

# **UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Training and Research Programme**

## **Note of Meeting**

### **Note of the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Steering Group Meeting**

29<sup>th</sup> May 2014

For other documents from  
**UKOT & CD Training and Research Programme**

Visit: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=5130>

To find out more about JNCC Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies programme  
see <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ukotcd/>

To find out more about the JNCC see [www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk)



## Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Training and Research Group (OTCDTRG)

### Note of meeting

<b>Date</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2014
<b>Time</b>	14:00 GMT
<b>Location</b>	remote
<b>Chair</b>	Tara Pelembe

#### Attendees

Number of people (11)  
Number of OTs/CDs (7)

<b>Name</b>	<b>OT/CD Government</b>
Natasha Chick	Defra (UK)
Razi Latif	DFID (UK)
Nick Rendell	Falkland Islands
Richard Selman	Isle of Man
John Pinel	Jersey
Jonathan Kay, Janine Galliano	Gibraltar
Julia Henney	Guernsey
Stephen Mendes	Montserrat
Jennifer Lee	South Georgia
Tara Pelembe	JNCC (UK)

#### (1) Life Plus – Lionfish project – Tara Pelembe

TP gave a short update on potential opportunities for OTs under the new EU Life regulation which specifically mentions OTs<sup>1</sup>. JNCC is working with OCTA and OTs to develop a regional Caribbean bid focussing on Lionfish.

**Action:** TP to link CDs (IOM and Guernsey) into the UK Life process to be aware of projects that are happening.

#### (2) Update on South Atlantic Regional workshop in Ascension June 2014 – Tara Pelembe

TP gave a brief update on the South Atlantic Regional workshop due to be held in Ascension next month. Other OTs had been invited to participate. It would be useful if experiences from other OTs could be fed into the workshop, and as such, there was a brief update on fisheries in each of the OTs/CDs around the table.

#### Brief update on fisheries in other OTs

**Montserrat:** There is a programme for developing a fishery in Montserrat that is being driven by a Philanthropist who currently runs a similar programme in Barbuda.

#### Isle of Man:

**Action:** TP to send out short list of questions to non-SAOTs/CDs to get a brief overview of fisheries to feed into the SAOT regional workshop.

#### (3) Request for contributions to research – Tara Pelembe

<sup>1</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/background/>

#### (4) OT and CD updates

##### Gibraltar

- [\*Upper rock nature reserve and management plan\*](#) is being implemented and provides an overview of works that been going on, and aims to promote and improve biodiversity. A lot of clearing of invasive species has been carried out, and is proving successful in terms on improved floral diversification. The plan also includes reintroduction of several species – partridge and bird species – ospreys and eagle.
- *Seagrass project*: the department is considering the development of a seagrass project and identifying several areas where this might be possible. The project will include the reintroduction of species found in the past in Gibraltar.
- *Monitoring and surveillance programme* There is an ongoing programmes of coastal monitoring..

##### Montserrat

- *Marine resource management project* – an initial meeting was undertaken facilitated by UKOTCF, part of the mission is to provide assistance on management of marine resources and provision of data sets.
- *Invasive species Programme*: this is being implemented, but there are constraints in terms of hunting i.e. access restrictions to volcanic areas where animals are to be found.
- *Mountain chicken recovery project*: This project includes Dominica and scientific partners in UK. The 4<sup>th</sup> release of mountain chickens will start from end of June – Laura Bambini has been recruited and is assisting Lloyd martin with this work
- *Environment Impact Assessments*: A new environment adviser is on staff concentrating on the management and monitoring of the EIA process
- *Legislation* – The new environmental legislation is being debated in parliament last week
- *Coral Cay* – there are a new set of manager sand trainees on island at the moment.

##### South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands

- *Waste/heavy fuel oil*: the 1<sup>st</sup> stages of feasibility assessment of how to dispose of waste and heavy oil at the South Georgia whaling stations is being undertaken ( 150 cubic meters in metal tanks). There is also an asbestos – disposal issue.
- *Rodent incursion plan*: the government is tightening on biosecurity
- *Developing science capacity*. South Georgia Government is actively encouraging science teams to go to South Georgia through developing a new science strategy and are going to be finding out what science groups see the need for in SG and how to integrate into government policy.

##### Falkland Islands

- *Climate change workshop* – This was held as part of a BEST funded project on climate change looking at terrestrial impacts on plant species in falklands – led by Rebecca Upson and Colin Clubbe at Kew – modelling results from climate models worked up from weather data – will impact across the board trying to get cc awareness built into future planning
- *BAP action planning workshop* – summary workshop on Ascension before fisheries workshop – looking at prioritising species action plans.

- *Biodiversity strategy review* – to be reviewed next year in alignment with final climate workshop with a view to climate proofing biodiversity strategy.
- *Review of the state of the environment report*- feed into biodiversity strategy review
- *Consultation on draft EIA legislation* – The draft EIA legislation is going through committees for comment and will go through to senior level of government - exco to cover.

#### Guernsey

- *Energy policy*: a new [energy policy](#) for the island for the island has just been released.
- *National Parks*: Guernsey designated national park end of last year and is currently undertaking a number of public consultations to have national park management plan for people to sign up to.
- *Biodiversity strategy*: the biodiversity strategy is currently being revised to meet commitments under the Aichi targets

#### Jersey

- *Grass snake Phd*: funding for grass snake Phd has been sourced. The snake is extremely endangered in Jersey – repeating small mammal survey – repeating 12 years later.
- *Action Planning*: Jersey is trying to move away from species action plan format as they currently have 72 species action plans. The focus will be more on habitat action plans and taxon action plans e.g. healthland invertebrate action plan as it is easier to deal with in a practical manner rather than 70 odd species action plans.

#### Isle of Man

- **Biodiversity strategy** – the new biodiversity strategy has received internal approval.
- **Action Plan**: IOM have started on the action planning process and are looking into what would work, in doing so have come to same conclusion to focus on habitat and taxon groups.
- **Indicators and monitoring**: IOM have someone looking into what to do practically in terms of biodiversity indicators. **Habitat change assessment** a remote sensing survey is underway to try and compare the two surveys and come up with practical and usable stats to monitor changes over the last 20 years
- **Invasives**: A marine invasives workshop was held with specialists from Scotland. off the back of that IOM is working towards producing invasives strategy. Invasives practical work is being undertaken e.g. ongoing rat eradication which will need 2 years of monitoring before it can be deemed successful.
- **Upland strategy** is currently under consultation.
- **Marine developments**: – A planning system for the marine environment is being developed. This has to happen quickly as IOM is considering a wind turbine proposal.
- **Small mammals survey** – IOM haven't done a proper survey and would like to know what impacts are –

**Action:** JP to update/feed methodology to IOM

#### DFID

- UK has issued an [update on implementation of its UKOT biodiversity strategy](#).

## **AOB**

It was agreed that meetings will be themed from now on, with each meeting focussing on one theme. Everyone to submit ideas for themes. Suggestions included:

- Strategies/action plans
- Invasives/eradications
- Reintroductions

The [RSPB Overseas Territories Stocktake](#) has been launched.