

Full Steering Group Meeting No 6

SG08-08

Venue: Defra, London
Date: Monday 10 March 2008
Start: 11:00

Present:

Andy Greaves (Defra) Chair; Craig Wallace (NERC/RAPID); Paul Buckley (MCCIP Secretariat); Ed McManus (MCCIP Secretariat); Emma Verling (JNCC); Stephen Dye (MCCIP Secretariat); Victoria Paris (WAG); Kathryn Humphrey (Defra CEOSA); Olly Watts (RSPB); Dan Laffoley (Natural England)

Apologies:

John Hamer (CCW); John Baxter (SHN); Bill Turrell (FRS); Alexander Downie (SEPA); Matt Frost (MECN); Martyn Cox (Scottish Government); Matt Service (AFBINI); Emily Lewis-Brown (WWF); Jackie Maud (EA)

Agenda item 1: Update on actions from the previous SG meeting

The Chair reviewed actions from the last SG meeting. Most action points had been completed and those outstanding were being addressed through the papers for this meeting.

One action point was discussed:

Action:	MECN (MF) in consultation with MCCIP Secretariat (SD) to prepare a generic document on research priorities.
Update:	Matt Frost is currently developing this document from an MECN-ECN workshop report. This will also consider knowledge gaps highlighted from the ARC. This should feed into an MCCIP research priorities paper.
Action Mar:	MCCIP Secretariat (EM) to contact MECN (MF) to agree on a deadline for a research priorities paper. Document to be circulated to the SG when completed.

Agenda item 2: Marine Scenarios

An update on the marine scenarios work for UKCIP08 was presented. The marine report is due by the end of November and will be packaged as part of the UKCIP user interface. Full data will be available through the Defra 'LINK' system for the research community. Basic analysis tools would be accessible to all through the website.

It was emphasised that UKCIP08 has to be relevant to the non-scientific community. User guidance would be produced for non-technical users. The marine report was intended to be a non-technical document and it was requested that the MCCIP steering group review it. A draft report will be released on 10th July, with a 3-week consultation period. The report will be approximately 50 pages long. There will only be one review period and comments will be collated by KH. It was suggested that comments are authored by individuals and sent directly to KH, rather than submitting an 'official MCCIP response' so that all opinions are captured from the whole group.

It was requested that a member of the MCCIP SG produce a worked marine example (e.g. building an offshore oil platform to see how strong it would need to be). KH

anticipated that this would take approximately 5 working days to complete. If several worked examples are produced from outside of the partnership, then MCCIP could advise on which to proceed with. SD had already provided some suggestions to UKCIP (energy producers, fish distributions or shellfish disease) and this request for worked examples would also be made to the regional climate change co-ordinators at the UKCIP-MCCIP workshop.

- Action 1:** **MCCIP** members to review the draft marine report from 10th July.
- Action 2:** **MCCIP SG** to consider producing a worked marine example and offering its services to provide advice to UKCIP08 on other submitted worked examples.
- Action 3:** **Natural England (DL)** to put **Defra CEOSA (KH)** in touch with Scottish and Southern / BWEA contacts to look at a potential wind farms worked example.

It was agreed that future models should include a 2011-2040 timeslice (time interval) and that the SG considered this a priority. This period is important to many MCCIP stakeholders for planning purposes. The 2070-2099 timeslice may be relatively too far in the future. If funding is required for the 2011-2040 analysis, it could be linked to the proposed worked example of wind farm offshore industry / oil and gas.

- Action 4:** **Defra CEOSA (KH)** to talk to UKCIP08 SG on this issue and explore if the 2011-2040 scenario could be completed. [Update - done; it is being planned but may not be done for launch.]
- Action 5:** **MCCIP Secretariat (SD/EM)** to draft short letter for the UKCIP SG meeting on 22nd April about the usefulness of a 2011-2040 scenario.

