

Business Plan

1st April 2020 – 31st March 2025



Introduction

“Concern about the state of our seas has caused them to be studied more intensively – and extensively – than ever before. Here is a summary of the findings...they have never been more important” (David Attenborough, 10 years of MCCIP report card¹)

MCCIP is the primary independent source of marine climate change impacts evidence and adaptation advice in the UK.

As a leading brand in climate change knowledge brokering since 2005, MCCIP:

- Publishes authoritative, highly accessible ‘state of the science’ reports to underpin UK and devolved evidence requirements.
- Supports adaptation across a range of coastal and marine sectors.
- Enhances the profile of marine climate change issues.

We recognise however that MCCIP operates in an evolving landscape and this business plan demonstrates how we will meet new challenges. It builds on learnings from our “10 years’ experience of science to policy reporting” report in 2017 and feedback from independent reviewers.

From influencing policy and legislation to highlighting key management issues, MCCIP has been able to demonstrate its importance and, as such, it is no coincidence that the MCCIP model has been adopted by other organisations in the UK, and overseas.

This business plan reflects MCCIP’s commitment to continue working with scientists, policy makers and wider society, to ensure the UK is well-placed to meet current and future challenges for our marine environment.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Frost." The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dr. Matt Frost, MCCIP chair

¹ MCCIP (2017). Marine Climate Change Impacts: 10 years’ experience of science to policy reporting. (Eds. Frost M, Baxter J, Buckley P, Dye S and Stoker B) Summary Report, MCCIP, Lowestoft, 12pp. doi: 10.14465/2017.arc10.000-arc

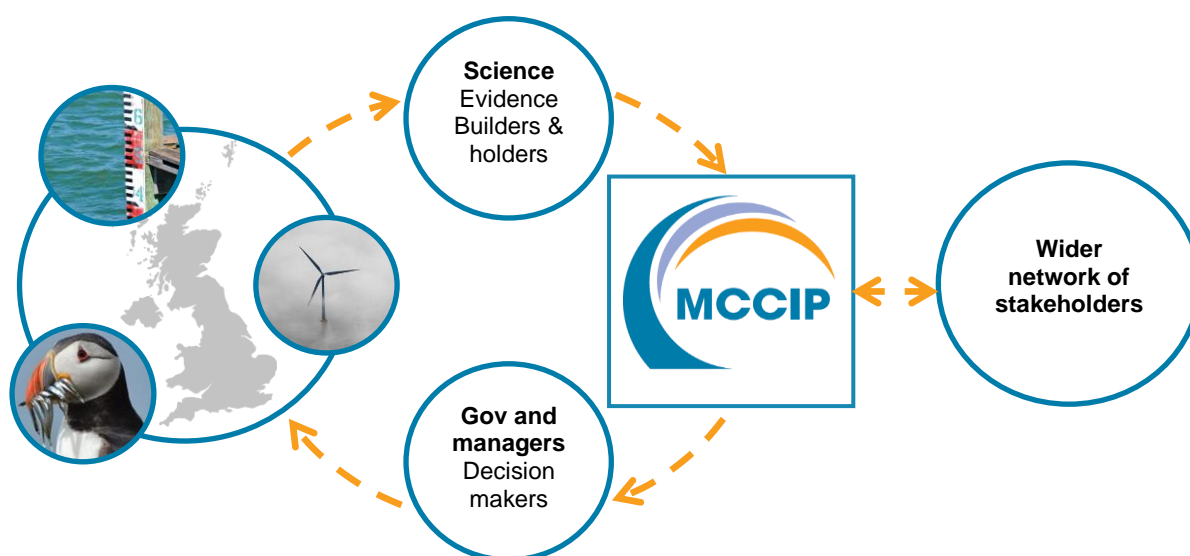
Policy context

In September 2019 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) delivered its first ever comprehensive report covering the ocean entitled “The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate”. This reflects the rapid rise of marine climate change issues up the international agenda, and the rapid growth of the evidence base. This evidence is being given greater consideration than ever when developing legislation at the national and international level, as demonstrated by the 2015 MCCIP special report on the *implications of climate change for marine biodiversity legislation*.

The recognition that climate change is the key challenge of our time reflects a dramatic shift in public mood compared to earlier phases of MCCIP, with the language of ‘a climate emergency’ now widely adopted. It is important that MCCIP constantly evolves to support the policy community in addressing societal challenges. This fourth phase of MCCIP will therefore continue to communicate evidence on climate change impacts, with an increased focus on adaptation advice.

The role of MCCIP

The role of MCCIP is to provide a “co-ordinating framework for the UK, so as to be able to transfer high quality evidence on marine climate change impacts, and guidance on adaptation advice, to policy advisors and decision-makers”



Collaborating with hundreds of scientists and practitioners, MCCIP plays a unique role supporting marine and coastal stakeholders, including:

- Providing the marine and coastal evidence base to support requirements under the Climate Change Act, as well as wider national and international obligations.
- Undertaking risk assessments with industry and conservation bodies to prepare for a changing climate.
- Direct engagement with the research community, which helps inform the future direction of marine policy. In turn, this demonstrates impact from the research community.

As a mature partnership, MCCIP has established clear [governance structures and guiding principles](#) that ensures its integrity and independence as the leading provider of marine climate change evidence, and adaptation advice in the UK.

What has MCCIP achieved so far?

Following the completion of the third, five-year work programme (2015-2020), we can point to some significant successes:

- Becoming the leading brand in science communication for marine climate change in the UK.
- Working with over 300 scientists to produce authoritative, state of the science, evidence reports and summary report cards.
- Outputs that provide evidence for high profile marine and climate change policy and evidence documents for UK government.
- Going beyond providing evidence, to support conservation and industry bodies through MCCIP climate smart adaptation.
- Recognition as an exemplar model for scientific integrity and policy engagement.



