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

**PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2005/06**

**Paper by Brian Lawrence**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report shows the performance of each of the 13 programmes, in terms of both budgets and targets. Performance is measured against the milestones for 2005/06 as set out in the JNCC corporate plan for 2005-08.
- 1.2 The Board is asked to **note** the performance for the year ending 31 March 2006.

**2. Performance against programme milestones**

- 2.1 Each programme has a number of programme targets which are expected to be achieved during the duration of the 2005/08 JNCC corporate plan. To measure progress towards these targets there are 34 programme milestones, which attempt to measure progress by setting target dates for achieving certain outcomes. Twenty of these milestones relate to 2005/06. Performance against the 2005/06 milestones is shown in Annex 1.
- 2.2 Each milestone has been assessed to be in one of four categories. These categories and the number of milestones in each categories are shown in the table below.

Milestone achieved	14
Milestone substantially achieved	4
Milestone not achieved	<u>2</u>
	<u>20</u>

- 2.3 Just two milestones have not been achieved. These are to develop a plan of engagement with the UK Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian policies (European Advice Programme) and to review the JNCC's accommodation (Support Services Programme). The first of these was not progressed because of conflicting priorities; EU and wider European work, particularly supporting the UK Presidency of the EU, had to take priority for resources. The second target was deferred as the planned timing was inappropriate.

### 3. Financial performance

- 3.1 Annex 2 shows the financial outturn for the year ending on 31 March 2005/06 analysed over the programmes. The final outturn is a deficit of £51,995, which represents 0.81% of net expenditure. The figures for the budget as at the third quarter (31 December 2005) are shown in the column headed 'Adjusted Budget 2005/06'.
- 3.2 Most of the programme outturns are close to their adjusted budgets but four show more significant variations. Explanations for these variances are shown below:
- i. **Global Advice.** £25,000 income was transferred to salaries to cover staff time on CITES work.
  - ii. **Overseas Territories.** Only £4,000 expenditure. £7,000 of the original budget was returned – work on non-native species in the Overseas Territories was not completed as the relevant staff member left during the year.
  - iii. **Marine Mapping and Area Protection.** There was a £40,000 underspend plus £8,000 additional income for Marine Natura 2000, and also £44,000 underspend on the MESH Project.
  - iv. **Policy-relevant Information and Reporting.** Income was received in 2005/06 but was deferred to the current year as the work to which the income related had not been completed by 31 March 2006.
- 3.3 The post year-end financial adjustments cover an adjustment in the valuation of the stock of books and other publications held for sale at the Natural History Book Service. For 2005/06 there was a one-off adjustment of £30,600, which was not provided for in the 2005/06 budget.

### 4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Performance in 2005/06 as measured in terms of performance indicators was close to target, with most milestones either achieved or substantially achieved. Likewise the financial outturn was within 1% of the budgeted total. 2005/06 was the first year of the new company structure and the majority of milestones were met and funded even though staff were sometimes working with unfamiliar procedures.

**Annex 1. Performance against programme milestones.**

*Strategic Vision*

Milestone	Performance rating	Comments relating to performance
By March 2006, develop a communications strategy for the JNCC.	Milestone achieved	The scope of the work was refined as a result of discussions on the relevant communications approach that JNCC should adopt. As a result a Stakeholder Relationship Management strategy has been developed and was endorsed by the Joint Committee's Process Working Group in March 2006.

*Global Advice*

Milestone	Performance rating	Comments relating to performance
By December 2005, review and prioritise the JNCC's support to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).	Milestone substantially achieved	The effectiveness of MEAs was assessed as part of the review of the UK's obligations and policies on international biodiversity (see below). The prioritisation process for JNCC support has been deferred to 2006/07.
By December 2005, analyse the JNCC's contribution to the global conservation of biological and geological diversity to identify areas of conservation need or significant gaps, and realign the JNCC's work accordingly.	Milestone achieved	A review of the UK's obligations and policies on international biodiversity was completed and submitted to the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity in February 2006.

***Overseas Territories***

Milestone	Performance rating	Comments relating to performance
By March 2006, undertake an analysis of the JNCC's current and potential role and future strategic direction in supporting nature conservation work in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, and develop a funding and influencing strategy to support this role.	Milestone substantially achieved	The review was initiated in 2005/06 and will be completed by June 2006.

***UK's Global Impact***

Milestone	Performance rating	Comments relating to performance
By March 2006, identify where the UK use of global natural resources (through trade and/or investment) affects global biological and geological diversity in a substantial way and prepare a list of issues and geographical areas for priority action.	Milestone achieved	Trade, tourism and business data sources have been identified and databases established. A provisional list of priority countries has been drawn up based on relevant criteria.
By March 2006, develop a list of sustainable development practices relevant to the management of biological and geological diversity based on current examples of good practice, and identify the organisations currently promoting or undertaking work to address significant UK impacts overseas.	Milestone achieved	Collaborative projects have been established with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and The World Conservation Union IUCN-UK Committee. Projects with the Institute for European Environmental Policy and WWF are in preparation for 2006.

***European Advice***

Milestone	Performance rating	Comments relating to performance
Provide support for UK Presidency activities in 2005.	Milestone achieved	JNCC provided advice to Defra in the run up to and during the Presidency, especially on integration of the environment into policy dossiers for negotiation.
Seek to influence, and then support Defra's response to, the European Commission Communication on biodiversity in autumn 2005, and the implementation of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS).	Milestone achieved	JNCC provided input to the Commission Communication on biodiversity. We also advised on the recent PEBLDS Council meeting, and on the future direction of PEBLDS.
By March 2006, develop a plan of engagement with UK Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian policies, and begin implementation.	Milestone not achieved	JNCC had to prioritise available resources on EU and wider European work rather than on the European neighbourhood. Owing to continual pressure on resources this project may not be progressed in 2006/07.

