

The United Kingdom Overseas Territories

The Department of Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)



What the UK Government Provides



- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).
- Department for International Development (DfID).
- Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC).
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Key Defra agencies:

- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).
- Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera).
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas).



The Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy

- Biodiversity in the UK OTs is globally significant.
- Defra leads on developing and implementing a biodiversity strategy with the UKOTs.
- Defra is starting to look elaborating an implementation plan for the strategy.
- This must be with the express involvement of the Territories themselves.

What funding do we provide to support biodiversity conservation in the Territories?



- The Darwin Initiative.
- Directed research and development.
- Defra's Flagship Species Fund.
- The Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP).
- Discrete initiatives.
- BEST

The Environment in the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories: UK Government and Civil Society Support

- Recommendations made by the Government's National Security Council in 2011.
- Defra paper published on Monday 16th January and is available online: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2012/01/16/pb13686-overseas-environment/>
- Outlines the array of environmental issues in the Territories and the advice and support which is available to the Territories from Defra, its Agencies and Civil Society on these issues.
- Includes two overarching objectives for the environment that align with wider Government objectives for the UKOTs , underpinned by priorities for action, which are then further supported by ten broad commitments.
- White Paper due to be published in Spring 2012.

Defra Paper – Ten Commitments

- We will provide technical and policy advice to the UKOTs in our areas of competence.
- We are dedicated to ensuring that key research in the UKOTs is delivered
- We will continue to ensure that UKOT biodiversity strategy is implemented and the OTBG will oversee this process, including where appropriate the strategy's further elaboration into an implementation plan.

Defra Paper – Ten Commitments

- We will ensure that Darwin Initiative projects within the UKOTs are considered appropriately within the scheme.
- We are committed to working with partners across government, and with non-governmental organisations, to ensure that work delivered in the UKOTs is co-ordinated and the expertise of partnership organisation is utilised.
- We will continue to represent the needs and concerns of the Territories at regional and international meetings.

Defra Paper – Ten Commitments

- We will continue providing advice and financial support in meeting the demands of key international agreements.
- We are committed to pursuing the extension of external sources of funding to the UKOTs for environmental issues.
- We will continue to provide active fora for UKOTs to engage with UK officials on environmental issues.
- We will continue to provide advice on the extension of our ratification of MEAs to the UKOTs

Thank you for listening.

Questions?