

OT Research and Training Programme Steering Group

Note of meeting

Cayman Islands

2/6/2009

Attendees

Samia Sarkis	Conservation Bermuda
Chris Bates	Tristan da Cunha government UK representative
Isabel Peters	St. Helena Government
Stedson Stroud	Conservation Department, Ascension Island
Stephen Mendes	Department of Environment Monsterrat
Darren Christie	South Georgia Government
Thomas Hadjikyriakou	SBA Cyprus
Matt Cottam	Department of Environment - Cayman Islands

Eric Blencowe – DEFRA

Nikki Chapman-JNCC

Tara Pelembe –JNCC / chair

Samia Sarkis provided feedback regarding UKOT skills share. She noted that although input from the UK is appreciated it would be better if OT to OT skills share could take place rather than UK to OT. Samia has designed an audit form to establish what skills already existing in OTs e.g. Bermuda can offer other OTs expertise in turtle tagging

Action Point

Tara Pelembe agreed to place audit form for other members of the group to complete onto the JNCC website.

Tara Pelembe informed the group that there was funding available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for OT personnel wishing to participate in an inter-OT skills exchange; this was met by positive responses.

It was noted that support for tertiary education for OT personnel would be welcomed. The group discussed the possibility of distance learning courses. It was agreed that this would be a positive way forth and it was established that the OU operates in the Falklands (DC) and hence that and similar organisations could perhaps provide this need. Isabel Peters stated that Stonebridge provides distance learning courses.

Action Point

Investigate which UK institutions could provide distance learning courses to each of the OT's

Eric Blencowe stated that the Darwin funding pot had been increased and that more Darwin fellowships are expected in the future.

Samia Sarkis enquired whether it is possible to open up specialist/ tailor made courses for OT personnel. e.g. oral communications/presentations. Matt Cottam suggested a course entitled 'Practical Resource Management'.

The group discussed the positive and negatives of high cost, tertiary level education for a single individual versus a number of lower level, more appropriate courses and the practicalities of inter OT skills share versus UK to OT skills share.

Thomas Hadjikyriakou suggested that the person wishing to obtain the skills should shadow the OT working on his/her island. This was met by positive responses from the group.

Tara Pelembe updated the group with the progress of the OT studentship. The studentship has been awarded and will shortly be able to announce the name of the successful candidate.

The group decided that JNCC was best placed to nominate the successful candidate of the annual/biannual 3K (GBP) award.

Isabel Peters stated that the associated project assessment form was not user friendly/lacked clarity.

Action Point

To revise project assessment form

Overview: The approach to research skills sharing needs to be flexible where the different OT can pick and mix options to suit their needs.