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JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

JNCC STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT: REVISED VISION, DRAFT MISSION AND DRAFT STRATEGIC PROGRAMME

Paper by Marcus Yeo and Sue McQueen

1. Developments since the June Committee meeting

- 1.1 At its meeting in June 2003, the Joint Committee discussed a draft vision for our wildlife and natural features and a draft statement of the JNCC's role and purpose. The Committee also provided initial thoughts on the scope and content of strategic objectives for the JNCC.
- 1.2 Following the Committee meeting, the Support Unit and the Committee's Strategy Sub-Group prepared a set of strategic objectives for the JNCC. During July, these objectives were discussed at a series of workshops. Each workshop was attended by a range of JNCC staff, one or two country agency staff, and a representative from the Strategy Sub-Group. Outputs from the workshops were evaluated and developed by sub-groups of the JNCC Management Team.
- 1.3 The workshops also provided an opportunity for staff to discuss the vision. Comments made at the June Committee meeting and at the workshops were collated, and were used to prepare a revised draft of the vision.
- 1.4 The vision, strategic programme and associated objectives were further refined following discussion at a joint meeting of the Strategy Sub-Group and the JNCC's Management Team in August.
- 1.5 A JNCC mission statement has been drafted to complement the other strategy documents.

2. The revised vision

- 2.1 A revised draft of the vision is attached at Annex A. In addition to various minor editing changes, the main amendments are as follows:
 - i. the ownership and purpose of the vision have been clarified;
 - ii. the vision 'strap line' has been expanded to provide a clearer sense of direction and to link more closely with the four high-level objectives;
 - iii. the links between nature and society have been more strongly emphasised;

- iv. some of the objectives and outcomes have been ‘sharpened up’;
- v. the bullet points describing the JNCC’s role in delivering the vision have been deleted (these will be incorporated into other strategy documentation).

3. Mission statement

- 3.1 A draft mission statement for the JNCC is attached at Annex B. This is intended to provide a link between the vision and the JNCC’s strategic objectives. It is a concise statement of the purpose and character of the JNCC and its aspirations and future direction.

4. Strategic objectives and programme

- 4.1 The draft strategic objectives and programme are summarised in Annex C. The format reflects its current status as work in progress and will need to be changed for publication.
- 4.2 The strategic objectives are intended to focus on the priority issues for the JNCC over the next 10 years, and to describe what the organisation will seek to achieve in relation to these issues over this time period. The seven objectives provide a comprehensive description of the intended scope of JNCC’s role, with no obvious omissions.
- 4.3 For each objective there is a range of possible approaches that could be taken. These have been evaluated for their feasibility, effectiveness and acceptability. The recommended approach for each objective is described in Annex C, and associated key outputs and activities are listed.
- 4.4 The JNCC’s current activities form the core of the proposed strategic programme, but the programme also reflects a significant shift in direction in some areas, as well as elements of a new role. The main changes from the JNCC’s current role are:
 - i. greater involvement in international activities, including phased expansion or movement into new areas of work (e.g. Overseas Territories, the UK’s ‘global footprint’);
 - ii. a stronger leadership role, especially in maintaining a strategic overview of issues affecting the environment and developing and championing a shared vision for UK nature conservation;
 - iii. refocusing the JNCC’s UK activities to maximise the value that the JNCC adds to the country agencies’ work; this involves shifting effort into setting standards, co-ordinating activities and providing advice at a more strategic level than at present, and undertaking a stronger quality assurance role;

