

Territory to Territory Partnership between Government of Montserrat and Falkland Islands Government SAERI

Data Infrastructure Group

23 August 2016 from 09:00-10:00

Notes of Meeting

Present:

Mr Claude Brown – Agriculture Development Office / Acting Director of Agricultural Services
Mr Sheldon Carty – President of the Fishers and Boaters Association
Mr Dyonne Duberry – Information Systems & Technology
Mr Joseph Irish – Senior Air Traffic Controller / Metrological Services, John A Osborne Airport
Mr Clement Meade - Chief Physical Planner
Mr Rondell Meade – GIS technician, GIS Systems
Mr Stephen Mendes – Environmental Officer
Mr Alwyn Ponteen – Chief Fisheries and Ocean Governance Officer
Mr Adophus Ryan – Extension Officer, Ministry of Agriculture (irrigation)
Ms Siobhan Tuitt – Senior Statistician, Statistics Department
Ms Tara Pelembe – Deputy Director, SAERI
Dr Katie Metcalf – Environment Systems
Ms Amanda Gregory – Overseas Territories Officer, JNCC

Actions:

- 1 AG to collate list of emails
- 2 TP to revise the questionnaire and circulate to the Data Infrastructure Group
- 3 AG to set up next meeting of the Data Infrastructure Group
- 4 TP to liaise with Mrs Ryan regarding the GIS metadata catalogue
- 5 AG to circulate the notes of the meeting

1. Introductions

Round table introductions took place.

2. Background

Tara advised that this project is a Territory to Territory partnership between the Falkland Islands Government Institute (SAERI) and the Government of Montserrat (GoM) to transfer knowledge and skills from the South Atlantic to Montserrat. This project will focus on information management and marine spatial planning.

This project follows on from a similar project undertaken in the Falkland Islands and aims to support Montserrat in developing their information management systems, data handling and identify the appropriate systems.

Tara advised that this project would be looking at **an integrated data management system** for all environmental data.

3. Context

Katie explained that the focus of this project will be to understand what data each department holds and in particular which data would be of most value if it was able to be accessed easily by other departments. We will consider data related to a specific part of the island (that is spatial data) and other data which relates to the island and its surrounding sea as a whole. Data sets held outside Montserrat would also be included, eg the UK Hydrographical Survey. The project will also look at data gaps, data standards and ways to get greater value out of all the data collected.

Issues raised:

- **Confidentiality and permissions:** Some data has a license fee attached or is provided by permit – data access restrictions will be required including some confidentiality
- Building on existing work and systems
 - The project will build on existing work and systems
 - Data must feed into the Statistics Data for Montserrat (SDM)
- Data collection, quality and standards:
 - Consistency and methods of data collection need consideration
 - Quality of data collected – training will be needed to meet standards
 - Standards (based on international standards) and
- Document the procedure

Brief overview of currently held data

- Mr Meade advised that GIS data is available for road, river, biodiversity, and elements of the coast. Some of this is available online.
- Fisheries data is held from 1994 however, it is incomplete.
- Mr Ryan advised that data on natural erosion on beaches had been collected, however, there are gaps. This data is passed to research unit. They do not collect data on manmade beach erosion.
- Mr C Meade's team holds aerial photography from 2010. They also undertake EIAs so require data from multiple sectors. He advised that some is outdated.
- Mr R Meade advised that there is limited marine data. However, GIS unit holds a lot of information including forestry and volcanic activity.
- Mr Irish confirmed that there is available metrological data from the early 1990s. This includes rainfall, humidity, etc. This is stored electronically and in hard copy format. He advised that the water authority holds relevant data too.
- Mr Brown advised that the Department of Agriculture also holds metrological data prior to the volcanic activity – including rainfall but not evapotranspiration or humidity. There is no marketing data post volcano. They work on estimates currently. Abattoir data will become available as this is recently opened. A steer on the type of data to collect and standards required would be welcomed.
- Mr Mendes reported that data collection is currently project driven. There are 13-14 data sets which the Department would like to collect but currently cannot. This makes the data which is held inconsistent. No Meteorological or hydrological data is collected. Currently there are 3-4 weather stations recording precipitation rates – island wide stations would be extremely useful.
- He built upon Mr C Meade's point on EIA, a mechanism for the application of EIAs where the impacts of development are flagged on the relevant GIS layers would be helpful as would cumulative impacts modelling.
- Ms Tuitt advised that there are issues with the expenditure components of various sectors such as fisheries. Data outside productions would be extremely useful. The income component is

even more difficult. There are some good systems in place and work well. Data is received in good time for reporting.

- The Information Systems Unit is now 2 months old. Mr Duberry advised that there are gaps in data sets. For data storage and management needs some advice.
- Mr Ponteen advised that Montserrat is a member of CARICOM. There are some standards and decisions which the group will need to be aware of. Mr Ponteen will provide more information.

Drivers for data use

- In addition to the on-island uses of data, there are international reporting requirements (e.g. OECS and CARICOM) that require data as well.
- EIAs and planning – need to look at the cumulative impact of activity (i.e. if different activities are all happening in an around the area – what is the impact of them all together rather than one by one

Resources: All present agreed the concerns are around staffing and the continuity of staff, capacity and training.

Next steps:

- See actions above.

Mrs Pelembe and Mrs Metcalf thanked all those for attending the meeting today and look forward to taking the project forward.

Email addresses

- Clement Meade: _____
- Joseph Irish: _____
- Claude Browne: _____
- Stephen Mendes: _____
- Siobhan NN Tuitt: _____
- Dyonne Duberry: _____
- Alwyn Ponteen: _____
- Adophus Ryan: _____
- Rondell Meade: _____
- Sheldon Carty: _____
- Tara Pelembe: _____
- Dr Katie Medcalf: _____
- Amanda Gregory: _____

Apologies (cc into emails)

- Dr Ilaria Marengo _____