



Meeting 1

**JNCC-NGO Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Group**

8<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**To find more about JNCC's OT and CD programme visit:**

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4079>

## JNCC's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Programme

### Paper 1 for the JNCC-NGO group meeting on 8 January 2014

#### 1. What is JNCC?

- 1.1. JNCC is the public body that advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation. Originally established under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, JNCC was reconstituted by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 .
- 1.2. JNCC is led by the Joint Committee, which brings together members from the nature conservation bodies for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and independent members appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under an independent Chair.
- 1.3. Support is provided to the Committee by a company set up and controlled by the Committee solely for that purpose. The company employs around 150 people. They bring together scientific and technical expertise, extensive knowledge of policy at global, European and national levels and skills in working with other organisations. Our staff are mostly based in offices in Peterborough and Aberdeen.

#### 2. Context for JNCC's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Programme

- 2.1. The overall framework for HMG's input into Overseas Territories is the 2012 Overseas Territories White Paper<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.2. The Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy<sup>2</sup> provides the strategic direction for cross-departmental input into biodiversity in the UK's Overseas Territories, which includes an approach to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).
- 2.3. JNCC's business plan for 2013/14 outlines JNCC's vision, mission and strategic goals<sup>3</sup>, giving the organisational context for the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies programme. Within the business plan, JNCC has a priority performance measure to:

*Support implementation of the UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy by helping Territories to develop approaches to environmental mainstreaming and green economy*

#### 3. JNCC's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Programme

- 3.1. Three staff within JNCC work full-time on the OT and CD programme. One of these officers is based on the Falkland Islands. Other JNCC staff provide support and input as required. In addition to staff costs, for 2013/14 the programme has a core budget of £75,000.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-overseas-territories>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/united-kingdom-overseas-territories-biodiversity-strategy>

<sup>3</sup> [http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/2013\\_businessplan13-14.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/2013_businessplan13-14.pdf)

- 3.2. Annex 1 outlines the key work areas and activities undertaken by the JNCC OT and CD Programme for 2013. The 'work areas' are not mutually exclusive as a number of activities cut across several of the work areas even though, for the purposes of the table, they appear under only one.
- 3.3. In summary:
- i. seven 'on the ground' projects were run;
  - ii. thirteen OT/CD staff were funded to attend conferences/workshops or training courses;
  - iii. two secondments were supported;
  - iv. eight new publications were completed and made available via the JNCC website;
  - v. five technical workshops were held (four of which were held in OTs);
  - vi. regular advice and support was given to HMG, OT and CD governments on request.
- 3.4. JNCC also provides the secretariat for the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Group (OTBG) and the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Research and Training Steering Group (OTCDRTSG)

#### **4. Communication and stakeholder engagement**

- 4.1. JNCC has a number of existing mechanisms for engaging with the wide range of stakeholders involved in work in the OTs and CDs. In addition to these key formal mechanisms, there are a large number of informal meetings, contacts and relationships that have been developed that facilitate and enhance the work carried out in the UKOTs.
- 4.2. The main formal mechanism for linking with UK government departments is the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Group (OTBG) for which JNCC provides the secretariat.
- 4.3. The main formal mechanisms for linking with the governments of the Overseas Territories is the OT/CD Research and Training Steering Group (OTCDRTSG) and the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA)<sup>4</sup>.
- 4.4. The key mechanism for linking with the wider stakeholder network including Non-Governmental Organisations is the quarterly JNCC OT and CD newsletter and the website.
- 4.5. These are complemented by theme- or territory-specific projects and workshops.
- 4.6. For international MEA reporting that JNCC leads on (on behalf of UK government), JNCC co-ordinates OT and CD input. This line of communication is government to government.

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<sup>4</sup> Note: UKOTA also sit on OTBG and OTCDRTSG

- 4.7. JNCC connects to the Crown Dependencies through the OT and CD research and training steering group.
- 4.8. A JNCC/NGO group is being initiated. The first meeting will take place on 8 January 2014.

**5. Additional information**

- 5.1. The JNCC website <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4079> provides detail on many of the points referred to here. Project documents, reports, publications etc are all available for download.
- 5.2. A more detailed document on the OT and CD programme 2013 with a forward look for 2014 will be made available at the meeting on the 8 January 2014.
- 5.3. Contact points within the OT and CD Team are:

Dr Tony Weighell: OT and CD Programme manager.  
[Tony.Weighell@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:Tony.Weighell@jncc.gov.uk)

Tara Pelembe: OT Senior Adviser: [Tara.Pelembe@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:Tara.Pelembe@jncc.gov.uk)

Anne Saunders: Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) Co-ordinator and South Atlantic OT officer:  
[Anne.Saunders@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:Anne.Saunders@jncc.gov.uk)

Annex 1. JNCC OT and CD programme 2013

Work area	Activities	Location	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13
Technical workshops	GIS specialist workshop	Gibraltar												
	Lionfish response strategy workshop 1	Anguilla												
	Lionfish workshop 2	Cayman												
	Marine Protected Areas	Cross OT												
	Integrating terrestrial habitat mapping into GIS	Anguilla												
Environmental mainstreaming	Green economy workshop	Anguilla												
Support to HMG and MEAs	OTBG Meeting	UK (London)												
	OT Biodiversity Strategy Review meeting	UK (Kew)												
	MEA reporting	All												
	CITES Scientific Authority for Falklands and British Indian Ocean Territory	Falklands, BIOT												
	ACAP (1 officer)	Falklands, St Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia												
	Assessment of the Darwin Plus Funding applications	ALL												
Capacity building	Secondment from Bermuda to JNCC (Dr Samia Sarkis)	JNCC												
	Secondment from JNCC to St Helena (Tara Pelembe)	St Helena												
	International fisheries enforcement conference (2 participants)	Anguilla												
	Protected Areas Monitoring workshop (2 participants)	St Helena												
	3rd International whale shark conference (1 participant)	St Helena												
	One-to-One herbarium training at Kew (1 person)	Falklands												
	Fisheries Science and marine survey training (1 person)	St Helena												
	Green Diplomacy online training (5 people)	Ascension												
	Executive summer school of the global environment policy programme (1 person)	Anguilla												

Work area	Activities	Location	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13
Projects	River Harbour Islands Rat eradication project	Falklands												
	Algal Biodiversity of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia project extension	Falklands, South Georgia												
	Status and conservation of the grass snake and slow worm in Jersey PhD	Jersey												
	Developing propagation techniques for globally threatened ferns on St Helena	St Helena												
	Estimation of the breeding success of Eleonora's falcon ( <i>Falco eleonora</i> ) in Cyprus	SBA Cyprus												
	Developing an information management system across the South Atlantic	Falklands, St Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia												
	Mapping St Helena's marine biodiversity to create a marine management plan (Darwin)	St Helena												
Communications and stakeholder engagement	Quarterly OT and CD news bulletin	Cross OT and UK												
	Website	Cross OT and UK												
	Nature News	Cross OT and UK												
	OTCD Research and Training Steering group meeting	UK/remote												
Publications	Review of progress on implementation of the UK biodiversity strategy	UK (Kew)												
	Generic guide for small islands on the implications of signing up to the CBD	website												
	Lionfish Response strategy workshop 1 report	website												
	Lionfish Response strategy workshop 2 report: Tools to implement research priorities and control measures	website												
	Gibraltar GIS specialist workshop Report	website												
	Recent conservation achievements of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and their contributions to national Aichi Biodiversity targets	website												
	Anguilla Green Economy Project Report	website												
	MPA workshop report	website												