How will MCCIP evolve over the next 5 years?

Rolling updates for the evidence base. The underlying, broad scale evidence that we previously updated every few years as full report cards, will now be revised on a rolling basis. Topic expert 'hubs', drawn from across the UK, will be established to support this more dynamic approach, providing topic updates as they happen. There will be an increased emphasis on regional scale impacts to help support decision making at the devolved level. To support this, we will need to bring in a wider range of scientific collaborators to broaden our overall expertise and provide better insights at regional and local levels.

A more responsive approach to changing user needs. In addition to rolling updates of the overall scientific evidence base, we need to be able to actively respond to the evolving needs of our users. As specific issues arise, we will commission tailored outputs. This might be an in-depth special topic report, delivered by a dedicated working group, or a shorter piece of work (e.g. our new MCCIP 'mini-briefings', highlighting key findings from important new publications).

A greater focus on adaptation and mitigation. This will principally be achieved through the development of co-funded marine climate smart activities, building on successful collaborations with industry trade associations, and conservation bodies.

Wider international engagement. MCCIP will build on its experience of delivering UK impacts and evidence advice, to engage with relevant international reporting mechanisms and activities, including UNFCCC COP and the UN decade of the Oceans. This will be delivered outside of core MCCIP activities, as separately funded deliverables approved by the MCCIP SG.

A more dynamic user interface. This will include a 'marine climate impacts dashboard', with news on the latest scientific developments and better signposting to information and activities from other organisations. A redesigned, more intuitive website will make MCCIP products more accessible.

Communications and outreach

MCCIP will seek to promote its work more widely as an exemplar of climate change communication. A new [communication strategy](#) has been published to coincide with the launch of the Phase IV business plan, and a dedicated communication and outreach working group established to deliver the strategy.

Key communications objectives are to:

- Promote MCCIP as a partnership and its products to relevant stakeholders.
- Diversify the stakeholders that MCCIP engages with in both the creation and dissemination of its products.
- Attract people to become involved in MCCIP processes including authors, reviewers, group members and funders.
- Explore new communications mechanisms for disseminating MCCIP products.
- Develop the MCCIP website.
- Annually evaluate MCCIP activities against communication objectives.

To help achieve these objectives, MCCIP will deliver Report Cards (Full, Special Topic and Sector/Spatially specific Climate Smart Adaptation); specific advice (including ad hoc documents as and when required); peer reviewed journal publications; and regular ongoing communications (e.g. social media, newsletters, website).

Governance structures

A key factor in the success of MCCIP is the role, standing and commitment of its Steering Group, management group and various Working Groups (report card, climate smart adaptation and communications working groups). The [MCCIP governance structure and guiding principles](#) document provides more details on how MCCIP functions, including ToRs for each group.

Funding

Direct funding for MCCIP has principally been provided by UK and DA government departments and agencies. In Phase III of the work programme (2015-2020), the level of direct funding in a given financial year ranged from £120-150k and was used to deliver an agreed core programme. In-kind contributions have more than doubled the value of the work programme, providing an extremely cost-effective programme. This high value for money of MCCIP was recently identified in an independent review.

In line with future aspirations, MCCIP is now seeking to extend direct funding, and in-kind contributions to both enhance the core work programme and to engage with a wider range of partners. The [Phase IV financial plan](#) provides a breakdown of indicative costs by work package to deliver the core programme from 2020-2025. Any shortfalls in the proposed funding will necessarily force a reduction in the number or scale of activities / products delivered through MCCIP. Such decisions would be taken by the Steering Group based on its view of relative priorities in any given FY.

Ideally, MCCIP funding contributions are to be confirmed with the Secretariat by 30 June to enable the Steering Group to agree the core programme for a given financial year. As per previous years, Cefas will invoice partners for their confirmed FY contributions as early in the FY as possible (timings to be agreed with individual MCCIP partners and Cefas).

MCCIP will actively pursue additional funding for ad-hoc activities outside of the core programme, including the delivery of international products, as agreed by the partnership.

Principal benefits of supporting MCCIP for partner organisations

MCCIP is a partnership between scientists, government, its agencies, industry and NGOs. The principal aim is to develop a long-term multi-disciplinary approach to understanding and communicating the implications of climate change for our marine and coastal environment.

MCCIP acts as a focal point for technical marine climate change information and provides your organisation with the opportunity to really understand the complexity of marine climate change impacts and collectively consider appropriate adaptation responses.

The principal benefits of supporting MCCIP are to have the opportunity:

- to work collaboratively with other leading UK partners, providing a valuable information exchange mechanism and a recognised authoritative voice on marine climate change issues.
- of encouraging economies of scale by agreeing together UK and devolved research priorities (potentially very costly if addressed independently / in isolation).
- of influencing the direction of the partnership and prioritising project deliverables through a seat on the MCCIP steering group, and by participating in our impacts or adaptation working groups.
- of recognition in all major programme outputs, providing a clear mechanism for demonstrating organisational commitment to addressing climate change.
- to disseminate / showcase products from partner organisations through MCCIP, either at steering group meetings or more widely through the website, mailing list and social media.
- to collaboratively consider the next important stage of adaptation tools for rollout across the UK and help frame user requirements for the next set of UK climate projections.
- to collectively respond to commitments under the UK and Devolved Administrations Climate Change Acts, including the UK climate change risk assessment, national adaptation programmes, and adaptation reporting power reports, as well as other relevant national and international obligations.

The challenges presented by marine climate change impacts are far too broad and deep for any individual organisation or agency to tackle in an economic and effective manner. MCCIP is a proven route for organisations to achieve this for much lower costs, delivering world-renowned products.