

JOINT

Nature News

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

We're 'Top of the Popcomms'

JNCC wins its first ever design award

JNCC struck gold at The 2003 Charity and Public Service Publishing Awards ceremony, held in Kensington, London, on 19 February 2004. In what had been the organisation's first ever nomination for a major design award, *JNCC's Annual Report 2002-2003* scooped the top prize of 'Public Service Annual Report/Review of the Year'.

Project-managed by the internal Communications Team, who contracted Corporate Document Services of Leeds to realise the vision, the report has recently also won a commendation in the Premier Paper "Evolution Satin" national awards for excellence in quality print on environmental paper stock.

JNCC Managing Director, Deryck Steer, said "This year we wanted to put our work firmly in its European and international context, and make such information accessible to a wider audience. Together with our website, our Annual Report is one of our most important methods of communication. Winning this award demonstrates that we have the design and print community's seal of approval for this area of work."

"This is a large report, almost a book, produced to a very high standard and on fine, heavyweight paper – not something for just a casual read, but worth returning to for anyone interested in nature conservation"
Conrad Taylor, reporting judge.

With a cover that was an abstract view of the mouth of the internationally rare



Members of the JNCC Communications Team - Cathy Gardner, Kirsty Meadows, Maddy Smith and Alex Geairns - at the ceremony.

basking shark, a radical print production process created a unique image to captivate and mystify recipients of the Annual Report.

JNCC's report fought off strong competition from fellow nominees in the category – Visit Britain, the City of Edinburgh Council, the Disability Rights Commission, the National Care Standards Commission, and the DVLA. This particular award is widely accepted to be the highest accolade amongst all those presented at this prestigious ceremony.

Marcus Yeo, JNCC's Director of Resources and External Affairs, noted "JNCC is always looking to marry new production techniques with classic design principles, and we are certainly proud to see that this has been recognised through receiving this important award."

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"Photography is excellent and accompanied with fascinating and fully informative long captions which serve as miniature case studies"

Conrad Taylor, reporting judge.

Chairman's *Introduction*

I am delighted to introduce my first issue of *Nature News* as acting Chair of JNCC.

I am enjoying being Chair immensely, not least because JNCC is currently involved in so much important work. Moreover, the development of a new strategy for the organisation and implementation of the changes recommended by the Financial, Management and Policy Review mean that we shall be facing together many exciting challenges in the weeks and months to come.

The date for the appointment of a permanent Chair has not yet been finalised, but I understand that I shall be acting until at least August. I shall, of course, let you know who is to be appointed as soon as I am able. In the meantime, I shall do all that I can to provide JNCC with both the leadership and support that it so richly deserves.

I am sure that everyone will join me in welcoming the appointment of Marcus Yeo as Director of Resources and External Affairs. His role will encompass the establishment of the new organisation and our business profile within the UK, Europe and internationally.

I look forward to working with him in his new capacity.

This eighth edition of *Nature News* highlights much of the work JNCC is currently involved in, including the common standards monitoring guidance which is now available on the JNCC website, and the 'Development of a Framework for Mapping European Seabed Habitats' (MESH) project.



© RGB Edinburgh

Moreover, this month sees the addition of four more publications to our already extensive list: the third edition of the *Bat Workers' Manual*; the *Estuarine Waterbirds at Low Tide* book; the latest volume of the *Geological Conservation Review*, and *An Illustrated Guide to British Upland Vegetation*.

Finally, we have recently had success in winning our first ever design award for the 2002-2003 *Annual Report* which was awarded the 'Public Service Annual Report/Review of the Year' at The 2003 Charity and Public Service Publishing Awards. Congratulations to all JNCC staff for this achievement - a truly communal effort!

With warmest good wishes to all those involved in or with JNCC.

David Ingram



Acting JNCC Chairman receives Medal of Honour

Professor David Ingram, acting Chair of JNCC, has been presented with one of the highest accolades in horticulture.

The Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honour (VMH) is one of the RHS awards presented each year, which recognises leading figures in UK horticulture. Established in 1897 with the assent of Queen Victoria, only 63 horticulturists hold the VMH at any one time, to commemorate the length of Victoria's reign.

