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Global impacts



The UK's ecological 'footprint' extends well beyond national borders and JNCC is working to measure that footprint and to help Government understand the UK's impacts on global biodiversity

Economic activity in the UK and other developed countries is increasing the pressure for land-use change to satisfy rising demand for biofuels and food. Much of this change is occurring in the developing world, frequently in areas of high biodiversity value. The UK, therefore, has a responsibility to identify and quantify the nature of its impacts (both positive and negative) on global biodiversity.

JNCC's Global Impacts programme has analysed UK trade (specifically in food, forestry and biofuel products – see www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4213) and foreign investment data to identify the countries where biodiversity impacts may occur and through what mechanisms. JNCC's primary objective is to deliver this information to key partners across Government to support their global work on sustainable consumption and production. The emphasis is on linking evidence, analysis and policy.

The JNCC work focuses on three key global regions – South America, Sub-Saharan Africa and the former Soviet states – where, in the coming decade, land use change is likely to be most significant and have the greatest impact on biodiversity. These are areas that will be significant suppliers of food and biofuels to the UK and the rest of the EU.

The project's website (ukglobalinfluence.org) gives access to policy-relevant statistics on trade and business investment. It also provides short reports on thematic issues and links to national biodiversity data for countries with which the UK has strong economic ties.

To draw wider attention to the programme's work and the connections between our economy and global ecosystems, JNCC hosted an event at the London Stock Exchange in January 2009. An invited audience of more than 40 representatives from Government, non-governmental organisations and

industry were briefed on current and future JNCC work on the UK's 'footprint'. The event highlighted the UK's responsibility to recognise our economic dependence on overseas ecosystems for biomass products (food, biofuel and forest products) and our impact on these ecosystems through trade and investment. Beginning in autumn 2009, JNCC intends to produce an annual overview of the global biodiversity footprint of the UK economy, tracking changes through time as the UK economy adjusts and adapts to recent global financial, fuel and food crises.



**Tony Weighell of JNCC (left) at the London Stock Exchange meeting
The biodiversity footprint of UK Foreign Direct Investment**

In 2007, the UK economy was the second largest global source of Foreign Direct Investment. Three-quarters of that investment went into the developed economies of Europe and North America, but significant flows also went to economies in South America, Africa and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) – Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

The JNCC report *The biodiversity footprint of UK Foreign Direct Investment* highlights

how that investment – £150bn in 2007 – can influence ecosystems in recipient countries. With large areas of undeveloped agricultural land, these countries are expected to be a significant future source of food and biofuels for the EU. Increased agricultural production will require significant investment, much of which will come from the EU.

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Feeding western lowland gorilla

Gorilla g. gorilla

The exploitation of columbium-tantalite (known as coltan), which is widely used in cellular phones, laptop computers and video games, has had major impacts on the forests and wetlands of the Democratic Republic of Congo. In turn, this is negatively affecting animals dependant on these habitats, including lowland gorillas, okapis, elephants and several species of monkey.

Concern about how the world's wetlands are suffering from the recent global expansion in extractive industries was expressed at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in South Korea in

October 2008. Increases in demand for metals and other minerals have resulted in new extraction activity and in old mines and quarries being re-opened.

Ramsar and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement have initiated a joint technical project that will review the impacts of extractive industry on wetlands and prepare best practice guidance for the sector. JNCC's tracking of UK investment overseas shows a decline in the flow into extractive industries to 2005 and then a sharp increase; in 2006, UK total investment in mining and quarrying (including oil and gas) was £18.5bn.

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European nature conservation advice



JNCC provides advice on European policies that have an influence on conservation of biodiversity and geodiversity in the UK

The European Union (EU) acts across a wide range of policy areas, many of which have direct effects on nature conservation. The influence of the EU is particularly strong in the area of environment policy and legislation. As a result, almost all JNCC work now has a European element. The primary focus for JNCC advice is the UK Government, as an EU Member State and a key player in the EU decision-making process. We also provide advice to the devolved governments for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, as well as the country conservation bodies and, as appropriate, directly to EU institutions.

The overall aim of European work at JNCC is to ensure that nature protection is integrated across all policies and legislation developed in the EU. To influence the outcome of any EU initiatives effectively, JNCC gets involved with all interested parties as soon as possible in the development of policy.

Key to JNCC's success in this role are the UK Nature and Landscape Office in Brussels and the European Intelligence Service, which is provided by the Institute for European Environmental Policy. These services, run by JNCC in partnership with the country conservation bodies, jointly provide early intelligence and analysis of policy and legislative initiatives in the EU.

An important initiative supported by JNCC during the reporting year is the review of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) led by Pavan Sukhdev, the Managing Director and Head of Global Markets of Deutsche Bank India. He was welcomed by JNCC Chair, Peter Bridgewater, as

**UK Nature and Landscape
Office (UKNLO)**
Brussels

The contract JNCC holds with the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) is an example of how we work closely with other organisations to enhance the quality and breadth of intelligence, analysis and advice we are able to provide. The mechanism provides intelligence and analysis on EU policy for or affecting the environment, to JNCC and the country conservation bodies.

IEEP has offices in London and Brussels, and the UK Nature and Landscape Office, the Brussels base for JNCC and the country conservation bodies, is co-located with IEEP's office in Brussels, which provides excellent opportunities to facilitate the work of both organisations.

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guest of honour at an evening reception held in June 2008 at the residence of the UK Permanent Representative to the European Union in Brussels. The event, which was attended by officials from the European Commission, members of the European Parliament, EU Member State governments and other key organisations, as well as the chairs and chief executives of the UK country conservation bodies, was held during the European Commission's Green Week and reflected its theme "Only one Earth – don't waste it".

The TEEB project aims to provide a practical toolkit for policy makers linking science and economics. Mr Sukhdev suggested that only when we 'capture' the value of ecosystems and give them a price will

we be able to persuade society – and governments – to attach sufficient priority to protecting them.

JNCC also played an important role in the Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators 2010 (SEBI) project as one of the consortium members of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity. The project has developed a suite of 26 indicators to measure progress towards the EU's target to halt the loss of biodiversity in Europe by 2010. They include indicators that measure pressures on biodiversity (such as nitrogen deposition), the state of biodiversity (for example, measures of species and habitat diversity) and responses (such as funding and public opinion).