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JNCC SUPPORT CO.

BOARD MEETING

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2007/08

Paper by Sue McQueen and Brian Lawrence

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report brings together the performance and financial out-turns for the year ending 31 March 2008, analysed over the 14 programmes.
- 1.2 The Board is asked to **note** the performance for the year ending 31 March 2008.

2. Performance against key performance indicators for 2007/08

- 2.1 Each programme has a number of performance targets which are to be achieved during the duration of the corporate plan (2007-10). The corporate plan also sets out key performance indicators, intended to be quantifiable, time-specific measures of progress towards the programme targets, which are used to monitor performance. There were 30 key performance indicators for 2007/08 (see Annex 1).
- 2.2 Two of the 30 key performance indicators for 2007/08 were dropped during the year, having been deemed inappropriate because of changes in the political climate within which JNCC operates. The Joint Committee noted this change at its March 2008 meeting. Of the remaining 28 indicators:
 - i. 14 (50%) were achieved or exceeded;
 - ii. ten (36%) were progressed substantially, with full achievement anticipated early in 2008/09;
 - iii. limited progress was made against four (14%).
- 2.3 Although ten indicators have only been partially achieved, substantial progress has been made on them and work is anticipated to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2008-09.
- 2.4 Non-availability of the necessary staff resource was the primary reason for limited progress against the remaining four.
- 2.5 Progress against the outstanding key performance indicators will continue to be monitored during 2008/09.

3. Financial performance

- 3.1 Annex 2 shows the financial out-turn against budget, analysed over the 14 programmes for the year ending 31 March 2008. The final out-turn shows an operating cost of £7.851 million. Total grant in aid used for revenue purposes was £7.873 million, resulting in a surplus of £22k for the year. This represents just 0.25% of gross expenditure.
- 3.2 Net expenditure for the year is £21.8k less than the revised budget which was set after 3rd quarter reporting in January, and £237k less than the original budget, set in March 2007. The large decrease in expenditure against the original budget was due to slippage into 2008/09 and a managed reduction in spend to eliminate the over-allocation against grant in aid implicit in the original budget.
- 3.3 The retained surplus of £68.8k carried forward to the current year represents only 0.8% of total grant in aid.

Annex 1: Key performance indicators at end of 2007/08

-  Target achieved or exceeded
-  Substantial progress made, with full achievement of target anticipated early in 2008/09
-  Limited progress against target
- D** Target deferred or dropped as no longer appropriate for 2007/08
- R** Target revised in-year

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Key performance indicator (KPI)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Year end rating</i>
Strategic Vision	By March 2008, develop ideas on desired long-term outcomes for biodiversity and geodiversity at each level in the UK Nature Conservation Framework.	The programme was reassessed in the fourth quarter and new key performance indicators will be set for 2008/9.	D
Strategic Vision	By March 2008, determine whether and how the Framework can be applied to the Overseas Territories and developing countries.	The programme was reassessed in the fourth quarter and new key performance indicators will be set for 2008/9.	D
Global Advice	Contribute to achievement of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2010 biodiversity target by providing ongoing support to the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity.	JNCC has prepared a paper on Overseas Territories and has undertaken other follow-up work arising from the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity meeting held in March 2007. An officials meeting was held in December 2007 and the next ministerial meeting has now been scheduled for 19 June. JNCC has contributed to the process as much as we can but the outcome is determined by events beyond our influence.	

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Key performance indicator (KPI)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Year end rating</i>
Global Advice	Provide high-quality scientific input at key meetings of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), in particular Conferences of the Parties for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 2007 and for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention and the Bonn Convention in 2008, and associated preparatory meetings.	<p>JNCC participated in the UK delegation to the 14th Conference of the Parties (CoP) to CITES in the Netherlands in June. Recently, the focus has been on the EC Scientific Review Group meeting and implementation of eel listing in UK/EC.</p> <p>JNCC had significant input before and during the UK-hosted meeting to initiate a Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) agreement on the conservation of migratory raptors, contributing to a successful outcome to the meeting. JNCC also participated in a CMS meeting on the conservation of migratory sharks in the Seychelles.</p> <p>JNCC staff have worked closely with Defra in preparation for the Convention on Biological Diversity CoP in May 2008, in particular through input to two meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.</p> <p>JNCC have led on HPAI H5N1 working groups for Ramsar, including contributing to a meeting of the Scientific Technical and Review Panel in Korea, and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and have supported Defra on Ramsar sites for Northern Ireland and Guernsey. We have inputted to the AEWA technical committee and prepared papers for the 4th Meeting of Parties.</p> <p>JNCC contributed to a Department of Culture, Media and Sport review of World Heritage Convention sites.</p>	▲

