



**Lichen on decayed wood**  
*Cladonia polydactyla*

The Air Pollution Lead Co-ordination Network brings together specialists from the UK conservation bodies and JNCC. The Network is chaired by Simon Bareham of the Countryside Council for Wales, and provides advice on the impact of air pollution on nature conservation, develops recommendations on air pollution policy and manages research projects.

One of its recent publications was *Biomonitoring methods for assessing the impacts of nitrogen pollution: refinement and testing*, which outlines a refinement of methods for monitoring nitrogen pollution based on work at sites across the UK. The approach links chemical methods with observation of nitrogen-sensitive organisms, such as mosses and lichens.



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## > Sustainability advice

# 5

### Providing advice on nature conservation in the wider context of sustainable development is a growing area of work for JNCC

The influence of economics in nature conservation is growing, due in part to the rise of the sustainable development agenda. It has been associated with an increased recognition of the inter-dependence of the environment, society and the economy. Our vision and strategy now place all JNCC's efforts within the context of sustainable development.

Environmental economics offers an opportunity for JNCC to influence policy areas that are beyond the core nature conservation sector but impact on biodiversity, and offers a tool for communicating the importance of the environment in economic and social terms. During the reporting year JNCC continued to build capacity in environmental economics within the organisation and with partners.

The *Environmental Economics with the Overseas Territories in the Caribbean* project is funded by the Overseas Territories Environment Programme and is intended to promote

the value of economic tools in sustainable development. JNCC plays a key role in the work and during the year a toolkit, *Valuing the Environment in Small Islands*, was published (see section 2, page 18) to encourage wider use of environmental economics in the region.

Globally, JNCC has supported follow-up work on economic elements of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and contributed to the Convention on Biological Diversity's economics programme. In Europe, we supported the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity and have been involved in the creation of a European Network of Biodiversity and Economics.

On the domestic front, JNCC supported Defra in the formulation of its Ecosystem Approach Action Plan, which was published in December 2007, and has assisted with research in support of the Marine Bill into the costs and benefits of Marine Conservation Zones (see section 7, page 34).



#### Diana Mortimer

SBSTTA-12, Paris, France

In July 2007, JNCC's Diana Mortimer gave a keynote speech on the Ecosystem Approach at the plenary session of the Convention on Biological Diversity's 12th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The session reviewed the Ecosystem Approach and looked at the problems involved in putting it into practice around the world.



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Climate change poses major challenges for the nature conservation community. During the year we continued to work closely with the UK conservation bodies through the Inter-Agency Climate Change Forum, chaired by independent Committee member Professor Michael Usher. The Forum has been developing its thinking on both adaptation and mitigation and provided an input to developing climate change policy by responding to several consultations, including the EU Green Paper on climate change adaptation.

On the international stage, JNCC staff were involved in many areas of work that have a bearing on climate change. We worked with

the Overseas Territories to provide advice on climate change adaptation and mitigation, including producing materials aimed at a non-specialist audience. We also played a key role in the Royal Society conference on biodiversity-climate interactions (see section 12, page 53).

JNCC has also been undertaking preparatory work for the creation of a position statement on energy policy and nature conservation. Impacts on biodiversity arising from the production, distribution and consumption of energy in the UK are potentially significant, and there are potential conflicts between low-carbon energy technologies and nature conservation targets.

> **Flooding in Oundle, 2007**  
Northamptonshire

Defra's new Ecosystem Approach Action Plan sets out to place an ecosystem approach at the heart of conserving, managing and enhancing the natural environment in England.

