

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

Minutes

**Minutes from OT and CD Steering
Group meeting**

26 January 2011

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**UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies
Training and Research Programme Steering Group**
Minutes from meeting¹ held 26th January 2011

Training and Research Programme (Work programme: January 2011 update)

Items requiring a decision

1. Work programme update

A number of items on the work programme have not yet started. SG discussed whether the item was still required and how to progress the activities.

JNCC to develop distance learning opportunities/tailor made courses to address training needs in UK OTs and CDs (Objective 1.2.2)

All agreed that it was unlikely that there was a need for specific tailor-made courses and the real issue is the access and proximity to courses. Territories will assess their own training needs and notify JNCC of any training gaps

ACTION 1.1: OTs and CDs to address training needs and notify JNCC of any gaps in training needs and course availability
Deadline: 31 March 2011

Encourage inclusion of environmental education in primary and secondary school curriculum (Objectives 1.3.1, 1.3.2)

It was agreed that there is a lot of information already available in terms of environmental education resources on various websites including the [Caribbean hub](#), the [UKOTCF](#) and the [Globe Programme](#). As JNCC is not directly involved in this area of work the best suggestion would be to develop one page on the JNCC website with links to the various initiatives. This would help territories develop their environmental education programmes.

ACTION 1.2: JNCC to develop a summary webpage on environmental education with links to other websites and resources
Deadline: 31 March 2011

Standardisation of assessments e.g. EIA best practice (Objective 3.2.1)

All agreed it would be useful to have good examples of EIAs, what they should look for and what should come out of them, good scoping, screening and what to look for when reviewing EIAs. The Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management have guidelines for [marine](#) and [terrestrial](#) EIAs on their website.

It was suggested that it might be useful to have a peer mechanism for support when making judgements in EIA process. As territories don't have all aspects of EIA expertise it would be useful to have a list of possible third party review experts. JNCC could do this and could set up a mechanism for sharing EIAs with some level of confidentiality.

In general it was noted that there would be support for general EIA guidelines/good practise within the territories and it was suggested that a working group be set up to take this action forward.

¹ See Annex 1 for attendee list

ACTION 1.3 ISABEL PETERS to circulate weblink to EIA procedures manual for St Helena and **MAT COTTAM** to circulate template on EIA to group.
Deadline: 28 Feb 2011

ACTION 1.4: JNCC to set up working group to take forward proposal to develop EIA best practise guidelines. Working group to include Samia Sarkis and Gina Petrie Ebanks plus other interested OTs and CDs. Working group to meet and report on progress at next Steering group meeting (April 2011)

Transfer of teachers and developing modules of work (Objective 4.2.1)
There was some uncertainty about what happens within territories on teacher training and opportunities to get environmental issues into the curriculum.

ACTION 1.5: ALL OTs and CDs to find out more about teacher training within territories and let Tara know if there are any opportunities for developing environmental modules of work.
Deadline: 31 March 2011

OT/CD Student workshop

Tara noted that in 2010 JNCC held a workshop for some OT students studying in the UK. Participants had found this useful and wanted to repeat the event. UKOTA² want to run an event for all OT students, not just those studying the environment. All agreed to the idea to add this activity to the work programme.

ACTION 1.6: JNCC to add OT/CD Student workshop activity to the OT and CD Training and Research Work Programme
Deadline: 28 February 2011

2. Financial support for training (Objective 1.2.1)

Elizabeth noted the successful uptake of funding in support of short training courses over the last financial year by a wide number of territories for a range of training priorities. A paper will go to the [OTBG](#)³ meeting in February to highlight the achievements of this programme.

It was noted that there will be further funding available for training courses in the next financial year and Elizabeth will circulate details about this to the SG as soon as possible.

There is a discrete amount of training funding left for courses running in this financial year (for training courses starting up to 31 March 2011). Elizabeth will circulate details to the SG and training requests will be handled on a first come first served basis.

² UK Overseas Territories Association - promotes the interests of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories and co-operation between them

³ UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Group – the official level group comprises Defra, DfID and FCO, JNCC and UKOTA with additional Government and Non-Governmental organisations participating where relevant.

3. List of consultants (Objective 2.1.3)

Tara has started a list of consultants who have done work in the OTs and CDs without judgement of how this work was done. All agreed it would be useful to share this information in a secure manner, possibly structured around subject areas.

