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**JNCC SUPPORT CO.**  
**BOARD MEETING**

**REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**Paper by Marcus Yeo**

1. Since the last company board meeting in September, the Executive Management Board have met four times: 13 September, 27 October, 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> November. Full minutes of these meetings are available on request. The main items discussed by the EMB are summarised below.
2. The first meeting of the JNCC Sponsors Meeting was held in November with the Sponsorship teams in Defra, the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly together with staff from JNCC and the country agencies. These meetings will be held every six months. This first meeting discussed the future funding formula and planning issues. The formula will be changed to accommodate a direct funding stream from Defra for 'reserved' UK matters, enabled by the Regulatory Reform (Joint Nature Conservation Committee) Order 2005, and grant-in-aid funding from the Department of Environment (Northern Ireland), to be enabled by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill to be enacted in 2006. There was also a good degree of consensus on JNCC's priorities: Marine Natura 2000; implementation of commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development; climate change and surveillance. The sponsorship teams also discussed grant-in aid to be provided to the JNCC for 2006/07 and the outcome of these discussions is awaited.
3. The half-year out-turn has been completed. The results are presented in a separate paper to this meeting. The EMB has considered the pros and cons of re-scheduling company board meetings to enable earlier consideration of performance reports and concluded that this would not be advantageous overall. Meetings will therefore be scheduled at traditional times but in future performance reports will be sent out by postal action as soon as they are available
4. A business continuity policy has been considered and implementation has begun. The EMB has also maintained an overview of emerging issues that could affect business continuity. A number of issues have arisen as decisions concerning the establishment of Natural England are made which could affect JNCC communications and financial services and the EMB are ensuring that appropriate action is taken to manage associated risks.

5. A range of other business management issues have been considered by the EMB. A post-implementation review of the FMPR has raised some important recommendations and learning points and the EMB has therefore referred the report to the Audit and Risk Management Committee. The EMB has also decided to make a greater investment in the prioritisation and coordination of development work because of the large number of initiatives arising from strategy implementation, accounting/ auditing requirements, efficiency pressures etc.
6. Outstanding pay issues have also been progressed and will be referred to the Process Working Group and/or the full Committee as appropriate.
7. The Managing Director and Chairman continue with their programme of visits to stakeholders. Visits will have been made to each of the country agencies Councils/ Board and key NGO partners before Christmas.
8. The EMB has considered a range of issues across JNCC's main delivery programmes. The Managing Director and staff have worked with their counterparts in the agencies and with Defra to ensure a coordinated and effective response to the threat of avian influenza. Progress has been made in reviewing a number of areas of work that are currently, or could potentially, be delivered through lead and inter-agency networks. The need for engagement with the Marine Bill from a UK perspective has also been considered.