- iv. placing the JNCC's advice more firmly within the context of sustainable development by forging stronger links between environmental information and relevant social and economic factors.
- 4.5 At this stage in the process of developing the JNCC's strategy, it is essential to start relating the proposed work programme to resources. It is too early to judge the full implications for future funding, but some initial observations can be made:
- i. additional funding will be needed to expand the JNCC's international role (objectives 3, 6 and 7);
 - ii. the proposed change in the JNCC's UK role would be accompanied by a corresponding shift in resources;
 - iii. additional resources may be required to undertake new monitoring/surveillance programmes, e.g. in the marine environment;
 - iv. it is intended that additional sources of funding are sought to contribute to meeting these demands.
- 4.6 The work done so far has identified some potential gaps in the JNCC's competencies. In particular, the proposed approaches would require access to greater socio-economic expertise, either directly through JNCC staff or indirectly through partnerships with other organisations.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 Following the September Committee meeting, members of the Sub-Group and JNCC staff will begin a programme of consultation on the strategy. The first phase of this will focus on country agency Councils/Boards and executive management teams, UK Government and devolved administrations. The draft strategy will be reviewed in the light of feedback received and re-presented to Committee in December. Consultation with the JNCC's wider stakeholders will then be undertaken.
- 5.2 Within the Support Unit, short and long-term planning will begin to address the changes needed to programmes of work and organisational arrangements to enable the strategy to be delivered. The corporate planning and Spending Review processes will be used to begin to take forward the outcomes of this work but it is expected that the identification and management of changes will be an ongoing process.

A VISION FOR OUR WILDLIFE AND NATURAL FEATURES

A collage of stunning photographs illustrating the value of our natural heritage – arranged around a triangle made from the words Environment, Society, Economy.

Our Vision

Our countryside, towns and seas will be rich in wildlife and natural features, contributing to the economy and improving everyone's quality of life.

Our vision for the future is that people and wildlife will live together more harmoniously in a healthier environment. Wildlife characteristic of local conditions will flourish, environmental processes will be allowed to function more effectively, and the range of natural features that we have today will be maintained. The social and economic benefits that result from such a healthy and diverse natural world will help to improve the quality of our lives and those of future generations. We will share a better understanding and appreciation of the value that the natural world adds to our lives, enabling everyone to contribute to attaining this vision by making informed choices about the environment within which we live.

This vision is shared by the members of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. We will work towards the objectives and outcomes in this vision through our policies and activities but clearly cannot achieve them by ourselves. We hope that Government bodies and other organisations in all parts of the UK will be able to appreciate and share this vision. We hope they will be inspired to reflect upon how currently they influence the state of our natural heritage and what specific contribution they can make to protecting and enriching it.

Logos of JNCC, its members and other owners

OUR WILDLIFE AND NATURAL FEATURES - OUR VISION IN DETAIL

1. The natural world is rich and varied. It comprises millions of species of living organisms, which interact with each other and with the physical environment (air, water and soils) to form functional units or ecosystems. Biological diversity (often called biodiversity) is complemented by a diverse range of landscapes and geological features (geological diversity). The natural world has changed over time, leading to the unique biological and geological diversity we have inherited today, our natural heritage. This diversity will continue to change and evolve into the future.
2. The natural heritage of the UK has developed largely as a result of natural processes over many millions of years. However, in recent millennia the activities of humans have placed increasing pressures on the natural world and have changed it significantly. In some cases this has led to the development of landscapes and habitats that we value highly, such as chalk grasslands and heather moorlands. However, the unsustainable use of natural resources, which can occur through farming and fishing practices, industrial processes, urban development, transport, mineral extraction and other activities, has impoverished our natural heritage, leading to a huge loss and degradation of biological and geological diversity.
3. Despite these trends, much has been achieved to conserve our natural heritage during the last few decades. In the UK today we have strong wildlife legislation, and many of the best remaining examples of species, habitats and geological features are protected. Public awareness of the importance of nature is growing, public access to the natural world is improving, and policies increasingly recognise the importance of the environment as a cornerstone of sustainable development. These are important steps in the right direction, but much remains to be done.
4. People, even in the middle of cities, are intimately linked to the natural world and are dependent on it for their well-being. A healthily-functioning environment, rich in biological and geological diversity, is not only of benefit to all of the plants, animals and micro-organisms with which we share this planet. It also provides us all with:
 - i. a better place to live, work and play;
 - ii. improved mental and physical well-being;
 - iii. a source of enjoyment, inspiration, learning and cultural identity;
 - iv. economic benefits, including food production, timber, building materials, recreation, tourism and flood control;
 - v. a source of employment; and
 - vi. better environmental quality, with clean air, water and soil.
5. The state of our natural heritage is therefore a key measure of our ability to achieve sustainable development – development that can yield the greatest continuous benefit to the present generation, while maintaining the potential to meet the needs of future generations and allow them to have the choices that we have now.

