



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>

JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

UPDATE ON INTER-AGENCY WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Paper by Marcus Yeo

1. Background

- 1.1 A meeting of the Inter-Agency Climate Change Forum (IACCF) was held in London on 19 December. The main items on the agenda were:
- i. a presentation and discussion on Natural England's Joint Character Areas project, which attempts to identify what an adaptive landscape looks like, indicators that show progress towards adaptation, and evidence for management options working (e.g. corridors);
 - ii. a presentation from Martin Parry (co-chair of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)) on the key outcomes from the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report and the implications for the UK;
 - iii. consideration of an IACCF discussion paper on climate change adaptation, which has been revised following the meeting;
 - iv. discussion of climate change mitigation options, based on the concept of 'stabilisation wedges'¹. Some aspects of this work are being taken forward outside the IACCF and have contributed to developing thinking on energy policy and nature conservation (see paper JNCC 08 D04 for this meeting);
 - v. preparation of a joint Land Use Policy Group and IACCF policy statement on climate change and land use.
- 1.2 *Biodiversity conservation in a changing climate*, a conference organised by CCW, Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Woodland Trust, will take place on 11 March. The conference will include an opening address from Joan Ruddock, Minister for Biodiversity and Climate Change, and will have strong input from the nature conservation agencies.
- 1.3 The Bern Convention Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change meet in Spain on 13-14 March. The meeting will be attended by JNCC.

¹ <http://www.princeton.edu/~cmi/resources/stabwedge.htm>

- 1.4 A European Network of Nature Conservation Agencies has recently been established and has set up an Interest Group on Climate Change and Adaptation, chaired by Tom Tew (Chief Scientist, Natural England). This group will provide an opportunity for the UK nature conservation agencies to exchange experiences with counterparts in other parts of Europe and hopefully provide co-ordinated input to the preparation of the EU White Paper on adaptation to climate change (due to be published in November 2008).
- 1.5 JNCC and country agency policy directors met on 28 February 2008 and agreed that climate change policy was a priority for inter-agency collaboration over the coming year. This will be achieved by providing input to the IACCF.
- 1.6 Karen Dickinson, JNCC's Climate Change Adviser, who provides support for the IACCF, went on maternity leave in January and has been temporarily replaced by Deb Procter.