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Global Advice	Prepare thematic action plans across multilateral environmental agreements by 31 December 2007.	A review of JNCC's support for multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) has been undertaken and was discussed by the Joint Committee in June. Committee endorsed the preparation of action plans for thematic priorities to apply across MEAs. Three action plans have been completed in draft: over-exploitation, sustainable consumption and strengthening the evidence base. Action plans on climate change and invasive alien species will be prepared in 2008/09.	▶
Global Advice	Provide, to agreed service standards, high-quality advice to Animal Health on the issue of approximately 25,000 CITES licences per annum.	By the end of the year we had dealt with over 20,000 licence consultations, representing more than a 25% increase since 2000. Approximately 6% of all licence applications were referred to the JNCC as priority 1 – significantly in excess of the 2% agreed in the service level agreement. As a result, service standards have not always been maintained, particularly with the introduction of the fast-track service and Article 60 review, despite drawing on staff time from other areas of our core work. A bid for an additional CITES licensing assistant for next financial year has been agreed in principle and should enable us to better meet targets.	▶
Overseas Territories	By September 2007, develop, through consultation with key stakeholders, a costed action plan (including sources of funding), to guide the JNCC's future support to the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.	The scope of this work has been widened at the request of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity (IDMGB). A report on costed priorities for nature conservation in the Overseas Territories, based on responses from Overseas Territories governments, has been produced, consulted on and considered by the IDMGB officials group. A shortened version of the paper is to be prepared for consideration by ministers. A costed JNCC action plan has been prepared.	▲
Overseas Territories	By March 2008, in association with Defra, FCO, south Atlantic Overseas Territory governments and others, prepare an implementation plan to meet commitments under the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.	Recruitment of the new support post required to undertake this work was delayed because of delays in securing funding. However the officer has now been recruited and commenced work in the Falklands in quarter 4. The production of an implementation plan has therefore been delayed until 2008/09.	▼

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Overseas Territories	By March 2008, publish the results of the JNCC-commissioned review of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories and identify priorities for further action through a workshop.	Significant progress has been made in preparing a synopsis of the JNCC-commissioned PhD on climate change impacts in the Overseas Territories. Additional work on climate change in the Overseas Territories was undertaken during the year in response to stakeholder priorities. With funding from the Overseas Territories Environment Programme work is underway to develop outreach materials for the Overseas Territories and guidance on managing ecosystem goods and services in a changing climate. Work has continued with DFID, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, to enhance the Caribbean Territories' capacity to adapt to climate change.	
UK's Global Impacts	By June 2007, develop a strategy for developing the JNCC's policy advice in respect of key food and biofuel commodities.	The strategy is now in place. In respect of biofuels, global analysis is in progress with the intention of developing policy advice; an initial assessment report is now available with an additional report due in late April. For forestry and fisheries, access to evidence is available on request for use by relevant JNCC staff.	
UK's Global Impacts	By November 2007, in collaboration with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, develop datasets based on national biodiversity profiles and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment for dissemination through a web-based application.	The work programme for 2007/08 has been completed with a wide range of material available on the website.	
UK's Global Impacts	By November 2007, in collaboration with Defra, develop web content providing biodiversity support for the departmental strategy for sustainable consumption and production, Sustainable Development Dialogues with developing major global economies, and corporate responsibility projects.	Revised web content is now in place, including information on biodiversity action plans, multilateral environmental agreements and sustainable consumption and production. This has been made available to users within Defra to support departmental priorities.	