The issue of equivalence on land and sea was discussed given that there would be more data available on land than the sea. MCCIP could highlight this through a letter (building on MF's research priorities paper) as a response to UKCIP marine scenarios, suggesting a need for equivalence between land and sea.

- Action 6:** **Defra CEOSA (KH)** to seek permission to circulate the presentation used to illustrate this agenda item to the SG. [Update - done and permissions given.]

Agenda item 3: Customer practice

This paper was presented after a video-conferencing failure at the last SG meeting led to a breakdown in the discussion with conflicting opinions apparent from different locations. It was proposed that having some definition of processes and membership would not be risky, while having no definition of processes and membership is potentially risky.

It was noted that this is intended to be a formalisation process reaching an explicit consensus approach. Key to this will be acknowledging the wide variety of ways that organisations provide input, and encouraging sustained participation from all members.

Action 7: **MCCIP Secretariat** to draft, in consultation with DL, a one-page document encouraging sustained input for partners and send to all SG members.

Agenda item 4: Financial status

Looking at the budget over the lifetime of the project, it was confirmed that the Defra contribution for 2010/2011 was still unknown and at present there is no space in the CEOSA budget to provide funding, although there may be opportunities to provide some financial support in the future at the end of FY's.

It was requested that to secure all possible funding from current partners, a senior member of the MCCIP Secretariat should liaise with institutional contacts to secure future proposed funding and attract further investment. The need to secure ongoing funding from current contributors was also emphasised, which will require a concise explanation of what future funds will be used for (See Agenda Items 6 and 7).

Action 8: **MCCIP Secretariat (EM)** to review status of partner pledges and liaise with partners to ensure pledged funds are realised, and seek long-term commitment from partners whose financial contribution is currently short-term, and to explore if there is any opportunity for in-kind contributors to become funding partners in the future.

By securing funding currently pledged from existing partners, MCCIP would be operating with approximately £30k deficit (based on the original proposal and business plan schedule of activities and including proposed Defra funding of £50k (?) for 2010/11).

Agenda item 5: Communcation group feedback

The COWG chair outlined recent activities including the updated communication strategy. If funds allowed, an adaptation workshop at the end of 2008 was proposed, building on the forthcoming regional partners workshop. It was suggested that the Crown Estate might be able to support such an event having previously suggested that they could support similar activities. This event could be tied in with a future Bob Earll conference on adaptation.

Action 9: **COWG** to devise a proposal for a workshop event that could be funded from outside the MCCIP budget. This workshop should look at the current state of adaptation knowledge in the marine environment.

Feedback on the ARC was discussed and the group was asked to provide options for widening the response base, particularly with regard to senior decision makers. Suggestions included telephone calls to researchers for the major political parties to canvas their opinions on how people have received/utilised the ARC. Approaching the all-party conservation group for the UK (contacts: Peter Bottomley / Colin Challen) might be an efficient means to contact as this covers all of the political parties in the House who are concerned with climate change. Other options may be to contact Ian Barrett (Defra) to get feedback from the all-party biodiversity group, or requesting that the Minister's office send an email asking feedback on the ARC (previously highlighted by the Minister's office).

Action 10: **Defra (AG or NP/JR)** to contact Jonathon Shaw MP's office and Ian Barrett to request (formal/recorded) feedback on the ARC.

It was agreed that the existing online survey questionnaire would be further publicised via a Bob Earll mailshot in an attempt to increase the response rate at a reasonably low cost.

Action 11: **MCCIP (PB)** to send survey questionnaire email out to Bob Earll mailshot. [Update – done]

The COWG chair requested that all SG members provide feedback regarding meetings / workshops where they represent/highlight/discuss MCCIP.

Action 12: **All SG members** to inform COWG of any meetings where they have discussed MCCIP.

Agenda item 6: Business plan update

It was agreed that SG members would review the business plan individually and send comments directly to the secretariat.

Action 13: **All SG members** to email comments on the business plan to the MCCIP Secretariat by 14th April.

