

# UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Training and Research Programme

Work plan 2012-2015

## UK OT and CD Training and Research Work Plan 2012-2015

February 2012

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# Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Training and Research Programme

Work Plan April 2012 – March 2015



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Prepared by the OT and CD Research and Training Steering Group  
at OT and CD SG Review meeting in January 2012

The UK Overseas Territories (OTs) and Crown Dependencies (CDs) need to address a range of baseline survey, monitoring and research issues in conservation, ranging from the protection of native biodiversity and their habitats to the control of invasive species and adaptation to climate change impacts. However, due to their relatively small populations, they often don't have a wide enough range of skills, expertise and time to address these issues on their own. Although there are some research initiatives on individual OTs and CDs, there are no cross territory co-ordinated programmes which provide training in order to systematically address research gaps. In addition, access to relevant expertise between and outside the OTs and CDs can be difficult in the absence of existing links. As a result, conservation issues are often addressed piecemeal, and there is limited opportunity to share best practice between OTs and CDs.

The aim of this programme is to address these issues through the following 6 broad objectives:

1. Training and capacity building for individuals and organisations in the OTs and CDs.
2. Access to external research and advisory expertise.
3. Activities to enhance knowledge transfer among OTs and CDs and wider (e.g. regional).
4. Collaboration with education institutions on tertiary-level training.
5. Implementation of OT and CD research and strategic priorities
6. Maximising funding opportunities for the OTs and CDs

More details on each objective follows. For more information on the UK OT and CD Training and Research Programme activities to date see <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=5130>

This document lays out the programme of work for the OT and CD Training and Research Programme Steering Group (SG) to progress the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Research and Training Programme.

Actions are derived from a Steering Group workshop held in January 2012. Updates on actions are given by SG members at 4 monthly intervals to coincide with quarterly meetings.

### **Steering Group**

The Steering Group is comprised of officially nominated representatives from Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

Details of the members can be found on the JNCC website (currently in process of update) here:

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/UKOTSGMemberslistApril2010.pdf>

## Objective 1: Training and capacity building for individuals and organisations in the OTs and CDs

Key output	Priority	Activity	Comments	Action/Responsibility	Cost	Timing
1.1 Scholarships for OT and CD BSc, MSc and PhD	High	1.1.1 Identify funding and offer scholarships for BSc, MSc and PhD	Scholarships especially needed at MSc and PhD level. Ltd funding opp but consider funding part of the studies e.g. thesis, research project		c £15,000-£20,000 pa	Ongoing
1.2 Short term training on specific skills or issues	High	1.2.1 Seek out and provide information on short course opportunities	Circulate information about courses of relevance and add links to JNCC website. Share information on past course attended via evaluation forms on Huddle	JNCC		Ongoing
		1.2.2 Support short course training on request, funding permitting	First come first served basis	JNCC	c£10,000 pa	Ongoing
1.3 Improved environmental awareness in schools	Medium	1.3.1 Develop mechanism for supporting school environmental education activities	Explore possibility of extending Blue Turtle Award programme to schools, working with OT and CD Environment Depts.	JNCC to prepare and circulate concept note for further discussion		Set up by Sept 2012
1.4 Annual workshop for OT and CD students in the UK	High	1.4.1 Repeat Sept 2012 UKOTA/Kew-led workshop (or similar activity) annually to build environmental awareness and provide opportunities for networking	CDs are not covered in Sept 2012 workshop because they are not eligible for UKOTA support; need to overcome this constraint in the future	JNCC/Kew		Annually Sept 2013

## Objective 2: Access to external research and advisory expertise

Key output	Priority	Activity	Comments	Action/ Responsibility	Cost	Timing
2.1 Priority research needs in OTs and CDs addressed by UK graduate students	?	2.1.1 Gather information on OT/CD needs and seek interested (Reading) students	Activity included in MoU with University of Reading (2011). May be worth exploring other outlets	UReading (MoU) – review outputs for 2012 onwards		Review MoU by April 2012
2.2 Internships for OT and CD students studying in the UK	?	2.2.1 Identify and advertise internship opportunities	Activity included in MoU with University of Reading.	UReading (MoU) – review outputs for 2012 onwards		Review MoU by April 2012
2.3 UK research facilities and expertise provided to OT and CD researchers	Medium	2.3.1. Link interested researchers to the resources they require.	Activity included in MoU with University of Reading. JNCC, Fera and Kew also have expertise and resources to share;	UReading (MoU), JNCC to circulate list of areas of in-house expertise that could be made available		Review MoU by April 2012
		2.3.2 Explore special need for marine and fisheries conservation and other issues as they arise		Anguilla, Bermuda, TCI		?
2.4 Communication of opportunities for accessing external expertise	?	2.4.1 Develop websites to communicate opportunities and other relevant information.		UReading (MoU), JNCC, NNS Secretariat etc		ongoing
	High	2.4.2 Provide brief summary of opportunities to quarterly SG meetings		UReading (MoU)/JNCC		April, July, Oct, Jan

