

# UK Overseas Territories Data access and Management

**Steve Wilkinson - JNCC**

# Presentation

- Why is this important?
- What sorts of data would be useful?
- Species data and GBIF – how does it help?
- Getting broader engagement and promotion
- What's happening in OTs
- Next steps



# Why should we do something?

- Policy – one of five strategic priorities:
  - “*obtaining data on the location and status of biodiversity interests and the human activities affecting biodiversity to inform the preparation of policies and management plans*”
- Research – potentially unique / interesting areas to support research
- Altruism!



## What types of data?

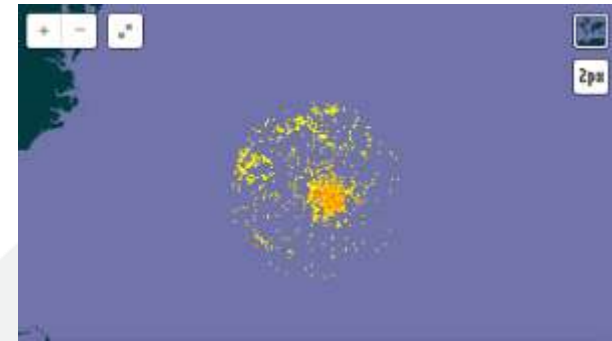
- Includes:
  - Records of species occurrence (including museum specimens)
  - Physical environment (depth, geology, topography etc)
  - Habitat maps
  - Range of other information on activities and land use
  - Non-spatial data – species lists, species status, information on species, how to identify etc

## Species data

- Probably the most developed area and a clear strategy
- GBIF – established in 2001 under OECD
- In response to:
  - acknowledgement of the vast amount of species data
  - its distributed nature and
  - the value of bringing it together (“economic and quality of life”)
- Developed a set of standards and tools
- Now over half a billion species observations from 662 different publishers

## GBIF - what is available?

- Almost **half a million species observations** for the Overseas Territories
- This is impressive!
- About 20% provided by the UK (though only 3% if South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are excluded)
- GBIF demo – [Turks and Caicos](#)



## Publishing species data

- GBIF is the best strategy for publishing species data
- Standards are agreed and published (Darwin Core)
- Allows publishing records and species lists
- There are also tools to publish – own implementation or a central one
- There are still problems to tackle. E.g.:
  - Standardising taxonomy
  - Dealing with quality
- These are issues that GBIF are addressing

## Other sorts of data

- Species data / information are one class but there are others:
  - Physical environment
  - Habitats
  - Activities and pressures
- Broader scale collaboration more limited here (specific domains)
- A useful starting point would be cataloguing what exists
- Suggest using the SAERI metadata catalogue (based ISO19115)



# Getting broader engagement



- These OTs are geographically distant from the UK and others will have data and knowledge
- Need to think about a wider engagement strategy here to highlight:
  - What we know
  - What the gaps are
  - How to engage with this
- Some ideas

# Atlas of Living Australia

- System created by Australia - \$50 million
- Aims to provide a much more friendly presentation of the data (images, associated data etc)
- Australia are now looking at packaging to allow deployment elsewhere
- Lead architect is in the UK this year (GBIF funded)
- NBN Trust are trying to collate funds to establish a UK implementation
- This could be a very useful platform for broader engagement around OTs

## Atlas of OT's?

- Could establish an implementation of Atlas for the OT's
- That would have a cost:
  - Hosting
  - Development
  - Engagement / contribution



# Whats happening in OTs.

- South Atlantic – FCO Funded, JNCC- managed - Territory specific data management systems being developed, co-ordinated regionally by SAERI (Pauls presentation)
- Other Overseas Territories – have/are developing territory specific data management systems.



## OT-based data management systems

- Always:
  - Awareness of and compliance with research permitting systems
  - Best practice for data repatriation
- Where required
  - Technical and resource support

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT  
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Department of Environment  
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### APPLICATION to CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC STUDY in the CAYMAN ISLANDS

Once date-stamped by the Department of Environment, this proposal constitutes an agreement between the following Parties:

