

JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MATTERS ARISING

Paper by Sue McQueen

This paper deals with points not covered by substantive items on the agenda. The numbers relate to the minutes of the September 2006 meeting

5. The first meeting of the new Inter-Agency Climate Change Forum has been arranged for 18 December. The meeting will be chaired by Mr Riddleston, but it is hoped that the new independent Committee member with responsibility for climate change may also be able to attend.

14. At the September meeting, Committee agreed that JNCC should take on the role of UK National Agency for LIFE+ subject to satisfactory resolution of a number of outstanding issues. Since the meeting, good progress has been made in assessing a number of issues relating to JNCC's existing remit and powers, practical delivery and other risks.

However, on 24 October, the European Parliament voted against the delegation of 80% of the LIFE+ budget to the member states and a conciliation process will be needed to resolve the differences between the Parliament's and Council's positions. Defra has been advised by the Commission to defer preparatory work for the implementation of LIFE+ until the conciliation process has concluded and, in turn, Defra has asked JNCC to do the same. Accordingly, we are unable to advise Committee whether it is feasible for JNCC to pursue the role of the National Agency if the opportunity persists nor to advise Defra on likely timescale and costs. We have advised Defra that the work should be re-started by February at the latest in order to bring the matter back to Committee in March.

- 13.2 A paper on non-native species will be prepared for the March 2007 Committee meeting.