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JNCC CORPORATE PLAN 2005-2008 – ANNEX A

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) was established by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. It provides the forum through which the country nature conservation agencies in England, Scotland and Wales – English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales – act jointly to deliver their statutory responsibilities for Great Britain and internationally. These responsibilities are known as the ‘special functions’. The special functions are principally to:

- i. advise ministers on the development of policies for, or affecting, nature conservation in Great Britain and internationally;
- ii. provide advice and disseminate knowledge to anyone on nature conservation issues affecting Great Britain and internationally;
- iii. establish common standards throughout Great Britain for the monitoring of nature conservation and for research into nature conservation and the analysis of results;
- iv. commission or support research which the Committee deems relevant to the special functions.

In practice, the involvement of Northern Ireland bodies means that the JNCC implements the majority of its national advisory functions on a United Kingdom basis.

Advice on UK and international nature conservation matters is provided both to UK ministers and to the ministers of devolved administrations. In the corporate plan, references to ‘Government’ are intended to imply a reference both to UK Government departments and also to the devolved administrations unless it is stated otherwise.

This corporate plan sets out the contribution that the JNCC will make to nature conservation in the UK and more widely during 2005-08. The plan has been prepared in line with the JNCC’s new strategy, which sets out a clear sense of purpose for the JNCC and provides direction to our work over the next 10 years.

1.2 Strategic direction

The JNCC’s strategy comprises three components:

- A vision for our wildlife and natural features
- A mission statement
- Strategic objectives

1.2.1 Our vision

The vision sets out the long-term aspirations of the JNCC and the country nature conservation agencies, and contains high-level objectives and outcomes that are set within a context of sustainable development. It applies to all of the UK (including its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies), and also covers the UK’s contribution to nature conservation at a European and global scale. The vision provides an overarching framework for the work of the JNCC and the country agencies, and is also intended to influence the views and activities of other stakeholders in the environment. Whilst the JNCC and the country agencies will make a significant contribution to achieving the vision, they will not be able to achieve it on their own – successful implementation

will require input from a range of public and private sector bodies, non-governmental organisations and society at large.

Our vision

Our countryside, towns and seas will be rich in wildlife and natural features, contributing to the economy and improving everyone's quality of life.

Our vision for the future is a healthy environment in which people and wildlife will live together in an integrated manner. Wildlife characteristic of local conditions will flourish, environmental processes will be allowed to function more effectively within dynamic and resilient ecosystems, the loss of biological diversity will be reversed, and the range of geological features that we have today will be maintained. The sustainable social and economic benefits that result from such a healthy and diverse natural world will help to improve the quality of all our lives and those of future generations. We will share a better understanding and appreciation of the value that the natural world adds to our lives, allowing everyone to contribute to attaining this vision by making informed choices about the environment within which we live. Our vision applies to the whole of the UK (including its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies), but we will also contribute to the achievement of these aims at a European and global scale.

This vision is shared by the member bodies of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. We will work towards the objectives and outcomes in this vision through our policies and activities but clearly cannot achieve them by ourselves. We hope that Government bodies and other organisations in all parts of the UK will be able to appreciate and share this vision. We hope they will be inspired to reflect upon how currently they influence the state of our wildlife and natural features and what specific contribution they can make to protecting and enriching it.

1.2.2 The JNCC's mission

Unlike the vision statement, which involves many different bodies working in the nature conservation field, the mission statement provides a concise statement of the purpose and character of the JNCC. It illustrates how the JNCC will contribute to the objectives in the wider vision, and in particular how we will add value to the work of the country agencies and other organisations.

The JNCC's mission

The JNCC's mission is to add value to the work of Government bodies and other organisations, so that across the UK and internationally the protection and enrichment of our wildlife and natural features is comprehensive, effective, knowledge-based and forward-looking.

Our strength comes from the community of organisations from which we are formed, our data and expertise, and the extensive network of organisations, both in the UK and overseas, with which we work. This enables us to:

- take a strategic overview of UK nature conservation, and set this within the relevant international context;
- provide advice based on a sound understanding of the science of nature conservation;
- optimise the collection, management and sharing of environmental information;
- facilitate partnership working between stakeholders in the environment; and
- help the UK to contribute to the conservation of the natural world at a European and global scale.

During the coming years we aim to build on these strengths to provide strategic advice that better reflects the complex and dynamic nature of the natural world and its inherent links with people. In this way we will make a significant contribution to sustainable development.

1.2.3 The JNCC's strategic objectives

The JNCC's strategic objectives focus on the priority issues for the JNCC over the next 10 years. We will be working towards their achievement through this and successive corporate plans.

JNCC's strategic objectives

1. Vision for nature conservation

Develop and renew a shared vision for our wildlife and natural features, and in partnership with others, champion it to Government bodies and other organisations and encourage them to implement approaches that reflect the value and needs of our wildlife and natural features.

2. Provision of information

Ensure that Government and other organisations are provided with scientifically robust and policy-relevant information about biological and geological diversity that they need to make decisions that will protect and enhance the environment in the UK and internationally.

3. European and international influencing

Contribute expertise to the development and implementation of legislation and agreements for or affecting the European and wider international environment to ensure that they deliver nature conservation gains both within the UK and elsewhere.

4. UK co-ordination

Provide strategic co-ordination, evaluation and, where necessary, development of UK-wide strategies, policies, practices and standards for or affecting nature conservation, to enhance the protection and enrichment of the UK's wildlife and natural features.

5. Nature conservation beyond territorial waters

Advise on and, where necessary, develop and implement initiatives to protect and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the UK's marine environment outside territorial waters (beyond 12 nautical miles from the shore).

6. Nature conservation in the Overseas Territories

Promote measures that protect and enhance biological and geological diversity in the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, and share good conservation practice worldwide.

7. UK's global impact

Advise on the effect that UK activities and policies have on biological and geological diversity internationally, contribute to the development of appropriate responses, and promote sustainability in the use of environmental resources worldwide.

8. Support services

Provide flexible, high-quality services that enable the JNCC's strategic objectives to be delivered as effectively and efficiently as possible.

1.2.4 Delivery of the JNCC's strategic objectives

The direction of much of the JNCC's existing work will continue in line with these objectives. However, the strategy also reflects a significant shift in direction in some areas, as well as elements of a new role. The main changes are:

- greater involvement in international activities, including phased expansion or movement into new areas of work (e.g. Overseas Territories, the UK's global impact);

- a stronger oversight role, especially in maintaining a strategic overview of issues affecting the environment, and developing and championing a shared vision for UK nature conservation;
- refocusing the JNCC's UK activities to maximise the value that the JNCC adds to the country agencies' work; this involves shifting effort into setting standards, co-ordinating activities and providing advice at a more strategic level than at present, and undertaking a stronger quality assurance role;
- placing the JNCC's advice more firmly within the context of sustainable development by forging stronger links between environmental information and relevant social and economic factors.

In order to deliver our objectives, including the changes outlined above, a series of programmes has been developed. The corporate plan is presented around these 13 programmes.