6. Our vision for our wildlife and natural features is ambitious. While building on the progress of the last few decades and taking into account the processes that have shaped the environment in the past, it looks firmly to the future – a future in which society’s relationship with the natural world is fundamentally different from that of the last century. It is focused on delivering long-term gains for the environment, with associated social and economic benefits, rather than short-term expediency.
7. Our vision applies to all of the UK, including the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. Equally importantly, it places the UK within a wider geographic context, emphasising the contribution that the UK can make to the natural world at a European and global scale, and the impact of activities within the UK on the natural heritage in the rest of the world (our ecological ‘footprint’).
8. Our vision is founded on the adoption of an ecosystem-based approach as a means of achieving sustainable development. This approach accepts that humans are an integral component of the natural world, and seeks to integrate environmental protection with social progress and economic growth. We want all members of society to have the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from our natural heritage. This approach also recognises that the natural world is complex and dynamic – change is inevitable, and the key to success is supporting and maintaining ecosystem functions and processes.
9. **Our vision contains four high-level objectives:**
 - i. **halt and reverse the current loss of biological diversity and maintain the diversity of geological features;**
 - ii. **enhance the potential for nature to flourish within the appropriate biogeographical context by maintaining, and where necessary restoring, an environment that supports functioning ecosystems;**
 - iii. **achieve economic and social benefits from the sustainable use and enjoyment of natural resources;**
 - iv. **ensure that people have wide and equitable access to the natural world, and have sufficient knowledge to contribute to environmental decision-making.**
10. **More specifically, achievement of these objectives would result in the following outcomes.**
 - i. **The countryside, towns and seas of all parts of the UK (including its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies) will support a diversity of biological and geological features that are characteristic of the local environment:**
 - a. **all regions of the UK, on land and in the sea, will support large-scale functioning ecosystems in which human uses of natural resources are sustainable;**

Annex B

MISSION AND STRATEGY OF THE JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE ¹

1. Our vision, shared by our member bodies, is that our countryside, towns and seas will be rich in wildlife and natural features, contributing to the economy and improving everyone's quality of life.
2. Our mission is to ensure that Government bodies and other organisations in all parts of the UK appreciate the value of our natural heritage, and are equipped with the knowledge needed to make the choices that will protect and enrich it.
3. Our strength comes from the community of organisations from which we are formed, our data and expertise, and the extensive network of organisations, both in the UK and overseas, with which we work. This enables us to:
 - i. take a strategic overview of UK nature conservation, and set this within the relevant international context;
 - ii. provide advice based on a sound understanding of the science of nature conservation;
 - iii. optimise the collection, management and sharing of environmental information;
 - iv. facilitate partnership working between stakeholders in the environment; and
 - v. help the UK to contribute to the conservation of the natural world at a European and global scale.
4. During the coming years we aim to build on these strengths to provide strategic advice that better reflects the complex and dynamic nature of the natural world and its inherent links with people. In this way we will make a significant contribution to sustainable development. We will strive to:
 - i. develop and renew a shared vision for our wildlife and natural features, and in partnership with others, champion it to Government bodies and other organisations and encourage them to implement approaches that reflect the value and needs of our wildlife and natural features;
 - ii. provide strategic co-ordination, evaluation and, where necessary, leadership of UK-wide strategies, policies, practices and standards that affect nature conservation, to enhance the protection and enrichment of the UK's natural heritage;

¹ The JNCC was created in 1991 by the Environmental Protection Act to integrate and support the work of Government, country nature conservation agencies, and others, in conserving the wildlife and natural features of Great Britain and internationally. Increasingly the scope of our work has extended to the UK as a whole in conjunction with our partners in Northern Ireland.

