



The one hundred and fourteenth meeting of the  
Joint Nature Conservation Committee to be held  
at 09.00 on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
Scottish Natural Heritage, Silvan House,  
Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

This paper was provided to the Joint Committee for decision/discussion  
or information. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for  
Committee's position on the paper.

To view other Joint Committee papers and minutes visit <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2671>

To find out more about JNCC visit <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1729>

## **Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

### **Matters arising**

1. There is one matter arising for this meeting relating to the development of a list of questions to be answered through academic partnerships. In November, members saw a list of questions annexed to paper JNCC 17 46. The list of questions has been updated and a new list can be found at Annex 2.
2. A report on outstanding action points from previous meetings is attached at Annex 1. All other action points have been discharged.

## Annex 1

### Action points from Joint Committee meetings

#### December 2016 Meeting

|  |                     |  |
|--|---------------------|--|
| <p><b>15.7 Report from the MPA sub-group (Oral)</b><br/>AP06 Professor Galbraith to ask ARAC to consider the range of options for commissioning an independent science review of JNCC and report back to a future Joint Committee meeting.</p> | Professor Galbraith | Action is being taken forward by Professor Gilligan and Professor Maggs who have been discussing proposals for an audit of JNCC's science. |
|--|---------------------|--|

#### June 2017 Meeting

| Action   | Person responsible | Progress update          |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <p><b>18 Joint Committee forward programme (official) (JNCC 17 27)</b><br/>AP08 Mrs Quince to include a paragraph in the next annual report from ARAC due in June 2018 summarising activity in the health and safety area.</p> | Mrs Quince         | To be actioned June 2018 |

#### September 2017

| Action   | Person responsible | Progress update   |
|--|--------------------|---|
| <p><b>8.2 Simplification of approval process for advice on offshore Marine Protected Areas (Official) (JNCC 17 34)</b><br/>AP02 Dr Goold to produce a simple 'handling document' for CNCB Chairs' reference.</p> | Dr Goold           | In hand. The document is in draft and will be presented for sign-off shortly. |

## November 2017

| Action   | Person responsible            | Progress update  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>2.7 Chairman's opening remarks</b><br/>AP01 Professor Maggs to circulate the terms of reference for the Defra review of science and evidence to Joint Committee members.</p>                         | Professor Maggs               | Completed  |
| <p><b>2.8 Chairman's opening remarks</b><br/>AP02 Professor Gilligan and Mr Yeo to discuss the objectives of the Chairs/CEO meetings with a view to the meetings being re-established in the new year.</p> | Professor Gilligan/Mr Yeo     | A date is currently being sought for a meeting.  |
| <p><b>2.9 Chairman's opening remarks</b><br/>AP03 Mr Yeo and Professor Gilligan to agree how to engage Committee in a discussion on JNCC's future role.</p>  | Mr Yeo and Professor Gilligan | Addressed in the paper on JNCC's strategy for the March 2018 Committee meeting.                                    |
| <p><b>5. Matters arising (JNCC 17 46)</b><br/>AP04 Ms Meadows to circulate a link to the JNCC website for members to include in their own websites to help raise JNCC's profile.</p>                       | Ms Meadows                    | Completed  |
| <p><b>5.3 Matters arising (JNCC 17 46)</b><br/>AP05 Professor Maggs to circulate a list of future conferences to members.</p>  | Professor Maggs               | Completed  |
| <p><b>9.3 Report from ARAC on 28 November (Official)</b><br/>AP06 ARAC to consider the report from the investigation on the cyber security attack and report key messages to the Joint Committee.</p>      | ARAC members                  | To be discussed by ARAC on 6 March 2018 and reported to Committee on 7 March.                                      |
| <p><b>16.3 Update on JNCC's EU exit activities (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 17 55)</b><br/>AP07 Mr Yeo and Ms Battersby to work with</p>   | Mr Yeo/Ms Battersby           | The proposed new environmental body was discussed by the European Issues Inter-Agency Group on 4 December and by a |

|   |                          |  |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| CNCBs to produce a short position statement on the proposed environmental body.   |                          | group of Committee members on 23 January. An update will be provided at the March Committee meeting. |
| <b>16.4 Update on JNCC's EU exit activities (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 17 55)</b><br>AP08 Professor Bateman and Mr Yeo to discuss the scenarios being used to consider how farming and trade might change land cover. | Professor Bateman/Mr Yeo | Professor Bateman has provided advice on possible scenarios.   |

## Annex 2

The draft research questions have been further discussed internally and a revised set of questions is set out below. These questions will be used to stimulate discussion with the research community at the 'Future of Nature Conservation' conference in Manchester in May 2018, and placed prominently on the new JNCC website. **Note:** these questions are at the programme scale and we intend to provide examples of questions with a smaller scope suitable for developing collaborative projects.

### International

Which international natural environmental issues have the greatest potential to bring benefits to the UK? What opportunities are there to engage in international activity to address these issues?

### Monitoring

Quantify the relationships between things we can monitor easily and those we need to know about to manage the environment, including value.

### Marine

What are the gradients and thresholds (tipping points) for key pressures, including cumulative effects, that are impacting on the marine environment?

How can we increase the scope of conceptual ecological models of benthic habitats to include deep sea habitats and links to other biodiversity components and human activities, to enable indicator selection, targeted data collection and estimates of ecosystem service trade-offs under different management scenarios? (This may involve improving the understanding of natural variability, recovery and recoverability).

How can we quantify and understand the contribution that MPAs (via their features) make to ecosystem goods and services, and monitor the delivery of societal benefits from these goods and services?

### Natural capital

What businesses or elements of the private sector are gaining most from ecosystem benefits and what are they currently doing to ensure future delivery of these benefits? Analyses would be of interest to Governments, local government bodies, advisors, private sector, service providers, land managers, NGOs and others.