



The ninety-ninth meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to be held at 0900 hours on 12 June 2014, at Monkstone House, Peterborough, PE1 1JY

This paper was provided to the Joint Committee for decision. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for Committee's position on the paper.

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## Joint Nature Conservation Committee

### Implementation of the conclusions from JNCC's Triennial Review

Paper by Sue McQueen

Report conclusion and supporting information		Proposed action and timescales				Progress / RAG status
Conclusion	Further information from the report	Proposed action	Timing	Detail	Responsibility	Rating and comments
1. JNCC will build on its current partnership working with stakeholders, and in particular improve engagement with civil society, including with the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.	<p><i>Para 22.</i> JNCC's relationships with its customers, including the UK Government, Devolved Administrations, country conservation bodies and civil society could be improved. This includes drawing further on the expertise available from other organisations particularly volunteers to deliver JNCC's aims.</p> <p><i>Para 23.</i> Partnership working with civil society could be improved in several areas such as the collection of biodiversity evidence in the terrestrial and marine environments</p>	1a. Reinvigorate the JNCC-NGO forum (with extended membership and with a separate Overseas Territories forum) as a mechanism for engaging with NGOs at a senior level on UK issues, including an annual session with Joint Committee.	September 2013 then ongoing	Revise membership lists, TOR and set up meetings.	Marcus Yeo	A UK JNCC-NGO forum with expanded membership and a new Overseas Territories JNCC-NGO forum have been established. They met for the first time in November 2013 and January 2014 respectively, and further meetings will take place in summer 2014.
		1b. Strengthen liaison with Environment Links: i) inviting them to meet with Committee every	TBA	Write to Environment Links.	Paul Rose	The four Environment Links are members of the expanded UK JNCC-NGO forum. No additional action is considered to be

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	(see Annex 1) in the UK and advising on nature conservation in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. This will help achieve the best and informed environmental outcomes, while maintaining and enhancing JNCC's close relationship with Defra, the Devolved Administrations and country conservation bodies, and achieving better value for the tax payer.	two years in accordance with the meeting rotation cycle, and ii) attending country Environment Links strategic meetings.				necessary.
		1c. Identify where existing partnerships with NGOs could be developed to produce additional outputs, in particular in making evidence on Overseas Territories Biodiversity available.	November 2013	Review current partnership agreements, assess scope and optimum timing for change and likely impact on costs and present to EMB.	Lawrence Way	Partnership agreements with NGOs are being reviewed as they come up for renegotiation.  An Overseas Territories JNCC-NGO forum has been established as reported under 1a. The main task of this group in 2014 will be to agree a framework to support future collaboration.
		<i>Actions to improve relationships with UK Government,</i>				

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		<i>Devolved Administrations and Country Conservation Bodies are shown against other conclusions.</i>				
2. JNCC, in collaboration with Defra, devolved administrations and the country conservation bodies will review its internal arrangements to ensure that it is able to promote high-quality science, based on agreed priorities, and provide a clear voice for the UK nature conservation	<i>Para 24.</i> Some stakeholders asked that JNCC examine whether it had the best arrangements in place internally to provide strong scientific leadership on biodiversity and ecosystems that Government and other stakeholders require. JNCC's strengths in coordination of surveillance of terrestrial and marine biodiversity were widely acknowledged, including the importance of partnerships developed with the voluntary sector and the application of science-based advice to government policy.	2a. Committee to play a stronger role in developing science thinking on key nature conservation issues across the UK supported by papers from staff in collaboration with Chief Scientists Group and other inter-agency groups.	November 2013	Chief Scientists to suggest topics for discussion. Role of protected areas and evidence strategy will be discussed by Committee in November.	Paul Rose	Committee is now playing a stronger science leadership role. Over the past year its focus has been on developing thinking in relation to protected areas. Future science leadership topics will be discussed by Committee in June 2014.  The Chief Scientists Group has established a process to advise Committee on topics for discussion. They will also facilitate wider country body

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bodies nationally and abroad.						engagement with the production of Committee papers.
		2b. Develop and implement new evidence quality assurance policies, standards and procedures.	November 2013	Committee sign off followed by implementation	Paul Rose	JNCC's new evidence quality policy has been agreed by EMB and Committee. It was rolled out across JNCC in April 2014.
		2c. Investigate further the role JNCC (including Committee) should play in science leadership.	September 2013	Discussion with Defra's Chief Scientist Adviser including i) respective roles of Defra and JNCC, ii) engagement with devolved bodies, iii) the purpose of a clear focal point for science quality within JNCC, and iv) what is meant by JNCC having	Marcus Yeo and Paul Rose	This is partly discharged by 2a.  Discussions have taken place with Ian Boyd to discuss JNCC's role, especially in relation to Defra's One Network Evidence project.  Some further work is needed to clarify JNCC's role in relation to similar roles within its key stakeholders and establishing a

