



DRAFT JNCC BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2009/10

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JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DRAFT JNCC BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2009/10

Paper by Sue McQueen and Marcus Yeo

1. Introduction

1.1 At its December meeting, Joint Committee endorsed a draft of the business plan as a basis for consultation. The draft plan attached to this paper (Appendix 1) has been revised to take into account stakeholder comments where appropriate. Subject to Committee endorsement of the revised plan it will be submitted to ministers for final approval.

2. Stakeholder consultation

2.1 Consultation on the business plan was undertaken with stakeholders in Defra, other Whitehall departments, devolved administrations and the country conservation bodies. Meetings were held with most of the core stakeholders.

2.2 In general, the plan was received very favourably by consultees, with broad support for the proposed priorities. A large number of comments were received, mostly relating to detailed aspects of the plan. Where appropriate, the plan has been amended in line with these comments.

2.3 Various other changes have been made to the plan, primarily to clarify the work we intend to progress during the year, the changes made since the corporate plan, and the way in which planned work will contribute to Government priorities.

2.4 The main issues raised during the consultation, and the changes made in response, are summarised below.

- i. Defra raised concerns about JNCC's support for the *UK Biodiversity Action Plan* (UK BAP). Whilst we will reduce support to the UK BAP project (within the Policy-relevant Information and Reporting programme) to reflect devolved responsibilities, JNCC's support for certain aspects of the UK BAP remains a priority for Defra. Our proposed approach is largely consistent with the UK responsibilities set out in *Conserving Biodiversity – The UK Approach*, and much of our work contributes to UK BAP even though it is not explicitly badged as such. We will continue to discuss with Defra where our priorities do not correspond with the published UK responsibilities.
- ii. Scottish Government and Defra highlighted the potential for the profile of *GMOs* to rise during the year and for demand for advice from JNCC to increase.

- iii. Defra has recently indicated a requirement for increased support for implementation of the *Marine Strategy Framework Directive*. We have amended the business plan to indicate where work will support the Framework Directive. However, with current capacity and demand to support many other EU and national marine priorities, we do not consider it to be realistic to fully undertake the shift in resources required to meet emerging requirements. We will continue to discuss with Defra possible solutions to this issue.

- iv. Scottish Government and SNH raised concern about the planned reduction in support for the *International Waterfowl Census (IWC)*. We intend to reallocate some funds to lever additional resources for a review of the IWC, while maintaining sufficient support to maintain key IWC assets

Appendix 1

DRAFT JNCC business plan for 2009/10

1. Background

1.1 JNCC's current corporate plan¹ covers the three-year period 2008-11. The business plan for 2009/10 builds on this and provides more detail for the second year of the corporate plan. Amendments have been made to reflect changing priorities, JNCC's new strategy and other factors.

2. Funding

Core Government funding

2.1 JNCC's core financial settlement for 2009/10 has been increased by £1.481 million to £9.244 million. The increase from Defra will be for additional 'reserved' work towards establishing and monitoring Marine Protected Areas/ Marine Conservation Zones and broader marine biodiversity surveillance. Funding for existing work programmes is the same as for 2008/09, i.e. £7.763 million (£1.920 million from Defra for 'reserved' functions and £5.843 million jointly provided by Defra and the devolved administrations for 'UK co-ordination' activities). Inflation and salary increases will be absorbed within this settlement.

All figures in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Defra (direct funding)	1,920	3,401
Defra (through Natural England)	2,878	2,878
Scottish Government (through Scottish Natural Heritage)	1,695	1,695
Welsh Assembly Government (through the Countryside Council for Wales)	847	847
Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland	423	423
Total	7,763	9,244

¹ Available at http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/jncc_cplan08-11.pdf

2.2 The following table shows how core Government funding will be allocated across programmes.

All figures in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Global Advice	155	156
Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies	135	135
UK's Global Impacts	112	77
European Intelligence and Advice	524	504
Sustainability Advice	210	207
Marine Management Advice	413	432
Marine Mapping and Area Protection	1,643	2,531
Conservation Advice	479	439
Surveillance and Monitoring	1,549	2,166
Access to Information	300	313
Policy-relevant Information and Reporting	344	335
Governance and Corporate Services	1,899	1,949
Total	7,763	9,244

