

Global Biodiversity Sub-Committee (GBSC)

Meeting papers

Executive Summary

September 2008

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**GECC SUB-COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ISSUES
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
ISSUES ARISING AT 1 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Arctic biodiversity research

Following presentations from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Scottish Association for Marine Sciences on Arctic biodiversity research issues a sub-group has been formed to consider priority issues from a UK perspective. The working group will consider the risks to Arctic (and shared) biodiversity, how to collate what is currently being done, how to achieve better cohesion or synergy with UK research and identify any serious gaps. The working group will report back to the March 2009 GBSC meeting.

Informing MEAs

Further to the paper prepared by the Secretariat on the key themes and issues of the biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements and how to better engage with their processes and help implement their objectives, it was agreed that the Secretariat should initiate a process whereby they build a relationship with the Head of Delegation or Defra lead on the forthcoming MEA meetings. The aim of this is to raise awareness about the role of GBSC and request feedback on outcomes of major meetings. Once feedback is provided the Secretariat will highlight issues for consideration by the GBSC.

Gaps and emerging science issues

Ground level ozone and its impact on global biodiversity was identified as an emerging issue for substantive discussion at the next GBSC meeting.

Main GECC

It was noted that the main GECC is undergoing a review and the GECC Chair wants to wait for the results of the review before holding their annual meeting. Therefore the main GECC will not meet until February 2009. The Sub-Committee report will be due for submission in early January and the Secretariat will ensure a draft is circulated for members' comments by 31 October 2008.

The GBSC Chair noted that there is a debate within the main GECC about the feasibility of its continued status, given initiatives such as ERFF, LWEC and UK BRAG. Members were asked to provide comments (to the Secretariat by 19 December 2008) on their perception of the GBSC, how useful they find it and whether they would miss it if it no longer existed.