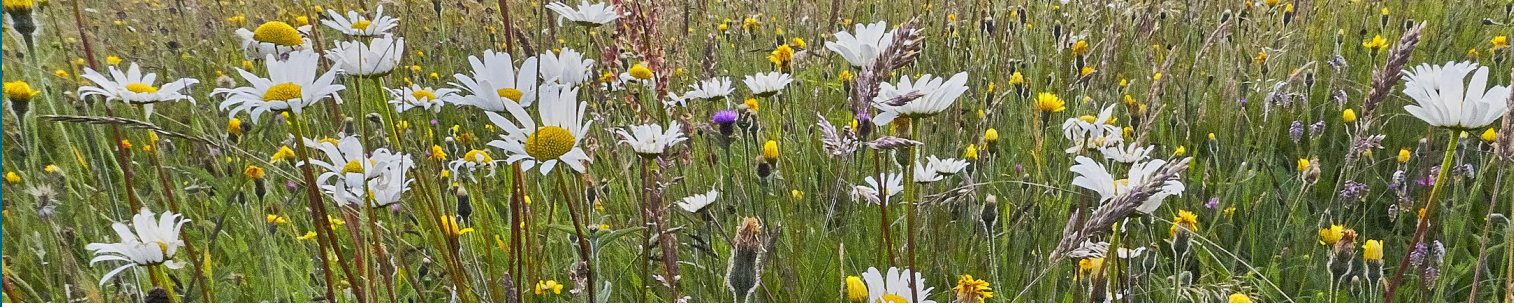


Delivering Action through Science: JNCC's Science Impact Strategy 2026–2030





Foreword

There is wide recognition that our planet faces a triple crisis: biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution. The complex systems that sustain life as we know it are being pushed towards irreversible change with unknown consequence for nature and people. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has called for immediate and sustained action and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has called for transformative change to avert the worst possible consequences of the triple crisis.

JNCC must play our part by delivering impact through our science. Working with our partners we need to deliver the best evidence and advice we can – informing decision-making in the UK, the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, and internationally.

For over three decades JNCC has supported action for nature, but it is time to double down, be the very best we can be, so that our evidence and advice have the impact we all need them to have.

JNCC has a rich science history and deep applied scientific expertise in terrestrial and marine systems. We are proud of our work at the science–policy interface, bringing evidence and advice to decision-making. This *Science Impact Strategy* sets out how we will go even further to turn science into action, working with our partners across governments, the statutory country nature conservation bodies (CNCBs), civil society, industry, and academia. This strategy is complemented by our *Digital and Data Strategy* which sets out ambitions in that area.

Our *Science Impact Strategy* is not a reset. It is about making even more of JNCC's skills and expertise. I look forward to working with you all to deliver on our science ambition, achieving the mission of our overarching strategy, *Together for Nature*, and delivering for nature, people and the planet.

Dave Stone FIEnvSc CSci
Chief Scientist, JNCC



Executive Summary

The accelerating triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution requires decision-makers to have access to high-quality, actionable science. For over three decades JNCC's world-class expertise, dedication and skills have underpinned nature conservation and recovery within the UK. We have played a pivotal role in safeguarding nature on land and at sea by combining our position as the only statutory authority to all four countries of the UK with our scientific ability. Ideally positioned at the heart of the science–policy interface, we work across the UK, the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, and internationally, to provide impartial, trusted evidence to governments and other partners, to inform environmental decision-making.

This *Science Impact Strategy* sets out how JNCC will maximise the impact of our scientific work over the next five years. It acknowledges JNCC's strong foundation while recognising that the scale and urgency of today's environmental challenges demand a step change in how we design, generate and communicate our evidence.

The *Science Impact Strategy* focuses specifically on increasing the impact of JNCC's scientific activities and its purpose is two-fold:

1. To provide JNCC colleagues with a framework and guidance for delivering targeted, actionable scientific evidence and advice.
2. To demonstrate to partners how JNCC ensures our science directly supports policy and decision-making, and to identify opportunities for collaboration.

Central to the *Strategy* are **six Science Principles** that collectively frame how JNCC will deliver science that enables real world action (see Figure 1):

1. Prioritise generation of new evidence that addresses key policy needs

When creating new evidence JNCC will target where the policy needs are greatest. We will improve the accessibility, findability and interoperability of our evidence so that it can be used by more people for more purposes. Adopting new technologies will help strengthen and modernise our monitoring capabilities.

2. Translate existing evidence into actionable policy advice

To ensure evidence can genuinely support decisions, JNCC will take existing evidence and translate it into actionable advice by co-designing outputs with end users, present uncertainty clearly, and anticipate emerging policy needs. This will help decision-makers select effective interventions and navigate complex trade-offs with confidence.

3. Work in partnership to achieve greater impact together

Because no single organisation can tackle environmental challenges alone, JNCC will strengthen existing partnerships, build new ones strategically, and publish areas of research interest to better align research with policy needs.

4. Integrate natural and social sciences for more effective outcomes

Effective solutions to the challenges facing nature depend on understanding both ecological change and human behaviour, governance and economic systems. JNCC will grow its interdisciplinary capability and integrate the social sciences into project design, evidence production, and evaluation.

5. Strengthen learning and evaluation to increase the impact of our science

Continuous improvement of our science – through monitoring, evaluation, and workforce development – will ensure JNCC's science remains robust and impactful. Embedding learning across the project cycle will ensure we learn from what works and what doesn't.

6. Effectively communicate our evidence to drive action

Clear, compelling communication will help ensure that our evidence reaches the right audiences and drives action. JNCC will tailor our communications, broaden our reach, and raise our scientific profile.

Together, these principles provide a coherent framework for delivering science that is targeted, trusted and transformative – strengthening JNCC's role in driving effective action for nature, people and the planet.

