



This paper was provided to the Joint Committee for decision/discussion or information. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for Committee's position on the paper.

To view other Joint Committee papers and minutes visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2671>

To find out more about JNCC visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1729>

**JNCC 02 N12
September 2002**

JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

**THE 6TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD COP6)**

Paper by Paul Rose and Steve Gibson

1. UK delegation to CBD COP6

1.1 CBD COP6 took place in The Hague, Netherlands from 7-19 April 2002. The UK Delegation was lead by Glenys Parry from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and Michael Meacher (UK Minister for Environment) attended the Ministerial segment. The other institutions and government departments represented in the delegation were: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), St Helena Administration, Department for International Development (DfID), Department for Trade and Industry (DTI), Forestry Commission, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Kew Gardens, Central Science Laboratories (CSL) and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). Central Science Laboratories and the Royal Horticultural Society were present because of specific expertise, interest and involvement in the issue of alien invasive species which was among those considered by COP6.

2. Main issues under discussion at COP6

2.1 *CBD Strategy*

A Strategy for the CBD was developed which reflected the changing emphases placed on the main themes of the Convention since its inception. COP6 decided that the Strategy should remain at a high level and should be implemented through other CBD decisions and workplans. The main result was to shift the sustainable use objective of the Convention towards sustainable development. There was also pressure to reduce the conservation objective of the Convention, and to emphasise poverty alleviation in the Benefit Sharing objective. The European Community and UK, in collaboration with other Parties, successfully defended the conservation objective within the Strategy at Conference.

2.2 *Invasive Alien Species*

CBD recognises that invasive alien species represent one of the primary threats to biodiversity and that risks may be increasing due to increased global trade, transport, tourism and climate change. COP6 agreed guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. All governments and organisations

were urged to use this guidance when developing effective strategies to minimise the spread and impact of invasive alien species.

2.3 *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*

The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation aims to halt the current and continuing loss of plant diversity. It is the first taxonomic species group to be considered strategically by the CBD and is designed to assist Parties in the implementation of the thematic and crosscutting programmes of work of the Convention. COP6 adopted the strategy and adopted it as a pilot exercise under the Convention for the setting of measurable, time-limited targets.

2.4 *Forest Biological Diversity*

COP6 adopted a comprehensive expanded programme of work for forest biological diversity. Forest biological diversity is one of the main themes of the Convention along with Inland Water Ecosystems, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems, Agricultural Biodiversity, Mountain Ecosystems and Dry and Semi-humid Lands.

2.5 *Access and Benefit Sharing*

This decision was a very high priority for DEFRA. COP6 decided to adopt the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefit Arising out of their Utilisation. Parties and Governments were urged to use the Guidelines when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing. An *ad-hoc* expert group would be established to work intersessionally, and DEFRA have requested a place on this group.

2.6 All COP6 decisions can be found on the CBD Internet site (<http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.asp?lg=0&m=cop-06>).

3. **Implementation of the CBD, including COP6 decisions, in the UK**

3.1 In order for the UK to implement the CBD effectively, it is necessary to define what each decision means for the UK, to co-ordinate the work required to implement that decision and to prepare for, and participate in, subsequent CBD COPs, SBSTTA and other relevant interim meetings. DEFRA intends to discharge these tasks by allocating lead roles for each decision to either a member of the UK CBD delegation or the UK CBD stakeholder community. In order to agree these lead roles, and also to discuss UK implementation, DEFRA held a meeting of the UK CBD delegation and other stakeholders on 11 June 2002. The outcomes for JNCC are summarised in Section 4 below.

4. **Discharging JNCC responsibilities for UK implementation of CBD**

4.1 JNCC has been allocated the lead role for the Global Plant Conservation Strategy and the Ecosystem Approach, and joint lead for the Global Taxonomy Initiative. Additionally, JNCC has been asked to support DEFRA in its lead roles for Alien Invasive Species, Marine Ecosystems, Clearing-house Mechanism and National Reporting. Some CBD thematic areas did not feature highly at COP6, so a UK lead role has not yet been allocated. In future,

JNCC should anticipate being given prominent roles in the UK implementation of decisions relating to inland water ecosystems, biodiversity indicators and other areas of priority work that arise from SBSTTA.

- 4.2 JNCC intends to discharge its lead and support roles by establishing stakeholder groups for each major theme. These groups will include key contacts from agencies and other relevant UK bodies, and will help JNCC to:
- i. Identify ongoing UK activities that do, or could, implement the CBD resolutions.
 - ii. Identify gaps in UK implementation and make proposals for filling these gaps.
 - iii. Share best practice through the Clearing-house Mechanism.
 - iv. Report on UK activities as and when required.
 - v. Contribute to and comment on CBD secretariat activities.
 - vi. Prepare for SBSTTAs, COPs and other relevant interim meetings.
 - vii. Represent stakeholders as part of the UK delegation to CBD COPs and SBSTTA.
 - viii. Select appropriate delegates to attend specialist meetings in preparation for COP and SBSTTA.
- 4.3 A full list of CBD COP6 decisions is given in Annex A, which also lists the lead roles in the UK, and their relevance to JNCC corporate targets.

5. Future Meetings

- 5.1 The seventh meeting of the COP will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in the first quarter of 2004. The main themes covered will be mountain ecosystems, protected areas, and transfer of technology and technology co-operation. Before COP7, interim reports on these themes will be requested from Parties on a voluntary basis. JNCC is just completing the first of these on mountain ecosystems and has started to define the consultation process for the remaining two.
- 5.2 SBSTTA meetings are scheduled for March and November 2003 in Montreal. In addition, *ad hoc* technical groups will meet. Currently we are aware of a mountain ecosystems group to meet in December 2002 and June 2003, a protected areas group to meet in April 2003 and September 2003 in Durban, to coincide with the world parks congress. JNCC and the agencies should consider the UK attendance at these *ad-hoc* expert group meetings in terms of what we would like to achieve, the most appropriate individuals to attend and the link to UK delegations at SBSTTAs and COP7.