	Programme	Main strategic objectives that the programme contributes to
1	Strategic Vision	Vision for UK nature conservation
2	Global Advice	European and international influencing
3	Overseas Territories	Nature conservation in the Overseas Territories
4	UK's Global Impact	UK's global impact
5	European Advice	European and international influencing
6	UK Advice	European and international influencing UK co-ordination Nature conservation beyond territorial waters
7	Marine Mapping and Area Protection	UK co-ordination Nature conservation beyond territorial waters
8	Standard and Target Setting	UK co-ordination
9	Strategy for Surveillance, Reporting and Research	Provision of information UK co-ordination
10	Surveillance and Monitoring	Provision of information
11	Access to Information	Provision of information
12	Policy-relevant Information and Reporting	Provision of information
13	Support Services	Support services

1.3 Planned resources

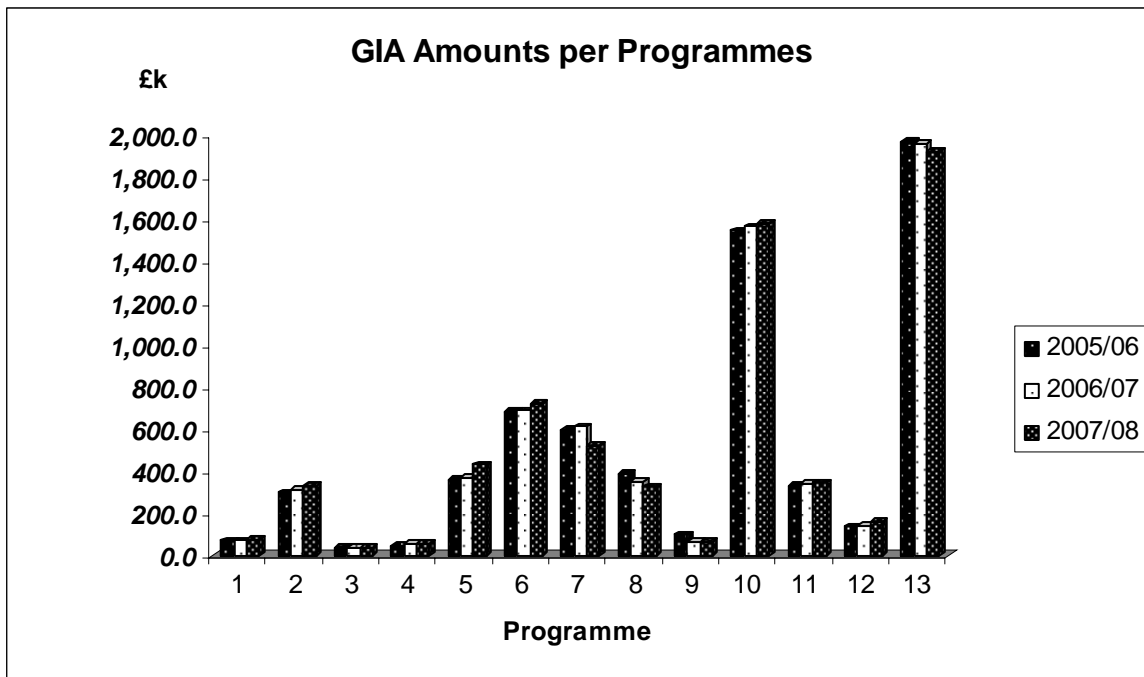
Almost all of the JNCC's funding comes via Grant in Aid (GIA) provided through the three country agencies. The level of GIA for each year is agreed by Defra, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government. An additional voluntary contribution is made by the Northern Ireland Environment and Heritage Service.

GIA for 2005/06 (including the Northern Ireland contribution) has been set at £6,591,000. This is an increase of £414,000 (6.7%) above the 2004/05 level. In the two subsequent years indicative budgets have been held constant in cash terms, and therefore the corporate plan has been prepared on the same levels of GIA for the years 2006/07 and 2007/08. Because of guaranteed pay progression and inflationary pressures this level of settlement will mean finding significant savings in these years.

The table below shows the anticipated gross expenditure for the years 2004/05 to 2007/08 and how this expenditure is financed. As can be seen, GIA finances between 87% and 94% of JNCC gross expenditure. Income from a variety of other sources (including projects part-funded by the European Union, collaborative projects with other statutory bodies, and sales from publications) accounts for the remaining expenditure.

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct expenditure	3,552	3,688	3,390	3,238
Salaries	3,467	3,840	3,835	3,785
Total	7,019	7,528	7,225	7,023
Grant in aid	6,177	6,591	6,591	6,591
Other income	842	937	634	432
Total	7,019	7,528	7,225	7,023

The graph below shows the planned GIA contributions to the thirteen programmes shown above.



1.4 Overview of programmes

This corporate plan represents the first opportunity to align the JNCC's work programmes with the strategic objectives agreed by the Joint Committee. However, the initiation of new projects and programmes must be set against budgetary constraints (especially in 2006/07 and 2007/08), a need for further assessment of priorities in certain areas, and the continuing requirement to provide existing core services to stakeholders. The plan therefore shows a pattern of incremental change over three years, with modest growth in some programmes and phased reductions in others. In several cases, the nature of work undertaken during the latter part of the plan period will be determined by reviews completed in 2005/06.

One of the most important areas of new work is the Strategic Vision programme, which will build on and develop the vision for wildlife and natural features. The aim is to work with partner organisations to formulate a practical framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biological and geological diversity by the UK, including its contribution to international nature conservation.

The JNCC's UK and international policy advice is covered by five programmes. Over the next three years, increased resources will be directed to European and global work, reflecting the importance of international commitments such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development and Gothenburg targets on biodiversity loss. A significant new area of work is the UK's Global Impact programme, which will seek to identify, and then develop measures to eliminate, minimise or mitigate, the impacts that UK society is having upon biological and geological diversity in other countries. Across all of the policy programmes, there will be an increased emphasis on placing the JNCC's advice within the context of sustainable development. This will entail greater consideration of economic and social issues, and continuing development of ecosystem-based management approaches.

The Marine Mapping and Area Protection programme comprises two workstreams. One is concerned with the preparation of marine habitat maps for the UK continental shelf, and will be taken forward through an EU-funded project, which will be completed in 2006. The second workstream is concerned with the identification of a network of marine protected areas, and will extend beyond the period of the corporate plan.

The JNCC will continue to play an important role in setting and maintaining UK-wide standards through the Standard and Target Setting programme, but resources allocated to this area of work will decrease over the next three years as publication of the Geological Conservation Review series draws to a close.

The collection, management and dissemination of information on the UK's biological and geological diversity is one of the JNCC's core strengths, and will be taken forward through a cluster of four linked programmes. High priority will be given to developing a strategy for surveillance, reporting and research, and this will set the direction for the JNCC's activities in this area. Some shifts of emphasis are already apparent: the evolution of the JNCC's surveillance and monitoring efforts into a more integrated and balanced change detection mechanism, the development of a more efficient information access service, and a greater focus on analysing and interpreting environmental information.

Over the next three years, the Support Services programme will face the challenge of having to continue to provide high-quality administrative support to the rest of the organisation on a steadily reducing budget. Reviews of current working practices and procedures will be undertaken to ensure that services are being provided in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

2. STRATEGIC VISION

2.1. Context

This programme supports the 'Vision for nature conservation' strategic objective. Its aim is to:

- In conjunction with other key stakeholders in the environment, develop and maintain the vision for wildlife and natural features to a degree that:
 - clarifies how the UK can make a full contribution to conserving global and European biological and geological diversity, while meeting the UK's needs for nature conservation at national and local levels;
 - enables UK action for nature conservation to be prioritised and implemented most effectively; and
 - enables key decision-makers to recognise the importance of biodiversity as a key resource and an indicator of sustainable development and secures their active commitment to placing the environment on an equal footing to socio-economic concerns.

