



The one hundred and twenty-eighth meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to be held at 11.00 on 15 September 2021 and 09.30 on 16 September 2021 virtually via Microsoft Teams

This paper was provided to the Joint Committee for decision/discussion or information. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for Committee's position on the paper.

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Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Matters arising

Paper by Tracey Elliott

1. There are no matters arising for this meeting. A report on outstanding action points from previous meetings is attached at Annex 1. All other action points have been discharged.
2. In August 2021, the Joint Committee agreed intersessionally that advice from JNCC in relation to the classification and extension of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) would continue to be signed off by the Chair on their behalf.

On 19th August 2021, Professor Colin Galbraith signed off formal advice from JNCC recommending the proposed extension of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC on behalf of the Joint Committee. NatureScot have confirmed they are content with JNCC's advice, which has been forwarded to the Scottish Government as part of the scientific advice package.

Annex 1. Action points from Joint Committee meetings

March 2021

Action	Person responsible	Progress update
<p>14.3 Air pollution: taking a new breath at JNCC (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 21 10) AP10 Ms Zappala to provide an update on JNCC's work on air pollution to a future Joint Committee meeting.</p>	Ms Zappala	Timing to be agreed.
<p>19.1.i Joint Committee forward programme (Official) (JNCC 21 15) AP12 Mrs Elliott to invite Professor Gilligan and Mr Yeo to the Committee dinner in Edinburgh in September.</p>	Mrs Elliott	Action moved to December meeting.

June 2021

Action	Person responsible	Progress update
<p>6.5 Chief Executive's Report on Topical Issues (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 21 18) AP01 Dr Harper to check reason for charge to receive digital copies of JNCC documents from the National Archives.</p>	Dr Harper	In progress. Mr Gilbertson investigating this charge.
<p>6.6 Chief Executive's Report on Topical Issues (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 21 18) AP02 Dr Wilkinson to ensure clarity in the evidence presented in the ongoing collaborative work around zoonosis in CITES listed species.</p>	Dr Wilkinson	Complete. This was mainly around the clarity within the CEO report. There is much more detail within the actual published report which addresses concerns. Separate briefing can be provided if required.
<p>6.8 Chief Executive's Report on Topical Issues (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 21 18) AP03 Professor Maggs to liaise with the CNCBs to</p>	Professor Maggs	Not yet liaised with CNCBs but continue to build on EDI within JNCC e.g. EDI survey results are being shared with ARAC; CEO's update includes the incorporation of

share examples of good practice in relation to EDI.		new suggestions into Action Plan; new policy to be rolled out in September. Professor Maggs will also raise EDI practices with CSG during their next meeting.
8.10 Marine Natural Capital at JNCC (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 21 19) AP06 Joint Committee to have a further discussion around the direction of monitoring work in relation to Marine Natural Capital. Professor Maggs to agree the timing of this item by the September meeting.	Professor Maggs	SR21 bids have been submitted to Defra concerning the marine NCEA work – these cover both monitoring and natural capital. At this stage it's not clear how the Joint Committee can input until we get results of the bid but it has been suggested that we revisit this topic at the March 2022 meeting.
9.9 JNCC in a Changing Environment (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 21 20) AP07 Professor Galbraith and Dr Harper to provide a paper for the September meeting setting out a composite plan with inputs into the spending review and business plan for next year.	Professor Galbraith/Dr Harper	In progress. Action plan developed.
13.4.ii Report from the Chief Scientists Group (CSG) (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 21 22) AP10 Professor Galbraith, Dr Harper and Professor Maggs to discuss in July the possibility of organising an event around SSSI designations.	Professor Galbraith/Dr Harper/Professor Maggs	Deferred. Still to be discussed - have been unable to progress due to other high priority matters.
15.11 Developing a more Strategic Role for JNCC within 'Super 2021' (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 21 24) AP11 Dr Wilkinson to discuss the strategic opportunities for improved co-ordination at the UK scale with the 4 Countries Biodiversity Group and report back to the September meeting.	Dr Wilkinson	In progress: Missed the agenda for the last 4 Countries Biodiversity Group as it was too soon after Committee to action. Has been added to the next meeting in September.
16.7.ii JNCC and its Relationship with the Environmental	Dr Harper	Browne Jacobson LLP to:

<p>Governance Bodies in the UK (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 21 25) AP12 Dr Harper to seek legal advice on the definition of reasonable assistance in relation to the environmental governance bodies and provide an update at the September meeting.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide written advice on what constitutes the provision of “reasonable assistance” to the environmental scrutiny body by the end of August 2021. • Produce a draft Memorandum of Understanding by the end of August 2021 • Based on the result of point 1 above, work up[a protocol which makes JNCC’s obligations to the scrutiny body realistic (this may be a schedule to the MoU) by the end of September 2021.
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