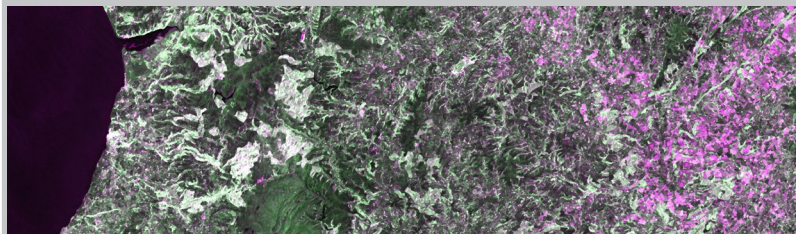


Living Wales - EO Strategy



Gwawr Jones, JNCC's Earth Observation (EO) Specialist, presented at the launch workshop for *Living Wales* - a major research initiative to develop a strategic plan for Earth Observation in Wales. *Living Wales* is a unique and world-first concept. It aims to capture the state and dynamics of Wales' landscape, in near real time, both historically and into the future. This will be achieved through the integration of Earth Observation data, ground measurements and process models.

Angola's Afromontane forests



JNCC's Ant Maddock spent a week in Angola working on a project to restore an area of Afromontane forests – one of the most threatened habitats in Angola. The project is helping the villagers of Kanjonde in Huambo Province to plant Afromontane forest trees to address the decline of wood fuel, decreasing water supply and biodiversity loss. More than 1,200 trees have been planted to date, with a further 700 seedlings being nurtured in a nursery for planting next year. See www.mountmoco.org/index.htm

Spotting Seabirds At Sea



JNCC's Volunteer Seabirds at Sea (VSAS) scheme uses volunteer surveyors on ferries to collect data on the abundance and distribution of seabirds at sea. We have been working closely with CalMac Ferries and MARINELife on a pilot training and mentoring programme. The first surveys will roll out on CalMac vessels in spring 2019. So far, 14 mentors and over 40 other volunteers have been trained by JNCC to collect data using European Seabirds at Sea (ESAS) methods. More courses are planned throughout 2019.

Representing the UK in Egypt



JNCC's Vin Fleming and Danny Heptinstall supported the UK delegation to the recent Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Egypt. The conference brought together representatives from the countries signed up to the convention, along with other key players from civil society, business, and indigenous and local communities. www.cop14-egypt.com/

For more than 25 years JNCC has provided robust evidence and trusted advice on nature conservation to enable UK governments to achieve their policy objectives. As a public body we also work in partnership with business and society. Our people are dedicated to providing high-quality evidence and advice on the natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Our vision is to be a world-leading provider of innovative solutions, placing nature at the heart of sustainable wealth and wellbeing.

Spotlight on NE Atlantic



JNCC's Laura Cornick and Peter Chaniotis joined Defra's Charlotte Marshall representing the UK delegation at the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This Group has been established under the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment across the North-east Atlantic.

At the meeting in Sweden the main discussion was about progression towards developing an ecologically coherent and well-managed network of MPAs across the North-east Atlantic. A proposal for a huge MPA for seabirds, covering tens of thousands of square kilometres, in the high seas was also discussed.

jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-3370

Sharing our knowledge stateside



JNCC was invited to the first State of the Science workshop, hosted by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The workshop brought together stakeholders engaged in environmental and wildlife research relevant to offshore wind energy development, to promote coordination and collaboration in efforts along the eastern seaboard from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

JNCC's Sue O'Brien and Karen Hall presented on lessons learnt from a European perspective on the effects of offshore wind energy on birds and marine mammals. A workshop report will be available to highlight the key actions that NYSERDA will take to address key research and data gaps, allowing for a regional approach to monitoring and research.

www.briloon.org/offshorewindny-workshop

MASTS



JNCC had a strong representation of staff at the 8th Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS) Annual Science Meeting. We've recently become a member of MASTS, so were able to present JNCC's work to the wider MASTS community. In addition to a keynote by our Chief Scientist, Professor Christine Maggs, three JNCC staff gave talks on their work - deep-sea sensitivity, the UK Marine Protected Area (MPA) network and OSPAR benthic indicators. JNCC also exhibited three e-posters, showcasing collaborative work with Marine Scotland Science on monitoring Scotland's offshore MPAs, MPA conservation advice and JNCC's recently published benthic habitat monitoring guidance.

jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7336

Business and Biodiversity

JNCC has published two reports aimed at encouraging greater integration of biodiversity into business decisions. The reports demonstrate the avenues of action that businesses can take to manage their biodiversity impacts and dependencies.

Biodiversity risk - integrating business and biodiversity in the tertiary sector

jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7626

Mainstreaming international biodiversity goals for the private sector

jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7678



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