



Placing nature at the
heart of sustainability
and well-being



ANNUAL REVIEW 2019–2020

jncc.gov.uk

FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Throughout 2019/20 our teams delivered an extensive programme of work in the UK and internationally in support of the environmental priorities of the UK Government and devolved administrations. Key components of our work included providing evidence on the status of the natural environment, assessing the impact of human activities, and delivering advice to inform policy development and management interventions.

Our success during the year was down to the outstanding efforts of our staff, who have deep expertise in environmental science and policy, data analysis and business support. We are also grateful for the many constructive contributions made by JNCC partners in the public sector, civil society and the private sector.

The last few weeks of 2019/20 were dominated by COVID-19. The devastating social and economic impacts of the pandemic inevitably overshadowed environmental concerns. However, addressing the global environmental crises caused by biodiversity loss and climate change remains as important as ever.

Looking forward, we will continue to take a flexible approach and will adapt to the evolving requirements of the four governments of the UK and other customers.

This review summarises what we achieved in 2019/20.

Marcus Yeo

"Our success during the year was down to the outstanding efforts of our staff, who have deep expertise in environmental science and policy, data analysis and business support."



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



SPECIES SURVEILLANCE

For many years we have worked with partner organisations to harness the efforts of volunteer recorders and provide annually updated trend information for a wide range of species, including birds, butterflies, bats and plants. This work continued in 2019/20, and in addition we published a new terrestrial surveillance strategy, showing how we will develop existing recording schemes to meet evolving requirements in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

We continued to demonstrate the value of new technologies (such as remote sensing and environmental DNA) in complementing more traditional methods of environmental monitoring. We used Earth observation data from the Copernicus programme to produce a habitat map for Northern Ireland and to detect changes in peatland condition across the UK.

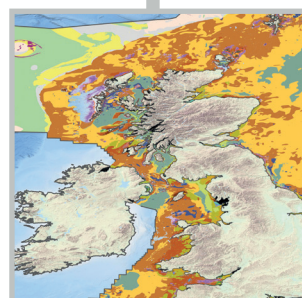


MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

We progressed a programme of monitoring surveys of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in offshore waters. In partnership with Marine Scotland we undertook a survey of the West Shetland Shelf MPA, a site to the north of Scotland designated for its variety of sand and gravel habitats. In England, we worked with Cefas to complete a survey of Greater Haig Fras Marine Conservation Zone, a large area of deep-water sediments and rocky reef off the coast of Cornwall.

MARINE EVIDENCE

We developed and refined a range of evidence products to support sustainable use of the marine environment. We relaunched our online MPA mapper which provides interactive access to spatial data for MPAs in UK waters, and we collaborated with other government agencies and research institutes to produce an updated map of European seabed habitats (EUSeaMap).



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Our work provides a crucial input to UK-scale environmental assessments. Under the UK Marine Strategy, we played a key role in coordinating biodiversity assessments with partners to produce a comprehensive update on the state of the UK marine environment. We also contributed data and expertise to the 2019 State of Nature report, produced by NGOs in partnership with the statutory nature conservation bodies and others.

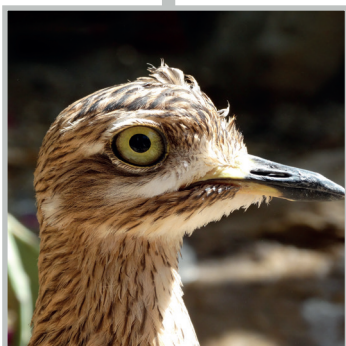


CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

The 18th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) took place in Geneva in August 2019. We participated as the UK's Scientific Authority for Fauna, and contributed to decisions on numerous amendments to the lists of species covered by the Convention, including giraffe and mako shark.

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

The 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species was held in India in February 2020. It was notable as the first major global environmental meeting to take place following the UK's departure from the EU at the end of January. Outcomes from the conference included resolutions on flyways, poisoning in birds, wild meat and climate change.

