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JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

CONFIRMED CONFIDENTIAL ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT MONKSTONE HOUSE, CITY ROAD, PETERBOROUGH, PE1 1JY

10. 2010-2011 business plan changes and Spending Review update – In Confidence (JNCC 10 D10)

- 10.1 Mrs McQueen introduced the paper and explained that changes of this kind would normally be dealt with by the Company Board. However, the strategic nature of the changes proposed meant the Joint Committee were better placed to discuss the paper.
- 10.2 Mrs McQueen emphasised that some of the changes proposed were attributed to anticipated cuts from the Spending Review. In relation to paragraphs 2.11-2.15 the Executive Management Board had based their proposals to cut areas of work on the following:
- a. the relatively weak drivers for JNCC to do the work taking into account international and domestic obligations;
 - b. the aim to avoid fruitless expenditure by stopping work now that would not conclude in 2010/11 as funds beyond this are not anticipated to be available;
 - c. the relatively low value placed on JNCC's contribution to the work by the country conservation bodies.
- 10.3 Mrs McQueen also emphasised the need to make clear decisions now to reduce uncertainty for staff and allow management the flexibility to re-deploy.
- 10.4 In discussion the following points were raised:
- i. whilst unpalatable, a moderate cutting programme should commence now in order to avoid fruitless expenditure and free up money to pay for redundancies and the Peterborough Office move;
 - ii. any 'burden shifting' to the country conservation bodies must be fully transparent. A report detailing the transfer of any costs between JNCC and the country conservation bodies would be produced and circulated;
 - iii. it was important to protect investments already made (geoconservation work as an example) and ensure that agreement was reached with the country conservation bodies on how to achieve this;
 - iv. discussions should take place with the country conservation bodies as soon as possible regarding the Lead Co-ordination Networks in order that staff can be re-deployed effectively; and

- v. cuts should be made to work from each funding stream.

10.5 The Committee:

- i. **noted** the cut to funding in 2.2 and **endorsed** the changes in 2.3 of the paper;
- ii. **noted** the planned use of funds initially anticipated to be used for Marine Protected Area site verification (2.4);
- iii. **agreed** the new key performance indicator proposed in 2.9;
- iv. **agreed** the cuts proposed in 2.11-2.15 with the caveats that JNCC agreed the cuts proposed in 2.11-2.15 with the caveats that JNCC should continue to be involved in European and international debates on climate change and that management agree transitional arrangements for the Land Use Policy Group with the country conservation bodies. CCW dissented from this view, arguing that JNCC should continue to allocate resources to work on climate change and on providing a secretariat for the Land Use Policy Group.
- v. **agreed** the revisions to planned use of funds contained in 2.27-2.30; and
- vi. agreed the revisions to key performance indicators contained in Annex 2.

10.6 The Committee asked for a clearer description of the proposal in 3.5 but understood the current sensitivity of discussions with Defra on JNCC's future European role.

10.7 The Chairman thanked members for a robust and challenging discussion on this item. He reminded everyone of the confidentiality of the discussions and gave his support to the staff of the Support Company at this difficult time.