

## Linking Environment to Trade



We published [The LET \(Linking Environment to Trade\) Guide](#) which takes a high-level look at the tools and techniques available to understand and measure the impacts of trade on the environment. Funded by Defra, the *Guide* builds on existing compendiums and research to provide a snapshot of the current state of play. It's designed to provide an introduction to anyone who's new to the field, and offers explanations of tools, techniques and related jargon.

Approximately 50% of food and fibre consumed in the UK is imported from other countries, and production, processing and transport of these commodities across the globe has a major impact on the environment. As consumption increases globally, pressure for countries to take responsibility for their environmental impacts overseas is increasing. Quantifying this impact is essential in allowing us to understand what we might do to reduce it.

Perhaps the most predictable, yet significant finding, was that globalised communication and knowledge sharing across sectors is key to progress and achievement of sustainability goals. We hope *The LET Guide* will provide an accessible introduction to the subject and the tools available to help multiple stakeholders across government, industry and the third sector reduce the UK's impact on the environment overseas.

## The principles of nature conservation



*What is nature conservation? What does it look like in the UK? What has it achieved? And where might it go in the future?*

These were some of the questions posed to Danny Heptinstall, one of JNCC's Senior International Biodiversity Advisers, when he was invited to present at a webinar for the [Civil Service Environment Network \(CSEN\)](#). CSEN is a networking and discussion forum for civil servants who want to learn more about the environment. It's open to staff across the UK's four governments including those who don't work directly on environmental matters.

Recognising that many of the attendees would have little or no background in biodiversity, Danny pitched his talk as an introduction to the principles of nature conservation. This included how they have influenced current legislation and the challenges that current structures present to embracing the Nature-Based Solutions approach.

Danny's presentation was well received with colleagues across Government. If you work in the civil service you can check out the recording on the CSEN website by becoming a CSEN member today.

**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.**



## ECORISC Centre for Doctoral Training



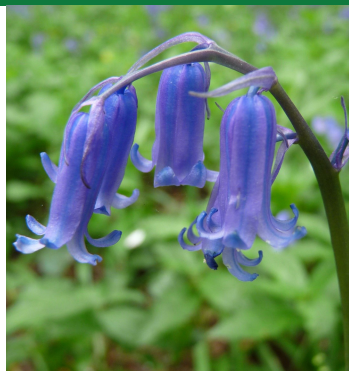
Pollution is one of the top five reasons for global biodiversity loss and is a developing area of JNCC's work. As part of the Defra group, and working alongside colleagues from Defra, Environment Agency and Cefas, we were invited to be part of the ECORISC (Ecotoxicological Risk Assessment Towards Sustainable Chemical Use) consortium which successfully won the bid for the Natural Environment Research Council's £3.5 million 6-year [Centre for Doctoral Training programme for Managing Chemical Risk in the Environment](#).

[ECORISC](#) recently held a research project co-design session with their [six core institutions and 28 partners](#) including JNCC, with the [first cohort of 13 PhD students](#) choosing from these projects. There will be at least 39 students over the 6-year programme. Involvement in the ECORISC CDT will improve UK and JNCC capability to tackle the effects of pollution on ecosystems both locally and globally. If you're interested in joining this cross-disciplinary work or proposing a project, please get in touch with [susan.zappala@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:susan.zappala@jncc.gov.uk) or [alexandra.cunha@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:alexandra.cunha@jncc.gov.uk).

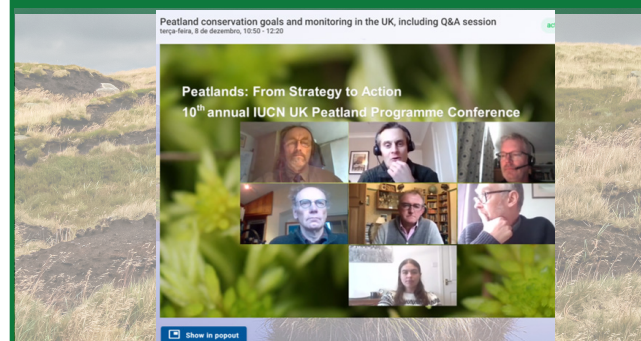
## NPMS Winter Tweet Meet

We were involved with the [National Plant Monitoring Scheme's](#) (NPMS) Winter Tweet Meet. Held on Twitter, the #NPMSfest brought together botanists, volunteers, stakeholders and supporters of the NPMS from around the UK to encourage communication and collaboration, and celebrated all the hard work of the many volunteers throughout 2020.

For the first time ever, 2020 saw volunteer-collected habitat data included as an [experimental "Official Statistic"](#) within the annual UK Biodiversity Indicators published by JNCC on behalf of Defra.



## IUCN Peatland Conference



JNCC presented two talks at this year's IUCN UK Peatland Conference 2020, hosted for the first time virtually to a global audience.

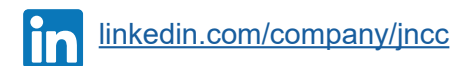
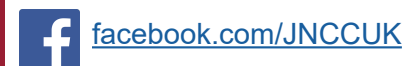
Stephen Grady presented an overview of the UK's approach to assessing conservation status of rare, threatened or endemic habitats, animals and plants in the context of peatland ecosystems. Becky Trippier and Paul Robinson presented [JNCC's recent work](#) using a time series of Earth observation imagery to map changes in peatland condition, working with partners from Natural England, Forest Research and Welsh Government as part of a [Copernicus User Uptake](#) project. They also took part in a Q&A session alongside other scientists in the field familiar with using different methods to integrate remote sensing and ground surveys to assess peatland condition.

## Joint Cetacean Data Programme



Despite the challenges of Covid-19, the [Joint Cetacean Data Programme](#) (JCDDP) continues to progress towards a platform for collated, accessible cetacean data. A successful remote stakeholder workshop was held in December, facilitated by JNCC, with support from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, who have been contracted to build and host the portal. The aim of the workshop was to define the specification of the database through exploration of individual user needs, and consider production of data products using the data held within the portal. The workshop was managed through Microsoft TEAMS and held over a three-day period with half-day sessions and breakout discussions. The outputs will be used by ICES to inform the build, with a view to the JCDDP being operational by spring 2022.

## Connect with us



If you have any comments, would like to know more about the work featured in this bulletin or would like to join our mailing list please email [communications@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:communications@jncc.gov.uk)

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