



Meeting 4

JNCC-NGO Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Group

15th December 2015

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

Paper 2014/23: UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Data Access Project

Type of Paper: Discussion

1. Background and context

- 1.1. The UKOT Biodiversity data access project concept was presented at the last JNCC/NGO meeting in August. This paper provides an update on progress of implementing this project.
- 1.2. The project concept is to provide better awareness of, and access to, existing OT biodiversity data.

2. Stakeholder consultation

- 2.1. A number of stakeholder groups have been presented with the draft project concept. Stakeholder buy-in and support is fundamental to the success of the project.
- 2.2. **UK-based organisations that hold UKOT data:** at least 45 organisations based in the UK/Internationally hold UKOT data and we have engaged with these organisations, 19 of whom attended a web-meeting to discuss the concept. There was support for the initiative, and discussions included consideration of the requirement for long-term sustainability of any platform used. Feedback on the draft paper has also been received and will be fed into the next iteration of the paper. A follow-up meeting will be held with the group early next year.
- 2.3. In addition one-to-one meetings were/will be held with:
 - i. Natural History Museum – 11th December 2014.
 - ii. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) – 5th December 2014.
- 2.4. **UK Overseas Territories Governments:** The concept was presented to the Overseas Territories Training and Research Steering Group at their recent web meeting. Again there was support for the initiative, with points raised around the requirement for data share agreements, and management of confidentiality and permissions to be built into any system. In addition a meeting with UKOTA is being arranged.

3. Update on GBIF

- 3.1. The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is currently being used as a platform for sharing data for a number of organisations that hold OT data – this includes British Antarctic Survey (BAS) who publish data on South Georgia, British Antarctic Territory and other South Atlantic Overseas Territories and University of Montana who publish data on the Caribbean Overseas Territories.
- 3.2. JNCC gave a presentation at the 2014 GBIF public symposium, meeting in New Delhi in September¹ in collaboration with RSPB and the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) on data management in the UKOTs and the opportunities/challenges of using GBIF as a platform for sharing OT data.

¹ <http://www.gbif.org/resources/10460>

- 3.3. The NBN (National Biodiversity Network) gateway is the global node for GBIF and the possibility of other OT data management facilities such as the South Atlantic Environment Research Centre (SAERI) becoming GBIF nodes is being explored.
- 3.4. GBIF is currently experiencing financial difficulties but there are strong indications that it has sufficient funding to continue functioning and to provide the platform we need for sharing OT data. The UK look most likely to stay involved but through a much reduced subscription.

4. Discussion

- 4.1. We welcome and value the input of NGOs into this project, their attendance at the web-meetings and the discussions and support we have from the one-to-one meetings held with the RSPB technical team. It would be useful for this group to discuss and endorse the approach.
- 4.2. In addition to wider consultation, the next steps will be to work towards uploading existing datasets onto the GBIF portal (where this hasn't already been done). RSPB have agreed to trial this process with the UKOT species lists that they have recently compiled. It would be useful if other group members could do the same.