- iii. contribute expertise to the development and implementation of legislation and agreements that affect the European and wider international environment to ensure that they deliver nature conservation gains both within the UK and elsewhere;
- iv. ensure that Government and other organisations are provided with the scientifically robust and policy-relevant information about biological and geological diversity that they need to make decisions that will protect and enhance the environment in the UK and internationally;
- v. advise on and, where necessary, lead the development and implementation of initiatives to protect and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the UK's marine environment outside territorial waters (beyond 12 nautical miles from the shore);
- vi. promote measures that effectively protect and enhance biological and geological diversity in the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, and share good conservation practice worldwide; and
- vii. advise on the effect that UK activities and policies have on biological and geological diversity internationally, contribute to the development of appropriate responses, and promote the sustainable use of environmental resources worldwide.

Objective 1 (vision for UK nature conservation)

Develop and renew a shared vision for our wildlife and natural features, and in partnership with others, champion it to Government bodies and other organisations and encourage them to implement approaches that reflect the value and needs of our wildlife and natural features

Key issues affecting the objective

- Divergence between UK Government and devolved administrations will increase, with consequences for the country agencies and the JNCC
- Relative priority given to the environment by politicians and society as a whole will fluctuate over time
- Government and decision-makers need to recognise the importance of biodiversity as a key resource and an indicator of sustainable development, and to acknowledge that the environment should be placed on an equal footing to socio-economic concerns
- A long-term approach may not be welcome politically
- New technologies present both opportunities and threats
- European and wider international obligations will continue to be major drivers of UK nature conservation

Recommended approach to delivering the objective

The JNCC will maintain a strategic overview of the state of the UK's wildlife and natural features and the issues that affect it. It will have an overarching role, bringing together perspectives from the different country agencies and placing biological and geological conservation within the context of sustainable development. The JNCC and its member bodies will develop a shared vision document, which would be regularly reviewed, and would champion the adoption of this vision by Government departments/administrations, statutory agencies, NGOs, and society at large.

Key outputs and activities

- Maintain a strategic overview of major nature conservation issues, new approaches, etc
- Develop a philosophy and rationale for the conservation of wildlife and natural features for the statutory agencies (and wider?)
- Looking ahead to identify upcoming issues
- Identify UK-wide priorities for nature conservation
- Review and update the vision document
- Build partnerships to promote adoption of the vision

Resource implications

- Some internal resource shift within the Support Unit is likely to be required, but much of the work would probably be done at Committee level
- May require additional expertise in socio-economic issues (to place nature conservation in a wider sustainable development context)

Provide strategic co-ordination, evaluation and, where necessary, leadership of UK-wide strategies, policies, practices and standards that affect nature conservation, to enhance the protection and enrichment of the UK's natural heritage

Key issues affecting the objective

- Increasing complexity because of devolution and divergent policies in different parts of the UK
- Need to look at UK nature in a biogeographical context, rather than within political boundaries
- Trend towards wider countryside initiatives rather than site protection
- Increasing importance of sustainable development will require engagement with a wider range of partners
- The UK will increasingly be affected by developments in the EU and beyond
- For the JNCC to have a meaningful UK role it must add value to the work of the country agencies
- Despite devolution and other changes that have taken place since the JNCC was established in 1990, a co-ordinated UK approach to certain aspects of nature conservation is still required for the following reasons:
 - sign up to MEAs and European directives is at the Member State (i.e. UK) level – this has implications for implementation and reporting;
 - the UK needs to have an agreed position in order to influence effectively in Europe and beyond;
 - similar problems/issues common to all the country agencies may be best dealt with at a UK level (enables most effective use of resources);
 - impacts on biodiversity do not respect political boundaries;
 - some GB/UK roles are defined in statute, e.g. quinquennial review of schedules of the Wildlife & Countryside Act.