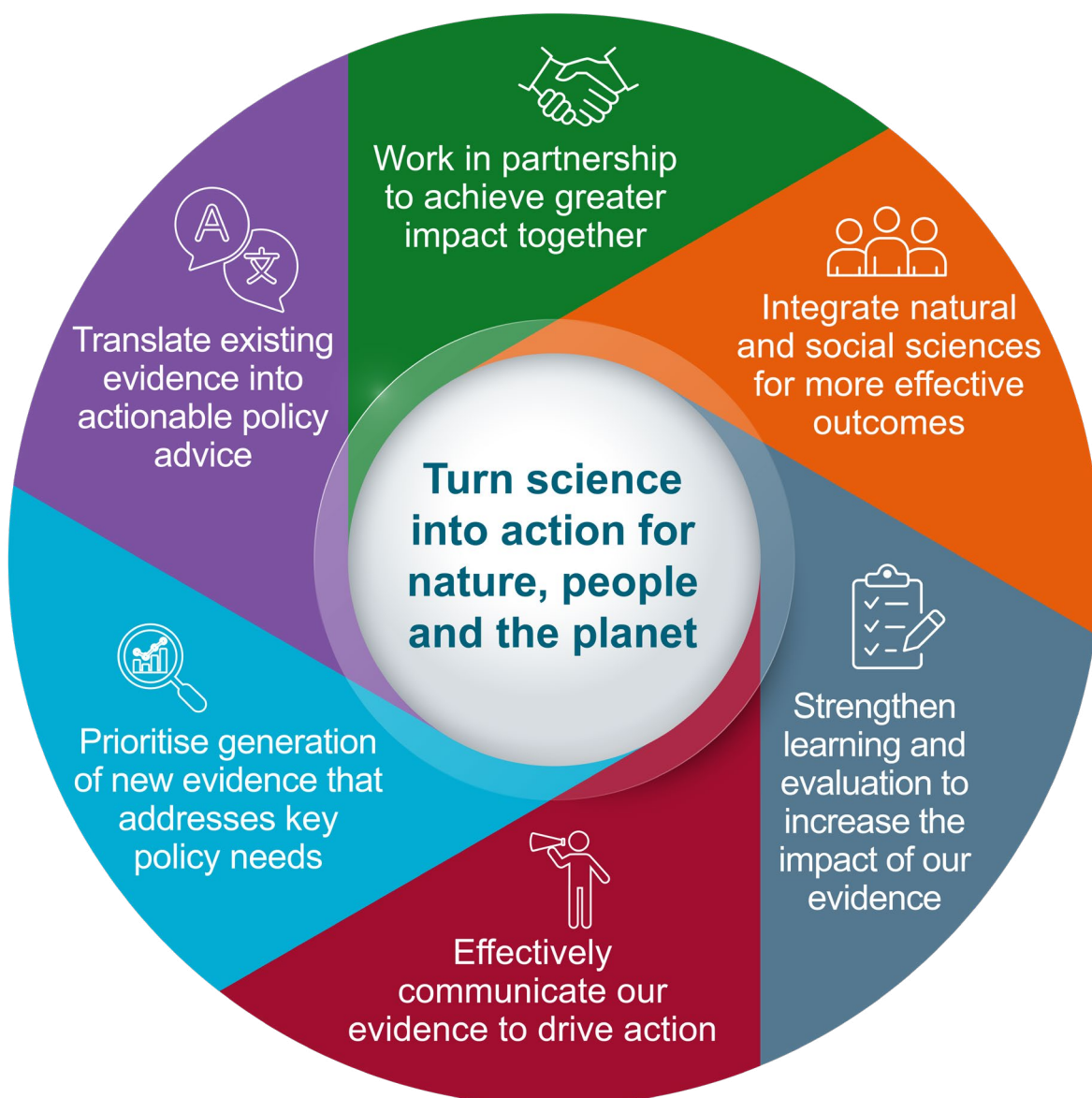


Figure 1. JNCC's six Science Principles provide the framework through which we will increase our impact and deliver our mission of turning science into action.

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1. Why we need a Science Impact Strategy

1.1 JNCC's role at the science-policy interface

For over 30 years JNCC's trusted expertise, dedication and skills have underpinned nature conservation and recovery within the UK. We have played a pivotal role in safeguarding nature on land and at sea by combining our position as the only statutory authority to all four countries of the UK with our scientific expertise.

We operate at the science-policy interface – turning the best-available evidence into independent, impartial, trusted advice that decision-makers within the UK, the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, and globally can use to recover nature. Our status as a Public Sector Research Establishment (PSRE) highlights the important role we play in the UK's science, research, development, and innovation landscape.

As an organisation of around 300 people, we have only been able to achieve our successes through working in partnership with government, statutory country nature conservation bodies (CNCBs), academia, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), industry, citizen scientists, and many others.

However, we know we must do more to ensure our evidence meets the urgency and scale of the crises that nature and the climate are facing.

Public Sector Research Establishments (PSREs)

PSREs are an important part of the UK's science and innovation system. There are around 50 PSREs in the UK that are associated with a government department, varying in size, funding model, and function.

PSREs support government by providing scientific advice to policymakers and delivering essential scientific services for government, businesses and society.

Being a PSRE brings several benefits to JNCC, including being:

- recognised as an authoritative, impartial science body,
- able to inform policy as a trusted advisor to government,
- able to obtain public funding utilising our PSRE status.



1.2 Purpose of the Science Impact Strategy

The strategic priorities set out in JNCC's overarching strategy [Together for Nature 2023-2030](#) define **what** JNCC will do to deliver healthy ecosystems and achieve our mission of turning science into action for nature, people and the planet (Figure 2).

This *Science Impact Strategy* focuses specifically on increasing the impact of JNCC's scientific work, rather than on evaluating the effectiveness of policies and practices affecting nature more broadly. JNCC is, however, keen to work in partnership to strengthen the evidence base on what conservation actions are effective and in what context.

This *Strategy* sets out **how** JNCC will enhance our scientific work over the next five years by putting impact at the heart of how we design, generate, and communicate our evidence and advice.

This *Science Impact Strategy* is aimed at:

- JNCC colleagues, supporting them with a framework and guidance to deliver targeted, actionable evidence and advice.
- Current and potential partners across government, CNCBs, academia, and beyond, demonstrating how we ensure our science directly supports policy and decision-making, and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

As we implement this *Science Impact Strategy*, we will continue to hold ourselves to the highest standards in terms of quality, ethics, and responsible innovation. Our robust [Evidence Quality Assurance Policy](#) will ensure that the evidence we produce is high-quality and fit-for-purpose. We will break down silos and provide evidence to inform decisions on the governmental and societal priorities outlined in our *Nature Narrative* (Figure 3). We will champion the role of independent, impartial, rigorously produced evidence and advice to inform decision-making. Critically, we will make sure that staff have the resources and capacity to deliver this Science Impact Strategy in full.