Professor Ingram has been a member of the Committee since May 1999, initially as a representative of Scottish Natural Heritage, before becoming an independent member. Deryck Steer, JNCC's Managing Director, said of the award, "This represents recognition of a lifetime of achievement in horticulture. The passion for his work is clear to anyone that meets David. The RHS have been working with JNCC on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, so indirectly we again find our two organisations linked. His award is well deserved."

Plant rumble in the jungle

UK plant conservation strategy launched

A new agenda for UK plant and fungus conservation for the next six years has just been published. *Plant Diversity Challenge: The UK's response to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* was launched by Elliot Morley in February 2004 at the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The report covers the complete spectrum of plant conservation work in the UK; it includes the conservation of both native flora and crop plants, the sustainable management of plant production systems, and the need for education and improved training.



The report has been produced by a partnership between JNCC, Plantlife International and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. The partners started compiling the UK response by organising a conference in February 2003, at which over 120 representatives from 60 organisations involved in plant conservation met to discuss the strategy. One year after the conference, the response has been completed and published.

The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation was adopted in 2002 by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It includes 16 outcome-oriented targets to be met by 2010. The UK is the first Party to the Convention to launch its national response.



All botanic gardens have a role to play in plant conservation. The University of Cambridge Botanic Garden is a member of PlantNet, an organisation that provides a network for all plant collections. © Stephen Grady/JNCC

Much work on plant conservation is already underway in the UK; this new report analyses how ongoing work will fit into the framework of the Global Strategy, and then assesses in detail what more needs to be done and what priority that action has.

Plant Diversity Challenge will make a significant contribution to meeting the Government's obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity, of which the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation is a part. In addition, implementing the report will contribute to meeting the 2010 target to reduce significantly the rate of biodiversity loss, agreed at the World Summit in Johannesburg, and also the more challenging target to halt the decline in biodiversity by

2010, agreed by EU countries and the Environment Ministers in the pan-European region.

Copies of the report are available free of charge from JNCC Communications Team, or an electronic version is available at www.jncc.gov.uk/Publications/plant_diversity

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JNCC act as the standard bearers

Common Standards Monitoring guidance now online

Subsequent to the decision to implement the monitoring programme for designated nature conservation sites in 1999, and report on the condition of the whole site series in 2005, the country agencies decided that guidance on setting and assessing conservation objectives was needed to assist staff in undertaking site monitoring and assessment.

JNCC and the country agencies commenced a programme to develop such guidance across the range of species, habitat and earth science features which occur on UK protected sites. The process is now well advanced with guidance available on conservation objectives and assessment methodologies for about 75% of the features of designated sites.

For each feature a small number of characteristics (attributes) have been chosen that describe its condition, and targets are set for each attribute. Together these should give us a reasonably robust idea of the state of the feature. The following principles have been used in choosing attributes and setting targets:

- Attributes must be quantifiable and measurable.
- Habitat attributes may include extent, floristic composition, vegetation structure, and physical characteristics.



- Species attributes may include population size, species distribution, and habitat factors.
- It is desirable for the same suite of attributes to be used for each interest feature across the UK.
- Assessment of condition is against pre-set targets for the feature(s) on that site.
- Favourable condition is defined by setting broad targets for each attribute of the interest feature.
- Targets should describe the desired state of an interest feature.
- Targets should reflect geographical variation and local distinctiveness - they will often be influenced by site-specific factors.
- Ecosystem dynamics must be taken into account, e.g. successional changes on sand dunes.

A seminar to introduce the guidance to other organisations which own or manage protected areas was held in February 2004.

*Landscape photo: An example of overgrazing, with overgrazed land on the right, in contrast with suitable grazing on the left. © Peter Wakely/English Nature.
Water vole and natterjack toad: Two of the species for which guidance has recently been published.
Water vole © Hugh Clark/Environment Agency.
Natterjack toad © English Nature.*

Speakers illustrated the use of the guidance to set conservation objectives for features on sites, and the use of attributes and targets to assess the state of those features using the Common Standards Monitoring categories. Copies of presentations are available upon request.