Nature conservation within the UK is carried out by a wide range of organisations, including the UK Government, devolved administrations, statutory agencies, local authorities and non-governmental organisations. These organisations will have a key role to play in the implementation of the vision. JNCC's role will be to ensure that the vision is developed and elaborated sufficiently to assist this process.

2.2 Scope

Much nature conservation work has been undertaken in the UK resulting in a wide range of commitments to nature conservation targets, strategies and other delivery mechanisms and approaches. For instance, much work has been carried out under international obligations, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan process and country biodiversity strategies. The intention is to build on these foundations to develop a comprehensive and coherent framework of targets, strategies and other measures for nature conservation. This would enable information and advice to be provided to key stakeholders in the environment about strategic priorities for nature conservation in the UK, advice on delivery mechanisms to achieve these priorities, and guidance to the JNCC and the country agencies on strategic priorities for their work.

The programme will be supported by a series of limited-term initiatives, including relevant work delivered through other programmes. The need for new initiatives and approaches will be identified incrementally as the strategic vision develops. Accordingly, the plan identifies only the initial areas for development.

The programme will also bring together outputs from each of the other programmes and information and experience from outside the JNCC to form a strategic overview from which the Joint Committee can provide advice to key stakeholders.

The Joint Committee will play a prominent role in delivering this programme, which will require strong links to be developed and maintained with the Boards and Councils of the country agencies, with UK Government departments and devolved administrations, and with the wider nature conservation community.

2.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure	-	10	7	7
Salaries	47	60	63	67
Total	47	70	70	74
Grant-in-aid	47	70	70	74
Other income	-	0	0	0
Total	47	70	70	74

2.4 Programme targets

- Communicate advice and information on strategic issues, priorities and actions for nature conservation to key stakeholders.
- Establish a comprehensive and cohesive framework of targets, strategies and other measures for nature conservation that has ownership by key decision-makers.

Milestones

- By March 2006, develop a communications strategy for the JNCC.
- By March 2007, develop a framework of targets, strategies and other measures for nature conservation to a sufficient degree to enable advice to be produced for Government and other key stakeholders of what developments to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan will be needed to help achieve the vision for wildlife and natural features.

2.5 Project portfolio

Strategic vision

3. GLOBAL ADVICE

3.1 Context

This programme, together with the European Advice programme, provides the major contribution to the 'European and international influencing' strategic objective. Elements of the programme will have relevance to the Overseas Territories programme, and outputs from the programme will often have implications for subsequent implementation within the UK itself.

The main drivers of our work are:

- Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), in particular:
 - Convention on Biological Diversity
 - Bonn Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals and its subsidiary agreements
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
 - Ramsar Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance
 - World Heritage Convention
- The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) commitments on sustainable consumption and production, chemicals, biodiversity, oceans, fisheries and agriculture, and in particular the target to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010

The UK Government negotiates with other countries, and through the European Union, to develop and implement international environmental agreements. A wide range of stakeholders contribute to this negotiation, including UK Government departments, devolved administrations, statutory agencies, scientific institutions and non-governmental bodies. The JNCC's role is to advise Government on nature conservation issues relevant to these negotiations, including possible global effects (i.e. beyond Europe and including the high seas), and the implications of implementation within the UK. An important issue in relation to the JNCC's advice is the likely cost-benefit for nature conservation of proposals under consideration.

3.2 Scope

During the corporate plan period, this area of the JNCC's work will shift from simply providing support to meet the obligations of MEAs and related processes, to adopting a more proactive role in addressing global biodiversity loss. This will require greater attention to socio-economic issues, such as the factors which drive biodiversity loss or which act as incentives for biodiversity conservation.

A priority for the JNCC over the next three years will be to support the UK Government in meeting its international obligations under the WSSD biodiversity target, as set out in the UK delivery plan: *Beyond Johannesburg: delivering our international biodiversity commitments*. Work to support the government in meeting its WSSD obligations will be informed by an analysis of the drivers of global biodiversity loss and of possible mechanisms to mitigate these. We will assess how the JNCC's work contributes to global conservation priorities overall and scope what our role should be in the future.

We will continue to provide strong support to Government in the implementation of MEAs, e.g. by participating in UK delegations to international meetings and providing advice sufficient to maintain the effectiveness of negotiations and the reputation of the UK for high-quality scientific input. Our activities will need to be prioritised to ensure that the greatest return for effort is achieved, both in terms of initial negotiation and also subsequent implementation.

3.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure	120	77	78	79
Salaries	275	293	307	325
Total	395	370	385	404
Grant-in-aid	316	301	315	333
Other income	78	69	70	71
Total	395	370	385	404

3.4 Programme targets

- Provide high-quality scientific support to enable effective UK implementation of MEAs, focusing on those MEAs that deliver the greatest nature conservation benefits.
- Provide high-quality, timely, fit for purpose advice in support of the global conservation of biological and geological diversity, paying particular attention to the WSSD target of significantly reducing the rate of global biodiversity loss by 2010.

Milestones

- By December 2005, review and prioritise the JNCC's support to MEAs.
- 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.

3.5 Project portfolio

World Summit on Sustainable Development biodiversity target
 Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna (CAFF)
 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 Convention on International trade in Endangered Species (CITES) – Policy
 CITES – Licensing
 Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn)
 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)
 International Earth Heritage
 IUCN (World Conservation Union) – UK Committee secretariat

4. NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

4.1 Context

The primary role of this programme is to implement the strategic objective concerned with the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. Although the 14 UK Overseas Territories and three Crown Dependencies occupy a relatively small area, they make a significant contribution to global biological and geological diversity (e.g. the rich endemic flora and fauna of St Helena and other isolated island territories, the coral reefs of the British Indian Ocean Territory, and the seabird and sea mammal populations of the south Atlantic territories).

Activities and outcomes generated by the Global Advice and UK Advice programmes will also have relevance and value in application to the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

The main drivers of our work are:

- Defra's PSA target to 'deliver the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) commitments, notably in the areas of sustainable consumption and production, chemicals, biodiversity, oceans, fisheries and agriculture' (Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies are given direct recognition in targets in the UK Government's WSSD delivery plan for international biodiversity: *Beyond Johannesburg: delivering our international biodiversity commitments*)
- FCO strategic policy priorities to improve the governance, security and environment of the Overseas Territories
- The 1999 White Paper on the Overseas Territories, *Partnership for Progress and Prosperity*, and the subsequent adoption of Environment Charters
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), e.g. the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Nature conservation within the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is the responsibility of the governments of those territories. The Overseas Territories governments are supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and those in the Crown Dependencies by the Department of Constitutional Affairs; other Government departments and non-governmental bodies are also involved in this work. The JNCC's role is to assist this process through the appropriate provision of advice and information.

4.2 Scope

Given the increasing priority being given to the WSSD 2010 target to reduce significantly the rate of global biodiversity loss, and the major contribution that the Overseas Territories make to global biodiversity, this area of work is likely to be of increasing significance to the JNCC. A key activity will be to review the JNCC's strategic niche in contributing to Government's WSSD commitments, taking into account the need for appropriate structures and machinery to deal with Overseas Territory issues in Government and elsewhere. This review will also address the JNCC's role in supporting Earth heritage conservation in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

Support to MEAs in which the UK interest is solely through Overseas Territories (e.g. the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, and the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW Protocol)) will continue to be an important work area for the JNCC, based on analysis conducted in this programme and the prioritisation of MEAs under the Global Advice programme.