Recommended approach to delivering the objective

Currently, the JNCC attempts to set UK standards and co-ordinate approaches at a variety of levels ranging from high-level policy to operational issues. This can lead to tension/confusion between the JNCC and country agency roles, and in some cases it could be argued that substantial effort is expended for relatively little nature conservation gain.

A more coherent rationale would be to concentrate on a) setting UK standards and providing UK advice at a strategic level, and b) enhancing the JNCC's quality assurance, audit and surveillance roles so that UK Government can be informed whether policies are effective and whether a consistent UK approach is being maintained. This would require a change in approach. For example, in relation to the UK BAP, the JNCC would focus on providing strategic support to high-level UK groups and running surveillance programmes to enable effective reporting against UK targets, but might no longer engage significantly in the work of individual HAP and SAP steering groups. However, the JNCC would still need to maintain co-ordination of some operational activities (e.g. CITES licensing).

Key outputs and activities

- Identify priorities for UK-level co-ordination and standard setting, and engage accordingly (e.g. lead, co-ordinate, advise, as appropriate)
- Provide advice to Government on UK policies, strategies and initiatives that affect the environment, placing advice on nature conservation issues within a socio-economic context (this may require input into policy areas where the JNCC currently has little involvement, e.g. transport)
- Co-ordinate country agency activities across the UK, where there are demonstrable efficiency or effectiveness gains in doing so
- Identify significant gaps in information and knowledge, and promote research etc to fill them
- Establish pilot projects to test new approaches and solutions to problems (e.g. ecosystem approach)
- Identify sources of best practice (from outside as well as within the UK)
- Provide analysis and innovative solutions to stakeholders
- Monitor effectiveness of strategies/policies and implementation of common standards
- Develop mechanisms and cultures within the JNCC and country agencies that enable more effective co-ordination – need to review existing mechanisms for involving country agency staff in JNCC work (e.g. Lead Co-ordination Networks, Lead Agencies, inter-agency working groups)

Resource implications

- Not likely to require any overall increase in funding, but will entail some resource shift (e.g. from operational co-ordination to quality assurance)
- Access to socio-economic expertise will be needed to place advice in a sustainable development context

Objective 3 (European and international influencing)

Contribute expertise to the development and implementation of legislation and agreements that affect the European and wider international environment to ensure that they deliver nature conservation gains both within the UK and elsewhere

Key issues affecting the objective

- European and international legislation/policies/agreements are key drivers of UK nature conservation; non 'nature conservation' policies can have a great affect on nature, e.g. Common Agricultural Policy, Common Fisheries Policy
- The greatest nature conservation gains will come if international obligations and commitments are sensible and prioritised
- Many impacts on the environment are transnational (e.g. atmospheric and ocean change)
- Implementation of some aspects of international agreements are best carried out and co-ordinated at the Member State level
- Changes to EU structures could have significant impacts (both positive and negative)

Recommended approach to delivering the objective

The JNCC will continue to have a key role in providing expert advice to Government on international issues that affect UK nature conservation (both during the negotiation of instruments and in their implementation). The JNCC's advice will increasingly take account of social and economic issues affecting the environment. This area of work is potentially vast, and so the JNCC will adopt a carefully prioritised approach, focusing on issues where there is greatest potential for delivering nature conservation gains. A partnership approach will be essential, drawing on the expertise of staff in the JNCC, the country agencies and other organisations.

