

**Global biodiversity mechanisms:
a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs**

Strand Palace Hotel, London 20th May 2009

Information paper

Briefing for workshop discussions

May 2009

Visit: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/MEA-event>



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The five working groups are as follows:

- Climate change and biodiversity
- Biofuels
- Invasive alien species and wildlife diseases
- Ecosystem Approach and use of ecosystem services
- Island issues – especially relating to UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

Each group will have 2.25 hours in total for workshop discussions comprising 1.5 hours before lunch and 45 minutes afterwards. Subsequently, each group will have a 10 minute slot to report back to plenary. In order to keep feedback within the allotted time, we are asking the groups to restrict their conclusions to a few bullet points under each of five **key headings** (see below). A longer report (1-2 sides) of the working group will form part of the final report of the meeting and will be posted on the web pages.

Key items for discussion

Whilst discussions may be wide-ranging, we have asked each group to seek to address the following issues to give a common format to discussions under the different themes, as follows.

- Key implementation requirements – in order to better implement the requirements of the MEAs under each thematic heading, what are the most pressing issues for the UK, its devolved governments, agencies and Territories? What factors most limit our ability to implement the requirements of the various Conventions and how might we address these?
- Key emerging issues - what are the issues on the horizon, either globally or within the UK, that are most likely to have an impact over the coming years? How are these likely to emerge at future CoPs and are we prepared to address them?
- Evidence and research needs – what are the key gaps in our current and future evidence base and what research do we need to fill these?
- Science-policy interface – are there significant shortcomings in the way that science informs policy (at national, European and international level)? Or how policy requirements influence science investment? How might these be addressed? Is there a need for a new intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES)?
- Identify priorities for each thematic area (both from a domestic and global perspective) – considering the above, what does each working group identify as the greatest priorities under the particular theme? What might the UK most usefully focus its attention on in preparation for the next series of MEA meetings and what

might we want to achieve? How might these priorities differ between the metropolitan UK and its Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories?

Clearly, many of these thematic issues are inter-linked. For example, climate change is likely to have an impact on the rate of spread of invasive alien species; biofuel production may disrupt ecosystem services and biofuel species may themselves become invasive and so on. It may be useful for each group to consider any such interactions and how they may be addressed.