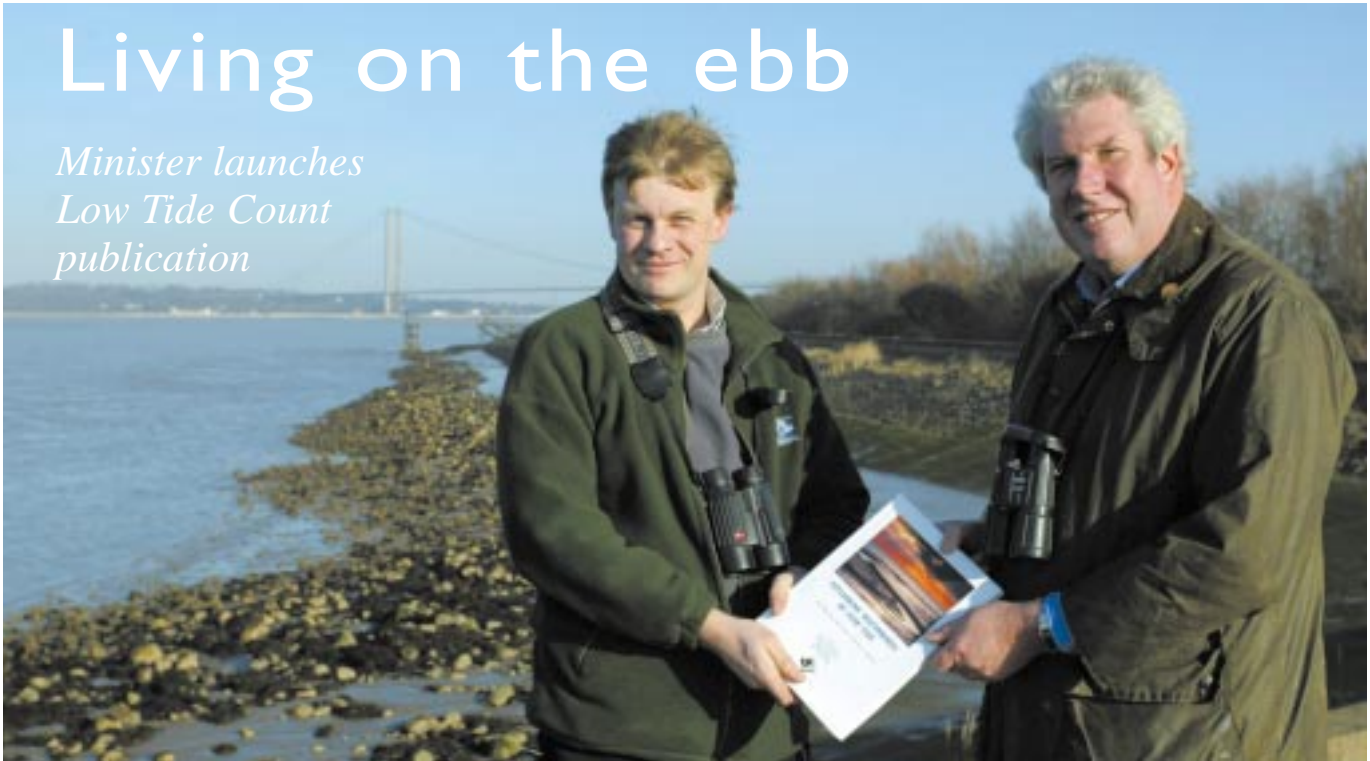
Guidance is now available for earth science features, for coastal, lowland grassland, lowland heathland, marine, upland and woodland habitat features, and for birds, amphibians, reptiles, terrestrial mammals and vascular plants. Guidance on marine mammals, invertebrates, lower plants, lowland wetlands and freshwater habitats and species is being developed. Following the seminar, the guidance is now available on the JNCC website at: www.jncc.gov.uk/csm

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Living on the ebb

*Minister launches
Low Tide Count
publication*



Elliot Morley MP, Minister for the Environment, receives his copy of Estuarine Waterbirds at Low Tide from Andy Musgrove (BTO). © JNCC

The UK is of outstanding international importance for its waterbirds, especially those that migrate or winter along our coasts. There are many impressive statistics; for example, two million waterbirds are found in the UK Special Protection Area (SPA) network each January. Our knowledge of estuarine waterbirds has been built on systematic monitoring over the last five decades through the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS).

