

Steering Group Meeting No 20

Venue: Nobel House, London

Date: 1st May 2014

Start: 12:00

Present:

Adam Cook, MMO
Beth Stoker, JNCC
Debbie Hembury, Defra
Emma Barton, EA
Georgia Bayliss-Brown, Cefas (minutes; Secretariat)
Greg Morel, Jersey
John Baxter, SNH
Kathryn Dawson, Natural England
Katya Orr, Collingwood (speaker)
Ken Wright, DECC
Kristen Guida, Climate UK (speaker)
Michael O'Toole, Marine Institute
Narumon Withers Harvey, Defra
Paul Buckley, Cefas (Secretariat)
Paula Orr, Collingwood (speaker)
Philip Stamp, Defra
Philip Taylor, RSPB Scotland
Rob McCall, Natural Resources Wales
Simon Baldwin, Welsh Government
Stephen Hall, NOC
Vanessa Hernaman, Natural England

Apologies:

Craig Wallace, UEA
Dan Laffoley, IUCN
David Johns, SAHFOS
Jonathan Tinker, Met Office
Julian Wright, EA
Martin Edwards, SAHFOS
Martyn Cox, Scottish Government
Matt Frost, MBA-MECN

Definitions:

ARC	Report Card
BMF	British Marine Federation
FFA	Fish, Fisheries and Aquaculture
FY	Financial Year
IE	Independent Evaluator
MG	Management Group
MTR	Mid-Term Review
SG	Steering Group
ST	Special Topic
ToR	Terms of Reference
WG	Working Group (any)

Action Points from the last meeting

Minutes from last meeting had been previously agreed via circulation and adjusted to include an SG member present who was not originally counted for. The minutes have been corrected on the website. An update of actions was circulated prior to the meeting and all actions were either completed or will be covered in "Key deliverables".

Management group feedback

PB went through points raised in SG 08-13

Finances – The financials are as laid out in the Phase II 5-year business plan and the budgets for each action for FY 14/15 spend may be different this year to that initially budgeted but the overall figure will probably be accurate.

For this financial year, we have funds committed, some of which is carried over from last FY; however, in the next financial year our funding ends and we need to set up a Phase III for MCCIP. This Phase of the MCCIP programme comes to an end in March 2015 and we are looking for funding

for the next phase of the programme. As a new business plan is required, it might provide an attractive offer and generate interest in funding of a new phase.

Currently, the fund is a mixture of funds and contributions from Defra and other SG partners. It would be nice to get long-term contributions but currently we are getting year-on-year contributions; due to the financial climate. The secretariat will have individual conversations with each organisation in the near future to discuss contributions for this FY.

MCCIP would like to thank everyone who has been able to make contributions so far and the uncertainty with budgets is recognised and lengthier contributions may be difficult to find.

Risk Register – All items on the risk register will need to be reviewed by the MG in light of the SG sign-off of the MTR. At the previous SG, the line that was amended was the reduction in risk of loss of in-kind contributions, as the Report Card backing papers become fully citable with the application of DOIs.

Key deliverables

Report Card 2013

A full wash-up will be completed following sign-off of the MTR so that detailed feedback can be included and discussed at the relevant WG meeting. We are currently in the final process of allocating DOIs to the ARC backing papers; and determining data on the number of page hits and downloads to be included in the 2013/14 Evaluation.

The SG were asked to suggest further promotional opportunities for the ARC. The ARC, and other recent MCCIP work, has and is being presented to Climate-UK and LWEC and by webinar to Natural England (50 people), and soon to be EA Marine (~70 people) and MASTS (90 people).

Because the Card had been launched in December 2013 and was therefore presented as the 2013 ARC, some people were concerned that it could be perceived as out-of-date and therefore more difficult to promote. IPCC give their reports version numbers to overcome this.

Special Topic

Since the last SG meeting, further scoping occurred and the WG have met to continue the development of the ST Card. At this stage, the leads have been identified; the journal backing papers are being written; and the WG are meeting with the lead authors on 3rd June 2014.

The plan was to finalise the ST Card by the end of the calendar year, however, despite having discussions with authors about the content of the Card more than ever before, one of the draft papers requires more work and a series of meetings are taking place to work on this. It was known that the process would be challenging (for the experts to write these papers) and it has been. The feeling of the WG discussions is that it would be better to delay than to compromise the integrity of MCCIP. All Cards are based on information taken directly from the backing papers so it is important that these are strong. The Chair of the WG was sick for this SG so will be contacted to discuss how the WG will progress.

