

**UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies
Training and Research Programme Steering Group**
Notes from meeting¹ held 28th April 2010

1. Update on programme – work undertaken in Quarter 1 2010

(i) MoU with University of Reading (paper 04/02)

The draft MoU was discussed. All agreed this forms a useful basis for an action plan and a separate MoU should be drawn up using a standard template, referencing the action plan. A separate contract should also be created detailing the financial arrangements.

ACTION 1.1 – JNCC to draw up three documents and finalise with University of Reading:

- MoU between OT Steering Group and University of Reading
- Action Plan detailing what gets delivered under the MoU
- Contract between JNCC and University of Reading detailing financial arrangements

Deadline: 28 May 2010

(ii) Discussion with Fera on collaboration for invasives work (paper 04/03)

Sugoto Roy, Non Native Vertebrate Ecologist at the UK Food and Environment Research Agency, introduced his paper outlining Fera's capabilities to assist the OTs and CDs with wildlife and pest management. Fera wish to collaborate with members of the Steering Group and invite individuals to contact them directly about potential projects and issues on which they require support over the coming months. Contact Sugoto on sugoto.roy@fera.gsi.gov.uk or find out more about Fera at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fera>

ACTION 1.2 – All members to send Sugoto Roy details of a project they could collaborate on with support from Fera in the next 6 months.

Deadline: 28 October 2010

ACTION 1.3 – Sugoto Roy to keep the Steering Group updated of developments on development of regional expertise via email to the Secretariat.

Deadline: Ongoing

(iii) OT student workshop (paper 04/04)

Tara Pelembe noted that JNCC had hosted a two-day workshop in April 2010 for OT students studying in the UK. The workshop aimed to raise awareness of environmental opportunities and establish links within the OT community. All agreed this was a worthwhile event to be repeated in the future and extended to non-environmental students.

ACTION 1.4 – Nick Rendell to send Tara details of Falkland environmental student

Deadline: 12 May 2010

(iv) Update on training support

Elizabeth Moore reminded members that the JNCC is offering up to £1,000 per territory to support individuals from the territories to attend short training courses. The course can cover any discipline as long as it is considered a priority training need by the Steering Group representative and it can take place anywhere (e.g. on island, in the UK, online). The person attending can be anyone the Steering Group member nominated. Requests should be sent to Elizabeth (Elizabeth.moore@jncc.gov.uk) as soon as possible.

¹ See Annex 1 for attendee list

Several members noted that flights were a major issue for them and it was agreed that JNCC would consider whether to approve requests for travel up to a maximum of £1000 instead of the support going on the actual training course fee. This will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Tara noted that the Interdepartmental group on biodiversity were considered options for funding OT and CD representatives to attend environmental conferences.

(v) Update on invasives training course

Several Steering Group members attended an invasive species training course at Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Jersey in 2009. They all found the course very useful, highlighting issues on biosecurity, eradication, ethics, control and risk management as well as meeting people from other territories and drawing on their experience. The course may run again in 2010 if funding can be found and Sugoto Roy will feed back positive comments from the people who attended and interest from other members to the relevant authority.

(vi) Update on new OT/CD research

Anguilla – 2 OTEP projects successful: improve agricultural plots

Reptile and macro invertebrate assessment

Bermuda – OTEP project: sea grass restoration guide development

Collaborate with Durrell on breeding and conserving skinks

High seas MPAs – IUCN collaboration

Restoring native and endemic plants in Bermuda as control for invasives – population level genetics to maintain genetic diversity

Falklands – OTEP project: Rock hopper distribution and dietary information, compliments existing OTEP project in its 2nd year

Cross-country Darwin project: Falklands & Chile – Zebra trout remediation survey group and habitat mapping

2 Darwin Challenge funds: Raptor species interactions with agriculture

Sea lion action plan

Defra & JNCC funds: South Atlantic territories invasive species and climate change

St Helena - Darwin: endemic plants and habitat assessment project

Darwin Challenge funds: invertebrate research baseline information

JNCC funding: eradicate invasive species in National park area and save endemic (gum wood) tree

TCI - OTEP national tree restoration

JNCC lionfish awareness programme

OTEP – energy policy development

Cayman - OTEP: shark and dolphin management

JNCC funds: expand lionfish control project, trained .300 lionfish hunters

Darwin Award: look at MPA system, assess reef resilience, plan & promote extension with public involvement and consultation

Isle of Man – Bird monitoring project (in 5th year)

Rare plant propagation project

International basking shark conference

Impact of climate change on rocky shores

Guernsey - Phase 1 habitat survey (whole island)

Removal of invasive plant

Monitoring – Lihou Island

Marram grass restoration

ACTION 1.5 – ALL MEMBERS to provide a brief update on new research in their territories. Send to Elizabeth Moore (Elizabeth.Moore@jncc.gov.uk) for collation and circulation to the Steering Group.
Deadline: 18 May 2010

(vii) Update on Review of biodiversity in the UKOTs publication (paper 04/05)

Tara noted that an Editorial Committee had agreed an outline for the document and comments on the paper were invited (in writing to tara.pelembe@jncc.gov.uk). Tara asked members to confirm whether they could act as lead authors for their territory or could nominate someone to do so.

