



James Williams and Alison Littlewood from our International Team provided scientific support to Defra as part of the UK Delegation to the Convention on Migratory Species 13th Conference of the Parties in Gandhinagar, India. This was the first global biodiversity meeting post Brexit, and part of the challenge was establishing new ways of working with the EU and other countries. The UK made its presence felt with a series of strong interventions, and input to the working groups set up to review draft Resolutions and Decisions. Agreements were reached which will see work continue in the intersessional period on (amongst other issues): flyways and swimways, poisoning in birds, trade in listed species, bycatch, wild meat, light pollution, animal culture, insect declines, plastic pollution, and climate change. Important institutional and strategic progress included ensuring effective involvement of civil society and engagement of the Convention in the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

<https://www.cms.int/en/meeting/thirteenth-meeting-conference-parties-cms>



JNCC, in collaboration with the Marine Management Organisation, has recently produced a Marine Biosecurity Toolkit for the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) on behalf of the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat. The toolkit provides a set of guidance documents, including a series of identification guides for those priority species identified by the UKOTs as a potential risk.

This work has been funded by the UK Government and draws on existing global knowledge and experience to support the UKOTs to address the issue of marine invasive non-native species. The toolkit is part of the wider UKOT Biosecurity Project and contributes towards the UK Government's response to the Honolulu Challenge: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=619>.

The toolkit is published online at: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=656>.

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.

First UKEOF conference



We're proud to be partners in the UK Environmental Observation Framework (UKEOF) - the coordinating body across the public sector for the UK's environmental observation community <http://www.ukeof.org.uk/>.

The UKEOF recently held its first conference which brought together public sector providers and analysts of long-term data with researchers and a broad range of stakeholders with interests in environmental change. JNCC's Anna Robinson presented at the event on our work which supports a range of long-term monitoring and recording schemes across the UK, in partnership with non-government organisations and research bodies.

<http://www.ukeof.org.uk/conference-2020>

Coral reef survey around Pitcairn



JNCC's Joey O'Connor and Paul Whomersley from Cefas undertook a seabed and coral reef survey around Pitcairn Island funded by the UK Conflict, Stability & Security Fund <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/conflict-stability-and-security-fund/about>. Pitcairn is a UK Overseas Territory situated in the Pacific Ocean over 3,000 miles from any continent.

The primary aim of the survey was to use an underwater camera system and sonar to gather a dataset to characterise and monitor Pitcairn's coral reefs. Data collected will also be used to create a shallow-water substrate map for Pitcairn to feed into zoning discussions and the island's Marine Management Plan. Find out more at <https://jncc.gov.uk/about-jncc/jncc-blog/>. Pictured (L to R) Torika Warren-Peu (First Mate), Paul Whomersley, Joey O'Connor and Jayden Warren-Peu (Skipper of the Vai Papa).

Rivers Restoration Centre



JNCC is delighted to announce that Catherine Duigan, JNCC's Biodiversity - Special Projects Manager, on secondment from Natural Resources Wales, has become a member of the Rivers Restoration Centre (RRC) Advisory Board <https://www.therrc.co.uk/rrc>.

Catherine will be attending the Advisory Board as a JNCC representative. The RRC is the national expert advice centre for best practice river restoration, habitat enhancement and catchment management. It provides a focal point for the exchange and dissemination of information and expertise. The Board is a crucial element of the RRC's structure, ensuring the Centre's business planning process takes account of national environment programmes and operational staff needs.

Involvement with the RRC will contribute to JNCC's growing interest in nature-based solutions.

Invertebrate curation at the National Museum of Scotland

JNCC's Charlie Howarth and Kirsten Dinwoodie spent time at the National Museum of Scotland taking part in an invertebrate curation placement, sorting out invertebrate samples that had been donated by previous JNCC marine surveys. This involved preparing the samples for preservation, recording them within a database, creating labels for every specimen and sorting them away into the collection for use by future researchers. Find out more at <https://jncc.gov.uk/about-jncc/jncc-blog/>



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Images: Nuthatch © Pixabay | UK delegates at CMS CoP13 © James Williams/JNCC | Blue crab © iStock | Pitcairn Island survey (L to R) Torika Warren-Peu, Paul Whomersley, Joey O'Connor and Jayden Warren-Peu © JNCC | River Nars © The River Restoration Centre | Charlie Howarth sorting away the fully labelled specimens after a week of hard work © Kirsten Dinwoodie/JNCC |