2.3 Direct Defra funding for 'reserved' work will be allocated as follows.

All figures in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Global advice	155	156
Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies	135	135
UK's global impact	112	77
European intelligence and advice	207	155
Offshore marine information and advice	1,311	2,878
Total	1,920	3,401

Other income

2.4 In addition to its core financial settlement, JNCC will receive funding for specific projects from Government departments and other partners, as well as from sales of publications and other miscellaneous sources. The following table shows how it is intended to use this funding².

² Table shows confirmed income at the time of writing (March 2009). Additional income may be secured throughout the year.

All figures in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Global Advice	181	176
Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies	64	51
European Intelligence and Advice	35	37
Sustainability Advice	25	18
Marine Management Advice	115	170
Marine Mapping and Area Protection	152	225
Conservation Advice	10	41
Surveillance and Monitoring	39	41
Access to Information	198	269
Policy-relevant Information and Reporting		10
Governance and Corporate Services	71	61
Total	890	1099

Staff costs

- 2.5 The planned costs of employees (including income from external sources) are summarised in the table below.

All figures in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Salaries and allowances	3737	4369
National Insurance employers' contributions	291	341
Pension costs	747	874
Total	4,775	5,584
Number of staff (full-time equivalents)	124	149
Average cost per staff member	38.5	37.5

3. Changes from the corporate plan for 2008/11

- 3.1 The targets and priorities set out in this business plan reflect changes in Government requirements since the corporate plan for 2008/11 was published, as well as JNCC's refreshed strategy.
- 3.2 The main changes from the corporate plan for 2008-11 are:
- i. decreased input to co-ordination and standard setting within the UK (reflecting devolved responsibilities), e.g. UK Biodiversity Action Plan lists and species and habitats action plans, non-native species, landscape management, and energy and climate change;

- ii. enhanced support for nature conservation in the marine environment, in particular developing a monitoring programme for marine biodiversity, identifying a network of Marine Protected Areas/ Marine Conservation Zones in offshore waters, participating in the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and providing advice on the impacts of offshore industry;
- iii. greater effort to strengthen links between European/global initiatives and nature conservation implementation within the UK, e.g. horizon scanning and data analysis at international scales;
- iv. a sharper focus on providing evidence from surveillance programmes and other sources that can directly support the advisory priorities of JNCC and the country conservation bodies;
- v. decreased input to areas of work no longer considered to be a strategic priority, e.g. pesticides and work in Europe beyond the EU.

4. Summary of priorities

International nature conservation

- 4.1 International nature conservation remains an important facet of JNCC's work. UK Government is committed to making an appropriate contribution towards the global and EU targets to reduce significantly/halt the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, delivered through multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, and EU policy and legislation. As the deadline for these targets approaches, attention is increasingly being directed to post-2010 initiatives.
- 4.2 JNCC's role is to act as a link between international agreements and domestic implementation. We provide technical support to Government in its interactions with European and global decision-making bodies, and provide intelligence and analysis to underpin the development and implementation of devolved policy.
- 4.3 We take a thematic approach to our international work, promoting consistent messages on the main drivers of biodiversity loss, such as climate change and invasive alien species, across the many different policy and legislative mechanisms.
- 4.4 Our main outputs in 2009/10 will be:
 - i. input to key meetings of multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and the Ramsar Convention, and to the development of an effective science-policy interface for international biodiversity decision taking;

- ii. a draft UK Government strategy to support the work of Overseas Territories governments on biodiversity conservation in the Territories, and specific advice on climate change and non-native species;
- iii. an annual overview of the links between UK (and devolved) economies and global biodiversity impacts, and a website providing Government and other users with global trade and investment statistics and summary information on biodiversity in priority countries;
- iv. support for the European work of the country conservation bodies by providing high-quality intelligence and analysis on EU policy and legislation affecting the environment;
- v. advice to support the development and implementation of EU policy and legislation affecting the environment, including the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Common Fisheries Policy, the Renewable Energy Directive and territorial cohesion.

