

JNCC Annual Report 2007/2008





Scorched Earth

The natural habitat of the orangutan is rapidly being eradicated, as vast swathes of tropical forest in south east Asia are destroyed to make way for lucrative palm oil plantations.

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Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Annual Report 2007/2008

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> Contents

>	About JNCC	4
> 1	Global nature conservation advice	12
> 2	Nature conservation in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies	16
> 3	The UK's global impacts on nature conservation	20
> 4	European nature conservation advice	22
> 5	Sustainability advice	26
> 6	UK nature conservation advice	30
> 7	Marine management advice	34
> 8	Marine mapping and area protection	38
> 9	Standard and target setting for nature conservation	42
> 10	Surveillance and monitoring	46
> 11	Access to information	50
> 12	Policy-relevant information and reporting	52
> 13	Governance and support services	56
> 14	Appendices	60



Orangutan

Pongo species

The world's largest arboreal mammal, the orangutan is struggling for survival. Native only to the tropical islands of Borneo and Sumatra where they exist as isolated species, populations have more than halved in the past 60 years through human activities and development. Vast areas of tropical forest habitat have been lost for agriculture, mainly driven by the international demand for palm oil. Forest fires, habitat fragmentation and degradation through illegal logging activities, in addition to hunting and the illicit international pet trade, have further contributed to declines.



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> About JNCC

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) is the statutory adviser to Government on UK and international nature conservation, on behalf of the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside, the Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage. Its work contributes to maintaining and enriching biological diversity, conserving geological features and sustaining natural systems

**JOINT
NATURE
CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE**



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Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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**SCOTTISH
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Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru
Countryside Council for Wales



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> Chair's foreword

JNCC continues to play a vital role in setting nature conservation at the heart of the UK's sustainable development agenda. While we maintain a low profile, we are part of the "green glue" which holds together the vital efforts of the conservation bodies in the four countries of the UK, and we also work with Defra and others to ensure adequate and effective conservation in our Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies



We act as a bridge between the work of the country bodies, as set and defined by their respective administrations, and the international arena. We have statutory responsibilities for some rare and important bits of the UK's biodiversity and we represent a key resource for the recognition of geodiversity and its conservation.

When I had the honour to assume the chairmanship of JNCC in October 2007 I recognised clearly the challenges that all this poses: working with devolved administrations to ensure compatible outcomes across the UK without comprising national enthusiasms and ambitions, yet ensuring UK conservation efforts are seen as competent, cohesive and constructive on the global stage. I am pleased to say that working with the chairs of the country conservation bodies, Defra officials and supportive ministers my perspective is that JNCC is stronger and more needed than ever, and stands ready to deliver through the work carried out by the excellent staff from the JNCC support company.

That said, I expect we will be in a period of change as the UK confronts the challenges raised by the 2010 biodiversity target, as we look to showcasing in an effective manner our joint and several efforts on geoconservation, and as we tackle the challenges of marine

conservation in a time when legislation is being prepared to make our seas productive, environmentally sound and safe places for biodiversity.

While all this is fine, we are approaching 2010 at a rapid rate, and we are aware that globally and nationally we have a way to go to ensure we meet the target set in 2002. Yet that target is just that, a target: it reminds us of the enormity of the global task of conserving, managing and wisely using our biodiversity which comes from adherence to the Convention on Biological Diversity. We must see 2010 as a point to judge our efforts, to refine them and to ensure we all do better in the coming decade.

So what are our key achievements in this last year? I think the increasing awareness that renewable energies and nature conservation, both aspects of good environmental policy, may not necessarily be totally compatible, is an important awareness moment for us all. In this respect we made an important contribution to the international debate on biofuels, and a highlight of the year was the preparation of a position statement on biofuels and biodiversity. Biofuel production has ramifications not only in the UK but also internationally, which we have been exploring through our global impacts programme.

Our startling cover (which I hope you enjoy) reflects this issue in the context of palm oil and destruction of tropical forests in south-east Asia.

We also continued to prosecute our work on the Overseas Territories, working closely with the governments of the Territories and UK government. Considerable progress was made this year, including a review of nature conservation priorities in the Overseas Territories, publication of an environmental economics toolkit for small islands, and the recruitment of a staff member to work on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels in the south Atlantic. This shows JNCC is more than just a talking shop about the Overseas Territories – we actually invest in them, and help materially their efforts.

