



**UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE INTER-AGENCY CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM**

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## JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

### UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE INTER-AGENCY CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM

#### Paper by Deborah Procter on behalf of the Inter-Agency Climate Change Forum

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Inter-Agency Climate Change Forum (IACCF) was established by the Joint Committee in September 2006 with the objectives to:
  - i. provide strategic direction for UK and international work on climate change and nature conservation undertaken by the JNCC Support Company and the country agencies; and
  - ii. focus on enabling progress in areas not adequately addressed by existing work.
- 1.2 The Forum is chaired by Professor Michael Usher, an independent member of the Joint Committee. The meetings are hosted on a rotating basis by JNCC and the country agencies.
- 1.3 The IACCF has no independent budget. Successful joint working on priority issues relies on active input from all members of the Forum.

#### 2. Report on activities in 2008

- 2.1 The IACCF met four times in 2008 (April, June, September and December) and will meet again on 2 April 2009. The meetings provide a valuable forum for sharing and discussing work being done by each member organisation and to identify areas of joint working.
- 2.2 Following on from earlier Forum discussions of climate change mitigation options, based on the concept of 'stabilisation wedges', JNCC commissioned the Institute of European Environmental Policy to review information on the environmental impacts of different energy technologies.
- 2.3 A final version of the paper *Adapting to Climate Change: Opportunities and Priorities for Biodiversity Conservation* was presented to the Joint Committee in June. The paper sets out why adaptation is needed and what sort of adaptive actions might be undertaken by the nature conservation agencies.
- 2.4 Work to produce a dossier of basic information about climate change and biodiversity continued throughout the year. The principal product will be a booklet, *Climate Change and Biodiversity: Inescapable Facts*, aimed primarily at policy makers in government and elsewhere. It is presented in a way that is easy to understand and provides links to key sources of data and information. The information in the booklet will also be presented as a web product.

### 3. Future work of the IACCF

- 3.1 In 2008, the IACCF undertook a review of its role, the results of which fed into a wider review of JNCC's corporate governance. Recommendations are set out in a separate paper for discussion at the March Committee meeting.
- 3.2 Priorities for the IACCF in 2009 are:
- i. discussing the implications of climate change for the *designation and management of protected sites*, and in particular whether there is a need to redefine what is meant by a 'protected site';
  - ii. developing a view on *methane emissions and wetland management*, building on work undertaken by CCW in 2008;
  - iii. keeping the *Inescapable Facts* up to date, so that it remains a useful information resource for policy makers;
  - iv. sharing information about *research projects* that relate to climate change.