

## 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Group

Nobel House - London  
29<sup>th</sup> August 2014 1100-1300

### Attendees:

CH Clare Hamilton (Defra)  
TP Tara Pelembe (JNCC)  
HS Helen Stevens (FCO)  
RL Razi Latif (DfID)  
KW Kedell Worboys (UKOTA)  
JV Jacinta Vaz (Defra)  
SG Siôn Griffiths (FCO)  
AE Alan Evans (NOC)

### Apologies

NA Nicolas Andrews-Gauvain (MOD)  
TW Tony Weighell (JNCC)  
CC Colin Clubbe (Kew)  
DF Darren Freezor (DECC)  
RF Richard Findon (Defra)  
SA Steve Ashby (Defra)  
NC Nicola Clarke (Defra)  
AS Andy Stott (Defra)  
PN Paul Newbegin (MOD)

### By phone:

MB Mark Baxter (Defra)  
SC Sally Cunningham (Defra)  
SH Stacey Hughes (Defra)

### Actions from the last meeting

See attached action tracker.

#### 1. Strategy

a. *Update on where we are with the strategy document / work on cross-government approach* **Clare Hamilton / Siôn Griffiths**; Paper circulated.

There are four strands of work that are happening in parallel that need to be considered holistically and feed into an approach to cross-government working.

- (1) Defra gap-analysis: Defra (research and development) will shortly be letting a contract to look at the gaps in survey monitoring and research across the Overseas Territories
- (2) The JNCC\_NGO stakeholder meeting has produced a draft set of UK-NGO conservation priorities mapped against the Aichi Targets and environment charter commitments (paper circulated for reference)
  - a. It was highlighted that it was important to clarify that this was a set of UK-NGO priorities and not the priorities of any other group. HMG priorities are already set through the white paper, OT Biodiversity strategy, and JMC communiqué.
  - b. The next JNCC-NGO stakeholder meeting will be held on the 12th September 2014.
- (3) The JNCC OT target mapping project <sup>1</sup>– which aims to map OT targets (as outlined in the HMG policy and OT policy) to find areas of common interest.
- (4) The cross-government working paper that is being developed by OTBG.

#### 2. Funding

a. *Update on Darwin Plus* **Sally Cunningham**;

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<sup>1</sup> Previously referred to as the aichi target project.

Sally Cunningham gave a summary of the quantity and nature of the Darwin Plus bids that had been submitted for this round. It is planned that applicants will be notified of the outcomes in October with the announcement of the projects being made by Ministers at JMC in December. Projects will start in April 2015.

*b. Update on DCI and B4Life **Simon Smith (via) Siôn Griffiths / Razi Latif***

- CH to attend B4Life meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> September and will report back to the group
- In discussion it was agreed that it would be good to get European funding on the agenda of the Guadeloupe conference, and on the agenda of the UKOTCF/Gibraltar conference.
- It was noted that OTs can (and have already) access the Muhammed bin Zayed Species Conservation fund.

### 3. Research

There was discussion on making available the results of government funded studies on the OTs via a single repository. Rather than create a database (as searches are available for publications from these projects already) – it might be good to have an area where people are sign-posted to these project search sites.

*b. Update on the NOC OT marine synergies project **Tara Pelembe/ Alan Evans – presentation circulated***

Alan Evans gave a presentation outlining the work that NOC has undertaken on Overseas Territories data, and highlighted what NOC can offer.

*c. Update on Biodiversa3 bid **written report from Defra evidence team – paper circulated***

No further discussion on this topic.

*d. Forthcoming research publications **written report from Defra evidence team- paper circulated***

No further discussion on this topic.

### 4. Engagement

*a. JMC update **Siôn Griffiths/ Helen Stevens;***

Preparations for JMC are under way, it will be held in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December. The theme will be Security and prosperity. The environmental component will make the links between the environment and economic prosperity.

*b. Guadeloupe Conference. See attached documents. Next meeting of the Steering Committee will be on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept (Clare Hamilton will attend). Discussion of level of engagement from HMG / how to involve OTs **Clare Hamilton;***

OCTA will be a co-organiser of the Guadeloupe Conference and is sponsoring 42 participants –2 per OCT. Unfortunately the timing of the Guadeloupe Conference overlaps with the timing of the (previously arranged) Aruba OCT conference which focuses on renewable energy.

A draft structure for the Guadeloupe Conference has been prepared and the content of the event will include a presentation of the EC OCT environmental profiles. It has also been suggested that one of the sessions focuses on the Life Lionfish project. However there is still a lot of detail that needs to be decided around the conference agenda. This presents a challenge for deciding on HMG's level of engagement in the event.

The group (OTBG) had the following suggestions for inclusion in the conference programme:

- Funding
- 5 key themes in the communiqué

*c. JNCC Stakeholder Group. Update on discussions to date and what is planned **Tara Pelembe**;*

No further discussion as this agenda item was discussed under agenda item 1

*d. CIEEM Conference. See attached documents.*

The CIEEM Conference will be held in December and focuses on OT issues they have asked for speakers

## **5. AOB**

*a. UKOTCF Conference, 2015. Update **Clare Hamilton***

CH informed the group that the UKOTCF have received agreement from the Gibraltar Government to hold a conference from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

### **Other**

- The SIDS conference is going to be happening in Samoa from 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September.
- No updates on the Darkdale (St. Helena)
- **Lionfish project:** OCTA letter of support- the OCTA letter of support requires the member state to support the project – therefore KW requested feedback on HMG support for the initiative. OTBG agreed that they support the project in principle.
- **Aruba Green Conference** – OTs are aware of this conference – information has gone to all of the Territory Authorising Officers.