Having determined the JNCC's strategic direction in this programme, the first priority will be to develop a funding strategy to support this. The growth of the programme will, therefore, be determined by our success in achieving funding, which will, in turn, be influenced by how well we determine our niche and the level of demand for our services. In the absence of additional funding,

our contribution to this area of work is likely to remain modest. Direct demand from the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies for advice from the JNCC is increasing slowly and we will need to develop relevant expertise within the organisation in order to fulfil our advisory role in this area.

4.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure	4	14	14	14
Salaries	22	23	24	25
Total	26	37	38	39
Grant-in-aid	26	37	38	39
Other income	-	0	0	0
Total	26	37	38	39

4.4 Programme targets

- Provide, to UK Government departments and Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies governments and others, ongoing timely and sound advice to support the implementation of Environment Charters and of Multilateral Environmental Agreements extended to the particular territory.
- Commission or provide support to ongoing overviews of nature conservation issues across the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, covering areas such as invasive aliens, climate change and bird monitoring.

Milestones

- 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.

4.5 Project portfolio

Overseas Territories

5. UK's GLOBAL IMPACT

5.1 Context

This programme relates to the strategic objective of the same name. There are close links to several other programmes, in particular the Global Advice, European Advice and Overseas Territories programmes. The programme will draw upon experience and outcomes generated in other programmes to develop advice on best practice for biological and geological diversity management in the context of the UK's global impact.

The aim of the programme is to identify the extent and type of impact that UK society is having upon biological and geological diversity in other countries, including developing countries where these impacts could be highly significant. The programme relates to Defra's PSA target 'to promote sustainable development across Government and in the UK and internationally, as measured by ... the UK's progress towards delivering the World Summit on Sustainable Development commitments ...'. It has particular relevance to the WSSD target 'to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010'.

A range of international fora, Government departments, statutory agencies and non-governmental bodies are working to reduce the adverse impacts of developed countries on the biological and geological diversity of less developed countries, by placing them on a more sustainable basis. However, the UK's impact abroad remains very imperfectly understood and priorities for further action imperfectly developed. The JNCC's role will be to collate information relevant to the UK's global impact and identify priority areas requiring further action. It is likely that such action will include the need to develop national and international partnerships.

5.2 Scope

As this is a new area of work for the JNCC, we will need to proceed carefully to identify priorities and define the JNCC's role in relation to other organisations. The programme will first involve a scoping exercise to consider the following:

- the nature, quantity, value and origin of commodities imported into the UK and the source, amount, destination and application of UK money invested or otherwise directed overseas;
- the best means of characterising the distribution of biological and geological diversity globally and identifying priority habitats, species and Earth heritage features;
- the impact of UK activities on biological and geological diversity overseas;
- the identification of action already underway to address significant UK impacts overseas, and the identification of the organisations promoting and undertaking such action;
- the identification of the methods available, based on existing best practice and emerging techniques, first to identify, and then to eliminate, minimise or mitigate these impacts.

Following the scoping exercise, we hope, where it is appropriate, to establish collaborative programmes with UK Government departments and other partners that encourage the sharing of resources to develop regulations and incentives to address the impacts of the UK's activities on biological and geological diversity. We will also aim to promote, through the EU, UK Government and industry, recognition of the importance of nature conservation issues in developing such regulations and incentives and encouraging best practice in respect of the UK's global economic activity.

The establishment of this new programme of work signals a desire for the JNCC to become more involved in international activities, and a commitment to place the JNCC's advice more firmly within the context of sustainable development by forging closer links between environmental information and relevant social and economic factors. The planned allocation of resources is modest, and full implementation of the programme will depend on securing additional sources of income and building partnerships with other organisations.

5.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure	6	20	15	15
Salaries	24	29	39	42
Total	30	49	54	57
Grant-in-aid	30	49	54	57
Other income	-	0	0	0
Total	30	49	54	57

5.4 Programme targets

- Establish and start to implement collaborative programmes with government departments and other partners to develop recommendations on amending practices and to create new regulations and incentives to mitigate the global impact of UK activities on biological and geological diversity.

Milestones

- 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.
- 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.
- By September 2007, identify priorities for further action needed to place UK activities abroad on a sustainable basis.

5.5 Project portfolio

Global biodiversity impact

6. EUROPEAN ADVICE

6.1 Context

This programme is intended to provide advice on European issues and policies in order to enhance the conservation of biological and geological diversity. Together with the Global Advice programme, it provides the major contribution to the 'European and international influencing' strategic objective. It also has a strong relationship with the Global Impacts and UK Advice programmes. Finally, it provides links between programmes that deal with UK activities, including those consequent of European obligations, and Europe.

Biological and geological diversity remain under significant pressure in Europe. The recent accession of 10 new Member States to the European Union (EU) provides fresh challenges for integrating nature conservation into sectoral policies, and the 'old 15' Member States have significant legacies of biodiversity decline. The environmental condition of many countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) is also a cause for concern. However, the UK and other European countries have made commitments to tackle the loss of biological and geological diversity in Europe. In addition to global commitments (e.g. arising from the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)), key European targets and policies include the following:

- Kiev Declaration to halt biodiversity loss in the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region, and the Gothenburg target to halt biodiversity loss in the EU
- Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), acting as an implementing mechanism for the CBD
- Oslo and Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the north-east Atlantic (OSPAR)
- EC Biodiversity strategy and action plans, EU Directives and the 6th Environmental Action Programme

Identifying and highlighting the threats to biodiversity in Europe and working to meet the international commitments of Europe form the basis of this programme. Working in partnership with Government, country agencies and others will ensure that collectively we can maximise our influence and make best use of our expertise. Pan-European partnerships, such as the European Environmental and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC), will increase in importance, as will bi- and multi-lateral partnerships on specific issues.

6.2 Scope

This programme covers the whole of Europe, extending into Central Asia (the EECCA Region is treated as contiguous in policy terms), and including the seas over which Europe has geopolitical influence. It will lead on cross-cutting European policy issues, and provide the link between UK actions and European obligations.

Over the next three years, our aim is to focus and enhance the quality of our advice to Government and others, so that the UK can make an appropriate contribution to achieving the Kiev Declaration and Gothenburg target on biodiversity loss. This will come about through a focus on the WSSD biodiversity implementation plan and the implementation of the CBD in Europe. One of the key aims will be to promote the integration of the environment into European sectoral policies, including agriculture and fisheries (see the UK Advice programme), which will require greater consideration of economic and social issues. All of the work within the programme will be underpinned by intelligence and analysis of European policy developments and strong relationships with key European players. The work of the UK Nature and Landscape Office in Brussels will be particularly important in this respect.

The UK Presidency of the EU between July to December 2005 will provide some opportunity to progress important environmental policy issues, and work under this programme will support the Government in this area.