The task list at the back of the business plan was discussed and it was suggested that some of these tasks could be removed if the SG agrees that they are no longer relevant or do not fit in with the priorities that we have now set. The business plan was an aspirational document, which needed to be revisited to reflect developments. It was agreed to use the mid-term review to help re-focus the tasks outlined in the original contract with wide input from the SG.

The need for ToRs for all the working groups was highlighted. The COWG already have one in place and it was agreed it would be useful to have one for the ARCWG so that that the SG are in agreement about the roles and responsibilities of the ARCWG and are clear on who the members of the working groups are.

Action 14: **ARCWG chair and MCCIP Secretariat** to draft ToR for ARCWG, to be agreed by the SG and included in future versions of the business plan along with the COWG ToR [note: ARCWG will be responsible for delivery of ARCs and special topics]

Agenda item 7: MCCIP product options

A range of options for the future direction of MCCIP were presented to the group. The costs and benefits of each, along with projected costs were discussed.

For the course of the afternoon's discussion it was agreed that the total predicted income (confirmed and predicted income) should be used as the basis for deciding what was financially achievable.

It was agreed that in the early part of the final year of the project there should be a key event looking back over the lifetime of the project, and then articulating how MCCIP would look in the future.

It was agreed that a break from the ARC this coming year would be appropriate given that the outputs from UKCIP08 (available end of 2008) would not be ready to include this year. A potential launch date of the next ARC towards the end of 2009 / early 2010 would give much better scope to incorporate UKCIP08 information. Also, if the

ARC was delayed, a stronger regional angle could be developed in conjunction with the devolved administrations and the regional climate change co-ordinators to meet their requirements. Delaying would also allow findings from an FP7 pan-European ocean acidification study coming out in 2009 to be incorporated.

Action 15: **Natural England (DL)** to send details of this FP7 Ocean acidification study to the SG.

In place of an ARC for the coming year, a special topic was proposed. It was suggested that this should be launched end 2008 / early 2009 and could be timed to feed in to Defra's UK-wide risk assessment for the climate change bill in mid-2010. Potential themes for a special topic were discussed and it was suggested that it could be an ideal mechanism to consider some issues in more detail. By adopting an ecosystem approach, demonstrating linkages through the system, it would answer questions that the ARC is weak on and help address the 'so-what' question posed by the ARC and individual topics within it.

For an 'Ecosystem Connections' special topic, 5 different elements could be selected (one for each page of an 8 page document, similar to the ARC layout). For example, plankton and different 'stories' relating to changes in distribution and a knock on effects for ecosystems and productivity, movement of cod etc. This could then be used to help inform adaptation ideas.

It was suggested that if the focus is on ecosystem connections, there will inevitably be an element of interpretation and conflicting opinions requiring careful management and presentation. It was felt that the user community will be looking for a document which is factual. The development of a framework that would deliver an informative document would be a notable achievement in assisting stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the inter-connectedness of the system. This would highlight the importance of individual topics covered in the previous and future ARCs.

It was suggested that to take this forward, the ARCWG would assume responsibility for delivering the special topic. The ARCWG chair would continue as chair during the initial phase. This position is subject to review with a potential change as deemed appropriate by the ARCWG given the different subject matter and other commitments.

The ARCWG would need to consider subjects and guidance, drafting, editing, copy-editing and production (with a view to a January '09 launch). The special topic would have a similar format to the ARC but would be based around 5 'stories', one story per page. The product should incorporate a strong regional emphasis. The ARCWG would then approach the scientists with a brief once the process had been agreed upon by the SG.

A special topic workshop was discussed, possibly linked to a Bob Earll event to minimise costs.

Action 16: **ARCWG** to develop a proposal for consideration by the SG, driven by SG members supplying PB with an opinion on what a story could be.

Action 17: **MCCIP Secretariat (PB)** to initiate an email discussion on special topic subjects with the ARCWG (deadline 28th March), followed by an ARCWG tele-conference to work up the proposal. PB to send out the

special topic discussion paper to the ARCWG to help the group consider resource needs and timescales.

