



The one-hundred-and-second meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to be held at 0930 hours on 19 March 2015, at JNCC, Inverdee House, Baxter Street, Aberdeen, AB11 9QA

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.

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Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Chief Executive's report on topical issues

Paper by Marcus Yeo

1. Ministerial engagement

- 1.1. Since the last Committee meeting, the JNCC Chair and Chief Executive have met ministers from each of the four UK administrations, as follows:
 - i. Aileen McLeod (Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (Scottish Government), 4 December 2014;
 - ii. Mark Durkan (Minister for Environment (Northern Ireland Executive), 19 January 2015;
 - iii. Carl Sargeant (Minister for Natural Resources, Welsh Government), 26 January 2015;
 - iv. Lord de Mauley (Minister for Natural Environment and Science, Defra), 25 February 2015.
- 1.2. All of the meetings were positive and constructive. Ministers expressed general satisfaction with JNCC's performance in supporting government priorities, and were interested in the likely direction of JNCC's strategy review.

2. Meeting of GB conservation body Chairs and Chief Executives

- 2.1. At the instigation of Ian Ross, the Chairs and Chief Executives of JNCC, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage met in London on 2 March.
- 2.2. The meeting provided an opportunity to share thinking on priorities, relationships with government, and future challenges. An action agreed at the meeting was that JNCC, working through the Chief Scientists Group, should coordinate work to streamline processes relevant to all countries, especially concerning protected areas (for example, monitoring). It was also agreed that it would be timely to consider how the conservation bodies engage with EU and international processes.
- 2.3. Chairs and Chief Executives agreed to meet again in the autumn, and to invite representatives from Northern Ireland.

3. Triennial Review implementation report

- 3.1. JNCC's Triennial Review was published in June 2013. The report contained six conclusions intended to improve JNCC's efficient delivery of the UK's environmental priorities in the face of future challenges. The conclusions covered the following areas:
 - i. working with stakeholders;
 - ii. high-quality science;

- iii. Committee membership and ways of working;
 - iv. offshore marine functions;
 - v. funding.
- 3.2. Implementation of the Triennial Review conclusions has been reviewed and a summary has been [published on the JNCC website](#). Excellent progress has been made in implementing all of the conclusions, leading to tangible benefits in JNCC's ability to deliver government priorities. Positive feedback has been received from several key stakeholders.