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European Advice	By March 2008, develop and begin to implement a system for targeting the JNCC's advice at European Commission impact assessments relevant to our goals.	Progress has been severely hampered by the prolonged absence of a key member of staff. An assessment of the Commission's work programme for 2008 and of the opportunities for contributing to impact assessments has been completed. The success of the objective depends on input from JNCC and country agency specialists at this early stage in the policy-making process.	
European Advice	Over timescales that will be determined by the European Community, promote the concepts of sustainable development, the ecosystem approach and biodiversity valuation in the development of Community policies on economic growth, jobs and society, and marine and maritime issues.	Good progress has been made with the inclusion of sustainable development, ecosystem approach and biodiversity valuation principles in work on European maritime, biodiversity and energy (including biofuel) policies.	
Sustainability Advice	By March 2008, develop advice on priority issues identified by the Inter-Agency Climate Change Forum, focusing on the interdependencies between climate change and biodiversity.	The Inter-Agency Climate Change Forum is now well established. During the year, the Forum prepared a draft discussion paper on climate change adaptation, submitted a response to the European Commission's consultation on the Green Paper on adaptation to climate change, and agreed a framework for assessing the impacts of mitigation measures on biodiversity.	
Sustainability Advice	By March 2008, develop a strategy for using the ecosystem approach to support sustainability beyond the nature conservation sector, focusing on priorities identified in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and other Government strategies.	The main mechanism for achieving this target in the UK is through participation in Defra's ecosystems approach project. JNCC engaged fully with this project, contributing to the development of an action plan to embed an ecosystems approach in policy-making and delivery, which was published in December. The <i>Environmental Economics with the Overseas Territories in the Caribbean</i> project has increased the use of sustainability methods across sectors, especially in small island developing states – the key output from this work was the publication <i>Valuing the Environment in Small Islands – an Environmental Economics Toolkit</i> . Further work with IUCN and the Convention on Biological Diversity is seeking to develop communication tools for using the ecosystem approach beyond the nature conservation sector.	

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Conservation Advice	By March 2008, develop an approach for delivering strategic, proactive advice on UK nature conservation.	The ongoing review of inter-agency work undertaken for the Joint Committee has recommended a general framework for delivering statutory functions jointly, including proactive advice. Additional consultation and discussion with country agencies and others will be required before the approach is finalised.	▼
Marine Management Advice	Ensure that 95% of requests for statutory advice are responded fully to within the relevant consultation period.	All applications received during the year were responded to within the required timescales. These were Environmental Statements (30), Petroleum Operation Notices (294) and other consents (154).	▲
Marine Management Advice	By March 2008, on behalf of Defra conduct and report on the first tranche of public consultation on offshore Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) , including Regulatory Impact Assessment for each site. Develop and communicate Operations Advice on offshore SACs and SPAs as they are recommended to Government.	The original target could not be met this year as the consultation was delayed by Government. Following the loss of a key staff member, staff time was reallocated internally to keep the work on track, sacrificing some lower priority work as a consequence.	▲/R
Marine Mapping and Area Protection	By December 2008, recommend to Government a network of SACs based on existing data for Annex I habitats in UK waters, and complete assessment of the potential for identifying SACs for marine Annex II species away from the coast.	Substantial new survey to support the identification of offshore SACs has been undertaken following Defra's boost in funding for 2007/08. One new offshore survey has been completed and one is planned to be conducted in early 2008. Data collation and interpretation from previous collaborative surveys has progressed more slowly. Various factors have affected progress on the project: recruitment and embedding of replacement and new staff; pressures to complete work in support of the Marine Bill; and difficulties resulting from annual confirmation of funding and consequent very short planning timescales resulting in surveys having to be carried out during winter. For these reasons, some of the planned work will not be completed until the next financial year.	▶

