

Steering Group Meeting No 18

Venue: Defra, Ergon House
Date: 5th March 2013
Start: 12:00

Present:

Beth Stoker (JNCC)
Cathy Johnson (DECC)
Dan Laffoley (IUCN)
David Johns (SAHFOS)
Georgia Bayliss-Brown (Cefas) – minute taker
Greg Morel (Jersey)
John Baxter (SNH)
Kathryn Dawson (Natural England)
Katie Sumner (EA)
Martyn Cox (Scottish Government)

Matt Frost (MBA) (MF)
Narumon Withers Harvey (Defra)
Paul Buckley (Cefas) (PB)
Philip Stamp (Defra) – Chair
Philip Williamson (NERC/UEA)
Rosie Magudia (Seaweb)
Simon Baldwin (WAG)
Steve Hall (NOC)
Terence Illot (Defra)
Jon Tinker (Met Office)

Apologies:

Adam Mellor (AFBINI)
Alec Taylor (RSPB)
Alexander Downie (SEPA)
Amanna Rahman (EA)
Craig Wallace (UEA)
Glenn Nolan (Marine Institute, ROI)

John Pinnegar (Cefas)
Julian Wright (EA)
Michael Coyle (MMO)
Stephen Dye (Cefas)
Rob McCall (CCW)

Action Points from the last meeting

Minutes from last meeting had been previously agreed via circulation – no comments were received.

An update on the actions were circulated prior to the meeting. Two actions were discussed at the meeting:

UK IMON – David Mills and Jo Foden at Cefas can assist MCCIP's representation within the group. MF is part of the wider group.

Marine NAP:

- the near final of the 1st draft of NAP was submitted to the Secretary of State in February. We are still waiting for his response. The SoS is interested in the opportunities climate change would bring to the UK marine and fisheries.
- The Economic of Climate Resilience phase 1 report is now available online at:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/government/nap/>.

EA Climate Ready

Two ARC-style terrestrial climate change impact reports, water and biodiversity, are soon to be launched and will be distributed to the SG when available. The SG noted that the ARC influence on these report

cards should be included in the MCCIP evaluation.

Management group feedback

Finances – Having been under spent in 2012/13, internal arrangements are in place to move the funds over to the next fiscal year; where Defra contributions must be spent before the year-end other funds can be carried over. The CSW budget was largely under spent due to the BMF partners not being able to begin activities until November, after their peak season. The full accounts show that the calculated accrued/deferred income is looking healthier for future financial years.

Risk Register – Small changes have been made to the risk register:

The ‘budgeting difficulties’ was lowered reflecting the financial situation, as described above. Both the ‘in-kind goodwill’ and ‘lack of engagement’ risks were lowered in response to the willingness of people to help with the current ARC; although it was noted that the goodwill risk may need a review authors delay in returning their reports for the ARC.

Key deliverables: ARC, CSW and Research Priorities

ARC: The history of ARC and the status of 2013 was presented:

- Text on uncertainty and natural variability vs. long-term, human-induced climate change trends.
- Table / icons to show what physical drivers are important for each topic [as cartoon of links from physical drivers to other evidence group areas].
- Four main evidence group sections (physical, biodiversity, clean and safe and productive) within which will be bullet-points, as previous, but where too little information is to be reported this shall be summarised in a wider section.
- Multiple maps (possibly more pages with maps and one page for each evidence group or incorporate maps into each of 4 sections). Show geographical spread [of species] where possible (i.e. NNS, waterbirds, seabirds, fish).
- Cross-section of four habitats: coastal; inter-tidal; shallow and shelf sub-tidal; and, deep sea.
- Comments on links to the CCRA marine sector risks.

Comments

Linking topic: Strong support linking the topics as it can often be a pitfall in focussed work. A Visual Thesaurus could be useful for illustrating links between the different topics.

Uncertainty: In light of the next IPCC report coming out, we need to be aware of the possibility of giving a confusing message; hence, it would be prudent to have a section giving detail on this.

Launch

Regions: A number of comments were made regarding the more regionalised approach to the ARC; and, the idea of launching the ARC at a number of regional events over six weeks with a news release.

