



**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

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## **JNCC SUPPORT CO. BOARD**

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#### **Paper by Marcus Yeo**

1. Since the last report to the Board, the Executive Management Board (EMB) has met four times: on 10 December, 13 January, 10 February and 10 March. Minutes of the meeting are available on request.
2. The main items discussed by EMB and other significant issues relating to the running of the company which are not covered by other Board or Audit and Risk Management Committee papers are summarised below. A corresponding report has been made to the Joint Committee on relevant matters.
3. A review of the Governance and Support Services programme has been completed and an action plan agreed. This reflects the aims of the *Smarter Government White Paper* to reduce costs, improve back-office functions and increase the transparency of performance and efficiency. The action plan represents a challenging programme of work for 2010/11 and includes:
  - i. strengthening financial and performance information;
  - ii. benchmarking service functions;
  - iii. streamlining administrative processes;
  - iv. reducing staff travel;
  - v. developing management skills and strengthening performance management;
  - vi. reducing office costs;
  - vii. improving information management; and
  - viii. improving value for money from communications activities.

EMB has looked at a number of plans and policies relating to these actions in detail and will continue to do so over the coming year.

4. Following his appointment as Managing Director, Marcus Yeo invited staff views on what they felt should change in JNCC and what should stay the same. Areas where staff felt improvements could be made included priority setting, cross-programme working, staff management, appraisal and development, finance and administrative systems, and office facilities. The results of the review largely mirrored EMB's views and, accordingly, the action plans arising from this review largely align with plans arising from the review of Governance and Support Services (above) and other

development projects. Detailed arrangements to improve cross-programme working have been approved.

5. In conjunction with country conservation bodies, plans have been developed to re-align JNCC-funded inter-agency work with themes agreed by the Chief Scientists Group. The distinction between Lead Co-ordination Networks (LCNs) and other inter-agency science groups will be removed and JNCC resources which are currently dedicated to LCNs will be used to support the delivery of inter-agency work on the priority themes.
6. A schedule of work has been agreed to conclude the paper publication of Geological Conservation Review volumes and to make unpublished information available through other means.
7. EMB reviewed training provision for the period September 2008 to August 2009. Staff attended a total of 67 courses, including eight centrally-run courses. The corporate target of an average of 2.5 training days per person per year was exceeded with the provision of approximately 3.25 days per person.