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JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MATTERS ARISING

This paper deals with points not covered by substantive items on the agenda. In confidence matters arising are covered in a separate paper. The number relates to the minutes of the December 2003 meeting.

6. JNCC Strategy update on consultation and next steps

- 6.1 The strategy documents have been revised to reflect points raised at the December meeting and the final vision document has been endorsed by Dr Moser. The presentational changes suggested will be made to the documents prior to publication.
- 6.2 Within the Support Unit, responsibility for taking strategy implementation forward has been assigned to a number of senior staff. Unfortunately the capacity available for this work has been insufficient to meet the original timetable which was to bring to the March Committee the information necessary for resources to be allocated across the objectives. This should now be available in June.
- 6.3 The FMPR sub-group has met to discuss a number of key issues relating to JNCC's role that arose from consultation. The Group approved the terms of reference relating to this work and has made good progress. The group will meet again immediately following the Committee meeting and a note of both meetings will be circulated to the full Committee and to Support Unit staff to inform their work on implementation.

9. The Convention on Biological Diversity

- 9.1 The 7th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity took place in Kuala Lumpur from 9th to 20th February 2004. JNCC staff Paul Rose and Steve Gibson provided technical advice on the UK delegation of about 16. At preparatory expert group meetings significant input had been made by John Holmes – EN (Protected Areas), Dan Laffoley – EN (Marine and Coastal Ecosystems), Des Thompson – SNH and LCN (Mountain Ecosystems), Mike Harley – EN (Climate Change) and Vin Fleming – JNCC (Sustainable Use).
- 9.2 The busy agenda eventually adopted over 30 decisions including agreement on a global framework of outcome oriented targets and indicators for measuring progress towards significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, work programmes for protected areas and mountain ecosystems, principles to guide sustainable use, a means of developing tools to enable implementation of the ecosystem approach, and the enhancement of several important areas of

work including inland waters, invasive alien species, global taxonomy initiative and removing perverse incentives.

- 9.3 There is of course much to do now in implementing these and the other decision, as well as looking forward to the next phase of work, which will include work on island biodiversity and is therefore of significant relevance to the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies as well as to island communities in the UK.

Non-native species

JNCC attended the first Non-native Species Forum on 11 February held at Bristol, where the follow up to the Working Group Report for Defra: *Review of Non-native Species Policy* (March 2003) were considered by about 80 people. Other Defra funded projects (on Horizon Scanning, and on Risk Assessment) has also had JNCC technical and advisory inputs. JNCC has also been represented on the Steering Group for the *All-Ireland Review of Alien Invasive Species*, and acted as a link between GB and Ireland work in this field.

JNCC has responded to the Defra consultation on the Government Response to the *Review of Non-native Species Policy*, copies of which have been distributed to the Committee.