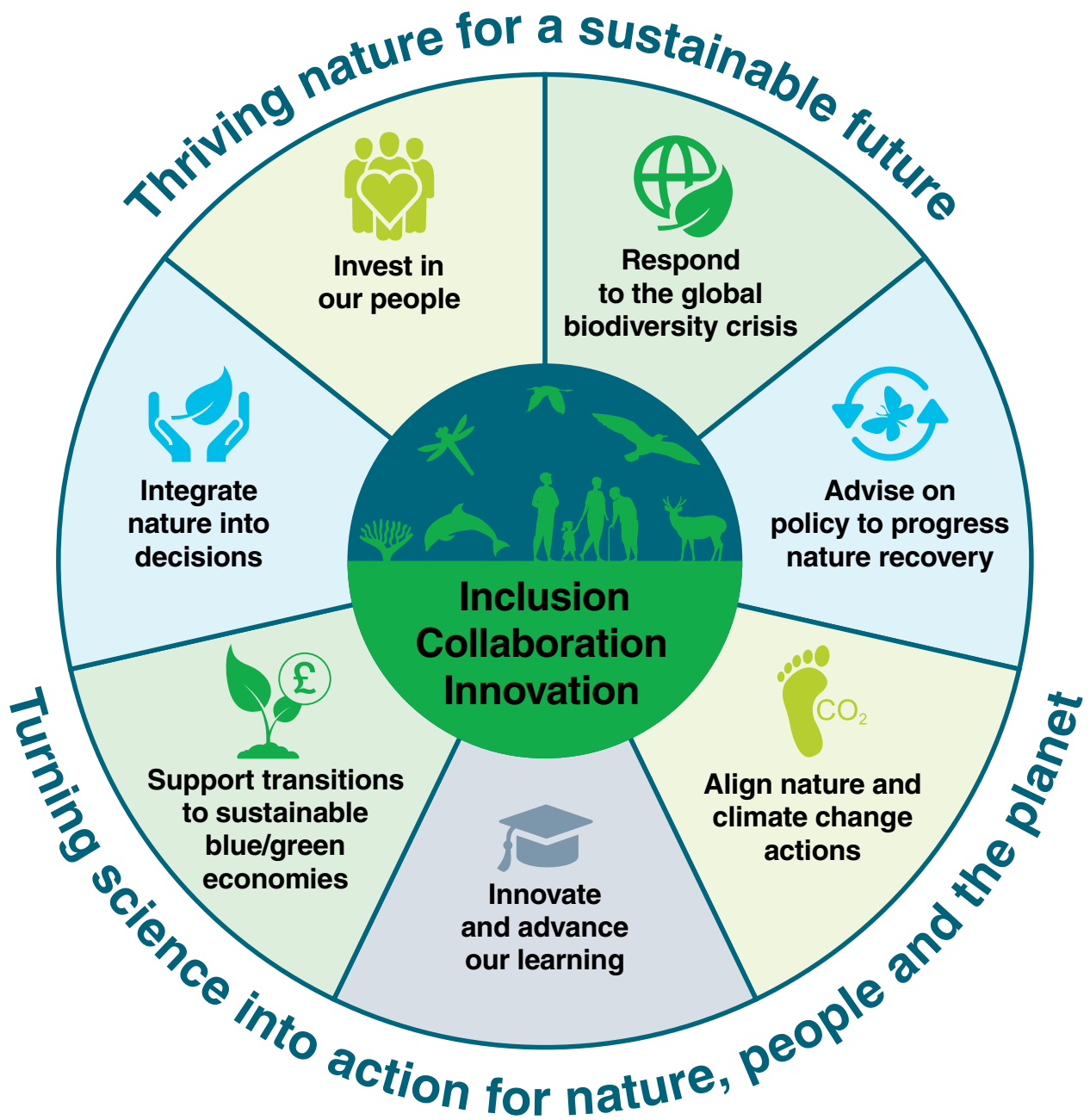


Figure 2. Our overarching strategy, *Together for Nature*, outlines our mission of turning scientific evidence into action through the delivery of the seven Strategic Priorities depicted in this diagram. The *Science Impact Strategy* provides a set of Science Principles and Strategic Actions which will allow us to deliver this mission by embedding its ambition of turning science into action into how we design, generate and communicate our evidence.