Meetings:

- The Pew Environment Trust meeting, September in Ireland. This would be a top-level academic meeting and would unlikely include ministers
- A parliamentary launch is not appropriate; as, the ARC should be presented to the government ahead of the parliament.
- UKIMON first conference, September

A list of dissemination events should be created.

Lessons for next ARC: A broader European context was suggested as an aspect for the next card which could be considered.

CSW: A workshop was held on 22nd November 2012 involving 10 BMF members, representing over 40 marinas and boatyards. The report from the meeting will be completed by the end of March and will be available upon request. BMF have invited the CSW WG to host a session at a 2013 Marina Conference, 8-9 May in Bournemouth, to present the findings and guidance document, which is currently being written.

The SG suggested that this work would be useful to further organisations within the sector and other sectors and the CSW WG requested that more people should become involved.

Action: Those with an interest in working with or joining the CSW WG should get in contact with PB

Research Priorities: The work of the Knowledge Gaps and research prioritisation was presented.

Comments on the prescriptive approach, developed by the relevant WG, have been received and the resulting assessment documents are being finalised; after which they will be distributed to the UKMMAS evidence groups, as agreed. The Secretariat will then aggregate the responses.

MCCIP membership

Work, by the Cefas Contracts team, has taken place to contact partners who hadn't signed up, via a letter of intent, to MCCIP for phase 2. A few organisations have yet to respond. NERC have not yet responded although they reassured that it will be re-examined. A new contact has been assigned for DECC.

It would be worth keeping in mind the changes which are likely to be occurring within the Environment Agency and CCW.

MCCIP Evaluation FY 2012-13 / Mid-Term Review

Work is ongoing to produce the final report by the end of March 2013, circulated for comment and then sent for external evaluation. The independent evaluator used last time has agreed that she will undertake the evaluation at no cost.

Details of the mid-term review were explored in the evaluation plan. In addition to the normal evaluation, as above, the mid-term review should be completed in greater detail including interviewing users and beneficiaries etc.

We are committed to complete the mid-term review by the end of 2013 and it was asked for volunteers within and outside of the SG to assist; particularly those SG members who are not part of any existing MCCIP Working Groups, as it would improve the robustness and scope of the evaluation process.

MCCIP Special Topic 2014

The current WG agreed to help take this work forward. Anyone interested in contributing should contact

the Secretariat.

Future topic ideas were discussed:

Overseas territories

FCO, Cefas and BAS have been looking at this as a topic but have been struggling to find resources for this work as it would require local engagement.

MPAs and MCZs

Marine protected areas (MPAs) and marine conservation zones (MCZs). Although the SG agreed the value of this it was felt that the topic would need widening to cover a full ARC.

Social-ecological resilience

It was felt that this could be a valuable topic for the future; it could be tied into the MPA topic.

MSFD and GES

Discussions widened to consider looking at the Marine Strategic Framework Directive (MSFD) and, the related, indicators of good environmental status (GES). The SG felt that this could successfully comprise MPAs and MCZs, plus the Marine and Coastal Access Act, and would be of great value for decision and policy makers.

This ideas presented within this concept note could be posed to ministers / the British Irish Council after the ARC13 launch in September 2013; so that they can make suggestions to the scope of the topic.

It was suggested that this could be named Ecosystem Linkages II, and strengthen the branding of the Special Topic ARC.

Presentation: Ocean Acidification: investigating the impacts

PW, UKOA/NERC, gave an outline of the work carried out by the UK Ocean Acidification research programme and its wider context.

AOB and DONM

The UKCIP Shelf Sea Projection assemblage updates were presented and stated that the Met Office would like to make the data openly available; this is likely to be a subset determined by user consultation and data analysis (i.e. an ensemble mean and spread, example members or an entire ensemble; variables; and time slices or a complete time series).

The data will need to be served through EA Climate Ready (and its equivalents outside of England and Wales) and guidance notes etc will need to be developed. Until this point, the Met Office is happy to discuss the usage of the data with potential early users; cautioning that resources are limited as they work towards the open release.

Input from the SG into the required/useful/preferred variables and data frequency was requested.