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Support services

The suite of support services that serves JNCC includes finance, human resources, office facilities, information technology and communications functions

During the reporting year, JNCC successfully installed a new financial management system to replace the system previously provided by English Nature. The new system has allowed JNCC to further improve the way it manages its annual spend of more than £7.6 million and the collection of income of some £600,000.

In the area of human resources JNCC agreed a new training and development strategy, and ran in-house training sessions on a range of topics, including project management and time management.

High-quality Information Technology (IT) support is vital to the infrastructure of the organisation and we continued to make improvements to JNCC's IT service during the reporting year. One advance has been the implementation of a system that allows staff working away from their normal base to send and receive e-mails and to pick up contact and diary information.

We are also using technology to support improvements to our staff's quality of life. For example, we have provided equipment to make it possible for staff to work more effectively from home, a positive step for sustainability that often provides social as well as environmental benefits.

The organisation's ecological footprint was very much on the agenda during the reporting year. We produced a Sustainable Development Action Plan, which sets out the importance we attach to managing the environmental, social and economic impacts we have on the wider world.

Our efforts were recognised when JNCC earned a Business and Environment Management Scheme accreditation from Peterborough Environment City Trust. The award was earned for the work we have done to cut energy, water and paper use and to develop an environment-friendly purchasing strategy.

Our Communications Team had a busy and successful year – they are responsible for the 'public image' of JNCC among our target audiences and cover such functions as publishing, public relations, marketing and event management. Highlights included the launch of the Common Standards Monitoring report in Kensington and a memorable Green Week reception in Brussels.

The redesign of JNCC's main customer publication *Nature News* was well-received, while our publications output again won external plaudits. The 2005–2006 *Annual Report* was shortlisted for a PopComms award and won an award for excellence from the British Association of Communicators in Business.



Video-conferencing

(Far left) JNCC is an 'early adopter' when it comes to technological developments that support delivery of our objectives. As a relatively small organisation we can identify potential benefits when new technology comes on to the market and move quickly to build those benefits into the way we work. One example is how the organisation has embraced the use of video-conferencing over the years; JNCC bought its first unit a decade ago and it is still in use.

A second state-of-the-art model was purchased during the reporting year and both units are proving to be a boon to an organisation that has staff working in offices as widely spaced as Peterborough, Aberdeen and Brussels. They allow colleagues to keep in touch, while saving money, travel time and reducing transport usage.

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Involving our staff

(Left) Our regular news digest *Nature News* was redesigned in the reporting year. For the first issue of the new look, the front cover image was the overall winner of a JNCC staff photographic competition, won by nature conservation adviser Helen Baker, with a photograph taken of the Chisos Mountain Agave, Big Bend National Park, Texas, USA.

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