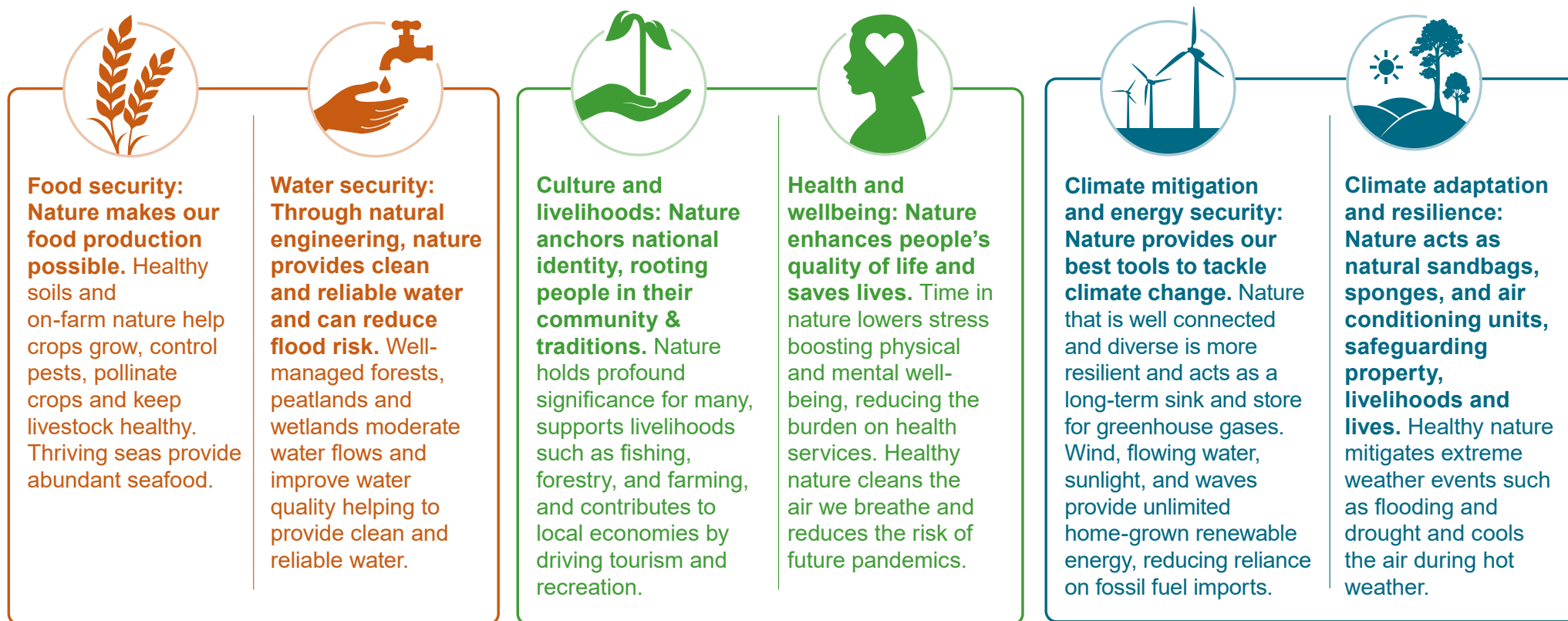


Figure 3. Our Nature Narrative help us explain why nature matters for governmental and societal priorities.



2. Overview of our six Science Principles

The *Science Impact Strategy* sets out six Science Principles that will enable us to increase our impact over the period 2026 to 2030 (Figure 4). These principles build on our existing reputation for generating high-quality data, evidence and advice but recognise that we can achieve more through strategic collaboration, effective communication, and learning and improving. The principles overlap and mutually reinforce one another (Figure 5).

Delivery of all six principles will be in line with our values of inclusion, collaboration, and innovation.

Our science encompasses the natural sciences alongside economics and other social sciences, such as human geography, environmental governance, and political ecology. We work closely with specialist partners to ensure strong expertise across these disciplines. The Science Impact Strategy recognises that interdisciplinary approaches are essential for understanding the complex challenges facing nature and for designing effective solutions.

Section 3 sets out how each principle will be delivered over the next five years through three Strategic Actions. Case studies are provided to illustrate how we are already implementing the principles. Section 4 describes how we will monitor progress, evaluate impact and learn from delivery.



Figure 4. JNCC's six Science Principles provide the framework through which we will increase our impact and deliver our mission of turning science into action.

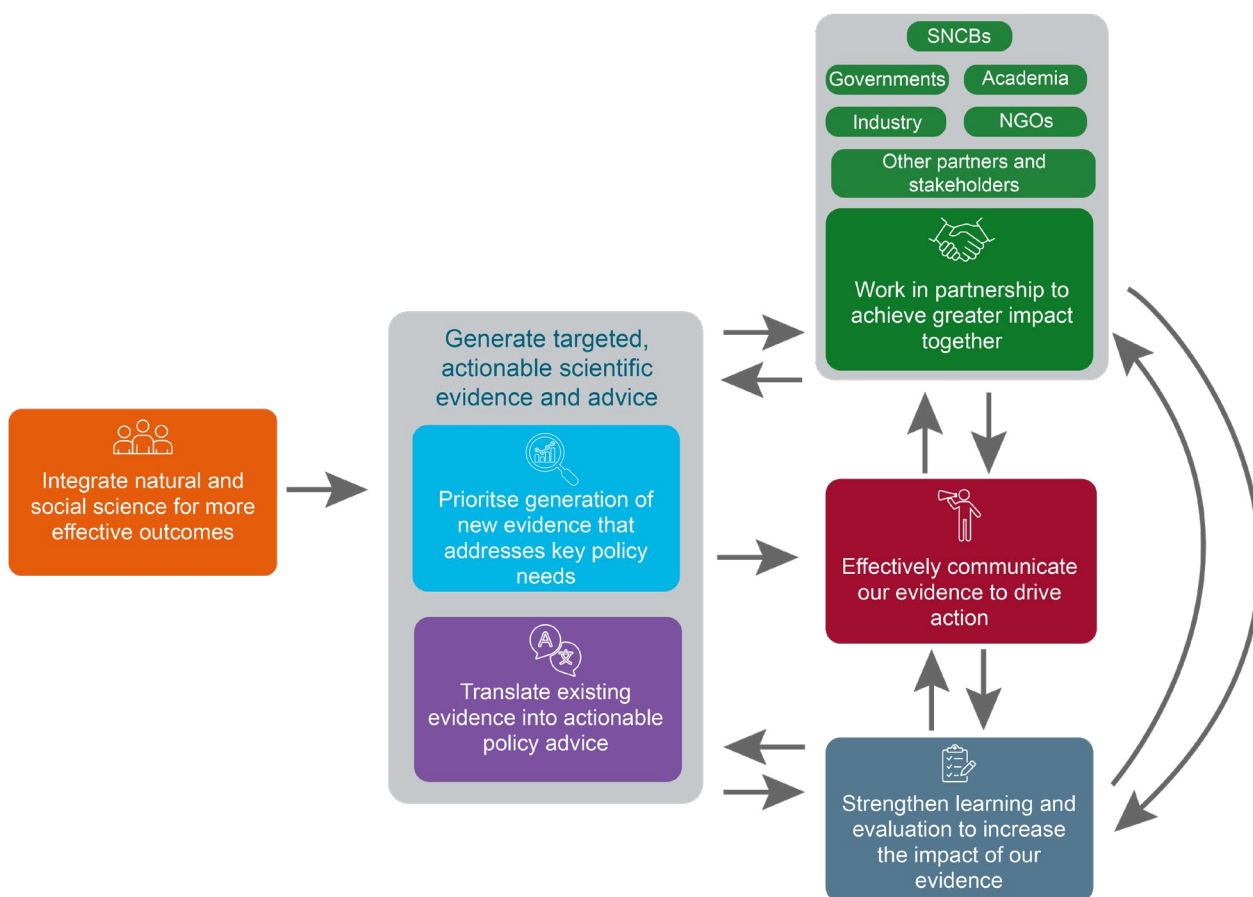


Figure 5. The six Science Principles are interconnected and progress in one will reinforce and strengthen delivery across the others.



3. Delivering our Six Science Principles

3.1 Prioritise generation of new evidence that addresses key policy needs

High-quality evidence is the foundation of effective action for nature. As the UK faces accelerating environmental change, decision-makers need trusted, fit-for-purpose information on the status of nature, pressures, and effectiveness of solutions.

