



REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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Paper by Marcus Yeo

1. As agreed by Committee at its last meeting as part of the new corporate governance arrangements, the Executive Management Board will provide a report to the Joint Committee on matters relating to those issues reserved for Committee decision. This is in addition to a report to the Board on matters relevant to the running of the company.
2. Since the last report to the company board, the Executive Management Board (EMB) has met three times: on 12 March, 8 April and 14 May. Minutes of the meetings are available on request. The main items discussed by EMB and other significant issues relating to Joint Committee's reserved matters are summarised below.
4. EMB has been closely monitoring the progress, and implications for JNCC's work of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, the Scottish Marine Bill and related administrative devolution. EMB understands that the Welsh Assembly Government has also asked the Minister for powers of conservation for the Welsh offshore zone to complement its planning role already agreed within the Bill. These powers are thought to be equivalent to those already proposed for the Scottish Government in Scottish Offshore waters. The third reading, in the House of Lords, is scheduled to begin on 8th June and the Bill will then pass to the House of Lords. A paper will be presented to the Committee on September on the implications of devolution for JNCC's work in offshore waters.
5. EMB discussed progress across a range of work, including:
 - i. preparation of a UK Government strategy for biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories;
 - ii. identification of key stakeholders for JNCC's work in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies;
 - iii. requirements for the next surveillance contract with BTO;
 - iv. the conclusions of the Galway moderation meeting for marine SACs and the implications for completion of the offshore Natura 2000 network.

Papers will be brought to Committee as appropriate.

6. Additionally, EMB has reviewed draft papers for the Joint Committee and agreed the recommendations made in the final papers.