

Note of OTBG Meeting 4.

18th February 2011 FCO, London 2pm – 4:30pm

Summary Note

Representatives from UKOTA, DFID, Defra, FCO and JNCC (Secretariat) attended the fourth OTBG meeting chaired by Defra.

Some actions for the last meeting were discussed including:

- HMG is considering the development of a marine framework for its marine work in the UKOTs.

Departments gave updates on progress and activities over the last 4 months. Highlights included:

- **Defra:** Call for applications to the 2011 round of the Flagship Species Fund has been issued by FFI; ACAP plans for Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the Falkland Islands are online¹; ACAP coordination project to be expanded to trial approach with other MEAs; liaison with OTs and CDs on CITES implementation has continued; Defra met with UKOTCF.
- **DFID:** International Climate Change fund is a potential opportunity for ODA eligible OTs.
- **FCO:** Main focus has been OTEP. OTEP panel met 17th February 2011. FCO also working on OT marine fisheries and MPA issues.
- **JNCC:** Funding support to training has resulted in 19 people in 9 OTs and CDs being trained in a variety of areas for £8000; JNCC EU programme identifies key future EU initiatives that will have an impact on nature conservation; OT student workshop planned for September 2011.
- **UKOTA: EUOCT** forum to be held in New Caledonia from 28th February – 4th March 2011. Environment will play a significant role in these discussions; There will be a debate on OTs in the House of Lords on 10th March 2011 led by Baroness Hooper;
- **DECC:** Do not currently have a specific OT focus, but provide ad hoc advice (e.g. to Falklands).

Agenda items included:

- **BEST:** It has been confirmed that the European Commission has agreed 2 million Euros will be available to OCTs and Ors under BEST. A call for proposals will be issued in May 2011.
- **Blue Turtle Award:** The St. Helena Millennium Forest is the winner of the JNCC 2010 Blue Turtle Award, which will be presented on the 29th March 2011.
- **Multilateral Environmental Agreements:** Discussion focussed on the best way to engage Overseas Territories in MEAs and it was agreed that this would be through a multi-staged process (see decisions for more detail).

¹ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4374>

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Key Decisions

4.2a Decision: OTBG would like a regular update on EU and OT nature conservation issues. This will not cover funding. OCTA keeps watching eye on EU funds

Decision 4.3a : It was agreed that work on UK/UKOTs and Multilateral environmental agreements would be a multi-staged process:

- **Stage 1:** A 1 day event to be held in the UK, with 2 sessions: Morning session: Aim: to introduce MEAs to UK reps, and to identify comprehensive lists of contacts in each OT. (suggestion through quarter page briefings on each MEA in relation to OTs); for UKOT reps and UK government officials, giving an overview of MEAs and UKOTs Afternoon session: for UK NGOs to give an overview of what their organisations have to offer in relation to MEAs in UKOTs. Aim: to engage the NGO community.
- **Stage 2:** Territory by Territory meetings (by teleconference) to go through MEAs and OTs
- **Stage 3:** Multi-territory meetings (possibly regional)

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Meeting Actions:

ACTIONS	Deadline	Progress
Action 4.1a: EB will monitor International Climate Fund progress in Defra and give a further updates	ongoing	
Action 4.1b: EB – to check if eligibility for Defra contribution to ICF is also limited to ODA, or if it includes non-ODA OTs. ; EJ to check the same for DECC contribution to ICF.	May 2011	
Action4.1c: JNCC to set up a meeting with EB, JJ, NM + DFID,UKOTA to follow up on proposed marine framework.	April 2011	Done
Action4.1d: TP to circulate Bermuda case study	April 2011	Done Executive summary and links to project brief and technical report via this link: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4393
Action 4.2a : KW to send an updated list of environment contacts (including who to copy) to the group	May 2011	
Action 4.2b: SH and SC to liaise with KW in late March to discuss how better to engage the OTs about CITES, including the possible involvement of relevant UK representatives.	March 2011	
Action 4.2d: SH to talk to Defra Lawyer (Clare Hamilton) to explore the possibility of MEA denunciation by OTs.	May 2011	
4.2e Action: JNCC to provide regular update on European issues to OTBG.	Next OTBG meeting	
Action 4.2f: EB to write to Elizabeth at DECC about ICF and OTs to ensure all OTs are eligible for ICF not only ODA ones (note: copy in Colin Roberts – FCO)	May 2011	
Action 4.2g: KW to ask UKOTA to ask OTs interested in applying for BEST to inform HMG.	May 2011	
Action 4.3a: KW to check with UKOTA whether happy to have joint meeting to discuss MEAs	March 2011	Done

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Action 4.3b: TP to convene a meeting with OTBG (TP, HC + KW..) UKOTCF, RSPB to provide a framework for this event.	May 2011	
Action 4.4a: TP to trawl for date for next meeting	May 2011	
Action 4.4b: JB to invite Kew to the next meeting.	May 2011	

Colour coding key



Done



Started but not completed



Not started



Changed in the interim period therefore doesn't need to be done



Agenda item for the next meeting