Marine nature conservation

- 4.5 Nature conservation in the marine environment is not as well developed as it is terrestrially, but this situation is changing rapidly. Governments in the UK are devoting more resources to marine work to meet commitments under the OSPAR Convention, the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Habitats and Birds Directive, and new domestic marine legislation.
- 4.6 With enhanced funding from Defra, JNCC will be playing an important role in helping Government to meet its commitments in 2009/10. Our efforts will be focused beyond territorial waters, but we will also work with the country conservation bodies and others to ensure that there is a sound evidence base to support decision-making across the marine environment and that international obligations can be met in a consistent manner.
- 4.7 Our main outputs in 2009/10 will be:
 - i. statutory advice to industry and regulators on licensed activities that affect the marine environment, including oil and gas activities, marine renewables and aggregate extraction;
 - ii. recommendations to Government on a coherent network of Marine Protected Areas beyond territorial waters, including Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Marine Conservation Zones, sufficient to meet the UK's EU and international obligations;
 - iii. progress towards a strategic framework for marine biodiversity surveillance and monitoring that delivers all policy and statutory obligations cost-effectively;

- iv. updated broad-scale habitat maps for UK waters for multiple applications in nature conservation and environmental management.

Data and evidence

- 4.8 Over the period of this business plan, JNCC will continue to play a key role in collating and disseminating evidence to support environmental decision-taking and policy development within the UK. We will build on our long-standing commitment to biodiversity monitoring and surveillance in the UK, by contributing to broader environmental assessments such as the UK's National Ecosystem Assessment and *Charting Progress 2*. We will enhance the policy-relevance of biodiversity data by developing tailored information products to support specific requirements such as the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and country biodiversity strategies.
- 4.9 We will also increase our engagement with international initiatives, such as the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), to ensure that the UK makes an effective contribution and that UK data can be placed within a wider geographical context.
- 4.10 Our main outputs in 2009/10 will be:
 - i. UK-wide assessments on the status of and trends in invertebrates, plants, mammals and birds, as a contribution to implementation of a terrestrial biodiversity sampling strategy;
 - ii. information that integrates research results, surveillance and monitoring data and published materials to assist JNCC, country conservation bodies and others to meet their biodiversity evidence requirements;
 - iii. continued support for the maintenance and development of the National Biodiversity Network, as a key mechanism for providing access to information on UK biodiversity.

UK standards and co-ordination

- 4.11 Devolution has altered the political framework within which JNCC operates. Within the UK, environmental policy is largely devolved and JNCC's new strategy acknowledges that there is a diminishing need for UK conservation standards and co-ordination (except on matters relating to the UK as an EU Member State and reserved matters) and little requirement for UK policy advice.
- 4.12 However, there is an ongoing need for UK-wide standards and reporting in some areas, as set out by the UK Biodiversity Partnership in *Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach*. JNCC will continue to help government fulfil its UK obligations.

4.13 Our main outputs in 2009/10 will be:

- i. a comprehensive review of JNCC's future role in setting UK-wide standards, in collaboration with the country conservation bodies and Government;
- ii. tools to support application of the ecosystem approach and the valuation of ecosystem goods and services, including input to The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity project and preparation of a policy/decision makers guide to the ecosystem approach;
- iii. support for a review of the UK network of terrestrial Special Protection Areas.

5. Programmes and projects

- 5.1 Medium-term targets, key performance indicators for 2009/10 and planned resources for each programme are shown in Annex 1, together with information about any significant variation from year 2 of the 2008-11 corporate plan.
- 5.2 Underpinning the published business plan are more detailed plans, including targets for specific projects within each programme. Further information about specific areas of interest is available on request.

Annex 1. Summary programme information

1. Global Advice

1.1 Programme targets

- Provide scientific support to enable effective UK implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), focusing on those MEAs that deliver the greatest nature conservation benefits.
- Provide advice in support of the global conservation of biological and geological diversity, paying particular attention to the target of significantly reducing the rate of global biodiversity loss by 2010 and relevant parts of the Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) relating to the Millennium Development Goals.

