

Digest of Steering Group Meeting No 11

Venue: Defra, London (and tele-conference)
Date: Wednesday 2 December 2009
Start: 13:30

Present:

Philip Stamp (Defra) chair; Matthew Sayer (WAG); John Baxter (SNH); Kate Lonsdale (UKCIP); Jon Lartice (Defra); Stephen Dye (MCCIP-Sec); Emma Verling (JNCC); Paul Buckley (MCCIP-Sec); Matt Frost (MECN); Martyn Cox (Scottish Government); Olly Watts (RSPB); Alexander Downie (SEPA); Adam Mellor (AFBI); Dan Laffoley (Natural England); Kevin O'Carroll (BERR); Glenn Nolan (Marine Institute, ROI); Colin Moffat (FRS); Leon Smith (Defra ACC); Jackie Maud (EA); Chris Reid (SAHFOS); Jane Edquist (Defra, ACC)

Apologies:

Jessica Orr (CCW); Colin Taylor (BE); John Baxter (SNH); Craig Wallace (NERC-RAPID)

1. Update on actions from last meeting

Summary of actions:

- It was agreed that MCCIP would look out for further opportunities to present to the SUDG in future.
- The communications team would pick up on taking a UKCIP marine PiP forward outside of the meeting.
- New marine scenario pages will be added to the MCCIP website.

Agenda item 2. Developing the business case

General points:

The development of the business case for phase II of MCCIP was the key discussion item for the day. It was agreed that it needed to be strong on selling our success on how MCCIP has changed behaviour and developed new approaches that are being taken up by other groups both in the UK and overseas.

We should push the fact that we have worked to reduce lag time of getting evidence from science to policy to essentially a one year cycle. We should also push the co-ordination of effort that has gone into the process and proving things like confidence rating which have been widely regarded as useful. We should also stress that MCCIP was borne out of charting progress 1 due to a lack of evidence on marine climate change and that charting progress 2 will have a whole chapter on marine climate change now.

Strategic context

It was agreed that we need to be clear in our overall aim that adaptation will be a key part of phase II, otherwise our overall aim is still based on impacts.

Moving forward, the evolution towards more adaptation work is similar to the journey that UKCIP has been on and it is a very different role to play. We need to consider you can't do everything; need to look at where resources are most usefully channelled.

Approach

There is a possible further dimension to our work that we need to emphasise on MCCIP advice (given our important role in providing advice to CP2, OSPAR, UKCP09 etc...)

With regards to the expanded programme for phase II, the concept of climate smart working was raised. The relationship between climate smart working and adaptation was clarified, which was essentially a more attractive repackaging of evidence and risks but that would inevitably involve some discussions of what mitigation work communities are doing too.

The move to a 'facilitation' role rather than science was discussed and it was felt that it was very different to what we had done before. The amount of time taken to get to this point from impacts to adaptation shouldn't be underestimated and some concerns were raised about adequately resourcing this additional workstream.

Suggested we should run a 'pilot' climate smart report and see what resource requirements are from this and move on. Pilot needs to be cross cutting enough to draw interest in from a wide audience but be focussed enough that it means something (i.e. by having a pilot we can articulate concept to a wide base of people and show how it can be applied to a sector / community). If we pilot as a card can we do some complimentary work in the ARCs too on adaptation as part of badge that we are increasing our work here?

It was stressed that implementing adaptation options is only part of the process, building adaptive capacity through networks and understanding barriers to adaptation and other aspects like this are important too.

Other business case issues

It was agreed that a one page summary of benefits for partners was useful to go alongside the business case to provide a background to the partnership and the current document should be brought up to date with an expanded remit. It should also include a paragraph on what's new to help enhance case for increased funding.

Agenda item 3. AOB

There will be a focussed Defra / Cefas adaptation workshop on 27th January that would help feed into the Defra adaptation and mitigation plan. This will cut across the Defra marine programme and help to raise understanding of the UKCP09 projections and provide an appraisal of the significance of risks. The adaptation actions will hopefully be instructive with regards to our own [MCCIP] adaptation work.

The ongoing work of the CCRA, was highlighted and it was confirmed that Cefas were the marine sector champions. The 'first issues report' was due on 4th December.

PB
15/12/2009