Our work in the marine environment has helped inform the draft Marine Bill, as well as supporting efforts in their respective marine environments by the country bodies. We have made continuing progress in identifying Natura 2000 sites in the marine environment, including consultation on seven possible offshore Special Areas of Conservation, and survey and data analysis to identify marine Special Protection Areas. This work of course is ongoing, and dovetails well with the advice and efforts of our colleagues in the country conservation bodies.

Also in the marine environment, we can satisfactorily report the conclusion of the Mapping European Seabed Habitats (MESH) project – certainly a major step forward in producing seabed habitat maps for north-west Europe, which will underpin marine spatial planning, support the development of management measures, and increase awareness of the UK's responsibility in managing a significant part of Europe's oceanic marine environment.

Other work undertaken in close collaboration with colleagues in government and the country conservation bodies included the preparation of the second six-year Habitats Directive implementation report (including assessments of the conservation status of habitats and species listed on the annexes of the Directive), the review of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species, and the development of a UK biodiversity

surveillance strategy – the adoption and implementation of which will ensure we really do know what's up, what's down and what's steady in the increasingly unstable environment we and the rest of biodiversity finds itself!

In 2007, Defra published *Conserving biodiversity – a UK approach*, which summarises areas of work that need to be co-ordinated at a UK level and identifies the important role of JNCC. The role here is very much the co-operative and co-ordinating one I referred to in my opening remarks. I should also mention that we continue to produce the volumes in the *Geological Conservation Review*, which describe the important geodiversity features in Great Britain that need conservation and management. We are gradually understanding more the role of earth sciences in helping us develop a landscape approach to conservation, which recognises boundaries but also integrates them into sensible planning and management.

In the coming year we will certainly look long and hard at how we are delivering what the government asks of us, and how as a team with the country conservation bodies we are making the UK a better place for biodiversity – and that means, in the end, a better place for us!

During the year my predecessor, Adrian Darby, came to the end of his term, and I acknowledge his contribution. Also, Professor David Ingram came to the end of his term, and we sadly said farewell to him, following an excellent period as deputy Chair. Professor Lynda Warren has taken over as deputy. Finally I acknowledge the positive working relationships with Defra, the chairs and staff of the country conservation bodies, my fellow Committee members, and most importantly the staff of the JNCC support company.



Dr Peter Bridgewater
Chair, Joint Nature Conservation Committee

> Rhagair y Cadeirydd

Mae JNCC yn parhau i chwarae rhan hanfodeol yn y gwaith o osod cadwraeth natur wrth wraidd agenda datblygu cynaliadwy'r DU. Er ein bod yn anymwithiol ein dull, rydym yn rhan o'r "glud gwyrdd" sy'n dal ymdrechion hanfodol y cyrff cadwraeth ym mhedair gwlad y DU wrth ei gilydd, ac rydym hefyd yn gweithio gyda Defra ac eraill i sicrhau cadwraeth ddigonol ac effeithiol yn ein Tiriogaethau Tramor ac yn Nibynwledydd y Goron

Rydym yn gweithredu fel pont rhwng gwaith y cyrff gwladol, fel y mae'n cael ei bennu a'i ddiffinio gan eu priod weinyddiaethau, a'r byd rhyngwladol. Mae gennym gyfrifoldebau statudol am ddarnau prin a phwysig o fioamrywiaeth y DU, ac rydym yn adnodd allweddol ar gyfer adnabod geoamrywiaeth a'r gwaith o'i chadw.

Pan gefais yr anrhydedd o ymgymryd â chadeiryddiaeth JNCC yn Hydref 2007, yr oeddwn yn gweld yn glir yr her y mae hyn oll yn ei gosod: sef i weithio gyda'r gweinyddiaethau datganoledig i sicrhau deilliannau cydnaws ar draws y DU heb beryglu gweithgareddau sy'n destun brwdfrydedd ac uchelgais cenedlaethol, ond gan sicrhau serch hynny fod ymdrechion cadwraeth y DU yn cael eu hystyried yn rhai digonol, cydlynol ac adeiladol ar raddfa fyd-eang. Mae'n bleser gennyf ddweud, ar sail gweithio gyda chadeiryddion y cyrff cadwraeth gwladol, swyddogion Defra a gweinidogion cefnogol, fy mod yn teimlo bod JNCC yn gryfach nag erioed, a bod mwy o'i angen nag erioed, a'i fod yn barod ar gyfer cyflawniad llwyddiannus drwy'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud gan staff rhagorol cwmni ategol JNCC.