**Department of Environment**  
(on behalf of Cayman Islands Government, and the People of the Cayman Islands)

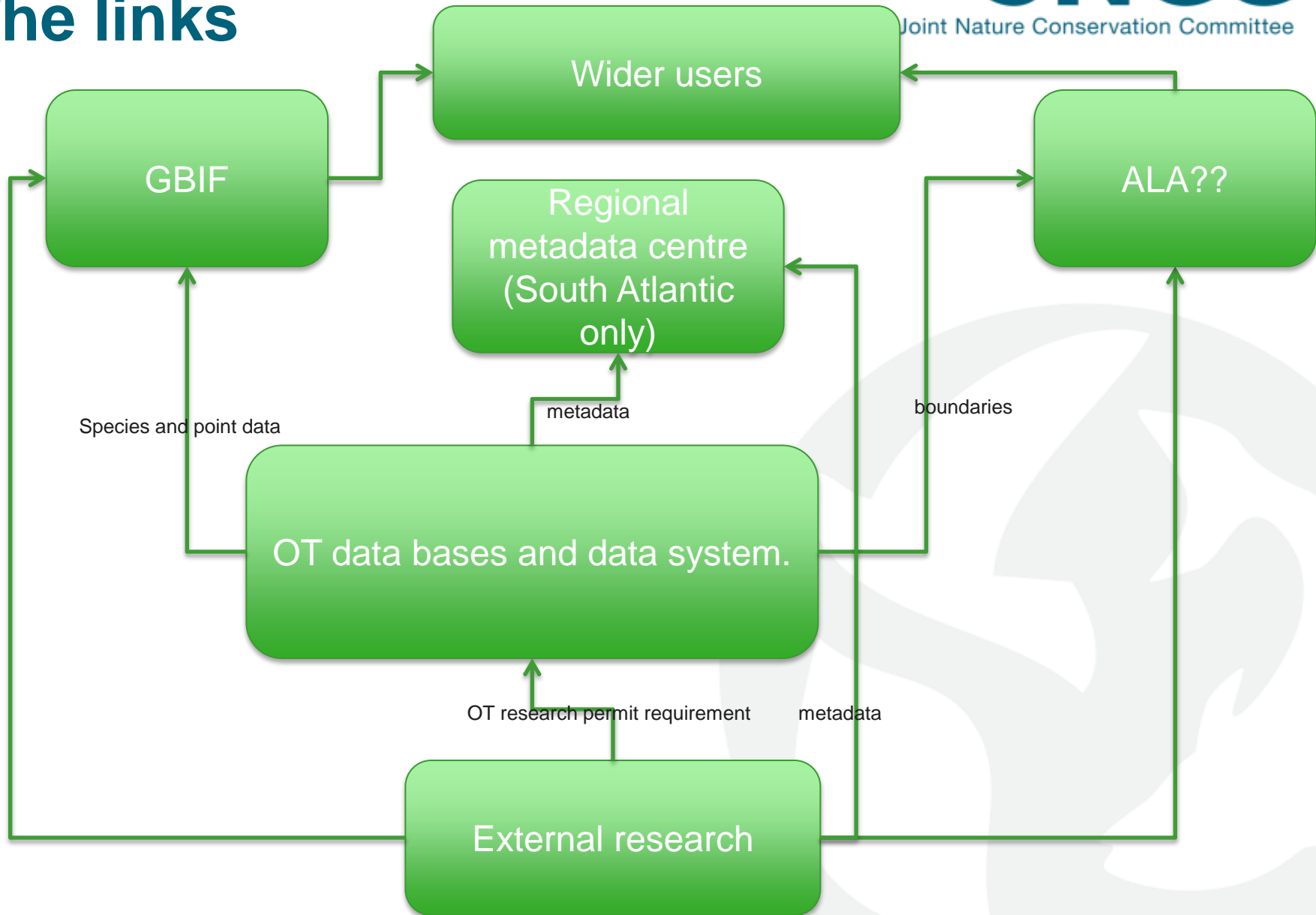
and

**The Applicant**

The Applicant (and in the case of student applicants, their Study Supervisor), undertakes to conduct scientific research and share information, as follows:

APPLICANT NAME	
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# The links



## Next steps

- Getting a clearer picture of what data and information the UK itself holds in relation to OT's
- What are the barriers and costs to mobilising this; when could it be done?
- Can our organisations individually and collectively commit
  - Collect metadata using ISO19115 and providing metadata to OTs + SAERI (South Atlantic)
  - Collect species data using Darwin core standards and upload onto GBIF

## Group discussion: species data

1. What OT data does your organisation have?
2. How are your data shared?
3. Are there any constraints/barriers/ideas about the proposal to put species data onto GBIF?
4. Any other thoughts/comments/suggestions/ideas relating to improved access to OT species data
5. Can my organisations commit to:
  - Collect metadata using ISO19115 and providing metadata to OTs + SAERI (South Atlantic) - YES/NO/MAYBE
  - Collect species data using Darwin core standards and upload onto GBIF YES/NO/MAYBE



## Group discussion: non-species data

1. What OT data does your organisation have?
  2. How are your data shared?
  3. Are there any constraints/barriers/ideas about the proposal to share access to data?
  4. Any other thoughts/comments/suggestions/ideas relating to improved access to OT data?
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