***Marine Mapping and Area Protection***

Milestone	Performance rating	Comments relating to performance
By June 2006, develop a broad scale marine landscape map for the UK Continental Shelf.	Milestone achieved	Draft maps of both seabed and water have been completed. A web GIS facility has been developed.
By December 2005, identify and establish an initial network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) (which may also be Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Area (SPAs)) to fulfil Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) Commission requirements, completing the series by 2010.	Milestone achieved	A suite of 56 coastal and inshore SACs has been identified, approved by Government and submitted to OSPAR as a first contribution to the OSPAR ecologically coherent network of well managed MPAs.

***Standard and Target Setting***

Milestone	Performance rating	Comments relating to performance
By December 2005, prepare the first UK-wide Common Standards Monitoring report on the condition of designated sites.	Milestone achieved	The first 6-year report on the condition of designated sites was completed.

***Surveillance and Monitoring***

Milestone	Performance rating	Comments relating to performance
Annually, or periodically as appropriate, ensure that surveillance is undertaken in relation to breeding land and sea birds, non-breeding water birds, bats and selected other mammals, butterflies and a selected range of other threatened species.	Milestone achieved	Overall output from planned surveillance programmes was delivered effectively.
By 2006, produce initial frameworks for marine and terrestrial habitat surveillance, piloting how to co-ordinate, analyse, interpret and enhance existing effort to provide better support for global and European biological and geological diversity targets.	Milestone substantially achieved	Marine work has provided a conceptual overview for a Defra-led initiative to co-ordinate marine surveillance of all kinds. Terrestrial habitat work has made progress on habitat inventories and evaluating sampling undertaken.

***Access to Information***

Milestone	Performance rating	Comments relating to performance
By March 2006, review the JNCC activities that have contributed to the technical development of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), and start to shift effort to the provision of a reliable and efficient information access service for stakeholders.	Milestone achieved	Service from NBN has been consolidated with shifts in responsibilities and balance of effort to the NBN Trust. There is general support from the country agencies for continued development of NBN.
By March 2006, carry out a high level review of requirements for data, across the JNCC programmes, to help identify where the future efforts in accessing data should be targeted.	Milestone achieved	Various reviews for future data requirements have been completed across JNCC.

***Policy-relevant Information and Reporting***

Milestone	Performance rating	Comments relating to performance
By December 2005, develop a five-year work programme for the delivery of policy-relevant information.	Milestone substantially achieved	The future of the programme is being progressed through trialling ideas for the inclusion of marine statistics, developing new analytical techniques and developing the idea of a UK nature barometer.

*Support Services*

Milestone	Performance rating	Comments relating to performance
<p>By August 2005, ensure that all financial procedures are documented on the JNCC intranet so that the efficiency of services is improved through all staff being able to access financial procedures easily. Thereafter regularly review the procedures to ensure that they remain appropriate in changing circumstances.</p>	<p>Milestone achieved</p>	<p>All important financial procedures have been completed and published on the new JNCC intranet.</p>
<p>By September 2005, review the JNCC's accommodation and make recommendations in time for the rent review in January 2006.</p>	<p>Milestone not achieved</p>	<p>JNCC accommodation review was deferred until after the result of the rent review is known as this may affect the options available.</p>
<p>By April 2006, identify and adopt a suitable environmental indicator for the JNCC that will allow the organisation's environmental performance to be published and monitored both by its own staff, senior management and external auditors and benchmarked against similar size organisations.</p>	<p>Milestone achieved</p>	<p>An environmental foot-printing study was completed. This will allow future performance to be benchmarked and monitored.</p>

**Annex 2. Financial outturn for year ending 31 March 2006, comparing net expenditure with adjusted budget.**

	<b>Original Budget 2005/06</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget 2005/06</b>	<b>Net Expenditure 2005/06</b>	<b>Variances 2005/06</b>	
<b>Programme</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Strategic Vision	10.0	21.0	22.5	1.5	7.1%
Global Advice	58.3	55.0	75.6	20.6	37.5%
Overseas Territories	14.0	7.0	4.4	-2.6	-37.1%
UK's Global Impact	20.0	11.0	11.5	0.5	4.5%
European Advice	163.5	163.0	158.0	-5.0	-3.1%
UK Advice	259.8	264.0	275.9	11.9	4.5%
Marine Mapping and Area Protection	240.4	206.0	148.9	-57.1	-27.7%
Standard and Target Setting	152.6	177.0	174.4	-2.6	-1.5%
Strategy for Surveillance, Reporting and Research	20.5	16.0	13.5	-2.5	-15.6%
Surveillance and Monitoring	1,182.4	1,156.0	1,168.0	12.0	1.0%
Access to Information	115.0	131.0	134.4	3.4	2.6%
Policy-relevant Information and Reporting	23.5	10.0	28.2	18.2	182.0%
Support Services	852.0	795.0	793.1	-1.9	-0.2%
Salaries	3,593.8	3,628.0	3,604.0	-24.0	-0.7%
	<b>6,705.8</b>	<b>6,640.0</b>	<b>6,612.4</b>	<b>-27.6</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>
Post year-end financing adjustments	0.0	0.0	30.6	30.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,705.8</b>	<b>6,640.0</b>	<b>6,643.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	
Grant in aid	6,361.0	6,361.0	6,361.0	0.0	
Contribution from Northern Ireland	230.0	230.0	230.0	0.0	
<b>Deficit on year</b>	<b>114.8</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	