

contents

About JNCC2

A vision for our wildlife and natural features3

Chairman's introduction6

JNCC Annual Report and Accounts6

Welsh version7

1. Global nature conservation advice9

Contribution to international conventions and agreements.....9

World Summit on Sustainable Development9

Convention on Biological Diversity11

Marine nature conservation11

WSSD 2010 target and indicators11

Thematic programmes11

Protected areas11

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species11

Convention on Migratory Species (the 'Bonn Convention')12

Ramsar Convention14

International Earth heritage conservation advice.....15

2. Nature conservation in the Overseas Territories17

Conservation of albatrosses and petrels17

Indian Ocean turtles19

3. UK's global impact on nature conservation21

4. European nature conservation advice23

Lisbon Strategy23

The marine environment.....23

Habitats and Birds Directives24

Environmental indicators in Europe24

JNCC in Brussels25

Other European contributions25

5. UK nature conservation advice27

Air pollution27

Avian influenza28

The Ecosystem Approach28

Habitats.....29

Genetically Modified Organisms31

Conservation of cetaceans.....31

Offshore industry32

Pesticides and toxic substances33

Soils33

6. Marine mapping and area protection.....35

Marine mapping35

Developing a framework for Mapping

European Seabed Habitats35

Mapping 'marine landscapes' (UKSeaMap) ..36

Marine area protection36

Marine Special Areas of Conservation37

Marine Special Protection Areas37

OSPAR protection and mapping39

7. Standard and target setting for nature conservation goals41

Standards41

Geological Conservation Review41

Habitat classifications.....41

Species status42

Common standards for monitoring nature conservation sites43

Targets43

UK Biodiversity Action Plan reviews43

8. Surveillance and monitoring45

Habitats.....45

Plants46

Mammals47

Birds48

Butterflies49

Marine49

9. Access to information51

Recorder51

The National Biodiversity Network52

Global Biodiversity Information Facility53

10. Policy-relevant information and reporting55

Common standards for the monitoring of designated conservation sites – first results55

UK Biodiversity Action Plan reporting56

Wildlife statistics57

General conclusions from the UK Nature Barometer58

11. Support services.....61

Personnel management.....61

Communications61

IT services62

Environmental management62

Contracts, papers and publications63

About JNCC

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) is the forum through which the three country nature conservation agencies – the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), English Nature and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) – deliver their statutory responsibilities for Great Britain as a whole and internationally. These statutory responsibilities contribute to maintaining and enriching biological diversity, enhancing geological features and sustaining natural systems.

The functions that arise from these responsibilities are principally to:

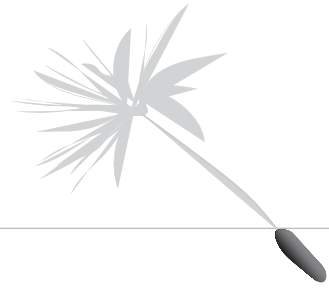
- advise ministers on the development of policies for, or affecting, nature conservation in Great Britain and internationally;
- provide advice and disseminate knowledge to anyone on nature conservation issues affecting Great Britain and internationally;
- establish common standards throughout Great Britain for the monitoring of nature conservation, and for research into nature conservation and the analysis of results;
- commission or support research which the Committee deems relevant to these functions.

From October 2006, JNCC's functions will be extended to cover the whole of the United Kingdom as a result of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Four nature conservation bodies – CCW, Natural England, SNH and the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside in Northern Ireland – will have responsibility for providing these functions through JNCC.

The work can be done through the Committee's own support company, by one country agency leading on behalf of the others, or through a network of agency staff. Work is also commissioned from outside organisations.

For a full overview of UK conservation in 2005/06, this report should be read in conjunction with those of the Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland.





A vision for our wildlife and natural features

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 a healthy environment in which people and wildlife will live together in an integrated manner.

Wildlife characteristics of local conditions will flourish, environmental processes will be allowed to function more effectively within dynamic and resilient ecosystems, the loss of biological diversity will be reversed, and the range of geological features that we have today will be maintained.

The sustainable social and economic benefits that result from such a healthy and diverse natural world will help to improve the quality of all 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, allowing everyone to contribute to attaining this vision by making informed choices about the environment within which we live.

Our vision for our wildlife and natural features applies to the whole of the United Kingdom (including its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies), but we will also contribute to the achievement of these aims at a European and global scale.

This vision is shared by the member bodies of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). 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 wildlife and natural features and what specific contribution they can make to protecting and enriching it.