### Objective 3: Activities to enhance knowledge transfer among OTs and CDs and wider (e.g. regional)

Key output	Priority	Activity	Comments	Action/ Responsibility	Cost	Timing
3.1 Best practices shared	High	3.1.1. Share learning on EIA approaches and requirements	OTs and CDs have much to share and would gain by exchanging experience but need further discussion to identify the most effective mechanism.	JNCC facilitate working group to take this forward and feedback to quarterly SG meetings		Working group to be set up by Sept 2012
3.2 Research conference for OTs and CDs	Medium	3.2.1 Seek efficient, low-cost opportunity to bring together OT and CD researchers	UKOTCF triennial conference was best option, but will not take place in 2012 for lack of funding.	SG to query FCO/DFID on decision to stop funding for UKOTCF conference and explore other options with e.g., OT Biodiversity Group		April 2012
3.3 Information dissemination on OT and CD non-native species made available	Low	3.3.1 Create web pages for each OT and CD on Non Native Species Secretariat website	Only Bermuda has provided information so far.	JNCC to see if GIS list can be reformatted for NNSS website pages & discuss options with NNSS for uploading information to web pages; JNCC (EM) to circulate link and editing information		July 2012

3.4 Exchange of skills		?	Unclear how feasible this is, given already heavy workloads, but could be worth considering on a case to case basis			
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## Objective 4: Collaboration with education institutions on tertiary-level training

Key output	Priority	Activity	Comments	Action/ Responsibility	Cost	Timing
<b>4.1</b> Tertiary level training on priority subjects in and for the OTs and CDs	Medium	<b>4.1.1</b> Develop and offer module on biodiversity economic valuation in conjunction with appropriate tertiary education partners	Valuation skills needed in most OTs and CDs but need to explore options for designing and offering the course, including assessing what is already available.	SG to establish working group to further develop ideas		Develop module to be run by July 2013
<b>4.2</b> Environmental education training for primary and secondary school teachers	Low	<b>4.2.1</b> ?	Requires further consideration. Options include teacher exchanges between OTs/CDs to learn from what others are doing; courses or modules delivered through local colleges, distance learning courses, e.g., through Univ of West Indies	Need to refine this activity and actions in future SG meeting		?

## Objective 5: Implementation of OT and CD research and strategic priorities

Key output	Priority	Activity	Comments	Action/ Responsibility	Cost	Timing
5.1 Identification of current research and strategic priorities	High	5.1.2 OTs/CDs define strategic/research priorities and submit to JNCC on annual basis based on template provided by JNCC	JNCC to circulate template for strategic research priorities and post information on website	SG reps, JNCC		April 2012
5.2 Financial support for research and strategic priorities	High	5.2.1 JNCC provide contribution contracts (up to £3,000) in response to proposals from OTs/CDs		JNCC	c£9,000 p.a.	April/Sept
	High	5.2.2 JNCC provide funding for priority projects with any end of year underspend (possibly >£3k projects)	Depending on amount of underspend available, these contracts can be for more than the £3,000	JNCC		

## Objective 6: Maximising funding opportunities for the OTs and CDs

Key output	Priority	Activity	Comments	Action/ Responsibility	Cost	Timing
6.1 Long-term funding	High	6.1.1 Develop 3 year funding proposal bringing together main priorities from the OTs/CDs		SG with JNCC		End March 2012??
		6.1.2 Assess and review after 12 months	Possibility for another face-to-face meeting with aim of reviewing progress in one year	SG with JNCC		Jan 2012
6.2 Support for funding applications	High	6.2 Establish timeline for key applications, establish dates for submissions and find out whether support is required/available to support proposals		JNCC		July 2012