

**UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies  
Training and Research Programme**

**Note of Steering Group meeting**

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Steering Group Meeting**

**13 Nov 2012**

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**Note of the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies  
Steering Group Meeting**

**13 November 2012, 14.00-16.00 GMT**

**Attendees:**

*In Peterborough*

Tony Weighell, JNCC (Chair)

Elizabeth Moore, JNCC

Jesile Duncan, (intern) JNCC

John Henson Webb, JNCC

*Via Telephone*

Nick Rendell, Falkland Islands

Anton Wolfaardt, JNCC South Atlantic rep

Nikki Chapman, St Helena

Gina Ebanks Petrie, Cayman Islands

Andy McCutcheon, Guernsey

John Pinel, Jersey

Liz Charter, Isle of Man

Samia Sarkis, Bermuda

Apologies to Karim Hodge, Anguilla and Sion Griffiths, FCO for not being able to connect, and to Liz Charter for the delay in connecting.

**1. UK OT Biodiversity Strategy Review – update by Tony Weighell**

- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew 14 March 2013 for UK Gov Depts, NGOs involved in work of OTs and OT Gov representatives
- Possibility of face to face Steering Group Meeting 12-13 March 2013.

There was general support for the proposal to hold a two day face to face Steering Group meeting in advance of the OT meeting on 14 March on the Review of the implementation of the UK OT Biodiversity Strategy. A number of members indicated that they would like to attend the event or send a representative from their Territory or Dependency. SG members welcomed the opportunity to get together face to face and meet with other organizations involved in nature conservation in the UKOTs and CDs including NGOs that operate internationally.

It was suggested that it would be useful for JNCC to present various options for sessions at the SG meeting on 12 and 13 March, so members could decide which topics were of most relevance to them. It would be useful to discuss within the SG how the OT Biodiversity Strategy is progressing and to make comparisons between the UK Strategy and Territory/Dependency Strategies.

In regard to the Review meeting on 14 March Tony clarified that there are plans for a questionnaire to OT representatives to collect information on the implementation of the Strategy. At the meeting there will be a three-way discussion between the OT representatives, the NGOs and UK Organisations with links to the UK OTs. JNCC will provide a neutral role and will record the outcomes of the discussions.

With regard to the SG meeting on 12 and 13 March Tony commented that it was likely to take the format of presentations and discussions, with a mix and match approach to address various themes. Samia Sarkis suggested the SG identify and discuss key issues on the first day and that the NGOs and other relevant organizations are invited to provide presentations later in the day or the following day. She suggested that the second day be used to synthesise the themes and for discussion around how the UK can help progress key issues (with NGO involvement). Nikki Chapman supported the idea that OTs should

be enabled to present their perspectives first. Gina Ebanks Petrie agreed that it would be good to engage with representatives outside the SG on the second day. She encouraged members to take time to prepare in advance of these meetings in order to get the most from the discussions.

Some interest was expressed in the following themes:

- Surveillance and monitoring of projects related
- Ecosystem services – good to have NGO's present on these services

JNCC will circulate a list of possible themes and ask SG members to nominate which areas they are most interested in.

## **2. OT funding mechanisms – update on major projects.**

Tony provided an update on the [Darwin Plus](#) fund launched in October by Defra.

Gina commented that they are considering how to access the funding available, however they are resource-strapped in terms of people. Members from the Crown Dependencies raised concerns that that they are unable to access these funds, and thought that they should be eligible.

Samia mentioned that Bermuda is very excited by this initiative and is preparing several proposals. Nikki mentioned that St Helena are also pleased to hear about the funds but there is not much time left to apply this time so it might be more significant for St Helena in the future. Nick Rendell noted that Falklands welcomed the initiative and will be putting in some bids.

Anton Wolfaardt commented that there is a lot of enthusiasm for this initiative from individuals and organisations. In particular climate change has historically been successful for Darwin bids, and there are implications for filling in gaps with further research for example how climate change could affect endemic species

## **3. Guernsey meeting on implications and consideration for small islands signing up to CBD.**

Andy McCutcheon gave a brief background on the meeting looking at the implications for small islands in signing up to the CBD, which was held in Guernsey 22 and 23 October 2012. Earlier this year Guernsey created a Biodiversity Project Group, with the aim of establishing a Biodiversity Strategy for the island and a secondary aim of considering the implications for Guernsey in signing up to the CBD. Andy organised a meeting to identify the implications in terms of process, resources, obligations and ongoing commitment. The workshop brought together representatives from Territories at different stages in the process of signing up to the CBD, including the Isle of Man (who had the Convention extended to them in August 2012), Jersey (who have been signed up since 1992) and the Falkland Islands (who are also considering signing up to the Convention) along with a number of key representatives from Guernsey and the neighbouring island of Sark.

Eric Blencowe, Defra, gave two presentations on the overview of the CBD and highlights from COP11. Nick Rendell noted that the meeting was useful and he was able to learn from Guernsey's experiences and is keen to try and persuade Falkland Islands Government to extend the convention.

JNCC would like to use some of the outcomes from the meeting to form the basis of a generic report on the implications for small islands of signing up to the CBD and it is anticipated that this report will be made available on the JNCC website in the Spring 2013.

#### **4. Any other business**

Jesile Duncan (intern from Anguilla) reminded OT representatives about an email she had sent asking for information on Territory biodiversity strategies to inform Defra's review of implementation of the UK OT Biodiversity Strategy. Jesile thanked those who had send responses and asked other Territories to send through information as soon as possible.