Annex A

CBD Decision	Lead for UK co-ordination	JNCC role	Relevant JNCC corporate targets	Comments
VI/1 Biosafety Protocol	DEFRA CB Division	Minor role may emerge	Advice on GMOs	Link to Lead Agency work on GMO's
VI/2 Biological diversity of inland waters	Not discussed	Potentially lead	Freshwater LCN Water Framework Directive Ramsar Convention Habitat inventory and monitoring.	No discussion at COP6. CBD has a joint work programme with Ramsar
VI/3 Marine and coastal biological diversity	DEFRA Marine Division	Assist	All marine and coastal work	Need to identify all work contributing to the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate agreed at COP4 and assess progress.
VI/4 Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands	None given	None	None	Main interest in overseas territories. JNCC might need to review its role if work to support overseas territories is agreed.
VI/5 Agricultural biological diversity	DEFRA - EPINT	Minor roles might emerge	Unknown until main themes of DEFRA interest are visible	EPINT looking for sub-leads for pollinators, mainstreaming LMRD, GURTs, issues related to article 8j and soils. All will be chosen from within DEFRA.
VI/6 The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	DEFRA	None	None	UK and all EC countries have signed the agreement so the decision is implemented from a UK perspective.
VI/7 Monitoring, indicators and assessments	DEFRA – EPINT while confined to assessment.	Unknown	Most of the corporate programme on survey and monitoring and some of JNCC's wider environment programme.	COP6 only dealt with assessment. EPINT to draw to the attention of ODPM and ask them to identify extent to which we have already taken action in line with the Decision.
VI/8 Global Taxonomy Initiative	Natural History Museum assisted by JNCC and Kew	Assist	Clearing House Mechanism NBN GBIF	First task is to review UK activities against the work programme agreed by COP6
VI/9 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation	JNCC assisted by Kew and DEFRA (EWD and GWD)	Lead	Biodiversity Website NBN Species Status Assessment Threatened Plant Information and Monitoring	JNCC is just completing a review of UK activities relevant to this COP decision. This review will be used as a model for lead organisations for other COP6 decisions to follow.

CBD Decision	Lead for UK co-ordination	JNCC role	Relevant JNCC corporate targets	Comments
VI/10 Article 8(j) and related provisions (indigenous people)	DFID assisted by DEFRA	None	None	
VI/11 Liability and redress	DEFRA legal consulting CB and EED	None	None	
VI/12 Ecosystem approach	JNCC	Lead	Ecosystem approach target is new for 2002/03	JNCC to investigate how the UK can best engage and look for case studies especially within the marine stewardship report.
VI/13 Sustainable use	DEFRA – EPINT	Minor	Sustainable development and indicators	
VI/14 Tourism	DTI with DEFRA, DCMS and FCO	Minor	Sustainable development and indicators	JNCC might be able to identify useful case studies within country agency work.
V/15 Incentive measures	European Community	None	None	DEFRA is investigating CFP as a potential example of a perverse incentive.
VI/16 Financial resources	DEFRA	None	None	
VI/17 Financial mechanism	DfID assisted by DEFRA	None	None	
VI/18 Clearing-house mechanism	DEFRA assisted by JNCC	Assist	Clearing House Mechanism web site NBN UK Biodiversity Website	DEFRA contributes funds to JNCC to provide this service. The Clearing-house Mechanism needs to assist UK implementation of other decisions.
VI/19 Communication, education and public awareness	DEFRA – EWD	Unknown	UK Biodiversity Website	
VI/20 Co-operation with other organisations	DEFRA – EPINT	None	None	All UK interest covered by work on harmonisation of reporting.
VI/21 Ministerial Declaration	Not discussed	None	None	
VI/22 Forest biological diversity	FC assisted by DEFRA and DfID	Minor	Woodland LCN Habitat Inventory NBN UK Biodiversity Website	JNCC to look at how country agency activity contributes to the work programme.

CBD Decision	Lead for UK co-ordination	JNCC role	Relevant JNCC corporate targets	Comments
VI/23 Invasive alien species	DEFRA assisted by JNCC	Assist	Non-native species review	JNCC provided paper to DEFRA review group covering link to guiding principles agreed at COP6. There is an outstanding rules of procedure issue surrounding this decision.
VI/24 Access and benefit-sharing	DEFRA	None	None	This is a huge decision for DEFRA especially regarding new legislation and IPR.
VI/25 National reports	DEFRA – EPINT through JNCC	Assist	CBD Reporting Harmonisation of Reporting Clearing House Mechanism	JNCC co-ordinates the production of national reports to COPs and thematic reports. UNEP WCMC are looking at harmonisation of reporting on behalf of CBD.
VI/26 Strategic Plan	DEFRA – EWD and DAs	Assist	All biodiversity targets especially UK Biodiversity Website and the Biodiversity Information Group	UK biodiversity strategies to try and make high level reference to the CBD strategic plan
VI/27 Operations of the Convention	Not discussed	None	None	
VI/28 Multi-year programme of work	DEFRA – EPINT	Unknown	None	UK does not feel any additional work programmes are needed
VI/29 Budget for 2003-2004	Not discussed	None	None	
VI/30 Preparations for COP7	Not discussed	None	None	
VI/31 Date and venue of COP7	Not discussed	None	None	No action required
VI/32 Tribute to the Netherlands	Not discussed	None	None	