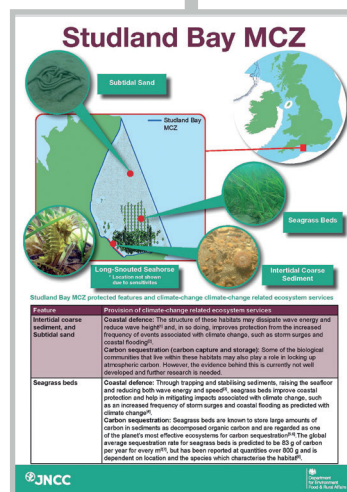


CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, activity during 2019/20 was focused on preparations for the next Conference of the Parties where a post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be agreed. We supported the four UK governments in developing a common position and participated in technical discussions at international meetings.

CLIMATE CHANGE

We stepped up our work on climate change during 2019/20. This included attendance at the 25th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Madrid in December 2019. We participated in side events to showcase our work on Earth observation, nature-based solutions and adaptive management of Marine Protected Areas.



EU EXIT

Within the UK, we worked closely with Defra, devolved administrations and country nature conservation bodies to advise on the UK's exit from the EU and in particular the transition from EU legislation to other international frameworks, such as the OSPAR Convention and the Bern Convention.



OFFSHORE INDUSTRY ADVICE

In the marine environment, we advised public authorities and industry on the regulation of offshore industry activities, including dealing with 560 oil and gas applications and enquires, and 58 applications and enquires from other industries. We undertook and commissioned research to inform offshore wind development, including collaboration with industry to understand impacts on birds. We advised Marine Scotland on a proposal for a deep-sea marine reserve in the Rockall Trough to protect vulnerable habitats and species, including cold-water coral reefs and seamounts. We produced a tool to manage human pressures by optimising the provision of marine ecosystem services.



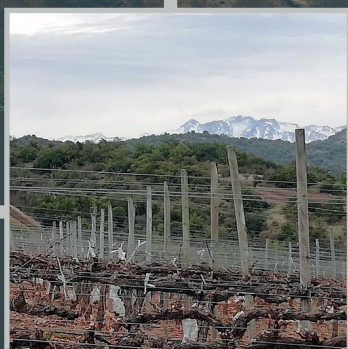
UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Our advisory role extended beyond the UK. Projects in the UK's Overseas Territories included ecosystem mapping and valuation of the natural environment in the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and St Helena; production of a marine biosecurity toolkit (with the Marine Management Organisation) to help the Territories address non-native species; and technical support for the preparation of Coral Reef Initiative Action Plans.



ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Using data from satellites and other sources, we modelled ecosystem services to inform land management decisions in vineyards in the Colchagua Valley in Chile. This type of approach has the potential to be used more widely in the UK and internationally to inform sustainable resource management, for example to assess options for agricultural land management.



PARTNERSHIPS

Much of our work is dependent on collaborative working, bringing together the skills and ambitions of a wide range of stakeholders. We have many strong partnerships with government agencies and departments, academia and civil society.

In the UK we work with many organisations, and through them with thousands of volunteers, to deliver surveillance schemes. They provide essential information on biodiversity status and trends. We also work with others to get the most from investments in research, for example by enabling data held by a range of organisations to be available to all and developing strategies for collaborative research.

Highlights of our UK partnerships:

- ◆ Working closely with the UK's nature conservation bodies – Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage. We share information and develop shared solutions to meet the needs of each country.
- ◆ Maintaining and strengthening our partnerships with non-governmental organisations and utilising their volunteer networks to undertake surveillance of terrestrial biology.
- ◆ Participating in collaborative funding bids resulting in several funding successes for UK and international projects.

WORKING WITH US

We're keen to participate collaboratively as a project partner or a co-ordinator. We're interested in everything from simple partnerships to multidisciplinary projects or networks of scientists and researchers across all science and technology fields related to the environment.