1.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- Provide evidence-based scientific support to Government with respect to priority multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), seeking to take a thematic approach across agreements:
 - provide input to meetings of MEAs, in particular the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in January 2010, preparatory meetings for the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2010, and technical meetings of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Ramsar Convention;
 - in spring 2009, organise for key stakeholders an event to provide feedback from recent MEA Conferences of the Parties and to identify emerging issues and actions the UK may need to take to address these;
 - provide, to agreed service standards, high-quality advice to Animal Health on approximately 20,000 CITES licence consultations *per annum*.
- Define JNCC's role in relation to biodiversity aspects of international forest and timber policy, and begin to develop advice to Government.

1.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- Achieve stronger links between global environmental agreements and devolved implementation within the UK, through horizon scanning, analysis and provision of structured feedback to country conservation bodies.
- Develop advice to Government on biodiversity aspects of global forest policy and timber trade.
- Conclude provision of secretariat support for the IUCN UK Committee.

1.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Direct expenditure	62	56
Staff costs	274	276
Total	336	332
Core Government funding	155	156
Other income	181	176
Total	336	326

2. Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

2.1 Programme targets

- Provide, to UK Government departments, the governments of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and others, advice to support the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target, and implementation of Environment Charters and multilateral environmental agreements.

2.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- Provide advice to Overseas Territory governments, UK Government and others on key nature conservation issues:
 - by June 2009, prepare a draft UK Government strategy to support the work of Overseas Territories governments on biodiversity conservation in the Territories for the consideration of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Ecosystems and Biodiversity (IDMGEB), and contribute to implementation of the strategy as appropriate;
 - by December 2009, develop practical advice on adaptation to climate change within one region/Territory (to be extended to other Territories as demand requires by December 2010);
 - develop a costed action plan to address priority issues relating to non-native species in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.
- Facilitate with the UK science community a programme to address Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies research priorities.
- Provide advice, prepare guidance and arrange training to governments of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and others on funding sources for nature conservation projects.

2.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- New work to identify funding opportunities for nature conservation in the Overseas Territories (funded by the Overseas Territories Environment Programme).
- Preparation of a UK Government strategy for biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories, under the direction of the IDMGEB.

2.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Direct expenditure	80	60
Staff costs	119	126
Total	199	186
Core Government funding	135	135
Other income	64	51
Total	199	186

3. UK's Global Impacts

3.1 Programme targets

- Assess the impact of the UK on global biodiversity and geodiversity, identify mechanisms to minimise or avoid negative impacts, and encourage best practice working with partners in Government and beyond.

3.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- Publish an annual overview of the links between UK (and devolved) economies and global biodiversity impacts, and thematic reports on trade in forest and food products, foreign direct investment and biofuels.
- Maintain a website providing Government and other users with global trade and investment statistics and summary information on biodiversity in priority countries, and by March 2010 transfer selected content to the main JNCC website.

3.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- Sharper focus on selected global regions (South America, Sub-Saharan Africa and the EU's near neighbours to the east) and economic themes (UK Foreign Direct Investment, trade in biofuels, trade in foodstuffs and trade in forest products).
- Identification of emerging issues and production of an annual global overview reporting on the links between the UK economy and key overseas ecosystems.

3.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Direct expenditure	48	23
Staff costs	64	54
Total	112	77
Core Government funding	112	77
Other income	0	0
Total	112	77

4. European Intelligence and Advice (previously European Advice)

4.1 Programme targets

- Inform the work of JNCC, the country conservation bodies, UK Government and devolved administrations by identifying emerging issues, providing intelligence on the development of EU policy and legislation for or affecting the environment, and analysing the potential impact of new proposals.
- Provide evidence-based advice to encourage the integration of sustainable development principles, the ecosystem approach and the protection of biodiversity within the development of EU policies and legislation.

