

Steering Group Meeting No 17

Venue: Defra, Ergon House
Date: 9th October 2012
Start: 12:00

Present:

Philip Stamp (Defra) – Chair
Paul Buckley (Cefas) (PB)
Clare Adams (Cefas) – minute taker
John Pinnegar (Cefas)
Georgia Bayliss-Brown (Cefas)
David Johns (SAHFOS)
Matt Frost (MBA) (MF)
John Baxter (SNH)
Narumon Withers Harvey (Defra)
Jon Tinker (Met Office)

Hayley Miles (JNCC)
Steve Hall (NOC)
Bryony Bowe (DECC)
Julian Wright (EA)
Kathryn Dawson (Natural England)
Simon Baldwin (WAG)
Alec Taylor (RSPB)
Rob Lucking (RSPB)
Rob McCall (CCW)

Apologies:

Martyn Cox (Scottish Government)
Greg Morrel (Jersey)
Michael Coyle (MMO)

Glenn Nolan (Marine Institute, ROI)
Adam Mellor (AFBINI)
Craig Wallace (UEA)

Action Points from the last meeting

Comments from the Steering Group on the UK Climate Projections work are still welcome.

Social media – no further comments other than those concerns raised by the Management Group regarding control of content.

Management Group feedback

Finances – Currently under-spent against income however greater activity during the second half of the year on ARC, CSW and evaluation means that the predicted spend is higher for the rest of the FY. Finances in good position up until end of FY13/14.

Evaluation – work is ongoing to produce the final report in time for next SG meeting; one of the lead authors from the special topic report card has been interviewed for the evaluation – the other two will also be interviewed by the end of the year. It is hoped that the independent evaluator used for the last evaluation would be able to continue.

SG membership – Clarification on who should attend the SG meetings was sought at the last SG meeting, partly due to the poor attendance. 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, primarily due to a lack of contact name, and one, Crown Estate, have decided not to continue. Through this process, £35K of additional funds has been secured.

Support / endorsement – Following requests for MCCIP endorsement, the MG produced some guidelines on when endorsement could be given (Paper SG 08-12).

The request needs to meet MCCIP objectives and some exclusions (commercial benefit; political etc) were identified.

A discussion was held on the meaning of ‘commercial benefit’. It was agreed that this was meant to indicate any product used for commercial benefit. The sentence has since been changed.

Concern was raised on how much effort would be needed to look at any requests – would it be a full bid evaluation for instance. It was agreed that the request should be in the form of a one-pager outlining what is to be endorsed. Requestors usually supply a draft endorsement, so it would be unlikely that the Secretariat need to draft any responses but would only need to check that the response provided was appropriate and amend if necessary.

Agreed that the guidelines, once suggested changes have been made, are appropriate.

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

The ‘shortfall in funding’ risk was removed (but may need to be added in future FYs). ‘In-kind goodwill’ risk was lowered from medium to low/medium. This was in response to the willingness of people to help with the current ARC

A discussion was held on MCCIP representation at the various UKMMAS groups (CSEG, OPEG, PSEG, HBDSEG etc). MCCIP Steering Group members attend these and should be reminded that they represent MCCIP as well as their own organisations on these groups. There is currently no representative for UKIMON.

Special topic: feedback post launch

The Special Topic Report Card (STRC) looking at Fish, Fisheries & Aquaculture was launched at World Fisheries Congress (WFC) in May. There was a good turnout for the launch and all the ministers invited turned up. The talk wasn’t as well attended but this was a trend for all talks at the conference. The Ministers were very positive about the report card and mentioned it during their talks at the WFC; The report card was based on 4 peer-reviewed papers. Since the launch, there have been 800 – 2200 full text downloads; there have been 65000 downloads of the aquaculture abstracts. It is thought that the aquaculture response may be due to that fact that this is thought to be the first time that climate change and aquaculture has been looked at. It is too early yet for figures on citations. It is likely that the peer-reviewed route will be used for the Special Topic but it is too complicated to do this for the Annual Report Card.

MCCIP Partners are encouraged to keep promoting the STRC. Copies of report cards are being sent to key conferences. Wiley (publishers of the papers) are also actively distributing / promoting the Report Card.

There was a good media pick up including – Countryfile and Radio 4 (Costing the Earth).

Approx 3500 cards have been distributed.

Key deliverables: ARC and Climate Smart Working (CSW)

ARC

Discussions began on the ARC straight after the launch of the STRC. Authors have been identified for all but 1 of the topics (Waterbirds) – RSPB have been contacted but may not be able to do the work ‘in-kind’.

Initial submissions are due 10th October but only 1 has been received so far.

The launch is expected to take place in mid-2013. Any suggestions for suitable conferences / events to launch the ARC at should be sent to the Secretariat. The National Adaptation Plan is also due around the same time but the launch strategy has not yet been finalised.

CSW

Climate Smart Working is progressing well. British Marine Federation (BMF) are willing to take CSW forward for the marine leisure industry and have arranged a workshop for marina managers and boatyard owners on 22nd November. MCCIP will have a representation at the workshop.

The CSW group have also produced a document collating information regarding adaptation and marine stakeholders which is available on the Adaptation section of the MCCIP website (<http://www.mccip.org.uk/adaptation.aspx>)

From MCCIP Knowledge Gaps to research priorities

Anyone interested in contributing should contact the Secretariat.

Agreed that the tasks and timelines were appropriate. In prioritising the gaps, consideration should also be given to which ones are likely to lead to furthering knowledge of other gaps. Work on research priorities should link to the Select Committee inquiry on Marine Science.

It is thought unlikely that the NAP would also produce similar knowledge gap work. The NAP will link in to current knowledge rather than identify / drive further work.

A scientific paper may still be written from the knowledge gaps work but would not be a ‘MCCIP’ paper, so timeline is down to the authors.

Marine Sector input to the National Adaptation Plan

An update on the marine inputs into the National Adaptation Plans was provided. Marine is covered in the Natural Environment section and also the Health section. Review and provide feedback on what has happened so far.

Presentation: EA Climate ready: an overview

Julian Wright, Environment Agency gave an Update on the Natural Environment theme of the Climate Ready support service.

The Annual Report Card approach has been adopted for terrestrial impacts of climate change.



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Presentation: Adaptation in action: the Titchwell Marsh coastal change project

Rob Lucking, RSPB gave an outline of the work carried out at Titchwell (and other RSPB sites) to help 'climate proof' the reserves.

AOB and DONM

Economics of Climate Resilience was identified as a possible presentation for the next meeting.

Kristian Teleki (SeaWeb) has a new role within the organisation. The Steering Group agreed that a new SeaWeb rep would be appropriate.

An e-mail was circulated to SG members earlier in the week regarding a forthcoming workshop on decadal predictions. Anyone interested in attending the workshop should contact the Secretariat.

PB
10/10/2012