HOW WE WORK

The broad range of work that we undertake in both the UK and internationally requires careful planning. Our work is guided by our strategy and the priorities of the UK Government and devolved administrations.

Each year we set out our priorities and work programmes for the next year in a detailed business plan. This is based on agreed Government funding and anticipated external income. Our plans are subject to the approval of Ministers in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.

OUR PEOPLE

We employ approximately 200 scientific, technical and support staff based primarily in offices in Peterborough and Aberdeen, with outposted staff in other parts of the UK including Wales, Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands.

One of our great strengths is the extensive expertise of our teams – several of our people are national and international experts in their fields. As an organisation we support discussion, mutual learning and professional development.

We are a socially responsible organisation, providing flexibility that enables our staff to combine work with family responsibilities and to contribute to the communities they live in. We work to a set of core values that underpin everything we do.

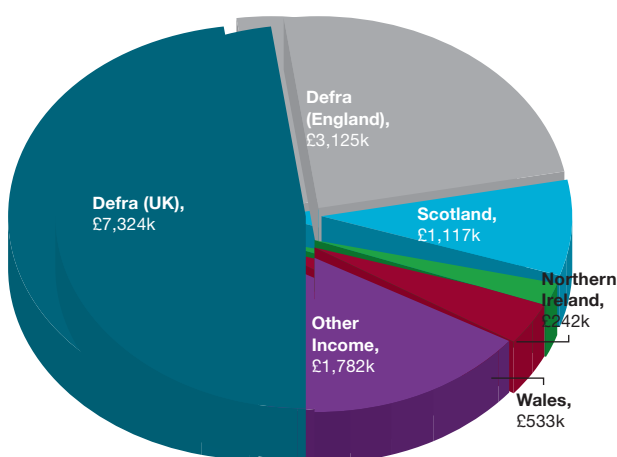


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2019/20

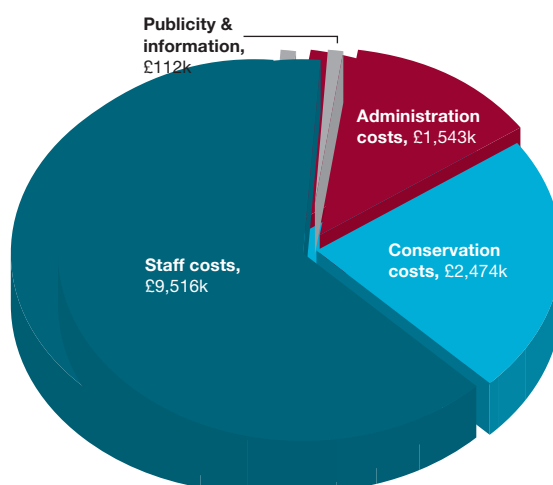
The majority of our funding is provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland).

JNCC – WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM



Total income £14,123k

JNCC – TYPES OF EXPENDITURE 2019/20



Total expenditure £13,645k



OUR COMMUNICATIONS

Use your smartphone
to scan this code



Our website is the main portal for all news and information about our work – jncc.gov.uk

Here you can access a range of resources and data products including maps and site details, for both marine and terrestrial environments.

We regularly publish reports arising from our scientific work and a range of topics under the title **JNCC reports (ISSN 0963-8091)**. Our reports are free to download from our website.



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JNCC Nature News

Nature News is published four times a year and keeps you informed of our UK and international conservation work.

JNCC Bulletin

Our monthly bulletin highlights some of our recent projects and activities, both in the UK and internationally – all wrapped up in a short at-a-glance format that can be read on the go.

Both JNCC Nature News and the JNCC Bulletin are shared through our website and social media channels. Alternatively, you can subscribe by emailing: communications@jncc.gov.uk

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Enquiries

If you would like information on any aspect of our work, please email: comment@jncc.gov.uk

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