4.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- Ensure that intelligence on priority EU policy areas affecting nature conservation (climate change, energy, land use, maritime) is effectively disseminated to the country conservation bodies and other key stakeholders, including through online systems.
- Analyse the work programme and priorities of the new European Commission and Parliament to assess implications for the work of JNCC and the country conservation bodies beyond 2009.
- Provide advice on emerging EU policy developments linked to the budget review and stocktaking of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, in particular for agriculture, territorial cohesion, energy and transport.
- Through links with the European Topic Centre for Biodiversity, support analyses for streamlining and harmonising future EU biodiversity policy (including reporting on the nature Directives, development of post-2010 targets for nature conservation and the use of Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators).

4.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- The priorities for the new European Commission beyond 2009 and the position of the European Parliament on key issues are unknown at present, but will have impacts on the future focus of JNCC's European work.
- Work in Europe beyond the EU will be reduced and will be restricted to advice to Defra on the Bern Convention and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy as required.

4.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Direct expenditure	181	166
Staff costs	378	375
Total	559	541
Core Government funding	524	504
Other income	35	37
Total	559	541

5. Sustainability Advice

5.1 Programme target

- Provide advice to the UK Government, devolved administrations and others on the sustainable use of natural resources, focusing on the goods and services provided by the environment that contribute to human well-being.

5.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- By August 2009, work with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, IUCN and other international partners to develop a policy/decision-makers guide to the ecosystem approach.
- Provide technical input to the UK National Ecosystem Assessment and international initiatives such as the European Environment Agency's EURECA (European Ecosystem Assessment) project and further work under the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, in particular to ensure synergies between the projects.
- Contribute advice on environmental economics and ecosystem goods and services to The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity project (TEEB) through direct advice to the TEEB team and through Defra (final outputs to be produced by October 2010).

5.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- Refocus programme on international aspects of sustainability, maintaining an input to domestic work only where there is a strong policy driver.
- Reduce work on pesticides.
- Demand for advice on GMOs may increase but this is uncertain at present.

5.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Direct expenditure	91	78
Staff costs	144	147
Total	236	225
Core Government funding	210	207
Other income	25	18
Total	235	225

6. Marine Management Advice

6.1 Programme targets³

- Deliver advice on legislation, policies and practices affecting nature conservation in the marine environment, having particular regard to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- Deliver advice on casework concerning UK marine activities affecting nature conservation.
- Provide advice on management requirements and conservation objectives for offshore marine protected areas.

6.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- Ensure that 95% of requests for statutory advice on offshore industries are responded fully to within the relevant consultation period.
- Provide advice on offshore marine protected areas:
 - by seven months after Governmental go-ahead is given, report to Defra on the second public consultation on offshore Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Consult and report on a third tranche of offshore sites, including Impact Assessment for each site;
 - develop and communicate conservation objectives and Operations Advice on offshore SACs and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) as they are recommended to Government and within 12 months of their notification to the European Commission;
 - in co-operation with the country conservation bodies, develop and communicate guidance for the development of conservation objectives and advice on Marine Conservation Zones/Marine Protected Areas.
- By September 2009, start to implement an inter-agency influencing strategy for the 2012 review of the Common Fisheries Policy.
- Provide specialist advice to the UK Government and devolved administrations to support their proposals for new legislation to achieve sustainable use of the UK seas, and undertake detailed policy analysis of the implications of the legislative proposals for UK's international commitments for marine biodiversity.

³ All programme targets are dependent partially on receipt of external funds. These are not yet (March 2009) fully secured, particularly in relation to statutory advice on offshore renewable energy. The expectation is that this funding will be secured by April 2009.

6.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- Likely increase in requirement to advise on offshore industries with the drive to further develop the marine environment for activities such as marine renewables.
- New work to provide advice on Marine Conservation Zones/Marine Protected Areas, supported by increased funding from Defra.

6.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Direct expenditure	110	188
Staff costs	418	414
Total	528	602
Core Government funding	413	432
Other income	115	170
Total	528	602

7. Marine Mapping and Area Protection

7.1 Programme targets

- Support strategic planning, decision-making and improved management of the marine environment through the provision of marine habitat maps for UK and European waters, together with information to support advice on the impacts of human activities.
- Identify a series of marine protected areas (MPAs) in UK offshore waters, as a contribution to national and international policy obligations for an ecologically coherent network of MPAs.

