



Placing nature at the heart
of sustainable wealth
and wellbeing



ANNUAL REVIEW 2017-2018

jncc.defra.gov.uk

FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Change was a constant theme throughout 2017/18, in what was another successful year for JNCC. As an impartial scientific authority on UK and international nature conservation we provided evidence and advice on a wide range of topics to enable the four governments of the UK to meet their environmental priorities.

The dedication and enthusiasm of our staff were at the heart of all that we achieved during the year as we responded to emerging challenges and opportunities. Preparations for the UK's exit from the EU in 2019 loomed large in our thinking. We also looked to the future by continuing to embed a natural capital approach in our work and diversifying our funding. Our success would not have been possible without the contributions made by our many partner organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

This review summarises what we achieved in 2017/18.

Marcus Yeo

“Our success would not have been possible without the contributions made by our many partner organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors.”



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR INCLUDED...



EARTH OBSERVATION

We led ground-breaking work on the use of Earth Observation data through the Defra Centre of Excellence, delivering a platform to provide users in government and beyond with cost-effective access to analysis-ready satellite data. Our work in this area is demonstrating the enormous potential for Earth Observation to transform environmental monitoring and assessment.

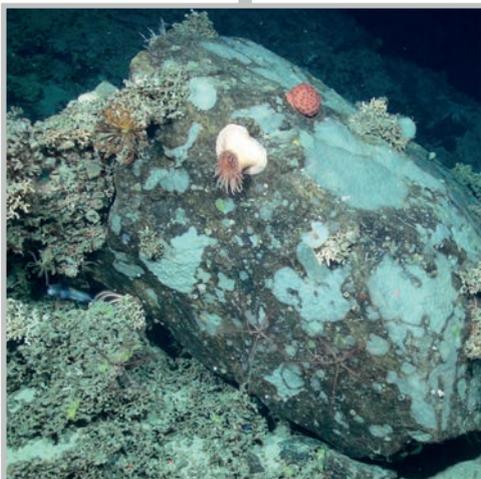
MARINE BIODIVERSITY MONITORING DEVELOPMENT

We made substantial progress in the development of a marine biodiversity monitoring programme for UK waters. Our team developed options for monitoring key components of biodiversity, and working with partners reviewed monitoring for the full range of marine habitats and species – seabirds, cetaceans, benthic, pelagic, seals and fish.



MODELLING BIODIVERSITY OCCURRENCE

Using specialist analytical skills we produced models of biodiversity occurrence that are being used in tools to support natural capital based decision-making.



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

August 2017 was the 10th anniversary of offshore marine conservation regulations. During this period we have provided advice to governments in the UK to designate 54 offshore marine protected areas (MPAs) covering 21% of the UK's exclusive economic zone. During 2017/18 we provided advice to Defra to support designation of a third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones in English waters and supported all administrations in the development of management measures for offshore MPAs.

MARINE BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS

We provided scientific leadership in the development of a suite of marine biodiversity indicators for the OSPAR Commission's Intermediate Assessment for the North-East Atlantic. The indicators detailed human pressures on the marine environment, their effects and the implications for biodiversity.





VALUING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Using funds from the FCO Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, we implemented a suite of natural capital projects across four Caribbean and all South Atlantic Overseas Territories. A particular success was the use of Earth Observation data to support economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services. We are now prioritising work in Caribbean Territories that demonstrates the value of the natural environment in mitigating the impacts of storm surge and flooding.

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

We supported Defra at the 12th Conference to the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species. Our experts took high profile roles in the terrestrial and avian species working groups, and led for the EU on national reporting and indicators. Our team also contributed, on behalf of the EU, to negotiations on a resolution on migratory species and climate change.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

We continued to supplement our core grant-in-aid funding with income from other sources, including government departments, EU grants and wider markets. We increased our income by 42% compared to the previous year.

PARTNERSHIPS

Much of JNCC's work is oriented towards collaborative working, bringing together the skills and ambitions of a wide range of stakeholders. We have many strong partnerships with government agencies and departments, academia and civil society.

Highlights of the year:

- ◆ Working closely with colleagues in Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural Resources Wales and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to share information and develop shared solutions to meet the needs of each country.
- ◆ Collaborating with Cefas and Marine Scotland to undertake surveys of the marine environment.
- ◆ Maintaining our partnership with the British Trust for Ornithology with a new five-year agreement covering all surveillance such as breeding bird and wetland bird surveys.
- ◆ Strengthening our partnerships with other non-governmental organisations and utilising their volunteer networks to undertake surveillance of terrestrial biodiversity.
- ◆ Participated in collaborative international funding bids with universities and various agencies, resulting in several funding successes.

WORKING WITH US

We're keen to participate collaboratively, as a project partner or a coordinator, in EU and other joint projects. Everything from simple partnerships to multidisciplinary projects or networks of scientists and researchers across all science and technology fields related to the environment.





HOW WE WORK

JNCC works by bringing together the UK's four country nature conservation bodies as a Joint Committee. The Committee enables members representing England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to work with independent members appointed by the Defra Secretary of State. The Joint Committee is supported by the JNCC Support Co. Originally set up under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, JNCC was reconstituted by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

OUR PEOPLE

We employ approximately 180 scientific, technical and support staff based primarily in offices in Peterborough and Aberdeen, with outposted staff in other parts of the UK including Wales, Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands.

