



Meeting 4

JNCC-NGO Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Group

15th December 2015

To find more about JNCC's OT and CD programme visit:
<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4079>

Paper 2014/22: Mapping UK organisations' targets for the Overseas Territories

Type of paper: discussion

1. Background and context

- 1.1. The September meeting of the JNCC/NGO Overseas Territories Group discussed NGO proposals for conservation priorities in the OTs, collated by UKOTCF and mapped against the Aichi 2020 biodiversity targets. The present paper builds on this foundation and includes targets and priorities from a wider range of UK-based organisations, mainly from government. The information is contained in the accompanying spreadsheet.
- 1.2. One purpose of the spreadsheet is to stimulate a discussion on priorities shared by JNCC and NGOs.

2. Stakeholder consultation

- 2.1. UK government bodies and some academic institutions who are active in the UKOTs were approached to provide targets and priorities to feed into the mapping process. There was some feedback, but it wasn't comprehensive. General points made included:
 - i. The resultant 'mapping' spreadsheet is cumbersome and difficult to use.
 - ii. A number of organisations have a 'project-based' approach to OT work, and therefore don't have a comprehensive set of strategic targets.
- 2.2. UK government policies and JNCC targets have been added to the accompanying spreadsheet.
- 2.3. We have continued to use the Aichi targets as the basic structure for the mapping exercise. However, it is not always straightforward to assign an organisation's targets/priorities to a specific Aichi target. Some work could justifiably be mapped against more than one of the Aichi targets, in some cases there is no corresponding Aichi target, and in some cases work can only be mapped to an Aichi strategic goal rather than a target.
- 2.4. A small number of NGO priorities contained in the paper to the September meeting of the JNCC/NGO Overseas Territories Group have been reassigned to a different Aichi target.

3. Linking to OT-based targets

- 3.1. A gap in the 'mapping' process has been the linking of the targets of UK-based organisations to OT-based targets. Current Darwin Projects in Ascension and the Falklands that are looking at biodiversity action plans present a good opportunity to consider whether we can develop a system to combine the two.
- 3.2. JNCC staff have held a number of discussions with Ascension and Falklands to see if it is possible to add the UK-based targets to the e-systems that they are developing for managing their OT-based targets. Other OTs and CDs have expressed an interest in using/duplicating the system that the South Atlantic OTs are

developing, which would make it more widely applicable, and would map a larger number of territory-based targets to UK ones.

- 3.3. In light of the above, the spreadsheet has not yet been developed into something that is more user-friendly, as we are waiting on the results of the discussions with Ascension and the Falklands which, if feasible, would create a more useful and interactive system for mapping targets and finding opportunities for collaboration and synergy.

4. Discussion – possible shared JNCC/NGO priorities

- 4.1. An initial analysis of the mapping spreadsheet suggests a number of areas where JNCC and NGO priorities coincide and where there is potential for collaboration. The following suggestions are not intended to be comprehensive but to provide a starting point for discussion.
- 4.2. There is a clear convergence of NGO and JNCC interests around **biodiversity evidence**. This is a core work area for JNCC, and there is potential to apply many of the approaches used in the UK to the Overseas Territories.
- i. JNCC and NGOs are already collaborating on a data access project (see paper 2014/23 for this meeting).
 - ii. There is potential for collaboration around some of the priorities suggested by NGOs, e.g. improving knowledge of the conservation status of habitats and species in the OTs, and developing monitoring programmes.
 - iii. In some territories there may be scope to promote the development of citizen science as a tool for developing an evidence base (as well as awareness raising and capacity building). For example, the online recording system – iSpot, has already started to work with the Falklands Islands government.
 - iv. New technologies, such as remote sensing, could be applied to the Overseas Territories, learning from experience in the UK and elsewhere.
- 4.3. Many organisations identified priorities and targets relating to **marine conservation**, spread across several different Aichi targets. JNCC has considerable expertise in this area. Potential areas for further work might include:
- i. Sustainable management of the marine environment with a particular focus on fisheries and coral reefs.
 - ii. Identification and management of marine protected areas.
- 4.4. **Invasive alien species** were identified as a priority/target by a large number of organisations. This is a broad theme. “On the ground” action, e.g. to control or eradicate invasive species, is not an area of JNCC competence, but there may be scope for collaboration on other aspects, such as collating evidence and developing strategies. The UK has also been identified by the European Union as leading the way on risk assessment models and governance structures for implementing new EU regulations on invasive alien species. This experience might also be useful to Overseas Territories.

- 4.5. Although not specifically flagged as a priority by NGOs there may be scope for collaboration in relation to **financial support** for nature conservation in the OTs. In particular, there is potential to develop multi-partner funding bids, perhaps including government bodies and/or academic institutions.
- 4.6. It is worth noting that there are several Aichi targets where organisations have identified no or very few corresponding priorities/targets, e.g. renewable energy, ecosystem services and genetic diversity.

5. Next steps

- 5.1. Once JNCC and NGOs have identified some potential shared priorities we can consider a) how to take forward specific project suggestions and b) how to work towards a shared framework of priorities to inform Britain-based bodies support for conservation in the Overseas Territories. An essential step will be to involve governments – both in the UK and in the Territories themselves.
- 5.2. Further work will also be needed on the mapping spreadsheet, to add information from more organisations and to make it more user-friendly.