JNCC has a long history of generating evidence including ecological models, future environmental scenarios, spatial analyses, and indicators, often in collaboration with a range of partners. We play a key role in monitoring and mapping the marine environment, working in partnership with other organisations to undertake offshore seabed surveys and monitor species. On land, we collaborate with many organisations to monitor taxa across the UK such as bats, birds, butterflies, plants, and pollinators.

We ensure that the new evidence we generate informs decision-making. For example, using new evidence to:

- underpin assessments of natural capital and ecosystem services.
- produce indicators, such as the [UK Biodiversity Indicators](#), which governments use for measuring progress against domestic and international biodiversity commitments.

Over the next five years we will take the following Strategic Actions:

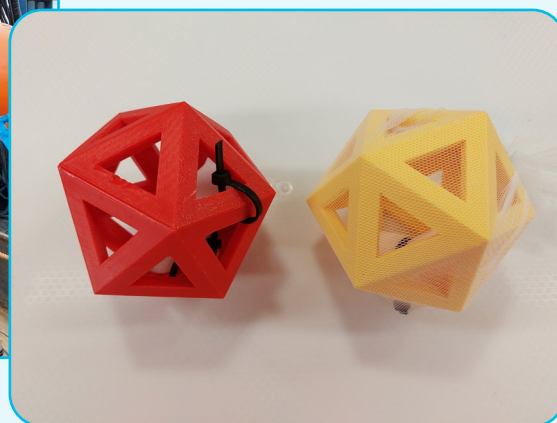
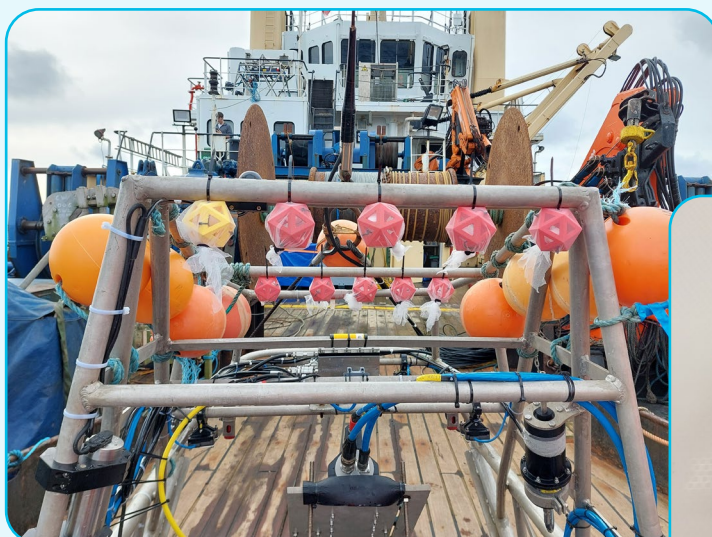
- Make more of our existing evidence and address genuine gaps **by targeting the generation of new evidence where policy needs are greatest**. This includes filling gaps on the status of nature (particularly in the marine environment) and nature's value to society, and modelling future scenarios.
- Improve the **accessibility, findability and interoperability** of the evidence we generate, enabling wider use and reducing the risk of duplicative evidence generation, in line with our *Digital and Data Strategy*.
- Explore the **use of new or improved technologies** to generate new evidence and improve existing methods. Such technologies include high-resolution satellite and drone imagery, environmental DNA (eDNA), and Artificial Intelligence such as machine learning.

3.1.1 Case Study: Exploring the potential of eDNA for monitoring marine species

Species are constantly releasing traces of their DNA into their environment. There is increasing interest in how this environmental DNA (eDNA) can be used to help detect marine species' presence, offering new opportunities for non-invasive, cost-effective monitoring in the marine environment.

JNCC is supporting the development and use of eDNA in two main ways. Firstly, we are trialling methods to collect eDNA from offshore waters, including the use of metaprobes (see images) to sample for fish, marine mammals and invertebrates, and helping to develop best practice for applying these novel techniques. Secondly, we have established the UK Marine Biomolecular Group (UKMBG), which provides a forum to share knowledge and encourage collaboration to support research and practical application of this emerging technology.

Together, this work has helped identify a set of priority actions we are taking forward to ensure eDNA is used effectively to support future marine monitoring.



Case study images: Metaprobes (yellow and red), 3D printed by a JNCC colleague (right), are fitted with gauze and attached to a camera sledge (left). As the sledge moves along the seabed, water passes through the probe, filtering eDNA onto the gauze for later lab analysis
© JNCC



3.2 Translate existing evidence into actionable policy advice

Evidence delivers the most value when it supports decision-makers to create effective policies and take action for nature. One of JNCC's key strengths is our ability to use the existing body of research and draw it together into new evidence types – including evidence syntheses, tools, reports, and advice.

Our position at the science–policy interface enables us to take existing evidence and turn it into outputs that are usable and aligned with real-world decision-making. Successful examples of drawing on existing evidence to support decision-making include:

- Providing high-quality evidence and advice on the development and implementation of international nature agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in our role as the UK's statutory advisor on international conservation matters.
- Providing statutory and non-statutory advice to public authorities on the regulation of offshore industry activities, as well as advice to offshore developers, environmental consultants and other interested stakeholders.
- Working with the UK Overseas Territories to provide technical advice to support their biodiversity and wider environmental management strategies, taking a participatory approach involving a high level of engagement with stakeholders.

Over the next five years we will take the following Strategic Actions:

- **Co-design outputs with key decision-makers and other stakeholders** so they fulfil their needs and ability to use them.
- Clearly **present any uncertainty or gaps** in the existing evidence underpinning our advice and **present alternative policy options and related consequences** to support confident action by decision-makers.
- **Anticipate emerging policy needs** and generate forward-looking analyses and options.

