

Natural Capital in the South Atlantic



Nature's Benefits: Natural Capital in the South Atlantic - a conference, organised for JNCC by the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI), brought together scientists, politicians and planners from St Helena, the surrounding region and further afield. For the last two years, SAERI has been implementing a Natural Capital Assessment project across the UK's Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic, funded through JNCC.

People from across the region, and globally, travelled to St Helena to consolidate the final outputs of the project through a regional conference – the second to be hosted on the island. Talks covered a range of topics from the benefits of cloud forest to the value of the deep sea. On-island organisations linked to the Natural Capital project also presented, and the conference provided a platform for local researchers and students to share the outcomes of their research.

New Co-convenor on ICG-COBAM

JNCC's Jane Hawkrigde has accepted the role of new co-convenor of the Inter-sessional Correspondence Group on Co-ordination of Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring (ICG-COBAM) under the OSPAR Convention. The group unanimously recognised her expertise within COBAM and the science and policy interface. Congratulations Jane!

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.

MoU signing



We are delighted to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between JNCC, SAERI and the Namibian Nature Foundation for collaborative work on the Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area following several years of preparatory work. Pictured are Angus Middleton, Namibia Nature Foundation; Teresa Bowers, SAERI and Paul Rose, JNCC. This partnership is also working to promote marine conservation, research and awareness, and promote and enhance a sustainable Blue Economy in the South Atlantic.

National Plant Monitoring Scheme Relaunch



Since 2015, hundreds of skilled volunteers have recorded plants in over 3,000 survey plots of semi-natural habitat. The NPMS, funded and run by JNCC, Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and Plantlife, had a media-drive this Spring to relaunch the scheme to sign up more volunteers and increase coverage. You can find out more at <https://www.npms.org.uk/>

African-Eurasian Flyway Workshop



JNCC was delighted to host leading conservationists from across the African-Eurasian flyway to discuss the implementation of the UN Convention on Migratory Species' African-Eurasian Migratory Landbird Action Plan (AEMLAP). The plan outlines the high-level actions required to ensure the conservation of landbirds which migrate between Africa and Europe, including many from the UK.

By bringing together key representatives, JNCC hopes to facilitate implementation of the plan. To support this, a series of project proposals were created at the workshop. These are now being refined before being suggested to a variety of funders, hopefully leading to a significant increase in implementation of the AEMLAP.

Cetacen Bycatch Workshop



The UK Government is developing a coordinated, stakeholder-led approach to reduce cetacean bycatch through implementation of risk-based mitigation. JNCC supports this through the UK Bycatch Focus Group, an expert group convened by Defra. A workshop 'Hauling up Solutions' was held in mid-March, jointly led by Defra, Cefas and Zoological Society London.

Attended by the country nature conservation bodies, non-governmental organisations, industry and invited experts from the UK and abroad, it shared knowledge to find innovative solutions and developed recommendations on reduction measures. This was a positive step towards achieving the ultimate goal of cetacean bycatch reduction, both in terms of welfare and conservation status.

The Big Picture



JNCC recently held a 'Big Picture Workshop' attended by stakeholders representing a wide range of marine monitoring interests and expertise in the UK, and beyond. Participants shared knowledge and experience, building a common picture of the issues, opportunities, ideas and possible actions to better harness the potential of seabed (benthic) imagery and analysis.

It was a very productive workshop, receiving much positive feedback. Outputs will be collated into a draft collaborative action plan to deliver future benthic imagery standards and quality assurance work in the UK. The plan will be consulted on by the Healthy and Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group before being adopted.

Air Pollution Bulletin

The latest Inter-agency Air Pollution Group (IAPG) bulletin is available online. This edition features new air quality thresholds in Wales, tackling ammonia emissions in Northern Ireland and the development of the Nitrogen Decision Framework.

The IAPG is a collaboration between JNCC and the country nature conservation bodies who work together to provide evidence and advice on air pollution impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5976>



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