6.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure	140	195	195	195
Salaries	172	200	212	275
Total	312	395	407	470
Grant-in-aid	304	360	372	435
Other income	8	35	35	35
Total	312	395	407	470

6.4 Programme targets

- With specific reference to 2010 Gothenburg and Kiev targets and Defra's WSSD delivery plan, provide high-quality, timely, fit for purpose advice on policies for or affecting the conservation of biological and geological diversity in Europe.
- Provide high-quality, timely, fit for purpose advice to Defra and others on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Europe, and achievement of the Convention's global targets.
- Work with others to conserve biological and geological diversity in recently acceded and candidate countries to the European Union and countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region, especially Russia, through the provision of advice, transferring expertise and capacity-building.

Milestones

- Provide support for UK Presidency activities in 2005 and the 6th Ministerial Environment for Europe Conference in 2007.
- Seek to influence, and then support Defra's response to, the European Commission Communication on biodiversity in autumn 2005, and the implementation of the PEBLDS.
- By March 2006, develop a plan of engagement with UK EECCA policies, and begin implementation.

6.5 Project portfolio

Programme oversight
 European Union
 Wider Europe
 European Community Directives
 European Marine
 Brussels Office
 Intelligence
 ETC Biological Diversity

7. UK ADVICE

7.1 Context

The aim of this programme is to provide advice on UK-wide strategies, policies and other initiatives that affect nature conservation. The programme supports the JNCC's 'UK co-ordination' objective, with a particular focus on the terrestrial and inshore marine environment, and also the objective relating to nature conservation beyond territorial waters. The rationale for a programme which encompasses these two objectives is that much of the work to develop nature conservation policy advice and strategy is cross-cutting in nature and can serve important elements of both objectives.

European and global commitments (e.g. under multilateral environmental agreements and EU Directives) drive many nature conservation initiatives within the UK, and this programme therefore serves as a link between the Global and European Advice programmes, which help to develop international policy, and UK delivery of international commitments. Work within this programme is also intended to enable UK and devolved governments to meet their domestic targets and obligations, e.g. in relation to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and headline indicators of sustainable development.

The JNCC advises UK Government departments and the devolved administrations on the development and implementation of policies for or affecting nature conservation relating to the UK as a whole. In doing so, we work closely with the country agencies, who have responsibility for advising on nature conservation matters in relation to their country so as to ensure that advice given is as 'seamless' as possible throughout the UK while being tailored to the needs of individual countries. The JNCC also provides nature conservation advice on marine casework in the 12-200 nautical mile zone, liaising with the country agencies so that similar advice principles are applied throughout the UK's marine area.

7.2 Scope

The programme will deliver policy advice to Government in relation to nature conservation affecting the UK as a whole over the area of UK jurisdiction (i.e. out to 200 nautical miles). It will also contribute to the development of UK nature conservation strategies in both the terrestrial and marine environments (in particular to provide a coherent approach to delivering international obligations), and provide any necessary UK nature conservation advice to other persons (notably conservation practitioners) in relation to land and water management. In addition, work within this programme includes the provision of marine casework advice for activities beyond territorial waters, such as oil and gas development, renewable energy development, shipping and aggregate extraction. It is expected that the outcomes of this work will also have value for application in the Overseas Territories and elsewhere.

Future development of the programme will be influenced by the Government's sustainable development agenda and the Gothenburg commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity in the EU by 2010. This is likely to lead to a shift in emphasis in some areas of work under this programme over the new few years. In particular, it is anticipated that there will be an increasing demand for advice on the application of the ecosystem approach and on measures to mitigate/adapt to the effects of climate change. This will require us to pay greater attention to social and economic issues when developing our nature conservation advice.

It is expected that demand for advice on marine casework beyond 12 nautical miles will expand as the renewable energy industry moves into the marine environment and as issues such as the nature conservation impacts of shipping are better understood.

7.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure (£k)	207	306	293	256
Salaries	461	507	524	543
Total (£k)	668	813	817	799
Grant-in-aid (£k)	548	688	692	725
Other income (£k)	120	125	125	74
Total (£k)	668	813	817	799

7.4 Programme targets

- Deliver sound, timely and relevant UK advice on legislation, policies and practices affecting nature conservation, having particular regard to the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and Earth heritage resources, and more widely the achievement of sustainable development.
- Deliver sound, timely and relevant UK advice on casework concerning marine activities affecting nature conservation.
- Formulate, and contribute towards the implementation of, strategies to achieve desired nature conservation outcomes in the terrestrial and marine environments.

Milestones

- By December 2006, develop guidance on implementing the ecosystem approach as a practical mechanism for achieving sustainable development.
- By December 2006, develop a strategy for using socio-economic information to support nature conservation advice and the development of conservation strategies.

7.5 Project portfolio

Co-ordination and application of EC Directives
 Non-native species advice
 Land use policy advice
 Fisheries policy advice
 Offshore industry advice
 Air pollution advice
 Pesticide advice
 GMO advice
 Climate change advice
 Biodiversity Action Plan advice
 Nature conservation value of soils
 Marine conservation strategy advice
 UK earth heritage advice
 Ecosystem approach and sustainable development
 Non-marine species advice
 Incorporation of social and economic issues in advice
 Marine species advice

8. MARINE MAPPING AND AREA PROTECTION

8.1 Context

The main focus of this programme is the delivery of the strategic objective concerned with 'nature conservation beyond territorial waters' and marine elements of the 'UK co-ordination' objective. However, as the programme incorporates a significant element of information collation and assessment, it also has close ties with the 'provision of information' objective and associated programmes. In particular, as mapping programmes will deliver information via the web, and work under this programme will establish habitat mapping standards, the programme relates closely to the Access to Information and Standard and Target Setting programmes. Elements of work under this programme will also contribute, to a lesser extent, to the Surveillance and Monitoring programme by providing a baseline for establishing marine surveillance.

Implementation of the ecosystem approach and recent moves towards establishing spatial planning mechanisms for the marine environment provide a new direction both for marine nature conservation and for other marine sectors, as supported by conclusions from the recently published Review of Marine Nature Conservation (RMNC). Sitting within these broader perspectives on management of the marine environment are the key policy drivers of the EC Habitats and Birds Directives and the OSPAR Convention which require the establishment of networks of marine protected areas (MPAs).

Management of the marine environment of north-west Europe is largely achieved through agreement of the relevant countries, including the members of the European Union. A range of stakeholders have an interest in this programme, in particular the UK Government and devolved administrations, the administrations of adjacent countries and the European Commission, statutory agencies and non-Governmental bodies. The JNCC role is to advise the UK Government and devolved administrations on methods appropriate for marine mapping and area protection for nature conservation purposes, and for advising on the selection of protected areas beyond 12 nautical miles.

8.2 Scope

The nature and extent of marine habitats, at broad national and international scales, is essential knowledge that will underpin the new approaches and policy drivers mentioned above, as well as providing fundamental information to inform policies for managing, monitoring and assessing the marine environment and for advising industry on their management practices.

The recent momentum in resource mapping, both nationally and internationally, is manifested in work under this programme which aims to provide the first comprehensive maps of seabed habitats and landscapes for the entire UK Continental Shelf and adjacent waters of European countries. Based on best available knowledge, the resultant maps will, for the first time, provide regional and national perspectives on the nature and extent of the seabed environment and its habitats, and will have multiple applications for future conservation and management actions. Started in 2004, the UK marine landscapes map will be available by 2006, whilst the first harmonised marine habitat maps for north-west Europe are expected in 2007. These mapping exercises will support the management of the marine environment by, for example, contributing to marine spatial planning and also the development of an ecologically coherent network of MPAs.