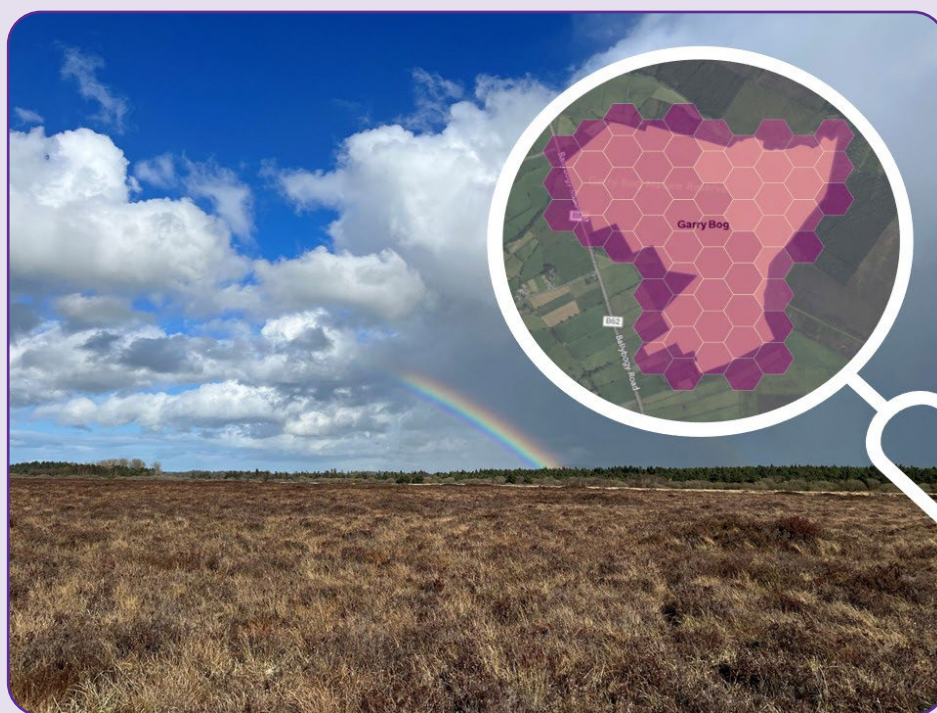
3.2.1 Case Study: Co-designing an air pollution risk assessment service with key decision-makers

Air pollution poses a major threat and robust air pollution assessments are essential for enabling development that supports nature and people. However, variation in assessment approaches used across the UK combined with fragmented data and tools has led to inconsistency, uncertainty and significant delays in planning and permitting decisions.

To help address these challenges JNCC has developed the 'Get an Air Pollution Assessment Service' through close co-design with end users and decision-makers. Regulators, devolved governments, conservation agencies, and technical advisory groups have worked together from the outset to ensure the service meets the needs of applicants, local authorities, regulators and statutory advisers.

The 'Get an Air Pollution Assessment Service' is an online, detailed air quality model that supports ecosystem risk assessment, statutory reporting, and planning and permitting decisions. Users map a proposed development and provide key information about its characteristics. A prediction is then made of the likely influence of the development and potential environmental risks are highlighted, such as increased nitrogen deposition at nearby protected sites (see image below). The service currently focuses on emission sources from agriculture, roads and industry, including energy generation. The service brings a step-change by enabling quicker assessment of additive effects on air quality across sectors and drawing in nearby proposals automatically on air quality.

By providing a consistent, transparent and spatially explicit evidence base, the service supports clearer advice, more confident decision-making and a more streamlined planning process. Currently funded by Defra and the governments of Northern Ireland and Scotland, the service demonstrates the value of co-designing tools to deliver evidence that works in practice.



Case study image: Garry Bog Special Area of Conservation/Area of Special Scientific Interest, an uncut lowland raised bog in Northern Ireland © DAERA, including example of the area taken from the 'Get an Air Pollution Assessment Service' © Defra



3.3 Work in partnership to achieve greater impact together

The challenges facing nature are too complex and wide-ranging for any single organisation to address alone. Collaboration is one of JNCC's core values: it enables us to achieve greater impact than we could alone and ensure our evidence supports joined-up action. By working in partnership with others, we can draw on the complementary expertise and perspectives from a vast range of government departments and agencies, CNCBs, NGOs, private companies, society, and academic institutions both domestically and internationally. Examples of the diverse scientific partnerships we are involved in include:

- The [Coral Conservation in the UK Overseas Territories working group](#) focuses on leveraging scientific advancements to address the impacts of threats to coral reefs. This collaborative group brings together government departments, non-governmental organisations, and academic institutions from the six Caribbean Western Atlantic UK Overseas Territories.
- The [UK Terrestrial Evidence Partnership of Partnerships](#) is a collaborative initiative launched in 2017 to strengthen and unify the efforts of organisations dedicated to collecting evidence on biodiversity with volunteer citizen scientists, across the UK.
- [JNCC and the Climate Change Committee](#) – the UK's statutory scientific advisors on nature and on climate – we signed a pivotal partnership agreement in 2025, agreeing to work together to provide evidence and advice to safeguard biodiversity and strengthen climate resilience.

Over the next five years we will take the following Strategic Actions:

- Work with partners to **deliver our areas of research interest**, combining expertise and resources to address shared evidence needs.
- Take a more strategic approach to our scientific partnerships including **strengthening existing priority partnerships and building new partnerships** where this will add value.
- Take a **proactive approach to hosting placements and internships** to ensure they support our science needs and help develop our workforce.

Areas of Research Interest

By publishing our areas of research interest (ARI), we aim to make it easier for researchers to understand some of the evidence we need to generate over the next five years and how it will be used.

We hope that by publishing our ARI it can help align academic research with real policy questions and broaden the range of organisations we work with. Our ARI is a living document which we intend to review on a regular basis. It is not an exhaustive list of all our research needs. Instead it provides an indication of the types of work we do and some of the areas where we are particularly keen to collaborate.

Our current list of areas of research interest (ARI) can be found on our [website](#).

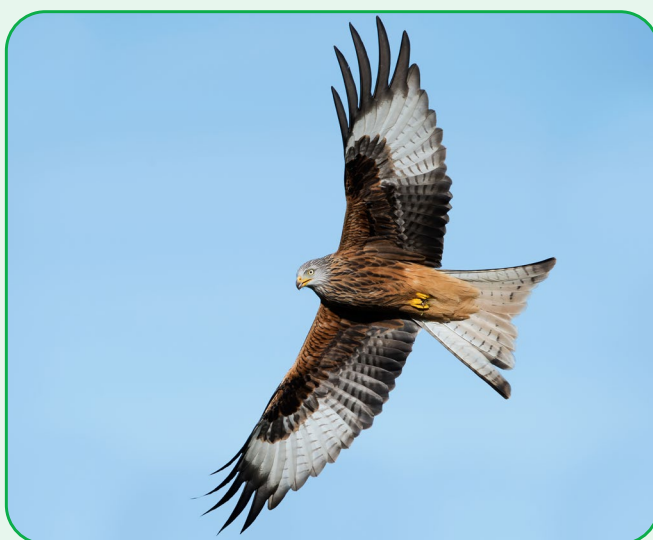
3.3.1 Case Study: Monitoring breeding bird trends in collaboration with NGOs and citizen scientists

The 30th annual [report of the Breeding Bird Survey](#) (BBS), the main monitoring scheme for recording common breeding birds in the UK, was published in 2025. This joint report between the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and JNCC, documents the population trends of widespread UK breeding bird species over the past three decades.