Key outputs and activities

- Work in UK delegations both at EU and wider international meetings to influence negotiation and implementation of legislation, policies, etc
- Commission/undertake analysis of important aspects of policy, both to understand the environmental implications and to understand other (e.g. social and economic) drivers
- Identify priorities for UK influence and gaining agreement on the line to be taken
- Provide leadership and draw together partners internationally on key issues (major land and sea human activities)
- Ensure that best practice knowledge from 'on the ground' implementation is reflected in advice provided to inform policy formulation
- Monitor and develop an understanding of the structural/institutional changes in the EU and their implications for the environment

Resource implications

- Increased funding for this area of work is essential to improve co-ordination and exert more effective influence; however, the need for additional resources can only be quantified once priorities have been identified and strategies agreed
- Staff competencies should be wider than at present, with an increase in analytical abilities, especially in non-biological areas such as economics and social sciences; greater understanding of drivers and barriers in these areas would enable better tailoring of solutions
- Some work should be done by country agency staff, but must be clearly labelled as being on behalf of the JNCC

Objective 4 (Provision of information)

Ensure that Government and other organisations are provided with the scientifically robust and policy relevant information about biological and geological diversity that they need to make decisions that will protect and enhance the environment in the UK and internationally.

Key issues affecting the objective

- International conventions and EU directives will increase obligations for information at the national level and much biodiversity policy outcome will need to be reported at a UK level to Europe
- The pressures and environmental factors affecting biodiversity are having strong impacts and the rate of change is high – measurement therefore needs to be frequent
- There will continue to be pressure to get more from existing long-term surveillance programmes, and a reluctance to invest in additional schemes
- Environmental policies are increasingly devolved; UK information sources will have to be shown to add value and/or be more efficient or effective than allowing information needs to be entirely met from devolved sources
- Reliable, appropriate information can aid the integration of environmental, social and economic objectives in order to achieve sustainable development
- Managing surveillance, and applying the outputs, requires a combination of competencies (relationship building, monitoring ecology and information handling) that is difficult to sustain in operationally focussed bodies and is not sustained by research funding bodies

Recommended approach to delivering the objective

The JNCC's approach to this objective would mirror the proposed approach to objective 2, i.e. placing greater emphasis on involvement at a strategic level and less on detailed operational issues.

The JNCC will continue to lead the development and management of long-term GB/UK surveillance programmes where they are efficient in meeting policy needs (devolved information collection would not be cost-effective and would risk the eventual loss of surveillance programmes). It will put increased effort into analysis and interpretation of environmental information, linking it to socio-economic sources to produce policy-relevant advice and statistics for Government/agencies, and adding value by placing local/regional information in a wider geographical context. Close liaison with Government/agencies will be maintained to ensure that surveillance programmes meet their needs. Government/agencies will lead on obtaining direct measures of biodiversity outcome for country/region-specific policies (e.g. agri-environment schemes, SSSIs). The JNCC will run complementary surveillance/quality assurance programmes to determine accuracy and reliability for European reporting purposes.

The JNCC will maintain a key role in supporting data access/NBN work and running technical services, but Government/agencies will have an increasing role in its use and development.

Key outputs and activities

- Commission and manage long-term GB/UK surveillance programmes where they are efficient in meeting policy needs. (Review existing surveillance programmes to ensure they meet these requirements; develop new, or enhance existing, programmes only where analysis indicates that there is value in doing this)
- Interpret biodiversity and environmental pressure information at biogeographic, country and regional scales, draw evidence-based conclusions, and disseminate these conclusions actively
- Promote the use of biodiversity data in policy sectors by developing example analyses to meet stakeholder needs in partnership with policy owners and advisors
- Communicate an overview of research needs to national and European research programmes, and develop a research co-ordination role
- Advise on how European/international reporting can be made more meaningful and policy-relevant, whilst developing partnerships with other nations to advocate the same line and develop practical solutions
- Champion open electronic access to biodiversity, pressure and policy data as the best solution for multi-partner, multi-sector, multi-scale, application to decisions; support development of the NBN, and manage technical delivery of its electronic services
- Support the development of devolved transparent methods of assessing biodiversity policy outcome (e.g. SSSIs, agri-environment schemes) and independently determine their level of accuracy so policy owners can determine their relevance to improving policy, and Government can determine their ability to meet international reporting obligations

Resource implications

- There will be a requirement for additional resources if new surveillance programmes are developed
- Enhancement of interpretive/analytical competencies within the JNCC will be required
- There will be a need to develop partnerships with social, economic and sectoral interpreters and holders of information - possible staffing implication to interface with them