WeBS is supported by a partnership between the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and JNCC. The majority of WeBS counts are made by highly skilled volunteer birdwatchers. The cornerstone of WeBS is the Core Counts – surveys done every month from September to March at 2,000 wetlands. At coastal sites they are done at high tide when birds gather at safe roosting areas. Core Counts give us essential information about bird numbers, but only a partial understanding of bird distribution in our estuaries. To gather information on where birds feed, the WeBS Low Tide Counts scheme was created in 1992.

After seven years of Low Tide Counts, WeBS partners reviewed the scheme and published the results as *Estuarine Waterbirds at Low Tide*. This book sets out the methods used for the scheme and its results.

Counts were made at 62 estuaries over the period 1992/93 to 1998/99 and are presented as a series of maps showing the distribution of waterbirds. Examples of how Low Tide Counts have been used by the statutory country agencies to protect SPAs show the important practical uses of the data. Estuarine Waterbirds at Low Tide may be of value to colleagues planning surveys elsewhere in the world, and in recognition of this was published by the International Wader Study Group on behalf of the WeBS partners.

Elliot Morley, Minister for the Environment, launched the publication in January 2004 on the banks of the Humber Estuary. A keen birdwatcher, he has also taken part in the WeBS Low Tide Counts and in accepting a copy of the book recognized the efforts of volunteer bird counters.

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The WeBS Low Tide Scheme is organised by the BTO on behalf of the partners and more information is available from Dr Andy Musgrove, +44 (0)1842 750050.

Estuarine Waterbirds at Low Tide is available from NHBS Ltd, price £35, or £25 for Wader Study Groups www.nhbs.com



Handle with care!

Safety first with the new third edition of *Bat Workers' Manual*



Greater horseshoe bat. © Mike Hammett/English Nature



Bat Workers' Manual - third edition.



Pipistrelle bat.
© Mike Hammett/English Nature

The second edition of the *Bat Workers' Manual* was produced in 1999 and has been one of JNCC's best selling publications. It provided detailed information on all aspects of bats and was an essential reference manual for anyone wishing to obtain a licence to carry out bat work in the UK.

The third edition has been produced only five years after the last edition because of the tragic death of a batworker in Scotland from European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV) infection at the end of 2002. This signalled a fundamental change in the way organisations and individuals approach bat work. This accident, together with two records of EBLV in Daubenton's bats in England, means that it must now be assumed that the virus is present in bats in the UK and that bat-handling practices, and health and safety advice, must change. This third edition of the manual incorporates these changes and includes recommendations on the handling of bats, vaccinations against EBLV and a list of contact details for finding up-to-date advice on the subject. The opportunity was also taken to update information on legislation and other advice.

The appearance of the manual has changed substantially, to reflect the necessary fact that it replaces the second edition. The excellent drawings by Tom McOwat have almost all been retained, with some updated diagrams where necessary to reflect the changes in health and safety practices, but the cover has a completely new look and a number of beautiful photographs of bats by Frank Greenaway have been added to make the manual more user-friendly.

In order to ensure that the new health and safety information is available to everyone who needs it, JNCC is providing the third edition free of charge to all those who return their second edition.

The third edition of the *Bat Workers' Manual* (Editors A.J. Mitchell-Jones and A. McLeish) is now available through NHBS, price £20.00, or £10.00 to licensed bat workers. Anyone with a second edition can receive a third edition free of charge by returning their second edition to NHBS Ltd, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5XN. Please include your name and address with your return. (www.nhbs.com)

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Basking shark. © Naturepl.com

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species checklists updated



Oustalet's giant chameleon is the largest of Madagascar's chameleons and is listed on CITES Appendix II and Annex B of EC CITES Regulations. © L.V. Fleming/JNCC

In JNCC's role as CITES Scientific Authority (Fauna) for the UK, a function in which we provide scientific advice to Defra (the UK's CITES Management Authority), we often undertake work that aims to support the overall work of the Convention. One such example is the production of checklists of the animal species listed on CITES, the most recent updates of which have now just been published.

