



**JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**JNCC CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY**

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### JNCC CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

Paper by Marcus Yeo

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The UN has declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been designated as the focal point for IYB. Within the UK, there is a IYB-UK initiative<sup>1</sup> which is being led by the Natural History Museum with support from Defra and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.
- 1.2 IYB provides a good opportunity for JNCC and the country conservation bodies to disseminate information and promote key messages relating to biodiversity conservation. Section 2 of this paper provides a brief summary of action that JNCC is proposing to take.

#### 2. Proposals for JNCC action

- 2.1 JNCC activities in support of IYB will inevitably be constrained by resources, especially as JNCC is likely to face a reduction in government funding in 2010/11 (with the possible exception of some marine work). Some planned communications activities will be badged as contributions to IYB. Additional work will focus on priority issues for JNCC (i.e. in line with our strategy and business plan), with particular emphasis on international and marine nature conservation and evidence provision.
- 2.2 The main activities that are currently planned are as follows:
  - i. a major workshop on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in Brussels, building on the successful stakeholder event held in London in May 2009. The aim would be to build support for a strategic and thematic approach to MEAs with European institutions and other member states;
  - ii. publicity around the update of biodiversity indicators in 2010 (contributing to the assessment of progress towards the global 2010 biodiversity target, which will be discussed at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Japan in October);

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/biodiversity/international-year-biodiversity/international-year-biod-uk/index.html>

- iii. publicity on marine issues, such as progress in identifying marine protected areas and in developing surveillance programmes for marine biodiversity;
  - iv. monthly features on key issues on the JNCC website.
- 2.3 Where appropriate, JNCC's input to IYB will be co-ordinated with action undertaken by the country conservation bodies, and consistent key messages across the UK.