Global calls through the Convention on Biological Diversity to develop networks of MPAs need to be implemented through the regional mechanisms offered by EC Directives and the OSPAR Convention. Whilst the inshore delivery of Natura 2000 (SACs and SPAs) is well advanced, delivery in the offshore zone is in its very early stages and will take many years to complete at present resource levels. The additional requirements for OSPAR MPAs provide a significant further challenge to ensure an ecologically coherent suite of sites is designated within the 2010 timeframe set by OSPAR. Work under this programme will contribute significantly by providing essential information to aid the identification of sites.

In delivering the Government's commitments for protected areas under the EC Directives and OSPAR, the role of MPAs as part of the wider management of the marine environment needs to be strongly promoted, including within new developments for marine spatial planning systems and linked to sustainable development practices, such as for fisheries.

8.3 Planned resources (excluding staff)

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure (£k)	497	541	334	242
Salaries	483	523	495	351
Total (£k)	980	1,064	829	593
Grant-in-aid (£k)	625	603	616	526
Other income (£k)	355	461	213	67
Total (£k)	980	1,064	829	593

8.4 Programme targets

- Support strategic planning and decision-making through the provision of marine habitat maps at appropriate scales for the UK Continental Shelf.
- Advise Government on the identification and management of an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas in implementation of national policy and international obligations.

Milestones

- By June 2006, develop a broadscale marine landscape map for the UK Continental Shelf.
- By June 2007, develop finer scale marine habitat maps from available and newly collected data, harmonised to key classification schemes (e.g. EUNIS), for UK waters in conjunction with adjacent countries, and establish mechanisms for their update and improvement thereafter.
- By December 2005, identify and establish an initial network of MPAs (which may also be SACs or SPAs) to fulfil OSPAR Commission requirements, completing the series by 2010.
- Recommend to Government a series of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the offshore marine zone, in conjunction with parallel work by the country agencies in the inshore zone to fulfil EC Habitats Directive obligations, aiming to have completed advice on 60% of the site series by 2008.
- Recommend to Government a series of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the offshore marine zone, in conjunction with parallel work by the country agencies in the inshore zone, to fulfil EC Birds Directive obligations; by December 2008, complete guidance on seaward extensions of seabird breeding colony SPAs, analyse data for at least nine inshore aggregations of non-breeding birds and progress the identification of offshore seabird aggregations.

8.5 Project portfolio

OSPAR protection and mapping
 Marine Habitats Directive and Natura 2000
 Marine SPAs
 Mapping European Seabed Habitats (MESH)
 Mapping marine landscapes (CMap)
 Seasearch

9. STANDARD AND TARGET SETTING

9.1 Context

This programme contributes to the 'UK co-ordination' objective and reflects the desire to ensure standards and targets are set within a strategic framework.

UK standards for nature conservation provide a framework within which nature conservation can be implemented in a devolved manner at country and local level, yet still provide consistency at a UK level, and, where appropriate, at a wider international level. The JNCC has the primary role in developing these standards, with the country agencies, UK Government departments and devolved administrations being the principal users, although they will also be used more widely by a range of conservation practitioners. Standards established under this programme will be relevant to several other JNCC work programmes. For example, standards for site selection will underpin work within the Marine Mapping and Area Protection programme, while work to develop the Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site series will inform the JNCC's advice under the UK Advice programme.

Targets in relation to biological and geological diversity have been generated by a variety of fora and at a range of levels. They include global targets, such as those agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and range down to the detailed targets of Habitat and Species Action Plans under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. This programme will seek to provide a coherent suite of targets from the high-level international targets, to those developed to meet the vision objective and which may be appropriate for delivery at the country level. The JNCC's role is to support the UK Government and devolved administrations develop this coherent suite of targets, working in close liaison with the country agencies and other stakeholders.

9.2 Scope

The majority of the standards encompassed within this programme have already been the subject of considerable development, and it is expected that future work will be concerned primarily with refinement and updating.

Key areas of work include:

- standards for the selection of SSSIs;
- monitoring interest features on protected sites;
- species status;
- UK and international indicators; and
- habitat classification.

During the corporate plan period, a major milestone will be reached with publication of the final volumes of the GCR series, bringing to a close a programme of work that provides a comprehensive description of nationally and internationally important geological and geomorphological sites in Britain. The focus will subsequently shift to making this vast body of information more easily accessible by electronic means, and keeping the site series under regular review.

The work to identify a coherent suite of targets at an appropriate level will have due regard to existing international and national obligations, while allowing that some rationalisation and consolidation is likely to be desirable.

Alongside this, we will establish a quality assurance system that enables the work under this programme to be assessed.

9.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure	122	167	154	139
Salaries	229	280	257	242
Total	351	447	411	381
Grant-in-aid	298	391	353	328
Other income	53	56	58	53
Total	351	447	411	381

9.4 Programme targets

- Formulate and maintain common standards for monitoring and research on nature conservation, and for the selection of designated sites.
- Advise Government on the development of a coherent suite of targets for nature conservation, from high-level international targets to the national targets needed to deliver the vision objective.

Milestones

- By December 2005, prepare the first UK-wide Common Standards Monitoring report on the condition of designated sites.
- By December 2006, complete publication of the Geological Conservation Review series.
- By December 2006, work with the country agencies and Government to establish a coherent suite of biological and geological targets that will cover existing international obligations and deliver the vision for wildlife and natural features.
- By December 2007, complete a targeted revision of the selection guidelines for biological SSSIs.

9.5 Project portfolio

Geological Conservation Review (GCR) publication
 GCR information
 Species status assessment
 Common Standards Monitoring
 Habitat classifications
 SSSI Guidelines
 Biodiversity indicators
 Birds Directive : Target and Standard Setting, UK Co-ordination

10. STRATEGY FOR SURVEILLANCE, REPORTING AND RESEARCH

10.1. Context

This programme is derived from the need to provide an overarching framework within which surveillance, reporting and research activities can be carried out in the most cost-effective manner. Within this framework the JNCC will undertake tasks and activities related to the 'provision of information' strategic objective, which will in turn influence outputs generated under the 'UK co-ordination' objective. This programme has close links with other programmes contributing to these objectives, and in particular will determine requirements under the Surveillance and Monitoring programme.

Currently, the drivers for our work are set by international and national obligations such as the surveillance and reporting obligations of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), European Directives and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. These will remain central in the future, but there is also a need to assess strategically the context and value of our work (within a UK, European and global context) in order to make appropriate shifts, such as a move towards reporting based on the status and trends of biological and geological diversity rather than on activity undertaken in relation to these.

A wide range of Government departments, statutory agencies, scientific institutions and non-Governmental bodies are involved in biodiversity and geodiversity-related surveillance and research. The UK Government and devolved administrations are responsible for undertaking reporting under a range of legal and policy instruments on the basis of available information. The role of JNCC is to advise the UK Government, devolved administrations and other agencies involved in this work of ways of undertaking it cost-effectively, and also to advise on any gaps in existing surveillance programmes and current knowledge that need to be addressed.

10.2 Scope

The majority of the work within the programme, to produce integrated and complementary strategies for monitoring and surveillance, reporting and research, is new. This work will largely be completed within two years, but there will be long-term implications for work under other programmes.