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				<p>“a clear voice nationally and abroad”.</p> <p>Chief Scientists to provide proposals to Committee on this issue to facilitate discussion including the role JNCC should play in relation to providing a clear voice for UK nature conservation bodies nationally and abroad.</p>		clear JNCC voice.
		2d. Contribute to the evidence workstream of Defra’s Strategic Alignment Programme, in particular to	August 2013 onwards	Ongoing input from directors and other senior staff. Contribution of 0.8 FTE to Defra project	Paul Rose and Steve Gibson	JNCC has contributed fully to the evidence workstream of Defra’s Strategic Alignment programme, including through secondment of staff. Defra has

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		support prioritisation and integration of evidence work across Defra bodies taking account of the requirements of the devolved administrations.		team.		produced a new Evidence Investment Strategy for the network, which takes due account of JNCC's evidence role and priorities.
3. Defra and devolved administrations, working with the Joint Committee, will explore options to ensure that the membership of the Committee and its ways of working allow the views of all sponsor bodies to be better represented. This could include exploring	<i>Para 25.</i> As a consequence of the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the representation on JNCC's Committee might not fairly reflect all its principal sponsors. This is especially true for Northern Ireland, whose structures differ from those in Great Britain. We will explore options to address this, including possible legislative change.  Also see comments against conclusions 1 and 6 and actions against	3a. Implement agreed changes to Committee/ Board arrangements to give a clearer line of sight to the devolved administrations. These include incorporating business management matters into Joint Committee meetings (attended by country conservation body/NIEA	November 2013	Provide paper for Committee sign off in November.	Sue McQueen	New governance arrangements were implemented in November 2013.

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legislative options to provide eligibility to the sponsor Department in Northern Ireland to be represented on the Joint Committee.	conclusion 6.	executives) and rotating two Committee meetings per year round the countries to provide opportunities for devolved administrations to engage with Committee.				
		3b. Prepare options for improving Committee engagement with DoE(NI) in collaboration with NIEA and CNCC for discussion with DoE(NI).	September 2013	Collate information about how NI engages with Committee at present and provide proposals for how this could be strengthened, particularly in relation to DoE (NI) but also in relation to other administrations (this will	Sue McQueen	<p>Damian Campbell, Director of the Marine Division in the NI Department of Environment, will attend Committee meetings, alongside Helen Anderson from NIEA and the formal Committee members from CNCC.</p> <p>A representative from the Marine Division has also joined the inter-agency Chief Scientists Group</p>



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				include joining up executive level representation at Committee and JNCC sponsors group.  Discuss proposals with NIEA/ CNCC and DoE(NI) and other administrations as appropriate.		alongside the NIEA representative.  Sponsors have indicated an interest in a workshop to learn more about JNCC and explore how they can be better supported by JNCC and their respective country conservation bodies in relation to JNCC. Detailed proposals will be considered at the June Sponsors' Group meeting.
		3c. Implement a structured approach to managing relationships with sponsors, ensuring effective communication and consultation.	September 2013	EMB sign off draft proposed assignment of JNCC Directors to each key contact and confirm expectations re ensuring effective communication	Marcus Yeo	Responsibility for engaging with key stakeholders has been assigned to the Chief Executive and Directors and mechanisms for sharing information have been put in place.

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				, consultation and sharing of resulting information.		
4. There is currently no strong evidence to move all offshore marine delivery functions from JNCC to country conservation bodies such as Natural England. However, the Scottish and Welsh Administrations have confirmed that they will want to consider this again in due course.	<p><i>Para 28.</i> This assessment [of EA, NE and JNCC marine functions] identified further scope to improve the way in which certain marine functions are delivered such as better join up between JNCC and NE in providing marine conservation advice. Stakeholders, in particular those from the renewable energy sector, expressed some concern about clarity of NE and JNCC's roles around the delivery of advice, in particular for offshore renewable cases.</p> <p><i>Annex 1.</i> Examining qualitative costs and benefits showed there might be some benefits to customer service from moving marine</p>	4a. Committee to have a strategic orientation discussion. Further action subsequently.	November 2013			<p>Committee discussed JNCC's future offshore marine role in March 2014. Further discussion with government administrations will take place at an appropriate time.</p> <p>The Committee and support company are taking account of the need for flexibility in the face of possible future change, for example in reviewing JNCC's organisational structure.</p>