Whilst checklists may sound mundane, they are a vital tool to CITES authorities in their day to day work. The purpose of these publications, prepared for us by UNEP-WCMC, is to provide a comprehensive list of the animal species included in the CITES Appendices, together with their category in the 2002 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, the appropriate Annex in EC Regulation 338/97, and the geographical range, by country, of each taxon. The checklists are widely used by CITES Parties across the world and are an important reference tool for enforcement authorities involved in the prevention of illegal trade in endangered species. The checklists are also supported by references and give links to the CITES identification manuals.

These revised editions incorporate additions and amendments to the CITES Appendices made at the 12th meeting of the Conference of Parties, Santiago, in November 2002,

including the UK's successful proposal to list basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus* on Appendix II. Previous editions of the checklist have, with the support of CITES Secretariat, been mailed as printed documents to all CITES Parties around the world, currently 164 countries. The current editions are now available from the UK CITES website at:

www.ukcites.gov.uk/intro/cites_species.htm
Only limited hard copies have been produced.

UNEP-WCMC (2003). *Checklist of herpetofauna listed in the CITES Appendices and in EC Regulation 338/97*. 9th edition. JNCC report No. 340.

UNEP-WCMC (2003). *Checklist of fish and invertebrates listed in the CITES Appendices and in EC Regulation 338/97*. 6th edition. JNCC report No. 341.

UNEP-WCMC (2003). *Checklist of mammals listed in the CITES Appendices and in EC Regulation 338/97*. 6th edition. JNCC report No. 342.

UNEP-WCMC (2003). *Checklist of birds listed in the CITES Appendices and in EC Regulation 338/97*. 7th edition. JNCC report No. 343.

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Geological Conservation Review Series

Volume 29 of JNCC's GCR Series was published in February 2004. The new book contains detailed descriptions of a group of GCR sites that are protected as Earth science SSSIs for their contribution to the study of rocks of Early Carboniferous age in Britain. Such rocks crop out over a wide area in Britain and form areas of spectacular coastal and upland scenery, encompassing the Midland Valley of Scotland, the Pennines, the Lake District, north and south Wales, the Mendips and south-west England. Economically, they provide an important source of raw materials for the construction industry, some are host rocks for ore mineral deposits, and others have potential as source or reservoir rocks for hydrocarbons.

The new volume *British Lower Carboniferous Stratigraphy* by P.J. Cossey, A.E. Adams, M.A. Purnell, M.J. Whiteley, M.A. Whyte and V.P. Wright details the character and scientific importance of sedimentary rock formations that were deposited between 354 and 323 million years ago, when the piece of Earth's crust we now call 'Britain' lay close to the equator. The site reports record the geological history of Britain during this period of time and provide a framework for the national and international correlation of rocks of this age. These rocks are particularly significant in understanding the evolution of ancient carbonate platforms and many have been used to define sedimentary models that are used in exploration for important economic resources.



The picture shows the folded marine rocks of the Lower Carboniferous (Arundian) Birnbeck Limestone at the Flat Holm GCR site in the Bristol Channel. © P.J. Cossey.

For further details about the GCR project, visit www.jncc.gov.uk/earthheritage

British Lower Carboniferous Stratigraphy is available from NHBS Ltd, price £88. www.nhbs.com

A first for British uplands

This month sees the eagerly anticipated publication of the first comprehensive, single book on plant communities in the British uplands. *An Illustrated Guide to British Upland Vegetation* has been written by a team comprising some of the most experienced upland field botanists and ecologists in the UK (A. Averis, B. Averis, J. Birks, D. Horsfield, D. Thompson and M. Yeo). It brings together all of the upland communities described in the National Vegetation Classification together with a number of previously undescribed assemblages of plant species.