7.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- Progress work to recommend to Government a series of offshore Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), in parallel with work by the country conservation bodies in inshore waters, to fulfil Habitats Directive obligations:
 - recommend to Government two additional offshore SACs based on survey data obtained in 2007-08;
 - complete new survey and analysis of potential sites in offshore waters to enable the identification of a set of offshore SACs.
- Recommend to Government a series of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in offshore waters, in conjunction with parallel work by the country conservation bodies in inshore waters (based upon survey and analyses by JNCC), to fulfil Birds Directive obligations:
 - complete consideration of possible offshore SPAs and advise accordingly;
 - complete survey and analyses for a further 10 inshore areas of search for potential SPAs;
 - establish area/colony-specific research and survey aimed at identifying marine SPAs for breeding terns;
 - advise on possible marine SPAs for breeding red-throated divers;
 - identify a provisional network of marine SPAs in UK waters.
- Deliver the milestones relevant to JNCC in 2009/10 of the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) project plan agreed by the UK Governments by March 2010⁴:
 - work in partnership with Natural England to establish and progress four regional Marine Conservation Zone projects to engage stakeholders in recommending an ecologically coherent England MPA network;

⁴ Delivery of MCZ work in Welsh offshore waters is subject to discussion with the Welsh Assembly Government and this key performance indicator will be amended to reflect the agreed approach.

- finalise ecological guidance and provide to England MCZ regional projects to enable them to identify MCZs that satisfy UK MPA objectives;
 - establish and progress a stakeholder advisory group to facilitate the engagement of national and international stakeholders in the England MCZ project;
 - in partnership with Scottish Government and SNH, establish and progress a Scottish Marine Protected Area Project to recommend MPAs in Scottish offshore waters.
- Contribute to implementation of the OSPAR Convention and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive:
 - by December 2009, recommend to Government a third tranche of Natura 2000 sites as OSPAR marine protected areas for UK offshore waters that will contribute to the UK’s obligation to establish an ecologically coherent network of well-managed MPAs in the OSPAR area by 2010, and also help meet obligations under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
 - contribute to biodiversity assessment and monitoring issues to support the regional implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.⁵
 - Provide an updated broad-scale habitat map for UK waters, based on newly-available physical datasets and improved modelling techniques.
 - Acquire, develop or obtain access to data sets on human uses of the marine environment.

7.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- Substantially increased funding from Defra to support identification of Marine Conservation Zones/Marine Protected Areas.

7.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10 ⁶
Direct expenditure	775	1,244
Staff costs	1,020	1,512
Total	1,795	2,756
Core Government funding	1,643	2,531
Other income	152	225
Total	1,795	2,756

⁵ This work will contribute to, and be informed by, work to develop a marine biodiversity surveillance and monitoring framework developed under the Surveillance and Monitoring Programme.

⁶ MCZ/MPA project plans and resource allocations are currently being renegotiated. Accordingly, the balance between direct expenditure and staff will be subject to change.

8. Conservation Advice (previously Conservation Standards)

8.1 Programme targets

- Inform the work of JNCC, the country conservation bodies, UK Government and devolved administrations by providing advice on objectives and standards in support of joint approaches to conservation of biodiversity and geodiversity across the countries of the UK.

8.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- By June 2009, complete a review of JNCC's future role in setting UK-wide standards, in collaboration with the country conservation bodies and Government.
- Make substantial progress towards a review of the terrestrial SPA network⁷.
- Assess the need for revision of the guidance for selection of biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and agree a work plan for any revisions required.
- Complete the preparation of written text for a further four volumes of the Geological Conservation Review series⁸.

8.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- This programme is significantly affected by the revised JNCC strategy and a review of the scope of, and approaches to, joint working and common standards within the devolved administrative framework of the UK will be undertaken.
- Reduced input to co-ordination of nature conservation implementation within the UK.
- New target for review of UK SPA network and revision of SSSI selection guidelines.