ACTION 3.1: JNCC to set up list of consultants on secure website and invite SG members to share information and contacts.
Deadline: 31 March 2011

Discussion items

4. Introduction to JNCC Surveillance Team

[Mark Crick](#), gave a presentation on what JNCC's Surveillance Team can offer the OTs and CDs. He is keen to help individuals or groups and develop capabilities, skills and knowledge sharing, and would like to develop projects in the next few months. A number of territories expressed interest, Mark will follow up with them directly.

5. [Caribbean web hub](#)

Mat Cottam gave a presentation on the Caribbean hub which aims to improve communications around the Caribbean (not just Caribbean UKOTs). This was the result of discussions over several years with JNCC and other Caribbean OTs, and it looks to replicate some of the Pacific hub in the Caribbean. Initially the project is a working demo which will be developed according to Caribbean OT's needs. SG members were invited to register online to get all the features on the hub.

6. MoU with Reading University (Objectives 2.1.2, 3.1.1, 3.3.1, 3.4.1)

Tara noted that University of Reading will help match students to projects and territories were encouraged to send ideas for Masters projects to [Ken Norris](#).

7. Scholarship (Objective 1.1)

JNCC hopes to fund a Masters scholarship at Reading University, starting October 2011. This will be advertised soon for anyone in the UK OTs or CDs.

Some territories have PhD interest. Tara noted that there is not funding available for this however territories could discuss where to seek funding opportunities with Tara.

8. Research conference (Objective 3.5)

Isabel gave an update from the working group at the logistics of hosting a research conference. The group met in August 2010 and a paper was circulated to the SG in September. The event's focus should be broadened to include the application of research, turning research into policy or informing policy and management decisions. It should also include legal issues and property rights. Attendees should include the territory Government, organisations doing research, a Ministerial representative and external researchers. The event should be for all territories with breakout sessions for regional groups, and it would be better to have a face-to-face event than a telephone conference.

The major constraint to the event was funding, though it may be possible to reduce costs by piggy-backing onto another event.

Tara noted this discussion at the October OTBG meeting which elicited support for such an event in principle but they would not be able to fund it. The working group will therefore need to consider alternative funding sources and reconsider the scope of the event. [Tara](#) invited comments from SG members via email.

ACTION 8.1: Working group⁴ to consider alternative funding sources for Research Conference and reconsider scope of the event. Report back to next SG meeting (April 2011).

9. UK Biodiversity Review

Tara noted that UK Government spending restrictions on publications had slowed the process down, however JNCC has a small contract let to get this finalised by 31 March 2011. A final draft will be circulated in February.

10. AOB

Elizabeth noted that JNCC has a small contract with the [GB Non Native Species Secretariat](#) (NNS) to add OT and CD information to their website. A working group will discuss the structure and content. A template will be circulated to the SG for comments and information will be posted over the coming months.

ACTION 10.1: JNCC to facilitate NNS working group to discuss structure and content for NNS OT and CD web pages. Template and worked examples to be circulated to the SG in due course.

Marine issues

Information sharing items

11. Cross territory fisheries project (Objective 2.1.4)

Nikki circulated a note on the project but requires more information to take the project forward. Territories were asked to send comments and information to [Nikki](#) as soon as possible.

12. AOB

Nikki noted that a person from Trinidad and Tobago was undertaking a PhD on Lionfish at University of Exeter and would be looking at a cross-Caribbean Lionfish project in October 2011. JNCC could provide some contribution on the basis that it fits with OT requirements. There are 4 main areas of research (Nikki to circulate) and territories were asked to submit suggestions on work that could be undertaken in the PhD

ACTION 12.1 JNCC to circulate information on cross-Caribbean Lionfish PhD areas of work for OTs to consider ideas for work to be undertaken.
Deadline 28 February 2011

⁴ Working group consists of Fiona Gell, IoM, Isabel Peters, St Helena, Karim Hodge, Anguilla, Tara Pelembe and Elizabeth Moore, JNCC

Annex I

Attendees at UK OT Training and Research Programme Steering Group meeting 26th January 2011

Name	Country/Organisation
Samia Sarkis	Bermuda
Mat Cottam	Cayman Islands
Gina Ebanks Petrie	Cayman Islands
Christine Roehrer	DfID
Liz Charter	Isle of Man
Elizabeth Moore	JNCC
John Henson Webb	JNCC
Mark Crick	JNCC
Nikki Chapman	JNCC
Tara Pelembe	JNCC
Isabel Peters	St Helena
Andy McCutcheon	States of Guernsey
Charles David	Biological Records Centre (States of Guernsey)