In producing these strategies, we will need to work closely with those concerned with the surveillance and reporting of biological and geological diversity to ensure that the strategies meet UK needs in a cost-effective manner, and that future roles and responsibilities for delivery are understood and accepted. The work focused on producing these strategies will be undertaken during 2005/06. Further development and refinement, and subsequent engagement with stakeholders, will primarily be undertaken in 2006/07. Following this we will continue to monitor and develop these areas.

We shall continue, in relation to UK biodiversity research, to contribute to the Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG), which is working to promote scientific research that will support the delivery of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. In relation to international biodiversity research, we shall be focusing our work on contributing to the newly established Global Biodiversity Sub-Committee of the Global Environmental Change Committee (GECC), an inter-agency cross-Governmental committee.

10.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure	27	21	20	20
Salaries	77	79	45	47
Total	104	100	65	67
Grant-in-aid	97	100	65	67
Other income	7	0	0	0
Total	104	100	65	67

10.4 Programme targets

- Ensure that UK strategies for surveillance, reporting and research in relation to biological and geological diversity are agreed between the key stakeholders

Milestones

- By March 2007, finalise strategies for surveillance, reporting and research following consultation with key stakeholders.

10.5 Project portfolio

Surveillance and reporting strategy
 Biodiversity research co-ordination

11. SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING

11.1 Context

This programme contributes to the 'provision of information' strategic objective. The programme will implement the surveillance strategy to be developed by the Strategy for Surveillance, Reporting and Research programme, specifically using this to set the drivers for surveillance, and identify the main socio-economic and environmental impacts on biodiversity.

The programme looks to the UK Advice and Standard and Target Setting programmes to determine requirements, whilst outputs from the Access to Information programme will help streamline the surveillance, provide access to other data sources to help determine options for improving surveillance, and provide the dissemination mechanisms for surveillance data and results. Outputs from the Surveillance and Monitoring programme will feed into the Policy-relevant Information and Reporting programme.

This programme will provide status and trend data to assess the UK's contribution to the Gothenburg target to halt the loss of biodiversity within the EU by 2010. It will contribute to the surveillance and monitoring obligations of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), European directives and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and country biodiversity strategies. Work under this programme also enables assessment against Defra's Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets to 'reverse the long-term decline in the number of farmland birds by 2020.....' and 'bring into favourable condition by 2010 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites' and the Welsh Assembly Government target that 'by 2010, the populations of wild birds that are now in decline must have stabilised or started to rise'. In addition, this programme will contribute to the agenda action of the Scottish National Biodiversity Forum to 'strengthen and further develop monitoring of habitats and species to ensure that progress against UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets and other indicators can be measured'.

In the UK, surveillance is undertaken by Government departments and devolved administrations, statutory agencies, non-Governmental bodies and scientific institutions. Much data is provided by volunteer recorders. The JNCC funds and manages, with partners, surveillance schemes for a range of biodiversity aiming to meet a variety of UK and devolved needs cost effectively. The JNCC also helps optimise surveillance investment by developing frameworks that integrate different needs.

11.2 Scope

The aim of this programme is to deliver status and trend information on the UK's wildlife and natural features that is relevant to target setting, advising on policy and measuring outcomes. The programme will develop the current surveillance effort into a change detection mechanism that is:

- efficient and balanced, so that it delivers status and where possible trend information for a broad range of species groups and habitat types, taking into account the main drivers of change predicted over the next 20 years;
- evolved from analysis of existing monitoring and surveillance schemes (both within the JNCC's programme and elsewhere) to assess the detection coverage and sensitivity they provide, and determine how best to revise them or fill gaps;
- integrated, so that a combination of component schemes provides balanced coverage without duplication of effort, and fits with schemes run outside the JNCC;
- designed to detect incremental/cumulative long-term changes (which should mean it also will detect much more catastrophic/dramatic changes);
- openly accessible, facilitating collaborative analysis with other sectors, and at different geographic scales from European to regional.

In addition to this balanced change detection mechanism, specific nature conservation and sustainable development policies may need greater rigour, improved sensitivity, or a broader species/habitat coverage to measure their outcomes.

11.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure	1,254	1,227	1,225	1,227
Salaries	346	383	402	415
Total	1,600	1,610	1,630	1,642
Grant-in-aid	1,538	1,548	1,568	1,580
Other income	62	62	62	62
Total	1,600	1,610	1,630	1,642

11.4 Programme targets

- Contribute to the implementation of the overall UK strategy for the surveillance of UK biological and geological diversity by undertaking relevant surveillance, directly and through collaboration with key partners as appropriate.
- Collate available information to provide regular assessments on the status of and trends in UK biological and geological diversity.

Milestones

- 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.
- 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.
- By 2007, ensure all status and trend measures are available flexibly via the web, and that their underpinning data and analyses are transparently accessible.
- Progressively, and by 2008, deliver a revised flow of annual/periodic status and trend measures for species and habitats much more closely aligned with target setting, outcome measures and advice, so that, through wildlife statistics, the surveillance is relevant to a broad range of cross-cutting policies in addition to informing species and site-based conservation.

11.5 Project portfolio

Biological Records Centre
 Bird surveillance
 Pollutant levels in birds
 Mammal surveillance
 Seabird and cetacean monitoring and surveillance
 Lepidoptera surveillance
 Habitat surveillance
 Marine habitat surveillance

12. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

12.1 Context

This programme contributes to the 'provision of information' objective in the JNCC's strategy, and aims to facilitate access to data relating to biological and geological diversity through the development of standards and tools, and to improve data management practices within the data-generating sector. It is also responsible for disseminating these data, and relevant information products generated from them, in ways that can be readily accessed and used by the JNCC and its partners.

This programme is responsible for the delivery and dissemination of the status and trend information generated by both the Policy-relevant Information and Reporting and the Surveillance and Monitoring programmes, as a coherent whole, via the JNCC website. The choice of data made available will be driven by the needs of other programmes, in particular Policy-relevant Information and Reporting, which will define the reports required and hence the data required to produce them. Many of the data relating to long-term trends in biological and geological diversity will be derived from specific sampling programmes developed by the Surveillance and Monitoring programme. The Access to Information programme will complement these data with data derived from other sources, such as volunteer recording schemes and habitat mapping and surveillance initiatives.

This programme is undertaken largely to support the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) in providing access to data on biodiversity and geological diversity. The NBN services the needs of a wide range of statutory and non-statutory organisations and the general public, and the data holdings are supplied by a range of organisations. The JNCC's role is to assist the NBN through the development of appropriate standards and the facilitation of user access, as well as by making its own data publicly available.

12.2 Scope

Over the last five years, the JNCC has invested heavily in the development of the NBN, leading the technical development of Recorder and the NBN Gateway. Over the plan period we will review the amount of further development needed in these areas, and begin to move to a role focused on providing a service to stakeholders by providing access to the information they need to carry out their functions. This will include working more closely with a range of data providers to facilitate access to their data. The need to focus on accessing data relating to pressures on the environment, where this will assist with JNCC internal analyses, is also anticipated to increase. Additionally, the growing use of the web to deliver outputs from the organisation, particularly in relation to the status and trends in wildlife in the UK, will be reflected in this programme.

The JNCC has always adopted a policy of open access to information, and we will continue to ensure that developments under this programme meet the obligations of new information legislation such as the Freedom of Information Act and the revised Environmental Information Regulations.

