

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

Strand Palace Hotel, London 20th May 2009

MEA Summary Presentations

Island Issues Working Group

May 2009

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



Island Issues Working Group Conclusions

Key implementation requirements

- Capacity issues for implementation – difficulty of understanding why the MEAs are relevant
- CBD work programme on Islands as a cross-cutting theme – allows focus
- **Communication & Continuity** are key
- Focus in government – department lead
- Gap analysis - who can do what
- Island : Island support seen as helpful
- Use expertise from other Countries – e.g. NZ
- Rapid implementation possible with the right connections

Key emerging issues

- Making protected areas real – planning procedures
- Management and conservation of marine areas
- Fisheries and biodiversity – investment budgets for fisheries protection
- Economic benefits from biodiversity – linked to ecosystem services
- Communication issues of how changes in the environment affect people; how changes perceived both in CDs / OTs and Metropolitan UK

Evidence and research needs

- Knowledge of capacity and opportunities to share experience / expertise
- Research needs exercise – implementing the research is a necessary next step
- Invasive aliens – impacts – risk assessment
- What endemics exist (e.g. in marine environment) – basic survey and inventory
- Link OT / CD implementation with Metropolitan UK
- Islands as a good scale to demonstrate Ecosystem Approach

Science-policy interface

- Some difficulty in balancing reactive delivery with identification of strategic issues – what evidence is needed
- Use examples of success – e.g. ACAP – reduction of bycatch
- Communication on what going on – possibilities to contribute
- Engagement on shared priorities needed – link with Environmental Charters
- Tools to find and share information – knowing who to contact also important

Priorities for the future

- OT issues dealt with separately by Whitehall policy leads – need to join up better
- Capacity – JNCC support ? – summaries of issues relevant to OTs
- Engagement with MEA CoPs – influence positions – how feedback
- Expertise – make best use of, not just more £££
- In some cases OTs most important – difference in perception needed
- Strong link between biodiversity and economic interest