Reference was made to the IUCN paper reviewing the status of implementation of the CBD in the EU overseas entities. All agreed it made sense to dovetail this with the UKOT publication review.

ACTION 1.6 – Tara to send details of the Review of the UKOT publication to the CDs inviting them to participate.
Deadline: 18 May 2010

ACTION 1.7 – ALL MEMBERS to notify Tara if they are able to act as lead author for their territory.
Deadline: 18 May 2010

2. **Agree priority objectives for Quarter 2 2010**

All agreed that the action points arising from this meeting would act as the priority objectives for quarter 2 2010.

Gina Ebanks Petrie noted that there may be an opportunity to undertake a cost/benefit analysis (similar to the Stern Review) following the recent launch of DfID's climate change centre.

ACTION 2.1 – Gina to develop a proposal for OTs to be part of a cost/benefit analysis for climate change and circulate to the Steering Group.
Deadline: 18 May 2010

3. **Interdepartmental Group on biodiversity (IDGOB)**

In the absence of Kedell Worbys it was suggested that she circulate a note of the meeting to the Steering Group.

ACTION 3.1 – Kedell Worbys to circulate a note providing an update on the IDGBOT meeting held on 14 April 2010 to the Steering Group.
Deadline: 18 May 2010

4. **Ramsar Convention RIS update**

David Stroud, JNCC Senior Ornithologist, noted the UK's obligation to report on the ecological character of designated Ramsar sites and to keep the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) updated. The UK does a batch update every six years and the last update was in 2004. The next update will be run shortly with the intention of submitting RIS prior to the Ramsar CoP in 2012. JNCC will be contacting the OTs in the coming weeks to request updated information for Ramsar sites; guidance will be provided on where to focus effort and the OT's help will be welcomed.

It was noted that this process could feed into the review of biodiversity in the UKOTs publication process. David noted that Ramsar Secretariat welcome new Ramsar sites and JNCC could offer support to OTs and CDs in seeking to do this.

5. Chairing of SG and regional meeting options

Thanks go to Samia Sarkis, Bermuda for chairing two of the SG meetings. All agreed to share the role of chair in future meetings and it would be agreed at each meeting whom the next chair would be (working down the list in alphabetical order). The next SG meeting will be chaired by Karim Hodge, Anguilla.

Tara raised the idea of holding regional meetings as well or instead of the whole OT and CD steering group meetings in order to discuss issues in more depth and issues that are of relevance within one region. The consensus was to keep the high level SG meeting and as needed (by OT and CD request) JNCC can arrange regional meetings, preferably not on the same day to avoid meeting fatigue.

Funding discussion

6. Work progress update

Nikki Chapman requested marine biologist contact details for the OTs and CDs since 50% of her role is to provide marine advice and support to OT and CD personnel (the other 50% is on fundraising).

ACTION 6.1 Nikki to email request for marine biologist contact details to Steering Group
Deadline: 18 May 2010

Nikki noted that until March 2010 she had been completing the EU bid with 5 Caribbean territories and updating the funding database (see <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4747>). Now effort is going into delivering the training package, specifically two papers:

- Guidelines of completing fundraising applications (circulated 26/04)
- Non-economic challenges faced by OTs (in draft, Nikki to circulate shortly).

Nikki invited further comments on the fundraising applications paper and it was suggested that a log frame and further examples of projects that were successful and unsuccessful could be included in the Appendix.

The non-economic challenges paper aims to provide a useful resource for everyone to draw on. It will focus on 5 or 6 key challenges and solutions to these issues. It would be helpful if territories could come up with innovative solutions to some of the non-financial situations that affect them.

7. Training package

Nikki noted that training is still available for OTs and CDs on preparing funding applications and the paper circulated 26/04 outlines the 2 options for delivering the course (paper to go on website shortly):

- JNCC delivery of both courses
- JNCC plus partner organisation to deliver course.

If anyone is interested in this training please contact Nikki: nikki.chapman@jncc.gov.uk

8. New streams of funding

Nikki is continuing to search for new streams of funding for the OTs and CDs and invited everyone to send details to her to update the funding database. Wesley noted that the Caribbean Development Bank had hosted a workshop advertising the need for more environmental projects. Nikki will follow this up with Wesley directly and circulate information to the SG.

Annex 1

Attendees at UK OT Training and Research Programme Steering Group meeting 28th April 2010

Name	Country/Organisation
Karim Hodge	Anguilla
Rhon Connor	Anguilla
Samia Sarkis	Bermuda (Chair)
Tim Austin	Cayman Islands
Gina Ebanks Petrie	Cayman Islands
Nick Rendell	Falkland Islands
Liz Charter	Isle of Man
Isabel Peters	St Helena
Andrew McCutcheon	States of Guernsey
Wesley Clerveaux	TCI
Marlon Hibbert	TCI
Sugoto Roy	Fera
Tara Pelembe	JNCC
Elizabeth Moore	JNCC
David Stroud	JNCC
Nikki Chapman	JNCC (funding only)
Ann Brown	Falklands Conservation (funding only)
Anna Balance	DfID (funding only)
Heather Christie	FCO (funding only)