

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

26th February 2014

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

Note of meeting

Date	25 th November 2013
Time	14:00 GMT
Location	remote
Chair	Tara Pelembe

Attendees

Number of people (15)
Number of OTs/CDs (11)

Name	OT/CD Government
Nicola Weber	Ascension Island
Mervin Hastings	British Virgin Islands
Nick Rendell	Falkland Islands
Liz Charter	Isle of Man
John Pinel	Jersey
Stephen Warr	Gibraltar
Andrew McCutcheon	Guernsey
Stephen Mendes	Montserrat
Ben Samson	St. Helena
Trevor Glass	Tristan da Cunha
Tara Pelembe	JNCC (UK)
Clare Hamilton and Tasha Chick	Defra (UK)

(1) Improving knowledge exchange and communication on research issues by having an annual exchange of information – Clare Hamilton,

This would include stakeholders the ideas from which could be fed back into the OTRTSG Feedback/discussion included the following points:

- formalising some way of information exchange on projects that have been going on would be a good way forward;
- sharing what projects and work programmes are for the year and seeing how they synch with the other OTs is a good idea as this could also help to create synergies;
- HMG needs to be a bit more strategic about when getting people over from the OTs so only need one trip instead of many (i.e. really do need to have an HMG programme of workshops (e.g. with a summer school of a week when we deliver it all);
- exchange of information has to be structured with set aims / objectives and some preparatory work ahead of the meeting;
- important to have a centralised database of information all can access.

(2) MEA reporting: CBD, CMS and Ramsa

CBD update: Thank you to everyone who inputted into the process. The consultation is finished and JNCC staff member Vicky Morgan is drawing together results. It is anticipated the report will be submitted to the secretariat at the end of March.

CMS update (James Williams): CMS reporting is currently in the consultation phase with UKOTs. Thank you to everyone for responses.

Ramsar update (Ant Maddock): Request for input into ramsar report including updates on individual ramsar sites will be circulated.

(3) GIS and data management in OTs and CDS – a strategy? (TP)

Discussion was around whether or not, as a follow up to the OT GIS meeting hosted by Gibraltar, a cross OT/CD Data management strategy was required.

Key points from discussion included:

- The South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) is developing an information management system for the South Atlantic where all data will be able to be accessed from a single portal. Spatial data will also be available – QGIS (free GIS software) is being used. There will be a public portal. St. Helena will have a project officer based on island. A project manager is based in the Falklands. Training has been undertaken in the Falklands, Ascension and St. Helena. A regional approach seems to work, but a cross-OT/global centre would be too much.
- A centralised data-base for storing information is good. In the BVI there is a central GIS hub for government users. Sharing data might be an issue. Software used is ESRI.
- Sharing data internally is complex enough. Sharing externally is likely to be a step too far. In the Crown Dependencies, the Biological Recording Centres are the focal points for data.

Decision: It was agreed that at this stage a cross-OT strategy would not be required/useful at this stage.

(4) Research Priorities – do we need an annual statement on these

Previously research priorities were submitted annually. Do the group still think that this is required? Key points raised in the discussion included:

It is useful and interesting to understand what other OTs and CDs are prioritising, and is useful. It might be simpler to flag up priorities from OT/CD annual business plans? It is useful but not a vitally important aspect of work. The process needs to be flexible and be able to be reviewed

There are existing planning and prioritisation systems in territory e.g.:

- In Montserrat priorities are tied to strategic planning – and start in April – they are set for a 4 year period. Currently in Montserrat the focus is invasive species management and amphibian work.
- In St. Helena there is a National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) that provides a road map for a 3 year period.
- Ascension is developing a biodiversity action plan.

Decision: This is a useful exercise, but should build on existing in-territory prioritisation processes.

(5) South Atlantic Regional Workshop in Ascension:

Update only: Ascension will be hosting a regional workshop on Fisheries and MPA's in June. Looking at marine spatial planning, policy, legislation and compliance and fisheries science including what data is needed and how it should be collected. Best practice within the region will be shared and peer-review of proposed new/improved systems will be undertaken.

(6) Fera Pest identification service

Update: The Fera Pest identification service is available for free for Overseas Territories.

(7) UKOTs biodiversity Monitoring workshop.

Update: University College London is organising a workshop on biodiversity monitoring in the UKOTs.

(8) AOB

Update: In Guernsey the board have agreed a draft biodiversity strategy to form the basis for consultation. Work on marine spatial planning is also progressing – there are a number of sub-groups including one on data collection and legal aspects being planning and territorial limits.

(9) Date of next meeting

Meetings are every quarter: next one will be in three months: 26th May 2014.