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Marine Mapping and Area Protection	By March 2008, conduct aerial surveys in 28 inshore SPA areas of search (weather permitting), report on the waterbird interest in five of these inshore areas, complete initial analyses of offshore seabird distribution data, and complete fieldwork aimed at identifying possible extensions to SPA breeding sites for red-throated divers.	This has progressed satisfactorily, though there were some delays due to late confirmation of funding and weather limitations. The 2007/08 component of the inshore SPA fieldwork programme (red-throated divers, terns and waterbirds) has been completed and reports of analyses on five new inshore areas produced. Initial analyses of offshore data have also been completed.	▲
Marine Mapping and Area Protection	By March 2008, establish mechanisms for the update and improvement of marine habitat and landscape maps emanating from the Mapping European Seabed Habitats (MESH) and UKSeaMap projects, including their dissemination via the MESH web-GIS application.	Staff resources at JNCC have been secured to maintain and enhance the MESH systems beyond the Interreg-funding period (i.e. after January 2008). Technical mechanisms are in place to receive and upload new data as they become available (data were refreshed in April 2008). Further development is embraced within the next corporate plan, and is also tied to Defra proposals for further mapping work in support of the selection of marine protected areas.	▶
Standard and Target Setting	By March 2008, publish four Geological Conservation Review volumes.	During the year, the Mass Movements volume was published, the Lewisian volume was presented to printers for printing work, and the Arthropods volume reached the proof stage. Three further volumes are ready to go into production when staff availability permits.	▼
Standard and Target Setting	Produce an annual GB Red List for all plant and animal taxa.	The Red List was produced and published on JNCC's website.	▲
Surveillance and Monitoring	By March 2008, finalise the surveillance component of the JNCC's proposed strategy for surveillance, monitoring and research in the UK.	Work started late once staff returned from work on favourable conservation status. The draft surveillance strategy will be considered by the UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee in April. Consultations have been carried out with Natural England and SNH/Scottish Government, and a workshop to develop the strategy rationale will be held in early April.	▶

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Access to Information	By March 2008, complete the consolidation of Recorder version 6 and the National Biodiversity Network data validation software to streamline the mobilisation of biodiversity data.	Significant progress has been made with Recorder with the release of version 6.10 (this represents the first stable version of Recorder 6). Two additional contracts have been specified and let to rectify outstanding bugs and improve some of the associated documentation. An export tool for Recorder to the NBN Gateway has been released.	▲
Policy-relevant Information and Reporting	By March 2008, finalise the reporting and research components of the JNCC's proposed strategy for surveillance, monitoring and research in the UK, and develop work plans for its implementation.	The strategy for research was presented to the Joint Committee in June 2007. The reporting components will be fed in at the appropriate time. Healthy links are being developed with the Environment Research Funders' Forum-led development of an environmental monitoring strategy which includes research and reporting. Work has started to define JNCC and agency research requirements.	▶
Policy-relevant Information and Reporting	Produce annual reports on the status and trends of UK wildlife, including the causes of these trends.	In June, the Joint Committee was presented with an information paper on the state of UK nature. Further work will be needed to raise the profile of the work and to promote its use in decision making. In particular, it will be necessary to break the results down to country level and facilitate country use of the information. The next updated state of nature report will be presented to the Joint Committee in June 2009.	▶
Support Services	By March 2008, fully implement an external communications strategy to ensure that the JNCC's work programmes are properly informed by the interests of its stakeholders and its resulting advice and information products support positive decisions for nature conservation.	The external communications strategy and associated implementation plan was endorsed by the Executive Management Board in August. Implementation has progressed very slowly owing to a lack of resources in 2007/08.	▼
Support Services	By March 2008, ensure that all of the JNCC's programmes have been reviewed against the strategy, and synergies between programmes have been identified.	The majority of reviews have been completed or will be finalised early in 2008/09. The main area requiring attention is the review of the Support Services programme, which was deliberately scheduled to be undertaken when the recommendations from the other programme reviews were available.	▶