Objective 5 (Nature conservation beyond territorial waters)

Advise on and, where necessary, lead the development and implementation of initiatives to protect and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the UK's marine environment outside territorial waters (beyond 12 nautical miles from the shore)

Key issues affecting the objective

- The UK's marine environment supports internationally-important populations of fauna and also high genetic diversity
- Knowledge about the offshore environment is relatively sparse and disconnected - decision-making is therefore likely to be more reliant on ecological principles and less on actual data
- Transnational issues are of high importance while local administrative boundaries have much less meaning
- In comparison with the terrestrial environment, conservation action is concentrated on regulating human activity rather than direct intervention
- The 12 nm boundary is ecologically meaningless, but there are different regulatory/enforcement regimes within and beyond 12 nm
- Nature conservation in the offshore environment is more influenced by UN legislation, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and European directives than by domestic legislation

Recommended approach to delivering the objective

This is an evolution of existing JNCC work programmes. The JNCC will promote practical administrative, regulatory and enforcement arrangements with Government departments and agencies, and with the European Commission, and ensure that decisions are founded on sustainable use principles. The JNCC will also stimulate the co-operative and collaborative engagement of cross-boundary states and relevant international fora; influencing activity will therefore have high importance. Work beyond territorial waters will need close co-ordination with the inshore marine work undertaken by the JNCC, country agencies and others.

Key outputs and activities

- Support Government in developing integrated approaches to marine management at the national and NE Atlantic levels that are capable of achieving sustainable use of the offshore marine environment and based on the ecosystem approach (e.g. promote sustainable fisheries in the NE Atlantic and adjacent waters)
- Develop collaborative initiatives to encourage international ownership of appropriate marine management strategies and activities
- Provide expert advice on strategic and casework issues relating to nature conservation outside 12 nm
- Support the establishment of a comprehensive and adequately protected network of marine protected areas
- Collate information (e.g. case studies) on applying the ecosystem approach at a range of scales and in different scenarios
- Work with Government and agencies to develop collaborative, cost-effective, probably broadscale, programmes for monitoring and surveillance

Resource implications

- There is likely to be a requirement for some additional funding (e.g. for monitoring of protected sites and marine surveillance); overall staff numbers for marine work are likely to remain more or less stable, but staff resources directed to influencing and advisory work will increase

Objective 6 (Nature conservation in the Overseas Territories)***Promote measures that effectively protect and enhance biological and geological diversity in the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, and share good conservation practice worldwide*****Key issues affecting the objective**

- The UK's Overseas Territories contain many globally important species and habitats and make a major contribution to global biodiversity
- The Overseas Territories are under serious threat from various impacts (climate change, invasive species, over-fishing, tourism, etc)
- Sustainability and ecosystem management approaches offer opportunities for enhancing environmental benefits in conjunction with social and economic benefits
- The level of engagement with environmental issues in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies varies between Government departments.
- Environmental Charters (for Overseas Territories) provide a vehicle for local implementation of the sustainable management of ecosystems, landscape features and biodiversity, and the support to be provided by the metropolitan UK
- The UK has responsibility under the CBD to provide technical co-operation and support to developing countries, and has commitments under the World Summit on Sustainable Development for the alleviation of poverty, reducing the rate of biodiversity loss, and the sustainable use of environmental resources

Recommended approach to delivering the objective

This is essentially a new programme of work for the JNCC, although it builds on existing preliminary work. The JNCC will promote good practice in nature conservation decision-taking and management within the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, based on implementing the ecosystem approach at a variety of scales. The JNCC will also act in a facilitation role to promote these approaches within Government, including advising on the disbursement of overseas aid and other financial and technical support provided by UK departments, institutions and initiatives. The JNCC will also disseminate relevant good practice information widely.

The JNCC will use its own staff resources to undertake this work, but will also contract work to other organisations, where they have appropriate expertise.