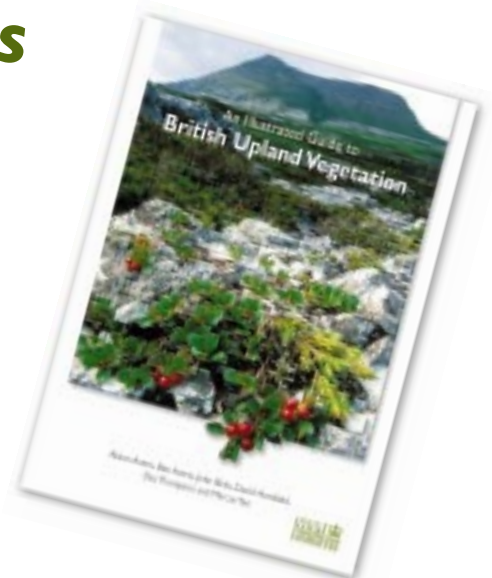
The book is the outcome of a combined total of 110 years of field work, much of it supported by the UK Government conservation agencies.

- A key enables the user to classify vegetation in the field.

- Each vegetation type is described and illustrated clearly and vividly.
- Detailed sections on ecology, conservation and management are given for each community.
- Up-to-date distribution maps provide many new localities for communities.

This will be an indispensable guide for ecologists, surveyors, land managers, conservation bodies, universities and colleges.

Professor Charles Gimingham, University of Aberdeen, commented that "this book is an outstanding companion and rich information source for all whose occupations and interests lead them to the upland".



An Illustrated Guide to British Upland Vegetation is available through NHBS Ltd, price £25. A discounted price of £15 is available to students, with proof of student status.

Sustaining the Seas

Irish Sea Pilot report completed

The report: *Marine Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development: the Irish Sea Pilot*, is scheduled for publication in the next few weeks. It makes 64 recommendations aimed at improving marine nature conservation and contributing to an ecosystem-based, sustainable planning and management regime for sea-based activities and developments. The recommendations cover current marine policy topics such as data management, conservation objectives, the identification of important features (habitats, species areas, etc), options for protection, defining regional seas, a marine landscape classification, legislation, enforcement and governance of marine nature conservation.



Highlights

The Pilot has shown that data exists to compile a list of nationally important habitats and species for a regional sea. This list should now be extended to form a comprehensive UK inventory. Research to identify important biodiversity areas should be continued to identify ecologically coherent networks at the regional sea level.



Common bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* breaching. © P.G.H. Evans

The marine landscapes classification and 'countryside map' of the Irish Sea has generated much outside interest as a useful tool for future planning and management. Proposals to refine the classification methodology and map the marine landscapes of the wider North East Atlantic in collaboration with international partners have been put forward.

The option of setting up a single cross-departmental body to take overall responsibility for marine strategic planning is attractive. A statutory process for marine spatial planning and a comprehensive planning framework is considered necessary to take account of increasing development pressure. Greater communication and liaison between government departments with responsibilities for marine regulation and enforcement are also recommended.

Next steps

The findings from the Irish Sea Pilot are being used to inform the final report of the Defra *Review of Marine Nature Conservation (RMNC)* scheduled for publication in summer 2004. Both reports will feed into the Government's Marine Stewardship Programme and should



Modiolus Beds. © JNCC

lead to an improved framework of legislation and governance for marine nature conservation both in the UK and wider European seas.

A team effort

The Pilot has been a remarkable example of partnership and collaboration both internally and externally. Besides the direct involvement of nine JNCC marine staff, five other teams contributed to the administration, 23 external contractors carried out various research and around 2,000 Irish Sea stakeholders were consulted on interim reports.

The Pilot's website is being redesigned to accommodate the report and all the other outputs from the Pilot.

www.jncc.gov.uk/irishseapilot

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Voyage

to the bottom of the seabed

The mapping of European seabed habitats goes online!

JNCC has been given the go-ahead to lead an EU Interreg-funded international marine habitat mapping programme.

This three year project entitled 'Development of a framework for Mapping European Seabed Habitats', or MESH for short, will start in spring 2004.