Wedi dweud hynny, rwy'n rhagweld y byddwn mewn cynfod o newid wrth i'r DU wynebu'r heriau sydd wedi eu gosod gan darged bioamrywiaeth 2010; wrth i ni ymorol am arddangos yn effeithiol ein hymdrechion cyd ac unigol mewn perthynas â geogadwraeth; ac wrth i ni ymgodymu â heriau cadwraeth forol mewn cyfnod pan mae deddfwriaeth yn cael ei pharatoi i wneud ein moroedd yn

lleoedd cynhyrchiol, amgylcheddol gadarn a diogel ar gyfer bioamrywiaeth.

Er bod hyn i gyd yn wych, rydym yn prysur nesáu at 2010, ac rydym yn ymwybodol fod gennym gryn ffordd i fynd eto, ar raddfa fyd-eang ac ar raddfa genedlaethol, er mwyn sicrhau cyrraedd y targed a osodwyd yn 2002. Eto i gyd, dim ond targed yw'r targed hwnnw: mae'n hatgoffa y dasg anferthedd fyd-eang o gadw, rheoli a defnyddio ein bioamrywiaeth yn ddoeth, ar sail ymlyniad wrth y Confensiwn ar Amrywiaeth Fiolegol. Rhaid i ni weld 2010 fel adeg i mesur ein hymdrechion, eu adlewyrchu, a sicrhau ein bod i gyd yn gwneud yn well yn y degawd sydd i ddod.

Felly, beth oedd ein llwyddiannau allweddol yn ystod y flwyddyn? Rwy'n meddwl bod yr ymwybyddiaeth gynyddol nad yw ynni adnewyddadwy a chadwraeth natur o angenrheidrwydd yn gwbl gydnaws â'i gilydd, er eu bod ill dau'n agweddau ar bolisi amgylcheddol da, yn ddatblygiad pwysig i ni i gyd. Yn hyn o beth, gwnaethom gyfraniad pwysig at y ddatblygiad gwladol ar fiodanwydd, ac un o uchelfannau'r flwyddyn oedd paratoi datganiad safbwynt ar fiodanwydd a bioamrywiaeth. Mae gan gynhyrchu biodanwydd oblygiadau nid yn unig yn y DU ond hefyd ar lefel ryngwladol, a buom yn archwilio'r rhain drwy ein rhaglen ar effeithiau rhyngwladol. Mae ein clawr trawiadol (sydd wrth eich bodd, gobeithio) yn adlewyrchu'r broblem hon yng nghydestun olew palmwydd a difrodi fforestydd trofannol yn ne-ddwyrain Asia.

Parhawyd hefyd â'n gwaith ar y Tiriogaethau Tramor, gan gydweithio'n agos â llywodraethau'r Tiriogaethau a llywodraeth y DU. Cafwyd cryn gynnydd eleni, gan gynnwys adolygu blaenoriaethau cadwraeth natur yn y Tiriogaethau Tramor, cyhoeddi pecyn cymorth ar economeg amgylcheddol ar gyfer ynysoedd bychain, a recriwtio aelod staff i weithio ar y Cytundeb ar Gadwraeth Albatrosiaid a Phedrynod yn Ne'r Iwerydd. Mae hyn yn dangos bod JNCC yn fwy na siop siarad lle mae Tiriogaethau Tramor yn y cwestiwn – mewn gwirionedd rydym yn buddsoddi ynddynt, ac yn rhoi cymorth sylweddol i'w hymdrechion.

Mae ein gwaith yn yr amgylchedd morol wedi helpu i ddylanwadu ar drafft y Mesur Morol, yn ogystal â chynorthwyo ymdrechion y cyrff gwladol yn eu priod amgylcheddau morol. Rydym wedi parhau i wneud cynnydd o ran canfod safleoedd Natura 2000 yn yr amgylchedd morol, gan gynnwys ymgynghori ynglŷn â saith o Ardaloedd Cadwraeth Arbennig posibl ar y môr, a chynnal arolwg a dadansoddiad data er mwyn canfod Ardaloedd Gwarchodaeth Arbennig morol. Wrth gwrs, mae hwn yn waith parhaus, ac mae'n ymblethu'n dda gyda chynghorion ac ymdrechion ein cydweithwyr yn y cyrff cadwraeth gwladol.