This is potentially a very large area of work – priorities will need to be carefully identified.

Key outputs and activities

- Maintain/develop close working relationships with key divisions of Defra, FCO and DfID (for Overseas Territories and global), Dept of Constitutional Affairs (for Crown Dependencies), and DCMS
- Provide advice to, and develop links and collaborative ventures with, the administrations of Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies on nature conservation issues (e.g. implementation of MEAs)
- Undertake strategic overviews of nature conservation issues (e.g. invasive species, earth heritage interests) across the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and advise on their significance, priorities, etc
- Promote adoption of good environmental practice by Government departments and local administrations
- Identify good practice techniques for applying the ecosystem approach at a range of scales and in different scenarios, and promote them with Government, Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies
- Promote and participate in collaborative demonstration projects/pilots and disseminate conclusions
- Contribute to capacity-building in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, through training schemes, secondments or other measures, in collaboration with other UK departments and agencies

Resource implications

- This would require a significant increase in funding, largely from grant in aid, possibly supplemented from other sources (e.g. departmental funds, Darwin and other relevant initiatives) - careful prioritisation will be needed.
- Undertaking this work may require training, communication, and influencing skills that we do not currently have within the JNCC
- Some country agency involvement may be desirable, e.g. advice on operational issues
- A carefully phased approach is recommended, because i) the necessary skills are not yet available, ii) we need time to develop collaborative/partnership approaches to gain local and departmental ownership, and iii) we are trying to work within probable resource availabilities

Advise on the effect that UK activities and policies have on biological and geological diversity internationally, contribute to the development of appropriate responses, and promote the sustainable use of environmental resources worldwide

Key issues affecting the objective

- Global ecosystems, from the tropics to the polar regions, are crucial for maintaining biodiversity, and supporting human existence, worldwide
- As a result of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the UN's millennium development goals, the UK has a responsibility to contribute to the reduction of world poverty and the rate of biodiversity loss, and to the sustainable use of environmental resources; under the CBD, the UK has a commitment to assist the biodiversity-related programmes of developing countries
- The UK benefits from biodiversity resources outside the UK
- The UK, through its global footprint, which includes investment programmes, trade, foreign tourism and other activities (e.g. air pollution) intended to support the prosperity and quality of life of people in the UK, has the potential to significantly affect global ecosystems
- Worldwide biological and geological diversity are affected by many factors, including globalisation, increasing global population, world politics, poverty, economic growth, etc

Recommended approach to delivering the objective

The JNCC will take the lead in developing and promoting assessment procedures for determining whether the UK's impact on global biodiversity and environmental resources is sustainable, and advise on what systems and processes need to be put in place to achieve this. The JNCC will build on current best practice in the development of these procedures, and will promote the outcomes of this work widely. This will require close liaison with Government and development of a multi-partner approach.

The JNCC could initially target its effort in one or more key sectors, e.g. overseas aid or tourism. This is likely to prove more resource intensive but the approach should be kept in mind and considered in the light of particular circumstances, e.g. the emergence of an 'unmissable' opportunity.

Key outputs and activities

- Identify issues where the UK use of global biodiversity resources will (or is likely to) affect global biodiversity in a substantial way (whether positively or negatively), and prepare a list of issues for priority action
- Formulate simple checklists of sustainable development from current examples of good practice (e.g. the CBD ecosystem approach principles), and test these out on a selected subset of issues; refine the checklists as necessary
- Apply these procedures to a subset of issues and develop advice to Government on how to regulate, mitigate or modify UK activities to ensure environmental sustainability
- Promote this advice in the UK and more widely, including through liaison procedures and partnerships with Government departments and industry sectors
- Through UK Government, promote the approach with the European Commission and relevant international fora

Resource implications

- This would be a new area of work for the JNCC, and would require a modest amount of new funding
- The work would be phased in gradually, developing it in a step-by-step manner; priorities would need to be rigorously assessed.
- Some staff competency in macro-economics will be essential