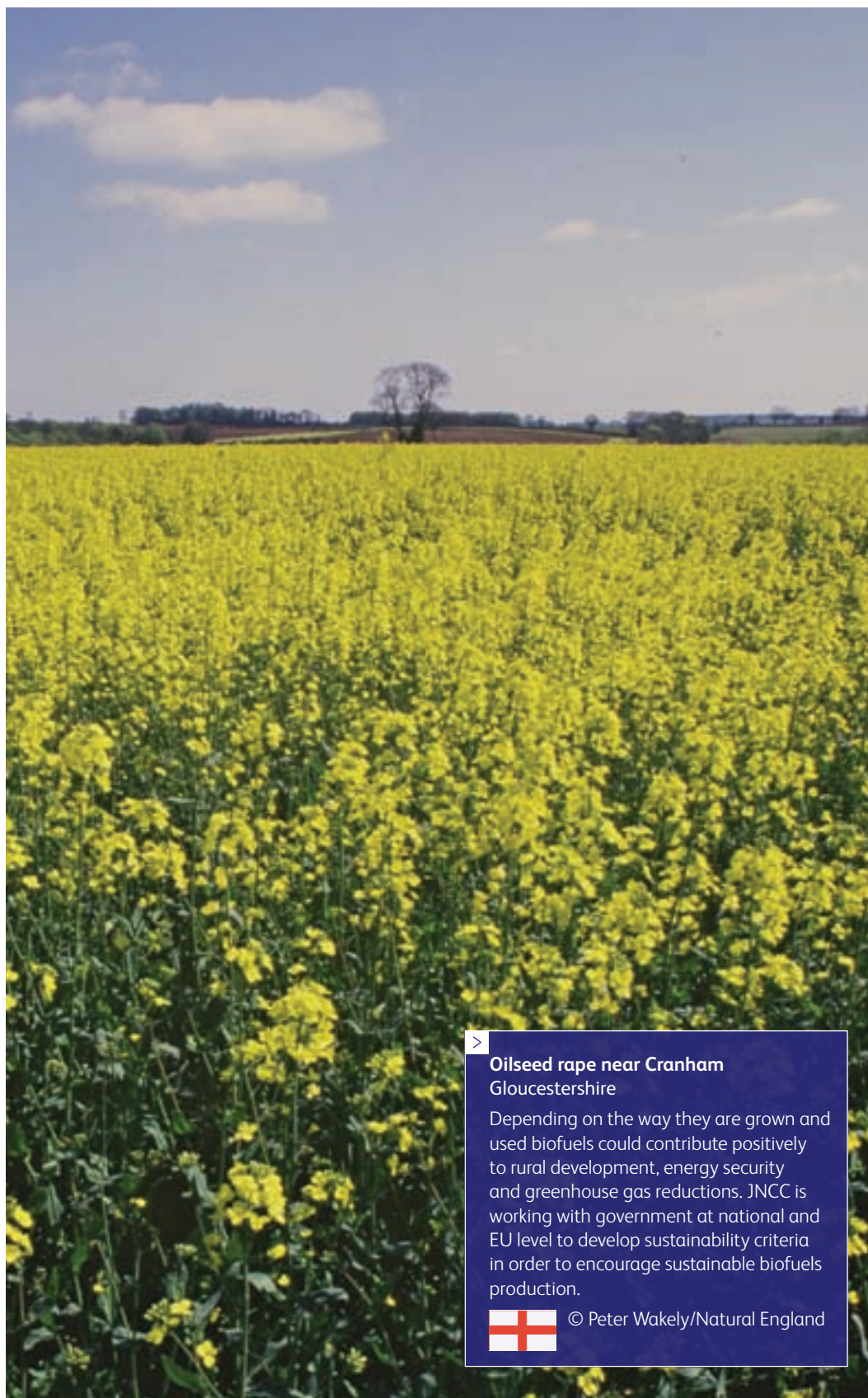
It calls for a more holistic approach to policy-making and delivery, which focuses on maintaining healthy ecosystems and delivery of ecosystem services. Human health and wellbeing relies on the services provided by ecosystems and their components – water, soil, nutrients and organisms.

Ecosystem services include products that are used by humans, such as clean air, water and food. They also include benefits that are less obvious. For example, woodland can prevent flooding by delaying run-off after rainfall; one study in Northumberland put the flood alleviation value of a hectare of woodland at £1,200.



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**Oilseed rape near Cranham**  
Gloucestershire

Depending on the way they are grown and used biofuels could contribute positively to rural development, energy security and greenhouse gas reductions. JNCC is working with government at national and EU level to develop sustainability criteria in order to encourage sustainable biofuels production.



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