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government
CORFF NODDEDIG SPONSORED BODY





Garden tiger moth

Arctia caja

© De Cuveland/ ARCO/
naturepl.com

This was once a common and widespread species in the UK. Recent studies have shown it has declined by nearly a third, probably due to warmer, wetter winters and springs. It is likely to decline further if recent climate changes continue to progress in the same direction in the UK. See page 49.



From the Chairman:
Adrian Darby OBE
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Monkstone House, City Road,
Peterborough PE1 1JY, United Kingdom
Tel: 01733 562626 Fax: 01733 555948
Direct dial: 01733 866900
Email: chairman@jncc.gov.uk
Website: www.jncc.gov.uk

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
First Minister
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay



From the Chairman:
Adrian Darby OBE
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Monkstone House, City Road,
Peterborough PE1 1JY, United Kingdom
Tel: 01733 562626 Fax: 01733 555948
Direct dial: 01733 866900
Email: chairman@jncc.gov.uk
Website: www.jncc.gov.uk

Jack McConnell MSP
First Minister
Scottish Executive
St Andrews House



From the Chairman:
Adrian Darby OBE
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Monkstone House, City Road,
Peterborough PE1 1JY, United Kingdom
Tel: 01733 562626 Fax: 01733 555948
Direct dial: 01733 866900
Email: chairman@jncc.gov.uk
Website: www.jncc.gov.uk

The Right Hon David Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

20th July 2006

Dear Secretary of State

As required by paragraph 10 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990,
I have the honour to present herewith the report of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee
covering the period from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Darby OBE

Chairman's introduction

This year has witnessed a number of important changes for JNCC. The first of these has been the work we have undertaken to further develop, and implement, the JNCC strategy that was adopted in 2004. The Joint Committee itself has been working to express our vision and strategic goals in the form of a UK framework for nature conservation. Our aspiration is that this could serve to guide nature conservation activity in the UK in the future, at all levels, and help nature conservation resources to be deployed to best effect. Of course, we cannot devise such a framework on our own, and building on the initial work we have carried out during 2005, we propose to engage Government, statutory agency and non-governmental stakeholders in this work during 2006.

As part of implementing our strategy, we have increased the element of JNCC's work that is focused on nature conservation worldwide. The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity is presently considering how best the UK can meet its international biodiversity commitments, in particular to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. During the year, JNCC reviewed the UK's present work in this area, and advised the ministerial group on what more could be done to make a full contribution towards meeting these conservation targets. Through our work on the international wildlife conventions, we have endeavoured to support the UK's Overseas Territories. In particular, we have worked to help to conserve the important turtle populations in the UK's tropical territories, and the important albatross and petrel populations in those of the southern oceans. We have also undertaken preliminary work to assess the nature and scale of the UK's impact on biodiversity abroad in support of Government's own initiative on this issue.

In terms of UK nature conservation, we have advised Government on a wide variety of issues from offshore oil and gas and renewable energy, to avian influenza. We have continued our work to maintain a wide range of biodiversity surveillance programmes to identify priorities for conservation action and inform our advice to Government. During the year, we collated monitoring information obtained by the country nature conservation agencies, in accordance with common standards developed by JNCC, on the

condition of Sites and Areas of Special Scientific Interest, and also sites designated under the Birds and Habitats Directives. Our report on the results of six years of monitoring is the most comprehensive report on UK site conditions ever produced.

Finally, this reporting year has been the first of the operation of the **JNCC Support Co**. The company was established in March 2005 and the transition from the previous operating arrangements has gone very smoothly. We very much look forward to the additional provisions for JNCC contained in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act coming into effect in 2006, as these will strengthen the Committee's work even further.

Adrian Darby OBE
Chairman, JNCC

JNCC Annual Report and Accounts 2005/2006

Detailed information about the Joint Committee, JNCC Support Co staff, our offices, accounts, statement on internal control and performance against key milestones for the reporting year 2005–06 are on our website at www.jncc.gov.uk/annualreport.

If you do not have access to the internet then we will be happy to provide you with a paper print-out, if you tell us your address. However, by not including the detailed financial information in this printed publication, we have been able to save paper and valuable resources that we will invest in our future nature conservation work.

Feedback welcomed

We value your opinions. What do you particularly like and dislike about the style of the report, both in terms of writing and layout? Is there enough detail in this year's report? What would you like to see included in next year's report, and what do you think is not necessary?