Hefyd yn yr amgylchedd morol, gallwn adrodd bod y prosiect Mapio Cynefinoedd Gwely'r Môr Ewropeaidd (MESH) wedi ei gwblhau'n foddhaol – sydd yn sicr yn gam pwysig ymlaen o ran cynhyrchu mapiau o gynefinoedd gwely'r môr ar gyfer gogledd-orllewin Ewrop, a fydd yn sail i gynllunio gofodol morol, yn cynorthwyo datblygiad mesurau rheoli, ac yn cynyddu ymwybyddiaeth gyfrifoldeb y DU wrth reoli darn sylweddol o amgylchedd morol cefnforol Ewrop.

Gwaith arall yr ymgwymerwyd mewn cydweithrediad agos â chydweithwyr mewn llywodraeth ac yn y cyrff cadwraeth gwladol wedi cynnwys paratoi'r ail adroddiad chwe blynedd ar weithrediad y Gyfarwyddeb Cynefinoedd (gan gynnwys asesiadau o statws cadwraethol y cynefinoedd a'r rhywogaethau a restrir yn yr atodiadau i'r Gyfarwyddeb); yr adolygiad o gynefinoedd a rhywogaethau blaenoriaeth Cynllun Gweithredu Bioamrywiaeth y DU; a datblygu strategaeth

gwyladwriaeth dros fioamrywiaeth yn y DU – bydd mabwysiadu a gweithredu hon yn sicrhau ein bod yn gwybod o ddirif beth sydd ar i fyny, beth sydd ar i lawr, a beth sy'n gadarn yn yr amgylchedd cynyddol ansefydlog yr ydym ni a gweddill bioamrywiaeth yn ein cael ein hunain ynddo!

Yn 2007, cyhoeddodd Defra *Conserving Biodiversity – a UK Approach*, sy'n crynhoi meysydd gwaith sydd angen eu cydlynu ar lefel y DU ac yn nodi rôl bwysig JNCC. Y rôl dan sylw yw'r un gydweithredol a chyd-drefnol y cyfeiriais ati yn fy sylwadau agoriadol. Dylwn nodi hefyd ein bod yn dal i gynhyrchu'r cyfrolau yn y *Geological Conservation Review* sy'n disgrifio'r arweddion geoamrywiaeth pwysig ym Mhrydain Fawr sydd angen eu cadw a'u rheoli. Rydym yn graddol ennill gwell dealltwriaeth o safle gwyddorau daear o ran ein helpu i ddatblygu ymagwedd dirweddol at gadwraeth, sy'n cydnabod ffiniau ond sydd hefyd yn eu hintegreiddio â chynllunio a rheoli synhwyrlo.

Yn y flwyddyn i ddod, byddwn yn sicr yn craffu'n hir ac yn fanwl ar sut yr ydym yn cyflawni'r hyn y mae'r llywodraeth yn ei ofyn, a sut yr ydym, fel tîm ar y cyd â'r cyrff cadwraeth gwladol, yn gwneud y DU yn well lle ar gyfer bioamrywiaeth – sydd yn golygu, yn y pen draw, greu gwell lle ar ein cyfer ni!

Yn ystod y flwyddyn daeth fy rhagflaenydd, Adrian Darby, i ddiwedd ei dymor, a hoffwn gydnabod ei gyfraniad. Hefyd, daeth yr Athro David Ingram i ddiwedd ei dymor, a ffarweliwyd ag ef â chalon drom yn dilyn ei gyfnod rhagorol fel Dirprwy Gadeirydd. Mae'r Athro Lynda Warren wedi cymryd drosodd fel dirprwy. Yn olaf, hoffwn gydnabod y gydberthynas weithredol gadarnhaol gyda Defra, cadeiryddion a staff y cyrff cadwraeth gwladol, fy nghyd-aelodau ar y pwyllgor, ac yn bwysicaf oll staff cwmni ategol JNCC.

Dr Peter Bridgewater
Cadeirydd, JNCC

> Ro-ràdh na Cathraiche

Tha prìomh àite aig JNCC ann a bhith a’ dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil glèidhteachas nàdair aig cridhe na tha a’ tachairt ann an leasachadh seasmhach san RA. Ged nach eil ar n-ìomhaigh àrd, tha sinn nar pàirt dhen “ghlaodh uaine” a tha a’ cumail ri chèile diofar oidhirpean glèidhteachais anns na ceithir dùthchannan san RA; agus tha sinn cuideachd ag obair còmhla ri Defra agus còmhla ri buidhnean eile gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil glèidhteachas freagarrach a’ gabhail àite ann an Dùthchannan Eisimeileach a’ Chrùin agus sna Tìrean Thall Thairis

Tha an obair againn a’ ceangal obair buidhnean nan diofar dhùthchannan, a tha a rèir nan riaghaltasan aca fhèin, agus a rèir an t-suidheachaidh eadar-nàiseanta. ’S ann an urra rinne a tha feadhainn dhe na roinnidhean gann agus cudromach de bhith-iomadachd na RA, agus tha sinn a’ riochdachadh prìomh stòras airson geo-iomadachd agus a ghlèidhteachas a thoirt fa chomhair dhaoine.