MESH has 12 partners across the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium and France, and aims to produce seabed habitat maps for north-west Europe, together with the development of international standards for seabed mapping.



Rocky reef with Dead Man's Fingers *Alcyonium digitatum* and calcareous tube worm *Pomatoceros* spp. © JNCC

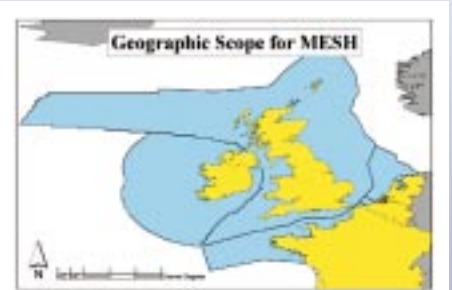
Background

Our seas support an exceptionally wide range of habitats and a rich biodiversity. These provide important food resources (fish, shellfish) and yield valuable natural resources (oil, gas, and aggregates). In addition the seabed is subject to increasing pressures from new developments, such as for renewable energy (eg, windfarms) and coastal developments. These ever-growing pressures call for improved sea-use management and planning, which in turn places a substantial demand for information about intertidal and seabed habitats. This has been met by a burgeoning of seabed mapping studies in recent years, but poor co-ordination and a lack of agreed standards has resulted in an inability to provide regional, national and international perspectives on the seabed resource to aid our decision-making. MESH aims to address these key issues, as detailed below.

First seabed habitat maps for north-west Europe

MESH will compile available seabed habitat mapping information (see map above right for geographical scope) and harmonise it according to European habitat classification schemes (the European Environment Agency's EUNIS system and the EC Habitats Directive types), to provide the first seabed habitat maps for north-west Europe. Because the available information will be of variable quality and patchy in nature, habitat modelling will be developed to predict habitat distribution for unsampled areas, from the more widely available geophysical and hydrographic data. The final maps will be presented with confidence ratings so that end-users can determine their adequacy for their decision-making and future survey effort can be more strategically directed.

To improve standards for future mapping programmes and facilitate data exchange and aggregation, MESH will develop a set of internationally agreed protocols and standards for habitat mapping. This will draw upon best available expertise across Europe and elsewhere. The protocols will be tested through a range of



field-testing scenarios involving trans-national co-operation to ensure they are robust.

Internet delivery and end-user involvement

Both the protocols and the habitat maps will be made available via state-of-the-art internet-based Geographical Information Systems (GIS), providing ready access to the information for a wide range of end-users at local, regional, national and international levels.

A wide spectrum of end-users will be engaged from the outset to provide feedback, to encourage the supply of relevant data, and to encourage the use of the mapping information for spatial planning, management and environmental protection.

The MESH partnership

A strong partnership covering all five countries in the Interreg (IIb) north-west Europe area, brings with it scientific and technical habitat mapping skills, national data collation and management expertise, and experience in the use of habitat mapping in management and regulatory frameworks. The UK partners are JNCC as lead agency, BGS, CEFAS, DARD, English Nature, Envision and the National Museum of Wales.

Further information is available at www.jncc.gov.uk/MESH

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The Magnificent 7th

JNCC attend latest Biodiversity Conference of the Parties

The 7th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) took place in Kuala Lumpur from 9th to 20th February 2004. JNCC staff Paul Rose and Steve Gibson provided technical advice for the UK delegation. The Convention was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992, and entered into force in December 1993. As the first treaty to provide a legal framework for biodiversity conservation, the Convention established three main goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Contracting Parties are required to create and enforce national strategies and action plans to conserve, protect and enhance biological diversity. They are also required to undertake action to implement the thematic work programmes on ecosystems and a range of cross-cutting issues which have been established to take forward the provisions of the Convention.

The busy agenda eventually adopted over 30 decisions including:

- agreement on a global framework of outcome-oriented targets and indicators for measuring progress towards significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;
- a work programme for protected areas and mountain ecosystems;
- principles to guide sustainable use;
- a means of developing tools to enable implementation of the ecosystem approach; and
- the enhancement of several important areas of work including inland waters, invasive alien species, global taxonomy initiative and removing perverse incentives.