One of JNCC's great strengths is the deep and extensive expertise of staff and Committee members. Our skills and knowledge cover environmental policy and legislation, science, application of technology, and working across boundaries (institutional, geographical, sectoral and political). Several of our people are national and international experts in their fields. The critical mass of expertise within JNCC supports discussion, mutual learning and professional development.

We are a socially responsible organisation, providing flexibility to enable our staff to combine work with family responsibilities and to contribute to the communities they live in.



DELIVERING OUR STRATEGY

JNCC has five high-level strategic outcomes that are guiding our work until 2020. This strategy is enabling us to maintain our success into the future by responding to opportunities and challenges.

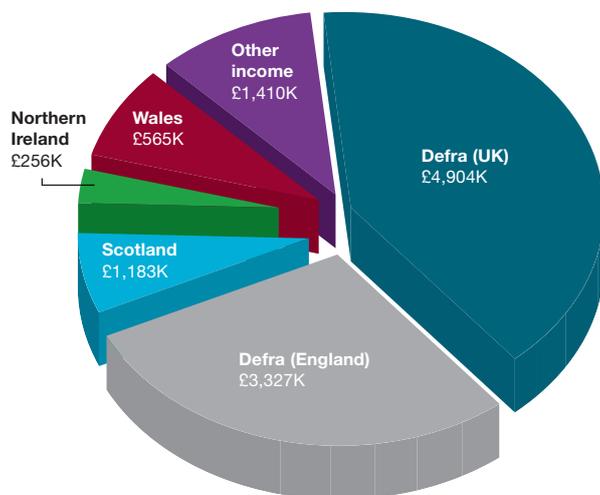


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2017/18

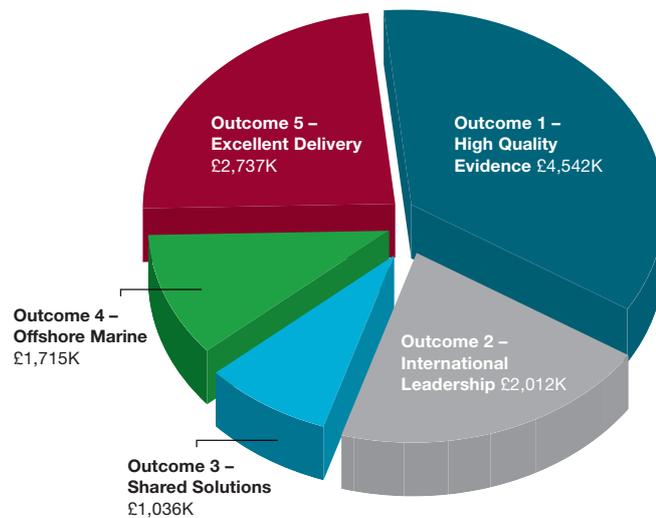
The majority of our funding is provided by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland).

JNCC – WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM



Total income £11,645k

JNCC – EXPENDITURE BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2017/18



Total expenditure £12,042k



OUR COMMUNICATIONS

Use your smartphone
to scan this code



Our website is the main portal for all news and information about our work – jncc.defra.gov.uk

Here you can access a range of data sources and products including maps and site details, for both the marine and terrestrial environments.

We regularly publish reports arising from our scientific work and a range of topics under the series title **JNCC reports (ISSN 0963-8091)**. Our reports are free to download from our website.

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Wildflower meadow © Wendy Dalton/JNCC
Rock outcrop colonised by corals, sponges, sea anemones, brittle stars, seastars © Courtesy of the NERC funded Deep Links Project - Plymouth University, Oxford University, JNCC, BGS
Grey seal © Natural England/Ross Bullimore

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Ascension Island © Tara Pelembe/JNCC
Orca © Mark Lewis/JNCC
Brimstone butterfly © Natural England/Allan Drewitt

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MRV Scotia © JNCC
Seabird colony counts © Kerstin Kober/JNCC

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Thérèse Coffey MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Defra, meets JNCC's Sonia Mendes © Defra
JNCC staff take part in the Aberdeen office's team building day at VSA Easter Anguston Farm © Sonia Mendes/JNCC
JNCC staff attended many science conferences throughout the year showcasing our work. Pictured is Lauren Molloy, Marine Assessment Scientist, at the Coastal Futures conference © JNCC

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JNCC's Sue O'Brien tagging red throated divers as part of an ongoing survey looking at the impact of offshore windfarms on the species. © Sue O'Brien/JNCC.
Common Bird's-foot trefoil © Helen Baker/JNCC

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Grey seals © Julia Sutherland/JNCC

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Spreading bellflower © Helen Baker/JNCC







OUR WORK IN 2018/19

Our work programme for 2018/19 has a strong element of continuity with previous years, with activities such as coordinating species surveillance programmes, advising on international environmental agreements and advising on the identification and management of offshore marine protected areas. However, we are also looking to the future by reassessing what we do and how we do it in response to internal and external drivers. Themes running through our work include:

- ◆ Providing advice to each of the UK administrations on EU exit, focusing on ensuring that environmental legislation can operate effectively following exit from the EU while also starting to consider implications for the longer term.
- ◆ Responding to the changing nature of devolution and the evolving requirements of each administration.
- ◆ Advising on the development of post-2020 global biodiversity targets which will provide a context for action within the UK.
- ◆ Embedding natural capital principles throughout our work.
- ◆ Trialling the application of new technologies and approaches, such as Earth Observation and data modelling, to address environmental challenges.
- ◆ Diversifying and increasing our income to maintain a critical mass of expertise and invest in developing the business, while driving efficiency in all areas of our work.