You can make your views known online via our website at: www.jncc.gov.uk/feedback

We strive to make this report as useful as possible to our readers, so please take the time to let us know your information needs.

Cyflwyniad y Cadeirydd

Eleni, fe welwyd nifer o newidiadau pwysig o fewn y Cydbwyllgor Gwarchod Natur (JNCC). Y cyntaf o'r rhain oedd y gwaith i ddatblygu a gweithredu strategaeth y JNCC, a fabwysiadwyd yn 2004. Mae'r Cydbwyllgor wedi ceisio mynegi ein gweledigaeth a'n nodau strategol ar ffurf fframwaith gwarchod natur ar gyfer y Deyrnas Unig (DU). Ein uchelgais yw y gall y fframwaith arwain ein gwaith yn y DU ym maes gwarchod natur yn y dyfodol, ar bob lefel, gan gynorthwyo i ddsbarthu adnoddau yn y ffordd orau. Wrth gwrs, ni allwn ddyfeisio fframwaith o'r fath ar ein pen ein hunain; felly, trwy adeiladu ar ein gwaith yn ystod 2005, ein bwriad yw cysylltu a'r Llywodraeth, asiantaethau statudol a sefydliadau anllywodraethol yn ystod 2006.

Wrth weithredu ein strategaeth, mae'r JNCC wedi canolbwyntio mwy ar warchod natur yn fyd-eang. Ar hyn o bryd, mae Grŵp Rhyngadrannol y Gweinidog ar Fioamrywiaeth yn ystyried y ffordd orau y gall y DU gyrraedd ei ymrwymadau rhyngwladol o ran bioamrywiaeth, yn enwedig o safbwynt ceisio rhwystro cyfradd colled bioamrywiaeth erbyn 2010. Yn ystod y flwyddyn, bu'r JNCC yn adolygu'r ymrwymadau hyn a chynghori Grŵp Rhyngadrannol y Gweinidog a'r mesurau ychwanegol at gyrraedd y targedau cadwraethol. Trwy gyfrwng ein gwaith ar gytundebau bywyd gwyllt rhyngwladol, rydym wedi ymdrechu i gefnogi Tiriogaethau Tramor y DU. Yn arbennig, rydym wedi ceisio gwarchod poblogaethau pwysig y môr-grwbanod a geir yn nhiriogaethau trofannol y DU, ynghyd â'r poblogaethau pwysig a geir o albatrosiaid a phedrynod yn y cefnforoedd deheuol. Yn ogystal, wrth gefnogi menter y Llywodraeth rydym wedi gwneud gwaith rhagarweiniol er mwyn asesu natur a graddfa'r effaith a gaiff y DU ar fioamrywiaeth gwledydd tramor.

O ran gwarchod natur y DU, rydym wedi cynnig cyngor i'r Llywodraeth ar amrywiaeth eang o bynciau, o ynni nwy ac olew alltraeth ac ynni adnewyddadwy, i fflw adar. Rydym wedi parhau â'n gwaith o gynnal amrywiaeth eang o raglenni goruchwyllo bioamrywiaeth, a hynny er mwyn dynodi blaenoriaethau a gweithrediadau i warchod natur,

ynghyd â chyfarwyddo'r cyngor a roddwn i'r Llywodraeth. Yn ystod y flwyddyn, buom yn casglu gwybodaeth yn ymwneud â monitro cyflwr Safleoedd o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig a safleoedd a ddynodwyd dan y Gyfarwyddeb Adar a'r Gyfarwyddeb Cynefinoedd, yn unol â'r safonau cyffredin a ddatblygwyd gan y JNCC. Cafodd canlyniadau chwe mlynedd o waith monitro eu amlinellu mewn adroddiad, yr un mwyaf cynhwysfawr a luniwyd erioed o gyflwr safleoedd y DU.

Yn olaf, y flwyddyn hon fu'r gyntaf yn hanes y **JNCC Support Co.** Fe sefydlwyd y cwmni fis Mawrth 2005, ac aeth y dasg o drosglwyddo o'r trefniadau gweithredu blaenorol i'r rhai newydd rhagddi'n ddirwystr. Edrychwn ymlaen yn fawr at y darpariaethau ychwanegol sydd i gael eu trosglwyddo i'r JNCC yn sgil Deddf yr Amgylchedd Naturiol a Chymunedau Gwledig yn 2006, fydd yn cryfhau gwaith y Pwyllgor ymhellach.

Adrian Darby OBE
Cadeirydd, JNCC

