Sustainable). These are an effective way to move away from 'business as usual' by identifying a shared list of projects that have been developed by the partnership. A critical component of this approach is to identify what each project contributes to the strategic objectives of some of the main CaBA organisations. The template in **Annex 3.2** has been an effective catalyst for delivery in some catchments.

3.3 Project database. (Growing - Sustainable). The Environment Agency Catchment Coordinators are starting to develop a project database in some river basins which can be used to show project partners what each other are doing, or planning to do, within the catchment. This is potentially a good way to share project information widely across the partnership and look for opportunities to collaborate. **Annex 3.3** (In progress). Some catchment partnerships are also developing their own database of 'shovel ready' projects which satisfy the vision of the partnership. Both these approaches allow for an element of independent delivery whereby organisations can just get on with delivering to their own agenda while allowing the wider partnership to spot both gaps and opportunities.

3.4 Arc GIS Online (Growing - Sustainable) allows partnerships to share both the 'Aspirational' and 'Shovel ready' projects live and on line. The CaBA Support Team have developed templates to facilitate this. **Annex 3.4** (In progress)

4.0 Monitoring and evaluation.

Frequency: Review at least annually

Length: Simple Excel spreadsheet to 10 page document. Published online so it can be kept up to date.

Objective: To support a weight of evidence based approach and adaptive management of the catchment. The adaptive management approach requires data to be collected to evaluate the effectiveness of current interventions and inform the choice and design of future interventions.

4.1 CaBA monitoring plan (Growing - Sustainable). The PRAGMO monitoring planner, **Annex 4.1a** is a very rapid way to plan and organise the monitoring which is required to support a catchment partnership. The strategic monitoring plan, **Annex 4.1b**, was required by a major industrial investor in catchment management to ensure that projects are delivering benefits.

4.2 Community and Citizen science. (Growing - Sustainable). Freshwater watch template for CaBA. Annex 4.2a. (in progress). Thames21 example Annex 4.2b (in progress)

4.3 ArcGIS Online and monitoring templates. (Growing - Sustainable). Annex 4.3 (in progress). A library of templates which partnerships can use (in progress)

5.0 Self evaluation. A table like the one below could be on the CaBA partnership website to show there is a plan and link people to it. If the partnership has one tick in the table it has a plan; every partnership has at least one tick for the Data & Evidence component. The CaBA plan is likely to grow and develop as the partnership delivers more projects. Each component of the plan is only required if it helps the partnership deliver more. For example, some partnerships may never need a ToR **if** they can find a way to make decisions and resolve conflicts without one.

Component of CaBA Plan	Initial	Growing	Sustainable
1) Vision and ToR	√	√	
2) Data & Evidence	√	√	√
3) Project plan	√		
4) Monitoring plan			



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Annex 1.1 Catchment Vision

[Vision for the Wandle](#)

[Vision for the Soar](#)

“Guide to Collaborative Catchment Management” and associated case studies

[EA Collaborative working guidance and other resources on the CaBA Knowledge base at...](#)
<http://www.catchmentbasedapproach.org/best-practice/engage>

#Annex 1.2 Terms of Reference

Irwell terms of reference

#Annex 2.1a Data&GIS User Guide

#Link to the Data&GIS User Guide (version 3 to be released shortly)

Annex 2.1b Data&GIS training

<http://wrt.org.uk/project/ecospatial-gis-training/>

Annex 2.2 Link to Environment Agency data sharing platforms

<http://environment.data.gov.uk/index.html>

This site gives access to the Catchment Data Explorer; Bathing Water Explorer and WIMS API.

#Annex 2.3a Setting up a GeoDataBase

One pager on how to structure, set-up and maintain a GeoDataBase (in progress)

#Annex 2.3b Managing your spatial data

Best practice for managing spatial data (to be developed shortly)

Annex 2.4 Links to derived data

Myscimap: <https://my.scimap.org.uk>

Farmscoper: <http://www.adas.uk/Service/farmscoper>

EA Prioritisation tool (PIRANA): TBC

SAGIS: TBC

SELECTOR: TBC

#Annex 2.5a Link to ArcGIS templates for sharing data

Derbyshire Derwent: (In progress)

Severn catchments: (In progress)

LifelP catchments: (In progress)

Annex 2.5 Key data sharing platforms (in development)

#FBA archive

Annex 2.6 Data sharing agreement (in development)

Annex 3.1 List of projects

A list of projects to deliver improved flood management are identified in the Flood management reports, <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-risk-management-plans-frmps-2015-to-2021> , part C. The Environment Agency plan to release a shapefile of planned projects.

WFD projects. There are a number of different formats and approaches developing across the Environment Agency to share a list of WFD priority projects. The best way to access these is via you catchment co-ordinator.

#Annex 3.2 Aspirational project plan

#Link to template on the CaBA website.

#Annex 3.3 Project database

(In progress)

#Annex 3.4 ArcGIS Online template for sharing project plan

Derbyshire Derwent: #need link#

Upper Mersey: (In Progress)

#Annex 4.1a PRAGMO monitoring plan (adapted)

Example template (in progress)

#Annex 4.1b CaBA monitoring plan (WRT upstream thinking)

#Example plan from WRT

#Annex 4.2a CaBA Freshwaterwatch Landing page

#Link to CaBA page for set-up (Ready January 2017)

#Annex 4.2b Other CS approaches

#Thames 21?

#WRT Web set-up

#Annex 4.3 ArcGIS Online Template for monitoring.

(In progress)