12.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure	178	175	115	110
Salaries	198	220	228	236
Total	376	395	343	346
Grant-in-aid	300	335	343	346
Other income	76	60	0	0
Total	376	395	343	346

12.4 Programme targets

- Work with key suppliers of biological and geological diversity and other relevant data within the UK to set up efficient data management, licensing and exchange practices in order to ensure that, as more data are collected, they can be rapidly made available to, and integrated into, analyses being carried out by the JNCC.
- Integrate data gathered at a UK scale with those available at larger geographic scales in order to assess the importance of UK biological and geological diversity on a European and global scale and to allow changes at the UK scale to be compared with those at broader geographical scales.
- Ensure effective use of the web in providing access to and disseminating data and information to JNCC partners, including the outputs of analyses.

Milestones

- By March 2006, review the JNCC activities that have contributed to the technical development of the NBN, and start to shift effort to the provision of a reliable and efficient information access service for stakeholders.
- 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.

12.5 Project portfolio

Recorder
 NBN
 Website development
 Marine data management
 Establishing international information access
 Access to relevant reference datasets

13. POLICY RELEVANT-INFORMATION AND REPORTING

13.1 Context

This programme relates to the 'provision of information' strategic objective and relies on the Surveillance and Monitoring and Access to Information programmes to supply appropriate data. It also links to programmes that need to use policy-relevant information, most notably the Standard and Target Setting, UK Advice, and Global and European Advice programmes.

Key drivers of this work include the reporting obligations of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), European Directives and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. However, outputs from the programme will also have a much wider application in supporting the provision of advice on UK and international nature conservation.

The UK Government and devolved administrations are responsible for reporting under a range of legal and policy instruments. Data on biological and geological are available from surveillance and monitoring programmes undertaken by a wide range of organisations, including the country agencies and non-governmental bodies. The Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG) has a key role in the provision of information to support the UK Biodiversity Action Plan process. The JNCC's role is to assist Government and BRIG in carrying out these reporting and information provision obligations in a cost-effective manner, and also by identifying and interpreting trends.

13.2 Scope

The programme aims to produce information relevant to the development and implementation of policy. This will be achieved by:

- identifying the policy owners, their need for information, the nature of information needed (policy relevance) and the possible responses they might make;
- making information on the status and trends of UK biodiversity easily accessible and appropriate for the purposes of reporting and policy development;
- delivering policy-relevant information by undertaking analyses that reliably relate changes in biodiversity to the drivers of change and to policy issues.

Between 2005 and 2008, the programme will support some pressing policy issues through the delivery of information, in addition to building capacity and support for a full policy information support service by 2010.

In the first year, work will concentrate on the development of reporting and biodiversity indicator frameworks that are outcome-oriented, and supporting efforts to achieve greater coherence between the various UK and international reporting commitments. In parallel, the JNCC will deliver statistics on the status and trends of terrestrial UK biodiversity, and will develop analytical techniques to interpret these statistics in a policy-relevant way. Other work will focus initially on supporting decisions on favourable conservation status, climate change, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the WSSD and Gothenburg targets to reduce significantly/halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The marine component of the work will be accelerated in subsequent years. We will also continue to meet commitments to support the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) through reporting and provision of information, although requirements in this area will be reviewed in the light of changing needs, e.g. the post-devolution infrastructure.

13.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure	35	23	24	20
Salaries	123	123	125	148
Total	158	146	149	168
Grant-in-aid	141	138	141	160
Other income	17	8	8	8
Total	158	146	149	168

13.4 Programme targets

- Produce timely, appropriate, understandable and useful information products to support the requirements of the JNCC for advice to Government and for reporting.
- Ensure that biodiversity-relevant policy and reporting at UK and international scales is based on outcome-oriented evidence.

Milestones

- By December 2005, develop a five-year work programme for the delivery of policy-relevant information.
- Progressively, and by 2008, publish annual statistics on the status of UK wildlife sufficient to support all relevant policy needs.

13.5 Project portfolio

Wildlife statistics of status and trends
 Marine status assessment
 Harmonisation of reporting obligations
 UK Biodiversity Action Plan support

14. SUPPORT SERVICES

14.1. Context

This programme relates directly to the 'support services' strategic objective and covers services such as human resources, financial management, office facilities and information technology, which support the other sections of the JNCC in meeting their objectives. The salary costs also cover a proportion of administrative staff in other sections where they undertake tasks not directly attributable to a particular project.

The aim is therefore to support delivery of all the other programmes. We strive to provide these support services in the most cost-effective and efficient manner whilst seeking to meet the requirements of our internal customers and statutory and legal requirements, such as financial reporting, employment law, and health and safety.

There are a number of external influences which this programme must respond to such as:

- The Gershon Efficiency Review and similar initiatives in Scotland and Wales.
- The Modernising Rural Delivery programme in England.
- The *Modernising Government* programme and other initiatives for public sector reform
- Legislative obligations, such as the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations.
- Changes in accounting and employment requirements or procedures.

14.2 Scope

This programme covers the administrative activities which support the JNCC. The implementation of recommendations following the Financial, Management and Policy Review (FMPR) of the JNCC will result in the formation of a new company structure for the organisation. This will have a significant impact on support services, as the JNCC will become a legal entity, employing its own staff and compiling its own accounts. Over the next three years we will be looking at ways of improving delivery of the service through a phased programme of reviews.

Given the amount of resources absorbed by support services it is important that we regularly review our services to ensure that they are carried out in the most efficient and cost effective manner. In 2004/05, with the work to establish the new Company Limited by Guarantee and to ensure that all the statutory and legal requirements of running the company and directly employing staff are met, work on looking for efficiency savings has taken second place. With the establishment of the company in March 2005 there will be an opportunity to identify savings through changes to working practices and procedures so as to release more resources for front-line nature conservation work.

Key activities will include the following:

- improved delivery of services to reduce costs and focus services;
- development and implementation of a strategy for information sharing and records management across the JNCC;
- development and implementation of an environmental management action plan; and
- a review of the JNCC's accommodation requirements.

14.3 Planned resources

<i>All figures are £k</i>	2004/05 probable out-turn	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Direct Expenditure	962	913	913	913
Salaries	1,008	1,119	1,113	1,071
Total	1,970	2,032	2,026	1,984
Grant-in-aid	1,904	1,971	1,965	1,923
Other income	66	61	61	61
Total	1,970	2,032	2,026	1,984

14.4 Programme targets

- Support the Committee, Board of Directors and Executive Management Board with accurate and timely information to ensure that decisions are based on reliable information.
- Provide support to publish the work of the JNCC so that decision-makers, opinion-formers, and other external and internal audiences are kept informed of the work and recommendations of the JNCC to further nature conservation in the UK and world-wide and to optimise the management and sharing of environmental information.
- Ensure that the new JNCC company meets all its statutory, legal and policy obligations, including the annual filing of accounts and data for Companies House within the statutory deadlines.
- Achieve annually an overall efficiency savings target of 1.5% p.a for the three years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 against the baseline of the 2005/06 budget.

Milestones

- 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.
- By September 2005, review the JNCC's accommodation and make recommendations in time for the rent review in January 2006.
- 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.

14.5 Project portfolio

Preparation of a strategy for support services
 Communications
 Corporate governance
 Financial management
 Day to day provision of IT services
 Enhancement & development of the network (IT services)
 Human resources
 Information management services
 Office facilities – Peterborough
 Office facilities – Aberdeen
 Environmental management