8.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Direct expenditure	261	252
Staff costs	228	228
Total	489	480
Core Government funding	479	439
Other income	10	41
Total	489	480

⁷ To meet on the full scope of the review additional funding will be required.

⁸ In order to take these volumes through to full publication, additional funding will be required.

9. Surveillance and Monitoring

9.1 Programme targets

- Develop a strategic framework for marine biodiversity surveillance and monitoring that delivers all policy and statutory obligations cost-effectively, and focuses on the most important adverse impacts from human activities to prioritise effort.
- Deliver marine biodiversity surveillance and monitoring beyond 12 nautical miles using the strategy framework to meet Natura 2000, Marine Strategy Framework Directive and other biodiversity policy requirements.
- Establish and maintain, with partners, a strategy for co-ordination of terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity surveillance in the UK so that sufficient information is obtained to measure biodiversity outcomes, detect and attribute impacts on biodiversity, and meet the needs for reporting at country, UK and international levels.
- Undertake, with key partners, surveillance to detect spatial and temporal population change in selected bird, mammal and butterfly species, and range change in many other plant and invertebrate species; where possible identify the likely causes of the trends; periodically review and align schemes to fit the surveillance strategy.

9.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- Initiate developmental work, in a joint project with Natural England, that will define options for an operational monitoring programme for marine habitats, birds, cetaceans and other marine features, that will aim to meet UK statutory and policy requirements in an integrated manner.
- By May 2009, provide updated long, medium and short-term trends for selected bird, butterfly and mammal species using data up to the end of 2008, and by February 2010 improve the online mechanisms for accessing trend information and data for breeding seabirds, plants and an invertebrate group.
- By December 2009, determine how well existing surveillance and monitoring contributes to policy evidence needs for invasive alien species, climate change, land use (including Common Agricultural Policy reform), pollution and emerging threats to biodiversity, and identify changes needed to ensure they meet local, country and UK requirements.
- Assess the capacity of the partnership to implement the surveillance strategy so that there is information to measure key biodiversity outcomes, to attribute causes and to meet reporting obligations, including cost-effective means of meeting requirements of the Habitats Directive.
- Complete a review of the bird surveillance portfolio of the programme and identify requirements for further alignment with the surveillance strategy.

- Identify a suite of existing initiatives (including global best practice, European projects and country-level work) that can be used to determine whether remote sensing and other new approaches can provide a cost-effective way of assessing the extent and condition of priority habitats.

9.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- Substantially increased funding from Defra to support development of a strategic framework for marine biodiversity surveillance and monitoring.
- Enhanced effort to support application of the terrestrial biodiversity surveillance strategy at country level.
- Enhanced advice on the fit of the UK biodiversity surveillance in European and global frameworks.
- Catalyse a review of the International Waterfowl Census (IWC) whilst providing a reduced level of support to maintain key IWC assets.
- Conclude work on ecotoxicology surveillance.

9.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Direct expenditure	1,094	1451
Staff costs	494	756
Total	1,588	2207
Core Government funding	1,549	2166
Other income	39	41
Total	1,588	2207

10. Access to Information

10.1 Programme targets

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

10.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- By March 2011, ensure that there are no significant technological barriers to efficient data capture and exchange of biodiversity data across the voluntary sector in the UK. By March 2010:
 - review how the current suite of tools and guidance are supporting the flow and quality of data about biodiversity within the UK and develop an action plan (agreed across the country conservation bodies) for how it can be improved;
 - pilot a trial of data exchange and verification between a national scheme and a selection of local record centres;
 - extend the capability of the National Biodiversity Network to meet basic requirements for the exchange and use of habitat data.
- Review the barriers to the flow of biodiversity data across Europe and identify any generic action needed to address this, focusing on the potential reuse of tools and standards developed within the UK.
- Restructure the JNCC website to reflect the JNCC's refreshed strategy and establish a reliable on-going editorial process to maintain its currency.

10.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- Consolidation of UK work on standards and tools and more piloting of these (will help to maximise investment by the country conservation bodies in the voluntary data collation sector).
- Greater focus on accessing data to support work at European and wider geographical scales, and in particular assessing whether the tools and standards that have been

developed within the UK could be used to accelerate or improve data availability at these scales.