The time of the delivery is important in terms of elections and it may not be possible to launch in the run up to May 2015 – particularly if they are fronted by ministers – so the aim is to complete by the end of this financial year (by March 2015).

CSW

The BMF have been very supportive and they had an environmental manager who took responsibility for driving the process forward and widely distributing the Card within their community. The Card was presented and we are expecting to receive more learning opportunities from their members.

The SG felt that the CSW is a very strong part of the MCCIP portfolio and that MCCIP should continue working with trade associations and industries; such as fisheries, inc shellfisheries, and marine tourism. Discussions are underway with Seafish as they have an adaptation reporting power report that they need to do and MCCIP might be able to help them with. This work can also be informed by the FFA work completed from the last MCCIP ST Card.

It was noted that it would be good to do a Card on the “UK fishery and shellfishery industry” and could include inshore fisheries and work with small fleets.

It was also noted that the Card could be better aimed at businesses by including more socioeconomic details in the Card, “the hard-nosed economic data”. Cefas are developing more work within the area of climate change and socioeconomics and therefore the opportunity to work with this industry and with insurance is possible. It was stated that Defra would be very supportive of developing more awareness of resilience options for industries as it would help them manage risk rather than paying out after an event.

The WG will present a concept note for the Seafish work and request comments from the SG offline so that the process can be up-and-running by the next SG.

Research Priorities

The research priorities were published in Feb/Mar 2014 and provided to the MSCC. All relevant documents are available on the website and include the overall findings and supplementary papers on methods for transparency. The Secretariat have not yet received any feedback from MSCC to feedback to the SG.

The SG felt that it would be good to follow up and, in consultation with others, see if gaps are being picked up and closed, e.g. as part of the NERC funding programme or Hadley Centre Climate Programme. If these gaps are not being fulfilled, then they should be informing the R&D process.

Future communication strategy

The general feedback from the SG on the card was that it is seen as reliable and the matrix of confidence is really good and presented very well; and several comments were relayed from organisational directors and ministers.

These discussions grew to summarising that MCCIP work is so valuable that it needs to be communicated more strategically. During these discussions, the SG discussed how MCCIP-like work is not apparent in other OSPAR countries and hence means that climate change is not high on the agenda for OSPAR unlike other organisations such as the European Environment Agency, who will soon be publishing a marine baseline assessment with a section on climate change.

Presentation: CCRA 2017

The slides were provided to PB by Kathryn Humphrey. The next CCRA will be published in 2017 and evidence has been submitted. The process for this CCRA is different to last time, and will act as an update on the last CCRA and will draw information from existing work across 11 sectors rather than commissioning work. Marine is now a cross-cutting issue, rather than a focussed sector. Our concern is that marine issues may “slip through the net” and we hope that having worked with the CCRA organisers before and by submitting FFA and 4 review papers; 2013 ARC and 33 backing papers; knowledge gaps and research priorities; MCCIP CSW; and the coming ST MPA and GES report card and 4 backing papers, marine issues will be covered.

Presentation: Outcomes from the MCCIP Phase-II Mid-term Review, Collingwood (CEP)

The MTR process has occurred later than expected, more late term review but this will inform Phase III.

The SG felt that the MTR report was very good and asked for a small amount of additional data on the breakdown of respondents to assist analysing the report further.

The concerns and weaknesses raised by the report, such as financial security, communications and stakeholder definition, were valuable and will be reflected upon during the development of the Phase III business plan. Some solutions would be relatively simple: Such as dressing the information differently for varying audiences, using terms such as resilience rather than adaptation, or providing hand-picked case studies from start to finish. More advanced solutions may be possible, such as collaborating with external bodies to a greater level to increase product ownership and participation in-kind.

It is recognised that there is over dependence on the few and this is not a sustainable model. The Chair suggested that it would be helpful for SG members to volunteer to start work on Phase III using the MTR report as a starting point. This would need to be draft by the next SG.

Communications of MCCIP products needs to be revised as part of Phase III and several aspects to it. The communication efforts will need to be different as the work being performed straddles a spectrum of broadcasting widely and policy take up of these messages; the special topics that are more targeted; and, a further level, where work is co-commissioned and MCCIP work with a sector (e.g. CSW).

Presentation: Climate UK

The SG were glad to have the conversation opened up with Climate UK and saw that some of their outputs and, certainly, experience in stakeholder engagement can be very useful in MCCIP’s Phase III and future collaborative work.

AOB and DONM

The next meeting will be held in the last two weeks of October 2014.

GBB
29/05/2014