It was agreed that the process would need to be signed off at the next SG meeting and the special topic is designed to be factual rather than sensational. If the process is agreed, the Secretariat should contact all those scientists not contributing to the special topic that the next ARC will be in 2009.

Action 18: **MCCIP Secretariat** to contact scientists about date of the next ARC should we decide not to do one until 2009/10. Devolved administrations also to be contacted by the secretariat to consider the provision of regional information for the next report card.

The group agreed that that the scheduling of the proposed products and activities was achievable and that these should now be costed by the secretariat for the duration of the project.

Action 19: **MCCIP Secretariat** to cost the proposed set of deliverables (1 ST in 08/09, 1 ARC in 09/10, and 1 'final' event in 10/11 to look to review the past work and look to the future). This costing should also present confirmed income and predicted income.

Agenda item 8: ARCWG feedback

The ARC chair discussed the ARC process for the 2007-08 card and suggested that the process worked well and should be continued next time round.

Agenda item 9: Risk

The fact that a risk register is maintained for the project was highlighted and the key risks highlighted in the annotated tabled presented in the paper were discussed.

It was suggested that points 3 and 4 (widening the partnership / introducing new products) essentially belong together, in that the partnership would be expanded by looking towards those that can provide money to fund new products.

On the partnership issue, the Republic Of Ireland (ROI) is attending the forthcoming regional workshop (Glen Nolan) and thought should be given to how they could participate with MCCIP. It was highlighted that updates were being provided to the British-Irish council, therefore ROI are aware of MCCIP.

Action 20: **Defra** to speak to Glen Nolan (ROI) at the regional workshop about involvement with MCCIP [Update - done, mentioned again and ROI were going to think about it].

It was suggested that there will be future risks associated with how we interact with UKCIP and about potential confusion for stakeholders about the different partnerships and programmes that exist.

Agenda item 10: AOB

The recent Halpern paper was discussed and it was agreed that it may be more appropriate for OSPAR to provide feedback (due to the multiple pressures considered).

Action 21: **MCCIP Secretariat** to send details of Halpern paper to OSPAR.

The Carbon-ops programme was highlighted by the secretariat as a way of starting to answer the CO₂ exchanges issue, which was weak in the report card. It was suggested that a short briefing note on the website would be appropriate.

Action 22: **MCCIP Secretariat** to follow up with Carbon-ops and prepare a short briefing note for the website.

An international workshop in July (IUCN) was highlighted which should help start a process on getting science together about where manageable sinks of CO₂ might be.

Agenda item 11: DONM

The next full SG would provisionally be on 19 May. Edinburgh was suggested with a separate VC in London or York could be an option as a central location (booked through Defra) without having to use VC.

Action 23: **Defra (NP)** to advise on available meeting rooms for the next SG.

The meeting would be focussed on signing off the special topic production plan and to prepare the SG for the next stage of the UKCIP marine scenarios work. There will also need to be a paper on the MCCIP mid-term review (including a re-draft of the business plan).

Action 24: **MCCIP Secretariat** to set up a contract meeting to discuss a revised business plan and to prepare for the mid-term review.

ANNEX 1 – ACTION LIST SUMMARY FOR UPDATE AT NEXT SG MEETING

Carried over from previous meeting:

Action Mar: **MCCIP Secretariat (EM)** to contact **MECN (MF)** to agree on a deadline for a research priorities paper. Document to be circulated to the SG when completed.

New actions:

- Action 1:** **MCCIP** members to review the draft marine report from 10th July.
- Action 2:** **MCCIP SG** to consider producing a worked marine example and offering its services to provide advice to UKCIP08 on other submitted worked examples.
- Action 3:** **Natural England (DL)** to put **Defra CEOSA (KH)** in touch with Scottish and Southern / BWEA contacts to look at a potential wind farms worked example.
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