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	conservation advice to conservation agencies but it was recognised that national marine customers would still need to engage with different agencies in different parts of the UK. Moving all conservation advice delivery to country conservation bodies was considered to have a potentially de-stabilising effect on JNCC and possibly affect the delivery of its UK coordination work.					
5. JNCC and Natural England will work more collaboratively when providing marine conservation advice that spans the 12 nautical mile boundary. In particular they will explore further the delegation of	As for conclusion 4 above.  <i>Annex 1.</i> The tools for [enhancing join up of conservation advice between delivery bodies without making formal changes to role, functions or significant organisational changes] include: improving communication with stakeholders – better outward communication to clarify the role of Agencies	5a. Committee decision regarding possible delegation of renewable energy casework in offshore English waters to Natural England.	August 2013	Draft paper and delegation document for circulation to Committee	John Goold	Committee approved the delegation of renewable casework to Natural England in November and the authorisation document was subsequently signed by the Chief Executives of JNCC and Natural England.
		5b. If delegation is agreed – implement	Dec 2013 (TBC)		John Goold	Handover of casework to Natural England is now complete.

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renewable energy advice from JNCC to country conservation bodies including Natural England. This should produce a more streamlined and efficient service to the customer.	and aid signposting of advice; formal agreements between agencies that set out roles and responsibilities in the provision of advice; building on existing powers for inter-agency delegation of responsibility; and contractual arrangements for specific tasks.	delegation and provide support to NE until handover is completed.				
6. Defra and Devolved Administrations, in collaboration with JNCC, will undertake an analysis of the funding of the JNCC and a review of the funding formula to: determine a fair apportionment of grant-in-aid	<i>Para 30.</i> ... there was a strong appetite for change in terms of clearly identifying exactly what the various contributions from UK Government and from devolved administrations pay for in terms of delivery. This would not only improve transparency for the sponsor organisations, but also improve accountability and help achieve better value for money for both taxpayers	6a. Support sponsors in reviewing funding streams and formula through the provision of information providing a clear line of sight between work areas and beneficiaries.	August 2013	Provide information and subsequent support.	Sue McQueen	New funding arrangements were agreed by Defra and devolved ministers and implemented in April 2014. These provide transparency and a clear relationship between funding responsibility and benefits.
		6b. Review and revise reporting and associated	December 2013 for implementat	Seek feedback from sponsors about desired	Sue McQueen	New reporting formats are being introduced for the 2014/15

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going forward; secure best value for money; and provide clarity on how JNCC delivers its functions for the sponsoring bodies.	and customers ... JNCC and Defra will be working with the Devolved Administrations on an Analysis of Funding of the JNCC, along with a review of the funding formula, to ensure a fair apportionment of how grant-in-aid is determined going forward.	support systems to align them with external and internal reporting requirements.	ion in 2014/15.	changes. Using this and June Committee feedback develop proposals.		reporting year.
		6c. Plan and begin preparatory work to enable the value for money of in-house provision of services to be assessed against provision by the new Shared Service Centre governed by Cabinet Office.	September 2013 onwards	Develop information for costing comparisons, establish changes needed to enable effective engagement, develop business case.	Sue McQueen	Implementation of a new Governance and Corporate Services strategy within JNCC has begun. This will align in-house routine services with those provided through shared services and develop a business partnering approach for strategic and complex management and administrative work.
		6d. Contribute to Defra's Strategic Alignment Programme, in particular to establish where common	Already commenced	Not yet clear	Sue McQueen	JNCC is out of scope of phase 1 implementation of Defra's Future Corporate Services programme, which will transfer selected

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		corporate services across the Defra network can secure better value for money for JNCC (this covers corporate services not provided by the Shared Service Centre such as IT and procurement).				support services from some network bodies to a new directorate within Defra which will become operational in summer 2014. However, when the necessary information exists we will undertake a cost-benefit analysis of the options. This will include the extent to which governance and control arrangements are consistent with JNCC's accountability to all four UK administrations.
	<i>Page 14.</i> Defra and the Devolved Administrations will work with JNCC to implement the conclusions in this report ... JNCC will provide an implementation report to Defra and the Devolved Administrations by June 2014.		June 2014			The report will be submitted to Defra and devolved administrations following approval by the Joint Committee in June 2014.

<b>RAG status</b>	<b>Definition</b>
GREEN	Action completed.
AMBER	Good progress has been made but the action has not yet been fully completed.
RED	No or limited progress has been made.