

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

Strand Palace Hotel, London 20th May 2009

MEA Summary Presentations

Biofuels working group report

May 2009

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



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Key implementation requirements

- Implement current obligations; but current MEA resolutions and decisions are currently insufficient to achieve desired outcomes
- UK should seek to deliver the spirit of MEA resolutions and decisions through various means
- Increase the evidence base on the impacts of biofuels on biological diversity; use and synthesize what we already have
- Moving international debate toward agreeing a set of sustainability criteria

Key emerging issues

- Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) – take a whole systems approach
- Understand the impacts of subsidies and targets on land use at international and national levels – perverse/positive incentives
- Biofuel production is expanding; need to catch up quickly on sustainability
- Horizon scanning / funding the right research?
- Implementation of EU RED

Evidence and research needs

- Collate existing evidence; quick gap analyses before further detailed research is undertaken (systematic review)
- Consider research needs and how to take them forward e.g. govt. programmes, FP7, focussing on biodiversity impacts of biofuels
- Cross Whitehall biofuels research programme

Science-policy interface

- Need to understand what is blocking policy response
- Playing catch up – science to get ahead of the game again
- Science policy should work together more systematically
- More and better horizon scanning

Priorities from a UK & global perspective

- Strengthening the evidence base and use what we already have better (including valuation studies of cost of impacts)
- Identifying, creating and disseminating examples of good practice
- Strategic bilaterals with key developing / producer countries to build practical understanding of how to implement sustainable practices
- Linking MEAs to international sustainability initiatives e.g. GBEP, RSB
- CBD CoP10 (Japan, October 2010) – presentation and discussion of sustainability criteria (e.g. GBEP if available)