

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

Minutes

**UKOT & CD Training and Research
Programme Work Programme**

September 2011

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**UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies
Training and Research Programme Steering Group**
Minutes from meeting¹ held 7th September 2011

Training and Research Programme (Work programme: August 2011 update)

Items requiring a decision

1. Work programme update

Standardisation of assessments e.g. EIA best practice (Objective 3.2.1)

Following initial discussion at January 2011 Steering Group [meeting](#) little progress had been made with the working group due to other priorities. Cayman Islands Government had sent two documents on EIA guidelines and St Helena had sent a weblink to their information on EIA. DfID had also circulated an Environmental Screening Checklist. It was suggested that a useful first step would be to make all this information available on a JNCC website EIA resource page.

ACTION 1.1: JNCC to create summary web page on EIA resources (including information sent in from OTs and CDs). Circulate details to the OTSG when available
Deadline: 30 September 2011

Discussion was had on whether a best practice template for EIA would be useful. Cayman noted such a reference document would carry more weight than if the advice was from within the territory. Anguilla thought that as each EIA is different depending on the development in question it would be hard to have a single set of guidelines that would apply to all circumstances. Guernsey felt it would be useful to share EIA examples within the Steering Group (maybe via Huddle if they cannot go on the website) to learn from others experiences.

In some territories (including Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Anguilla and Montserrat) the law that regulates EIA does not exist and this makes it very hard for an EIA to be considered within planning decisions. This may highlight a need for more proactive engagement with planning departments in those territories, especially low lying areas with potential impacts from climate change.

St Helena is quite advanced with EIA and has a lot of work embedded in the Land Planning Ordinance with the planning decisions resting with the Planning Officer. They have undertaken a lot work on EIA including training, production of guidelines and procedures which are available on their [website](#). They also raised the issue of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as another consideration which may warrant guidance for the group. Bermuda confirmed the need to use SEA in decision making was recognised in their evaluation of coral reefs.

Both Cayman and Bermuda explained that often the local community has been effective at slowing down terrestrial development by voicing their concerns. In response there is a drive to make EIAs more easily accessible to the general community and to raise public awareness of what EIAs are.

¹ See Annex 1 for attendee list

Discussion items

2. Review of work programme – January 2012

Elizabeth (JNCC) noted that the current work programme was created in September 2009 and runs 2010-2012. Therefore it would be timely for the Steering Group to consider a review of the work programme at the beginning of 2012 in order to establish a new set of priorities for the next period. The current programme was the result of a two-day workshop which included all the members of the Steering Group (two attending the meeting in Peterborough, UK in person and the rest joining by telephone and interactive document sharing technology). JNCC would be able to support the costs of anyone wishing to attend the meeting in person and it was suggested that as a minimum it would be useful to have representation from one person from each region.

Most members felt they may not be able to justify the travel, although Bermuda and Anguilla (both of whom attended last time) explained the value in being at the meeting in person, to spend the time really focusing on the work programme and additional benefits of other meetings in the UK. JNCC will set a date and formally invite members to attend in due course.

There was some discussion about the NGO community and it was agreed that the Steering Group member should be responsible for making the decision about whether to invite the local NGO for their territory to attend the review meeting.

It was noted that the work programme has achieved a great deal in the past 2 years and it would be good to reflect back and record the major highlights, possibly in the format of an updated flyer which can be downloaded from the website.

<p>ACTION 2.1: JNCC to set date and send invitation to OT SG for review of work programme meeting. Deadline: by 30 September</p>

<p>ACTION 2.2: JNCC to prepare flyer on major achievements of work programme over last 2 years for website. Deadline: by 30 October</p>
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<p>ACTION 2.3: JNCC to prepare relevant documents for consideration by SG and consultation with others in territory in advance of review meeting. Deadline: by 30 November</p>

Information sharing items

3. Update on MSc Scholarship

Tara (JNCC) noted that Giselle Duncan from Anguilla had been awarded the MSc scholarship at Reading University and this will start September 2011. Helen Larzleer from Bermuda who is on the BSc scholarship at Reading has just finished research for her thesis on Montserrat and is starting her third and final year of studies.

4. Call for MSc project proposals from Ken Norris, University of Reading

JNCC reminded members about the call from University of Reading for project ideas for MSc students to undertake research in the OTs and CDs. The call was circulated in August and the deadline for proposals is 30 September 2011.

5. AOB

Cayman Islands requested a copy of all relevant materials on EIAs to be sent to [them](#) for uploading onto the Cayman hub website. [Elizabeth](#) (JNCC) also requested copies for the JNCC website.

Isle of Man asked whether there is likely to be additional funding for training courses in the next financial year. JNCC confirmed that at this stage they were hopeful that there would be funds available to support the OTs and CDs attend training courses. There is still funding available this financial year for training.

DfID noted that there are some changes to OTEP funding this year. FCO are testing an environmental mainstreaming approach with BVI and Falkland Islands. As OTEP is a jointly funded programme DfID have decided to roll-over this year's funding to next year, in order to be able to offer a more significant amount for research projects next year. FCO will evaluate their way forward with the OTEP programme once they know the outcome of their tests. An official communication on this subject (dated 15 September) was sent by email to OT Governors, Commissioners and Administrators.

Bermuda noted that they will be attending the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity in Aberdeen (Sept 26th-30th 2011). The theme for the presentation is Coral biodiversity challenges facing the unique coral systems of the Overseas Territories. They request information (including photos) to help make this presentation relevant across all OTs - Samia will send an email with further details.

St Helena requested help sourcing an environmental legislative drafter for their review of current legislation. Anguilla and Isle of Man will send details of contacts.

JNCC noted the recent Defra call for expressions of interest for research on marine threats in the Caribbean OTs. An email had been circulated to the Steering Group and the deadline for expressions of interest is 30 September 2011. Also, a reminder about the JNCC Blue Turtle Award call for nominations which closes on 30 September 2011.

Annex I

Attendees at UK OT Training and Research Programme Steering Group meeting 7th September 2011

Name	Country/Organisation
Samia Sarkis	Bermuda
Mat Cottam	Cayman Islands
Gina Ebanks Petrie	Cayman Islands
Christine Roehrer	DfID
Richard Selman	Isle of Man
Elizabeth Moore	JNCC
John Henson Webb	JNCC
Tara Pelembe	JNCC
Isabel Peters	St Helena
Andy McCutcheon	States of Guernsey (Chair)
Karim Hodge	Anguilla
John Pinel	States of Jersey