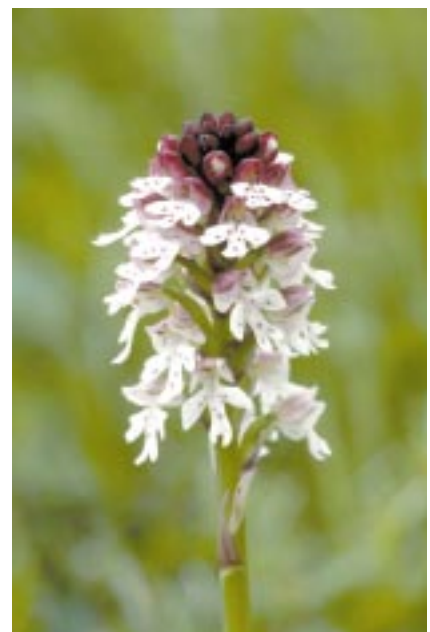


The main auditorium at CoP7 © Steve Gibson/JNCC

There is much to do now in implementing these and other decisions, as well as looking forward to the next phase of work, which will include work on island biodiversity. This is of relevance to the UK's Overseas Territories and Dependencies as well as to island communities in the UK.

During the course of the CoP the UK Minister for the Environment, Elliot Morley, launched the UK response to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The Strategy had been adopted at the previous Conference of Parties in the Hague in 2002. This response was the culmination of significant work between JNCC, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Plantlife, with UK Government and the devolved administrations to describe what challenges the UK faces in implementing it. JNCC's Stephen Grady provided support to this and a second Ministerial launch, as well as to the delegation as a whole.

✉ For more information on the CBD, contact Paul Rose, Head of Biodiversity Information Service (BIS), +44 (0)1733 866859, or Steve Gibson, International Adviser, +44 (0)1733 866815.



Burnt orchid *Orchis ustulata*.
© George McCarthy/Naturpl.com

From plants to people

New Director of Resources and External Affairs appointed



JNCC now has a third director within its Support Unit, with the appointment of Marcus Yeo as Director of Resources and External Affairs. Marcus was, until recently, Head of Planning and Resources in JNCC, and prior to that Head of Habitats Advice. His new role includes responsibility for corporate services, encompassing finance, human resources, business management, communications and data services, and also covers international work and earth science.

One of the main areas of concern for Marcus will be to address the challenges arising from the Government's Financial, Management and Policy Review of JNCC, and in particular the establishment by JNCC of a company limited by guarantee, employing staff united on one set of terms and conditions. Marcus will also focus on the implementation of JNCC's new strategy. He will be seeking to raise JNCC's profile within the country conservation agencies and Government, and finding new ways of working with international bodies, such as the European Commission.

With a clear vision for the future, Marcus sees JNCC as building on its reputation for scientific expertise in the years to come. "JNCC will be looking to be widely recognised as a source of authoritative information and advice on UK and international nature conservation issues", said Marcus, "and in this way it will make a significant contribution to sustainable development".

Marcus sees partnership as a major mechanism for achieving JNCC's aims. "We need to work closely with staff in the country agencies to ensure that we are all focusing on the priority issues affecting the environment and are making the best use of available resources. We also need to maintain close links with UK Government departments and devolved administrations, and to build productive working relationships with other key environmental stakeholders."

With a personal interest in nature conservation, in particular bryophytes, Marcus is an active member of the British Bryological Society. For the past seven years he has edited the society's biannual bulletin, and he still enjoys working in the field, recording the distribution of mosses and liverworts.



This is one of a range of publications published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. JNCC advises the UK Government on national and international wildlife and conservation issues on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland.

Nature News is published three times a year, and informs its readers of the current work and projects being carried out by JNCC. Comment and feedback is much appreciated, so please email communications@jncc.gov.uk, tel: +44 (0)1733 866839, fax: +44 (0)1733 555948 or write to: JNCC, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1JY, UK.

You can find out more about the work of the JNCC by visiting our website at www.jncc.gov.uk

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