

UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Conservation

Training and Research Programme Steering Group

Terms of Reference

Overall aims:

The Steering Group will direct the Training and Research Programme. This programme has four main objectives:

1. The provision and skills in biodiversity research and monitoring
2. The development of research projects to address priority issues
3. The development of electronic knowledge exchange mechanisms
4. The development of biodiversity-climate change strategies

Operating methods:

The role of the Steering Group will be to manage the direction of the programme.

The responsibility for Chairing the Steering Group will be circulated amongst UKOT representatives and JNCC will provide the Secretariat support. The Steering Group will consist of representatives from University of Reading (representing Reading and links to the wider Higher Education community in the UK), the UKOT Governments, UK Overseas Territories Association and Defra. The involvement of other expertise will be considered as necessary.

The Steering Committee will meet quarterly and regular contacts will be maintained as necessary between these formal meetings. Specific projects will be progressed by a working group of members who volunteer to become involved in facilitating progress with the Programme.

The Secretariat will post Steering Group documents to the appropriate section of the JNCC website, including the agreed Terms of Reference, a list of members, details of the meetings, including the agenda, papers and approved agreed minutes.

OT Government representatives on the Steering Group act as the official Government representative for their territory. These member's responsibilities include:

- attending Steering Group meetings
- distributing information about the training and research programme within their territory, nominating specific individuals within their territory to handle detailed pieces of work (as appropriate)
- acting as a champion for the programme with colleagues and external contacts by advocating and promoting the work of the programme (as appropriate).

Performance measures:

The success of the Programme and the Steering Group should not be solely tied to formalised performance measures since the influence is more subtle. Therefore, it is proposed that success should be determined through periodic consultative reviews which should consider:

- Increased capacity for biodiversity research in the OTs, particularly interdisciplinary approaches; and

- More effective knowledge transfer, including science-to-policy, facilitated by the Group's activities
- Recognition from within Government (Defra, FCO, DfID) of the OT research needs and buy-in to the programme will help to ensure long-term success