

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

Note of Meeting

**Note of the UK Overseas Territories and Crown
Dependencies
Steering Group face-to-face Workshop**

11th July 2015
Garrison library
Gibraltar.

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



Overseas Territories Training and Research Steering group
Face to face workshop
Gibraltar 11th July 2015.

1. Overview and background

- The programme and attendance list for the meeting are available in a separate document¹. The workshop presentations are also available online.
- The Overseas Territories Training and Research Group was created in January 2009 to provide a mechanism for identifying and addressing Overseas Territories Training and Research needs.
- The group is made up of a representative from each Overseas Territories Government that has been nominated by the Government.
- JNCC has co-ordinated the group since its inception, and held quarterly meetings to discuss ideas, needs, and share experiences. The group has developed 2 work plans. The first one ran from 2010 -2012 and the second from 2012 – 2015. These work plans are developed at face-to-face meetings of the group which are held every 2 years.
- It was therefore timely for us to hold a face-to-face meeting this year, given that a new workplan needs to be developed, and given that the last meeting was held over 2 years ago at Royal Botanical Gardens Kew.
- JNCC is a statutory body with a remit to provide scientific advice to UK government. Our primary links are therefore with government bodies. However we are committed to also working in partnership with NGOs and research institutions, when appropriate. In this context we have liaised closely with the UKOTCF to host this workshop before their conference, so that we can support the participation of OTTSG members at the Government of Gibraltar and UKOTCF organised conference which follows.
- The programme of the day, was developed through the regular OTTRSG quarterly meetings, the last one in April focussed solely on the programme for the event. So we agreed to:
 - focus on some of the key areas that we have worked together on over the last year or so i.e. data management, green economy and environmental mainstreaming. This should consolidate some of the ideas, and we will share examples of what has and hasn't worked.

¹ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/11th%20July%20OTTTRSG%20workshop%20programme%20%20FINAL.pdf>

- Consult on some key areas of OT work that have been discussed with UK organisations.
 - Review the group and the work plan.
- This short paper is a brief note of the meeting, picking up on key discussion points that emerged during the workshop in addition to the presentations that were made.

2. Feedback on consultation topics:

2.1 Defra gap analysis

- The Defra gap analysis list is broad and covers a lot of topics – a more tightly prioritised list would mean it would be easier to demonstrate a focus.
- The Steering group face-to-face meeting and the Gibraltar conference are good events to facilitate education and awareness. It would be good to look at awareness in UK as well as UKOTs. e.g. through the BBC.

2.2 Feedback on JNCC_NGO areas of common interest

- Relationships with NGO's. NGO's can't set government priorities, OT governments set their own priorities.
- Darwin plus project funding demonstrates good practice in terms of process and inclusion of OT governments.
- It would be good to turn around the concept of NGOs asking UKOTs for their priorities to focus instead on NGO's clearly identifying what they have to offer UKOTs in terms of expertise and skills to deliver.

3. OTTRSG – where we are at and plans focus/priorities for the future.

- The group agreed that its continuation and sharing of specific themes in quarterly meetings was a good way forward. It could also be a platform for consultations as required.
- Themes for the group to discuss in the future:
 - Coastal management
 - Hydrodynamics
 - Biosecurity

Annex 1: Useful resources identified in discussions

- Free invertebrate identification service for UKOTs - chris.malumphy@fera.gsi.gov.uk
- Government of Gibraltar 'thinking green' website <http://thinkinggreen.gov.gi/> (includes first live underwater camera in Europe)