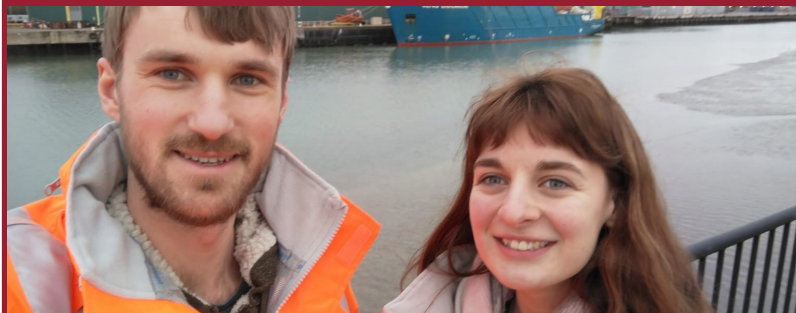




Science
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January
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All at sea



JNCC marine scientists recently set sail aboard the RV Cefas Endeavour with Cefas colleagues to survey the Offshore Brighton and Offshore Overfalls Marine Conservation Zones. The survey will build on our monitoring efforts and help us to understand more about these important sites and to provide sound management advice. Keep up-to-date with the survey by following us on Twitter or see our blog <http://jnccoffshoresurvey.blogspot.com/>

Highest accolade for David



JNCC's Senior Ornithological Adviser, David Stroud MBE, was declared Honorary Patron at a recent meeting of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in Durban, South Africa. This is the highest accolade the Treaty can bestow and is only the second time it has been awarded. <https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/news/british-ornithologist-declared-honorary-patron-un-waterbird-agreement>

SACs and SPAs dataset updates



We have recently updated our datasets for Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas with marine components. These are available online at http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/SACselection/gis_data/terms_conditions.asp. You can also sign up to receive notifications of updates to our Marine Protected Area datasets at <http://bit.ly/2StJDv9>

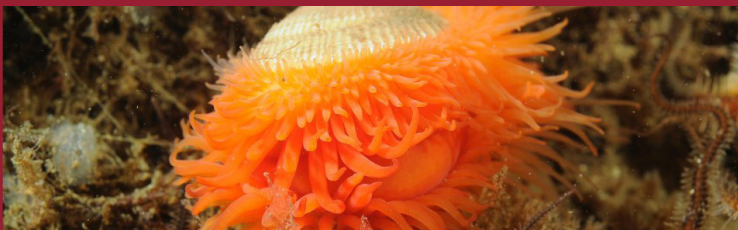
Afromontane Forest project



Highlighted in our December *Science Bulletin*, the Afromontane Forest project, of which JNCC is a partner, is featured in the *Associação Angolana Para Aves E Natureza 2018 Annual Report*. JNCC's Ant Maddock has been helping project partners develop a proposal for funding from UK Government's Darwin Initiative. <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7708>

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.

MPA Network Report



We are delighted to have partnered with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and others to input into the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Progress Report - recording progress towards Scotland's commitment to an ecologically coherent MPA network.

In December, SNH presented the last six years' progress in developing Scotland's MPA network in a report to Scottish Government. During this time we have made some great achievements towards the conservation of important features of Scotland's seas. This has included the designation of 41 new MPAs and the extension of two sites, affording protection to a wider range of Scotland's important cultural and historical artefacts, marine habitats, species, geology and landforms within the MPA network.

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7701>

Resilience mapping



JNCC's Amanda Gregory, Gwawr Jones and Professor Christine Maggs presented at the *Mapping for evidence-based policy, recovery and environmental resilience project* meeting for the British Virgin Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands.

Gwawr provided training on Earth Observation, Christine gave an update on our Overseas Territories and wider international work, and Amanda presented on JNCC's UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) work, which the project links to.

The project is part of the Darwin Initiative - a UK government grants scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide.

The successful week ended with the JNCC team meeting Dr The Honourable Minister Pickering and Deputy Permanent Secretary Smith-Abbott.

Coral reefs at the fore



JNCC's Dr Jane Hawkridge attended the General Assembly of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) in Monaco, 5-7 December, opened by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II. The ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020 was adopted which aims to respond to the many human pressures that coral reefs face by promoting effective and adaptable solutions to improve their protection through policy, management and innovation.

Prior to the meeting, Jane attended the Innovative Finance for Coral Reefs Workshop which looked at the opportunities and approaches for financing marine conservation. The workshop focused on coral reefs and related ecosystems, and working towards developing and establishing conservation finance mechanisms and solutions. <https://www.icriforum.org/>

Unique Marine Masters programme

We are proud to be working with the University of Plymouth, international policy makers and non-governmental organisations on a new MSc Marine Conservation degree. The qualification will address some of the biggest challenges facing our marine environment and is the first of its kind to be delivered in conjunction with a suite of regional, national and international practitioners. The course will accept its first students in September 2019.

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/news/university-works-with-global-partners-to-provide-unique-masters-programme-in-marine-conservation>



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