



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://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2671>

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

JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MATTERS ARISING

This paper deals with points not covered by substantive items on the agenda. The number relates to the minutes of the December 2004 meeting.

6. Update on options for the future name of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC 04 P21)

1. Following the December 2004 Committee meeting, the FMPR Sub-group met on 13 January 2005 to discuss options for the JNCC's future name.
2. At the Sub-group meeting, Dr Moser reported the outcome of recent discussions by English Nature's Council. He noted that Council still had concerns regarding the name 'Nature UK' because of the possibility of confusion with English Nature. However, he stressed that he supported a name change for the JNCC, and felt that problems could be avoided by use of a suitable 'descriptor' in the name.
3. Following discussion, the Sub-group decided that a shortlist of possible names should be tested on a selection of the JNCC's main stakeholders. Four options were agreed, each containing 'Nature' and 'UK' in various combinations:
 - Nature UK
 - UK Nature Partnership
 - Nature Advisers UK
 - Nature Nexus UK
4. The Sub-group agreed that stakeholders should be asked which of the four names was most appropriate, and whether there was a risk of confusion with any other organisations (in particular, English Nature).
5. A specification for the market research has been drawn up. The work will be carried out during April.
6. A decision on the name for the new Integrated Agency in England is expected in early April.

Draft Natural Environment and Rural Resources Bill

1. The draft Natural Environment and Rural Resources Bill was published on 10th February. The Bill is principally concerned with implementing the Government's Rural Strategy, including establishment of the 'Integrated Agency'.
2. However, the Bill also contains certain provisions relating to the JNCC as follows:
 - i. provisions which reproduce those changes to be made to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 through the Regulatory Reform (Joint Nature Conservation Committee) Order 2005;
 - ii. extension of the application of the special functions (other than in relation to the quinquennial review of Schedules 5 and 8) from Great Britain to the United Kingdom and associated changes to the membership of the Joint Committee and funding arrangements;
 - iii. an increase in the number of independent members of the Joint Committee (excluding the Chairman) from three to five; and
 - iv. a requirement for the Joint Committee to provide its advice in the context of sustainable development.
3. The JNCC was invited to provide evidence to a sub-committee of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee which is currently undertaking an examination of the draft Bill.
4. The JNCC's evidence, sent by Dr Vincent on the Committee's behalf, welcomed and supported the provisions relating the JNCC and raised the following additional issues:
 - i. the lack of provision for advice to Government on 'landscape' issues in relation to the UK as a whole or internationally, and the constraints this places on JNCC in some circumstances. [Note that any JNCC proposal on this matter is dependent on the outcome of the discussion on JNCC 05 P06 at the meeting.];
 - ii. the Joint Committee's wish to give its company limited by guarantee a short, descriptive name and for the Bill to rename the statutory Committee in line with this. The letter stated that further discussion would be needed before a name is chosen, in particular to ensure compatibility with the name eventually chosen for the Integrated Agency.