Annex 2. Financial out-turn against budget for 2007-08

JNCC Board Paper - June 2008

Programme	Original GIA budget	Total expenditure (GIA + other income)	Revised budget (GIA + other income)	Variance Expenditure against revised budget	%	Non GIA Income	Non GIA Income Revised Budget	Variance non GIA Income	%	GIA expenditure	GIA revised budget	Variance against GIA budget	%
Strategic Vision	£5,000	£0	£2,000	(£2,000)	0%	£0	£0	£0	0%	£0	£2,000	(£2,000)	-100%
Global Advice	(£82,416)	£61,878	£62,546	(£668)	-1%	(£29,979)	(£33,000)	£3,021	-9%	£31,899	£29,546	£2,353	8%
Overseas Territories	£17,000	£57,498	£72,400	(£14,902)	-21%	(£38,546)	(£50,375)	£11,829	-23%	£18,952	£22,025	(£3,073)	-14%
UK's Global Impact	£53,000	£95,917	£98,000	(£2,083)	-2%	(£45,000)	(£45,000)	£0	0%	£50,917	£53,000	(£2,083)	-4%
European Advice	£139,000	£191,870	£186,600	£5,270	3%	(£27,705)	(£38,600)	£10,895	-28%	£164,166	£148,000	£16,166	11%
Sustainability Advice	£65,000	£145,822	£166,721	(£20,899)	-13%	(£64,088)	(£87,721)	£23,633	-27%	£81,734	£79,000	£2,734	3%
Conservation Advice	£210,750	£223,164	£238,326	(£15,162)	-6%	(£28,118)	(£28,940)	£822	-3%	£195,046	£209,386	(£14,340)	-7%
Marine Management Advice	£13,500	£143,925	£150,776	(£6,851)	-5%	(£14,689)	(£48,300)	£33,611	-70%	£129,236	£102,476	£26,760	26%
Marine Mapping and Area Protection	£1,013,779	£1,163,377	£1,415,008	(£251,631)	-18%	(£490,736)	(£703,290)	£212,554	-30%	£672,641	£711,718	(£39,077)	-5%
Standard and Target Setting	£81,050	£83,465	£82,950	£515	1%	(£13,542)	(£10,000)	(£3,542)	35%	£69,923	£72,950	(£3,027)	-4%
Surveillance and Monitoring	£1,180,500	£1,273,379	£1,231,300	£42,079	3%	(£92,841)	(£39,800)	(£53,041)	133%	£1,180,538	£1,191,500	(£10,962)	-1%
Access to Information	£63,000	£276,509	£274,183	£2,326	1%	(£160,151)	(£156,183)	(£3,968)	3%	£116,358	£118,000	(£1,642)	-1%
Policy-relevant Information and Reporting	£28,000	£60,922	£31,250	£29,672	95%	(£30,000)	£0	(£30,000)	0%	£30,922	£31,250	(£328)	-1%
Support Services	£814,500	£953,165	£948,965	£4,200	0%	(£70,542)	(£79,120)	£8,578	-11%	£882,623	£869,845	£12,777	1%
Employee costs	£4,526,600	£4,590,581	£4,576,521	£14,060	0%	(£324,232)	(£347,716)	£23,484	-7%	£4,266,349	£4,228,805	£37,544	1%
Programme expenditure	£8,128,263	£9,321,473	£9,537,546	(£216,073)	-2%	..(£1,430,170)	(£1,668,045)	£237,875	-14%	£7,891,303	£7,869,501	£21,802	0%
Less: Capital expenditure included above	(£37,100)	(£40,056)	(£44,477)	£4,421	-10%	£0	£0	£0	0%	(£40,056)	(£44,477)	£4,421	-10%
Current programme expenditure	£8,091,163	£9,281,417	£9,493,069	(£211,653)	-2%	(£1,430,170)	(£1,668,045)	£237,875	-14%	£7,851,247	£7,825,024	£26,222	0%
Depreciation										£98,153			
Deficit on operating activities										£7,949,399			
Profit/(loss) on sales of assets													
Transfer from Government Grant reserve										(£98,153)			
Operating cost										£7,851,247			
Less: Grant in aid received										(£7,872,944)			
Deficit/(surplus) on year's activities										(£21,697)			
Retained surplus brought forward										(£47,127)			
										(£68,824)			