Nuair a bha an t-urram agam cathair JNCC a ghabhail san Dàmhair 2007, chaidh a dhèanamh soilleir dhomh na dùbhlain a tha san obair: ag obrachadh còmhla ri riaghaltasan sgaoilte gus dèanamh cinnteach gun robh ionannachd air feadh na RA a thaobh bhuilean, gun a bhith a’ cur casg air iarrtasan agus dealas dùthchail, ach, aig an aon àm, a’ dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil an saoghal air fad ag aithneachadh gu bheil oidhirpean glèidhteachais na RA comasach, ciallach agus cuideachail. Tha mi toilichte gun urrainn dhomh a ràdh, an dèidh a bhith a’ dèanamh obair còmhla ri cathraichean buidhnean glèidhteachais na dùthcha, còmhla ri oifigearan Defra, agus ministearan taice, gur e mo bheachd gu bheil JNCC nas làidire agus nas feumaile na bha e a-riamh, agus gu bheil e deiseil gus an obair a choileanadh tro oidhirpean sàr luchd-obrach aig companaidh taice JNCC.

A dh’aindeoin sin, tha mi a’ sùileachadh atharrachaidhean san àm a tha romhainn, leis an RA a’ cur a h-aghaidh ri na dùbhlain a nochd ri linn targaid bith-iomadachd 2010. Tha sinn airson ar diofar oidhirpean fhoillseachadh gu h-èifeachdach, nuair a tha sinn a’ dol an sàs ann an dùbhlain ann an glèidhteachas mara aig àm sa bheil riaghailtean a’ feuchainn ri ath-bheothachadh a thoirt air ar

marannan, agus an dèanamh nan àrainneachdan làidir agus sàbhailte airson bith-iomadachd. Ged a tha a h-uile càil a tha sin glè mhath, tha a’ bhliadhna 2010 gus a bhith an seo, agus tha sinn mothachail gu bheil slighe againn – gu nàiseanta agus air feadh an t-saoghail – ma tha sinn a’ dol a choileanadh na targaid a chaidh a stèidheachadh ann an 2002. Ach, ’s e sin a th’ ann an targaid: targaid. Tha e a’ cur nar cuimhne cho mòr ’s a tha obair an t-saoghail ann an gleidheadh, manaidseadh agus ann a bhith a’ dèanamh cleachdadh ciallach air ar bith-iomadachd: tha gach nì dhiubh co-cheangailte ris a’ Chùmhnant air Iomadachd Bith-eòlach. Feumaidh sinn coimhead air 2010 mar àm gus breith a thoirt air ar n-oidhirpean, gus sùil eile a thoirt orra, agus gus dèanamh cinnteach gun dèan sinn nas fheàrr sna deich bliadhna a tha romhainn.

Dè ma tha na prìomh rudan a choilean sinn sa bhliadhna ud? Chanainn gur e gu bheil tuigse dhaoine a’ meudachadh a thaobh seo: lùthan ath-nuadhachail agus glèidhteachas nàdair – dà thaobh de phoileasaidh math air an àrainneachd – gum faod e a bhith nach eil iad an còmhnaidh co-fhreagarrach, agus tha e air leth cudromach gum bi sinn mothachail air an seo. A thaobh seo, tha sinn air cur ris an deasbad eadar-nàiseanta air bith-chonnadh, agus b’ e aon dhe na rudan a bu chudromaiche a rinn sinn sa bhliadhna, aithris ullachadh a bha ag innse ar beachd air bith-chonnadh agus bith-eugshamhlachd. Bidh buaidh aig bith-chonnadh, chan ann a-mhàin san RA, ach gu h-eadar-nàiseanta, agus tha sinn air a bhith a’ rannsachadh na buaidhe seo tro ar prògram air buaidhean cruinneil. Tha ar còmhach