- Target to revise JNCC’s website deferred from 2008/09.
- New work to support and develop the Biodiversity Action Reporting System, funded by additional income.

10.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Direct expenditure	222	241
Staff costs	276	341
Total	498	582
Core Government funding	300	313
Other income	198	269
Total	498	582

11. Policy-relevant Information and Reporting

11.1 Programme targets

- Facilitate the application of the best available, outcome-oriented scientific evidence, relevant to conservation of biodiversity and geodiversity at UK and international scales, in policy development and reporting.
- Produce information products, including indicators, to support the requirements of JNCC for advice to UK Government and devolved administrations and for reporting purposes.
- Provide advice on European and global initiatives to develop a more robust evidence base for biodiversity conservation.

11.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- Provide information that integrates research results, surveillance and monitoring data and published materials to assist JNCC, country conservation bodies and others to meet their biodiversity evidence requirements:
 - contribute to *Charting Progress 2* by providing lead authorship of key chapters by May 2010, using this as an opportunity to develop better methodologies for habitat assessments and to improve the availability and accessibility of marine information;
 - support the Defra publication of UK 2010 biodiversity indicators in May 2009 and their further development and update in 2010;
 - provide evidence in the form of targeted reports and web-based data and information to support JNCC's and country conservation bodies' advice on invasive alien species, climate change, land use (including Common Agricultural Policy reform), pollution and emerging threats to biodiversity;
 - by September 2009, compile evidence and produce a report to support country implementation of priority habitat and species action plans, to assist reporting on the outcome of biodiversity actions, and to start the process of agreeing how to measure success.
- Contribute to the establishment of a more effective science-policy interface for international biodiversity decision taking:
 - develop and promote an overarching strategy and view of how existing international science initiatives fit together;
 - contribute to and influence international surveillance and monitoring initiatives such as the Global Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON);

- influence the design of international reports and assessments that feed science and evidence into decision-taking processes, including follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;
 - participate in the development and work of international science bodies and platforms such as the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services.
- Identify the most effective options for undertaking research to meet the needs of JNCC, and nature conservation more broadly, and start to influence research funding bodies and researchers accordingly:
 - by July 2009, provide an effective interface with the Living with Environmental Change (LWEC) research programme;
 - develop and implement a system for capturing emerging research priorities;
 - engage with international and European biodiversity research programmes, in particular Biodiversa and European framework programmes.

11.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- Cease involvement in the Environmental Research Funders Forum.
- Reduced support for UK Biodiversity Action Plan lists and species and habitats action plans to the level required to deliver the essential UK role (reflecting increased devolution to country level).
- Greater engagement in global initiatives to develop a more effective science-policy interface.
- Sharper focus on providing evidence to support priorities for policy influencing.

11.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Direct expenditure	39	40
Staff costs	305	305
Total	344	345
Core Government funding	344	335
Other income	0	10
Total	344	345

12. Governance and Support Services

12.1 Programme targets

- Provide a cost-effective and efficient service that ensures that JNCC can meet its statutory and public sector obligations, and that supports JNCC staff and Joint Committee members in meeting their objectives.
- Undertake a process of continuous improvements to reduce the cost of the programme.
- Support other programmes to effectively disseminate advice and information to decision-makers and other key stakeholders.

12.2 Key performance indicators for 2009/10

- Restructure the programme in line with the results of the review undertaken in 2009.
- Migrate JNCC's historical electronic information into a shared filing system to improve data retrieval and working practices.
- By June 2009, implement changes to JNCC's governance arrangements in line with the strategy review and by March 2010 align JNCC work programmes with the new strategy.
- Implement a structured approach to stakeholder relationship management and to the communication of key advice and information arising from JNCC's work programmes.

12.3 Main changes from 2008-11 corporate plan

- No significant changes.

12.4 Planned resources

All figures are in £k	2008/09	2009/10
Direct expenditure	916	956
Staff costs	1,054	1,054
Total	1,970	2,010
Core Government funding	1,899	1,949
Other income	71	61
Total	1,970	2,010