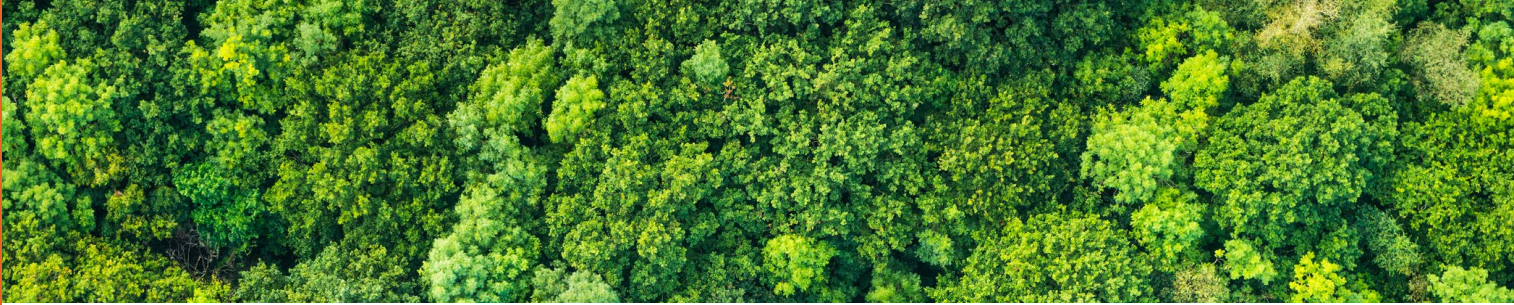
Data are collected through a long-term citizen science monitoring scheme involving annual sampling at around 4,000 sites across the UK. Since the scheme began, approximately 9,000 dedicated volunteers have collected nearly eight million records of around 300 species of bird. In 2024, nearly 3,000 volunteers took part, recording a total of 236 bird species. The raw data are turned into population trends and published as an [Official Statistic](#).

In the 30th Annual Report, ornithologists from each of the four country statutory nature conservation bodies have previously [stated](#) how important and impactful BBS is: “BBS is a cornerstone of the evidence base on birds in each country. It provides vital early warning of declines in some of our widespread species, and indicates which species are faring better. This helps shape the direction of bird conservation”.

BBS project partners are working with a wide range of government, NGO and academic stakeholders to use the results to set priorities and to inform conservation action. For example, the results are being embedded within tools developed for exploring the effects of government policy and management interventions in [Wales](#) and [England](#).



Case study images: Blue tit carrying nesting material (left) © Andrew Howe/iStock | Red kite in flight (right) © iStock



3.4 Integrate natural and social sciences for more effective outcomes

Tackling the challenges facing biodiversity depends on us not only understanding the natural environment, but also understanding human behaviour and governance, social and economic systems. Taking an interdisciplinary approach that brings together natural and social sciences enables us to develop more effective solutions that support lasting outcomes for nature and people. We are increasingly working across scientific disciplines, for example:

- Developing approaches to natural capital accounting to help integrate the benefits which nature provides, such as flood management and carbon storage, into economic models so policymakers can better understand the impact of biodiversity loss.
- Combining data from ecological surveys with social surveys to build a more holistic understanding of complex systems, which leads to better decision-making.

Over the next five years we will take the following Strategic Actions:

- **Build internal capability and partnerships** to support interdisciplinary working.
- Produce evidence that **combines data on nature, people, economy, behaviours, and livelihoods** to support more effective interventions, in line with our *Interdisciplinary Strategy*.
- **Embed economics and other social sciences into project design and evaluation** to better identify evidence needs, deliver science that informs real-world decisions, and holistically evaluate impact.

3.4.1 Case Study: Bringing together ecological and economic data for better decision-making in the marine environment.

JNCC is developing a Marine Natural Capital Calculator to embed the value of nature at the beginning of the offshore development planning process. The tool combines ecological evidence with economic valuation to clearly demonstrate to decision-makers how different marine habitats contribute to the wellbeing of people and the planet.

The calculator highlights the economic trade-offs between offshore development and the marine environment. At present, the financial case for development is often clear and quantified, while the economic consequences of harming nature are rarely captured. This tool addresses that gap by making the costs of environmental impact visible so they can be transparently weighted alongside the benefits of development.

Users with basic training will be able to input spatial information about habitats, their condition, and the potential pressures from proposed developments. The tool will then generate indicative economic values for environmental damage and loss by drawing on UK-relevant data sources and established natural capital methodologies.

Bringing together science and economics in a practical, user-friendly interface, will enable more informed choices about how marine areas are used.



Case study images: Offshore windturbines with seabirds in foreground (left) © mcKensa/iStock | Cold-water corals (right) © JNCC



3.5 Strengthen learning and evaluation to increase the impact of our evidence

As we seek to tackle the challenges facing nature and the climate, understanding what works and why is essential for improving impact. By embedding learning and evaluation throughout our work, we can continuously strengthen our science and ensure resources are used effectively.

To deliver this Science Impact Strategy, JNCC must have the right knowledge, skills and capabilities in place. This directly aligns with JNCC's Strategic Priorities to “invest in our people and culture” and “continue to innovate and advance our learning on nature recovery”.

Learning and evaluating is already part of our culture, for example:

- Publishing [impact reviews](#) of our activities and outcomes.
- Undertaking ‘lessons learned’ reviews following project completion to inform future project design.
- Developing internal “Continuing Professional Development” plans which feature training, resources, and development activities.

Over the next five years we will take the following Strategic Actions:

- **Develop approaches for monitoring and evaluating** the impact of our work.
- **Embed learning throughout our work to improve delivery and strengthen impact** over time.
- Ensure JNCC has the skills and capabilities needed to deliver this Science Impact Strategy through **strategic workforce planning** and a **strong programme of learning and development** in line with our *People Strategy*.

