

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

Minutes and Actions

**Minutes and Actions from Steering
Group Meeting held 20 October 2010**

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**UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies
Training and Research Programme Steering Group**
Minutes from meeting¹ held 20th October 2010

OT and CD update session

1. Presentation from Fiona Gell, IoM

Fiona presented an overview of biodiversity research on the Isle of Man which included habitat monitoring, research projects and the recent establishment of the Manx biological recording partnership. Further details available at <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5124>

Soggy asked whether IoM would have opportunities for Masters students from University of York who would like to do some research on an island. Liz confirmed that there would be opportunities for freshwater and terrestrial research projects; Charles mentioned that Guernsey would also be interested.

2. Presentation from Wesley Clerveaux, TCI

Wesley gave a presentation on past and current research in TCI. Recently there has been a focus on bringing into force a range of environmental legislation. TCI has signed a Memorandum of Collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and they are working together on a joint project. For further details see the presentation in full (shortly to be added) at <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5124>

3. Top 3 issues from each territory

Anguilla: The research priorities remain the same as when they were previously submitted to the JNCC. Ongoing biodiversity work includes OTEP soil amelioration project, CITES implementation and invasive species identification and control.

Bermuda: Extended protection to the spotted eagle ray; held an island-wide survey for the Bermuda land snail; undertaking research into the decline of bees (60% decline in last 12 months).

Soggy noted (via the chat facility on the document sharing software) that Dr Libby Barnett is the world expert on the Varroa mite and advised Bermuda to contact her on libby.barnett@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Falklands: 2 seal tagging projects (elephant seals and southern sea lions); protection of Cobbs Wren (endemic passerine); peat sampling for climate change research; Shallow Marine Survey Group (SMSG) about to hold workshop to share results of their work.

SBA Cyprus: Designated 3 Special Protection Areas (for protection of birds), working on the management plans for these sites and candidate Special Areas for Conservation (for protection of habitats); work on illegal hunting of small birds; marine turtle survey to establish baseline and look at impact of fishing; management of acacia (invasive plant).

¹ See Annex 1 for attendee list

Guernsey: Completing Phase 1 habitat survey which highlights decline in agricultural land and increase in curtilage use; invasive species management (scrub which is causing loss of grassland); tidal energy project; baseline survey to find out which species and habitats are present.

Isle of Man: Proposal to eradicate rats on Calf of Man; projects on marine biotopes and economic value of biodiversity.

St Helena: Critical species list; JNCC invasives project; marine scientific officer recently recruited and will develop OTEP bid for baseline survey; environmental impact assessment procedures manual, general public awareness, workshops and training

4. AOB

- Habitat mapping requirement

Wesley asked territories to provide feedback on whether they have or need habitat mapping.

Territory	Have some terrestrial	Have all terrestrial	Have some marine	Have all marine	Need GIS/make it more available
Bermuda	√		√		
Falklands	√		√		√
SBA Cyprus		√			
Guernsey		√			
St Helena	√				
TCI		√			
Isle of Man	√ (need repeat Phase 1)			√ (benthic)	√

The following two points were received in writing post meeting

- Updating review of biodiversity in the UKOTs

Tara is going through the first edit of this review which is a little behind schedule. The plan is still to have the publication ready by the end of the year. Tara will shortly send an update to the group as there are new restrictions including limitations on paper publications due to the Government spending cuts.

- Review of IUCN CBD implementation contract

Tara has received a draft contract from IUCN which they have also circulated to the OTs.

Marine and Funding issues

Items requiring a decision

5. Diver Magazine Article

Nikki Chapman has been offered a free double page article to raise the profile of marine habitats and species in the UK OTs and CDs in the UK Diver magazine which has international distribution. She would be able to collate information from the territories and submit it for publication if the territories are able to provide a few sentences and some photographs. Everyone agreed this was a good idea; Nikki will initiate the request and investigate opportunities in other magazines.

Discussion items

6. Marine projects update

Nikki is currently working on the following projects:

- Lionfish combating in 3 Caribbean OTs
- Invasive marine algae in Tristan da Cunha
- Marine turtle project in Montserrat
- Developing in-house marine strategy linking marine expertise within JNCC with needs in the territories
- Marine contacts spreadsheet including dive chamber information

TCI raised the issue of fisheries and the difficulty finding funding to address problems such as reduced lobster stock since most grants focus on terrestrial biodiversity. DfID previously mentioned they may be interested in supporting a cross territory programme. All the territories expressed an interest and it was suggested that Nikki take the lead is progressing this.

ACTION 6.1: Nikki Chapman to draft a 1-page synopsis of the cross territory fisheries project (in liaison with TCI). All territories to make comments and suggestions for the next steps.
Deadline: Paper finalised by 17 Nov.

7. End of Nikki's funding post

Nikki has a dual role (marine support and funding officer). DfID funding for Nikki's role as funding officer ends in November 2010. If anyone would like help with applications or training for funding proposals please contact Nikki as soon as possible.

There was a lot of positive feedback from territories who had received Nikki's funding training and support; Bermuda and Falkland Islands offered to support funding applications locally from other departments/organisations.

Information sharing items

8. Presentation from Anthony Beeching, Cefas

Tony Beeching gave a presentation on the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas); an executive agency of Defra (the UK Government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). This included information on who they are, what they do and how they can help OTs and CDs. An extended version of the presentation is available on the website at <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5124>.

John Pinnegar talked about a climate change concept for the territories which focuses on marine climate change impacts. The idea is collate marine climate change information on a report card to highlight levels of uncertainty and predictions for the future climate. The card would be aimed at policy makers, industry and the general public.

The report card is already being used in the UK². It was noted that there is already a lot of work going on in the OTs on climate change and it would be useful to have a review of what's already happening.

AOB

None

² For further details see: <http://www.mccip.org.uk/> or <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5124>

Annex 1

Attendees at UK OT Training and Research Programme Steering Group meeting 20th October 2010

Name	Country/Organisation
Rhon Connor	Anguilla
Alison Copeland	Bermuda
Nick Rendell	Falkland Islands
Liz Charter	Isle of Man
Fiona Gill	Isle of Man
Isabel Peters	St Helena
Andy McCutcheon	States of Guernsey
Charles David	Biological Records Centre (States of Guernsey)
Pantelis Chaeilaou	SBA Cyprus
Wesley Clerveaux	TCI (Chair)
Eric Salamanca	TCI
Tara Pelembe	JNCC
Elizabeth Moore	JNCC
Nikki Chapman	JNCC
John Henson Webb	JNCC
Sogoto Roy	Fera
Anthony Beeching	Cefas
John Pinnegar	Cefas