3.5.1 Case Study: Learning and improving to continuously strengthen the Darwin Plus Local grants scheme

In 2022, JNCC was commissioned by Defra to help design and deliver a new funding stream dedicated exclusively to the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs). Working closely with Defra, the consultancy NIRAS, and governments and stakeholders within the UKOTs, JNCC played a central role in shaping the scheme's parameters, developing guidance, and designing an accessible application process ahead of its launch in January 2023. Established as a small-grants scheme within the Darwin Plus fund, [Darwin Plus Local](#) has since delivered five funding rounds, awarding more than £5.8 million to 152 projects that protect biodiversity and strengthen climate resilience across the UKOTs.

Since its launch, JNCC has focused on continuously improving the scheme to ensure it remains clear, targeted and responsive to the needs of the UKOTs. Feedback from applicants and stakeholders has informed refinements after every round. The fund's scope has been sharpened to prioritise biodiversity and the natural environment, and guidance has been strengthened – including clearer expectations around the requirement for at least 80% of funding to be spent within the relevant UKOT. The application process now places greater emphasis on project sustainability, risk management, avoiding double funding with applications to other UK Government funds, and demonstrating how any research activities will deliver tangible, lasting benefits for biodiversity.



Case study images: Informal discussions at the Gibraltar UKOT Biodiversity Strategy workshop (left) © JNCC | Inputs to the Darwin Plus Local session at the Gibraltar workshop (right) © JNCC



3.6 Effectively communicate our evidence to drive action

Clear, effective communication is critical for ensuring our science is understood, respected and ultimately used. By improving how we share our evidence, we can use science to shape the conversation on nature – not simply inform it. We must use the right communication tools for the right audiences to ensure our evidence is compelling, accessible, and trusted so that it inspires decisions, and accelerates meaningful action for nature. Examples of how we already effectively communicate our science include:

- Publishing our evidence in a range of formats to suit the intended audience, from JNCC Science Reports and journal papers, to blog posts, social media, and opinion pieces.
- Sharing our latest news on environmental pollution, marine and species monitoring, international conservation and much more through our [Nature News](#) monthly e-newsletter in an accessible and engaging format.
- Showcasing our work at a wide range of domestic and international meetings and conferences to reach wider audiences and increase visibility of our work.

Over the next five years we will take the following Strategic Actions:

- **Present our evidence using clear, engaging formats**, such as data visualisations and illustrative examples, that broaden reach, deepen understanding, and connect with new audiences.
- Increase the uptake of our evidence by **tailoring communications to the needs of different target audiences** in line with our *Communications Framework 2023-2030*.
- Develop a **Science Profile Plan** to raise the profile of our scientific expertise in line with our *Communications Framework 2023-2030*.

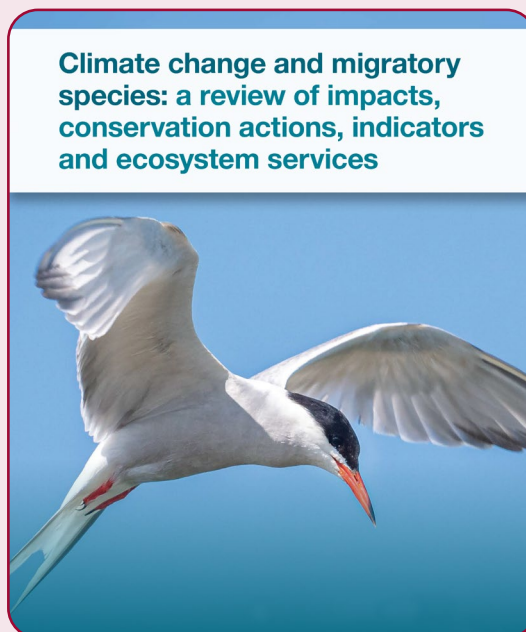
3.6.1 Case Study: Getting evidence on the impact of climate change on migratory species into the hands of decision-makers

Migration is key to the survival of many species that are finely adapted to specific habitats that they use in different parts of their life cycle. Many migratory species move hundreds or thousands of miles a year. It has been known for some time that climate change has the potential to adversely impact migratory species. To understand better what these impacts could be, JNCC coordinated a review of scientific evidence, producing a [Summary for Policy Makers](#) that summarises key findings and recommendations, as well as an in-depth [three-part report of the evidence](#).

The report was launched at the 28th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28) at a side event hosted by the UK Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2023, and at a special event as part of the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14) in 2024.

Recognising that evidence needs to be in the hands of decision-makers to have impact, JNCC worked with the UK Government and the CMS Secretariat to convene an in-person workshop to discuss the impacts of climate change outlined in the report and possible solutions. More than 80 global experts and policymakers attended, including government representatives from a range of CMS Parties.

Recommendations arising from the workshop were adopted at CMS COP15 in 2026 and provide a set of actions that Parties and stakeholders should undertake over the next three years to support the conservation of migratory species in the face of climate change.



Case study images: Participants at the CMS Migratory Species and Climate Change workshop (left) © CMS | Cover of the *Climate change and migratory species: a review of impacts, conservation actions, indicators and ecosystem services* report (right)



4. Delivery of the Science Impact Strategy

4.1 Responsibility

JNCC's Chief Scientist's Office (CSO) will oversee the implementation of the *Science Impact Strategy* and report to the Chief Scientist who has overall responsibility for its delivery.

All JNCC staff have a role to play by ensuring their work is aligned with the six Science Principles and helping to deliver the Strategic Actions included within the *Science Impact Strategy*. A practical handbook to support staff in maximising the impact of their work will be developed in 2026.

4.2 Reporting

The CSO will provide annual progress reports to the [Joint Committee](#) that leads JNCC, and to JNCC's Executive Committee.

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

Delivery of this Science Impact Strategy will be monitored by the CSO through existing project and programme reporting, with a small set of indicators developed to track progress in delivering the Strategic Actions, and staff engagement.

Evaluation will focus on how JNCC's science is being used by decision-makers, using qualitative evidence and case studies.

Progress will be reviewed annually by the CSO, with a mid-term review in 2028 providing an opportunity to reflect on progress, identify what is working, and refocus effort where needed to maximise impact for the remainder of the strategy period.

4.4. Impact of the Science Impact Strategy

Delivering this Science Impact Strategy will strengthen the role of JNCC's science in driving action for nature and the climate. It will ensure we develop impactful evidence and advice that is trusted and targeted to the needs of decision-makers and key stakeholders – ultimately supporting better policy and greater impact on the ground.

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