

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

Information Paper

**What can JNCC's Surveillance Team  
offer to UK Overseas Territories?**

18 Jan 2011

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## What can JNCC's Surveillance Team offer to UK Overseas Territories?

Mark Crick, JNCC, 18 Jan 2011

### Who we are

The Surveillance Team in JNCC is a small team with responsibility for terrestrial (non-marine) surveillance at a UK level. Our current work covers:

- Species surveillance for biodiversity in conjunction with a variety of other organisations – in particular:
  - [the UK non-breeding wintering birds scheme \(the Wetland Bird Survey or WeBS\)](#);
  - [the Breeding Bird Survey](#);
  - [Seabird Monitoring Programme](#);
  - [The UK Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme](#);
  - [the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme](#);
  - [National Bat Monitoring Programme](#)
  - [The National Gamebag Census](#)
- Habitat surveillance for biodiversity – in particular using novel techniques (including sample surveys and remote sensing) to produce stock, condition and change data for habitats.
- Calibrating ecosystem goods and services - looking at how data from existing biodiversity surveillance and other monitoring and can be used to tell use more about the state and change of those ecosystem functions vital for human health and well-being;
- Better design of various aspects of biodiversity monitoring and surveillance to give more efficient and effective information for a wider range of users and uses;
- Using existing surveillance data in novel ways to address key environmental questions.

### What can we offer?

The Surveillance Team can offer a combination of staff time, expertise and goodwill to help you get the best fit between:

- the surveillance and monitoring you need for your most urgent biodiversity conservation priorities

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- the resources - financial, skills and information – you have or can make available.

More specifically we are offering JNCC's expertise on scoping and running species and habitat surveillance across a wide range of habitats and species groups to assist you with:

- carefully identifying your real biodiversity surveillance or monitoring need, and what data or evidence is required to meet that need;
- scoping and specifying the technical work to get that information, both from new work and reanalysis of existing information wherever it exists;
- identifying resources to implement sources of funding for projects, both for getting the initial survey work done and maintaining the value and use of outcomes into the future;
- getting the partnerships together to ensure work is relevant to as many people and organisations as possible.

The team recognise that simply providing such assistance on a project by project basis is not enough alone. We are particularly keen to develop longer-term relationships to assist overseas territories to develop their own skills and capacity to commission, run and assess activities to meet their biodiversity surveillance and monitoring needs as these develop and change.

## **Recent relevant projects**

The list below gives an idea of some of the more recent relevant pieces of work JNCC's surveillance team has led and developed.

- Turks and Caicos Islands – Habitat Mapping
  - JNCC's surveillance team has provided technical advice and assistance to the Department of the Environment and Coastal resources in the TCI government on work to use interpretation of aerial photographs to identify and map terrestrial habitats and vegetation across the 40+ islands in the territory. More specifically we have assisted with drawing up the specification for the work; tender evaluation and assessment of outputs during the project; and overall assistance in capacity building in T&CI for future development and delivery of the work.

- The TCI government is using this information for managing and assessing the impacts of development on the fragile biodiversity resources across the islands, and will be making it more widely available for use outside government through its national GIS system.
- The initial phase of work was completed in November 2010 and further details will be made available on the TCI government website and through the [Caribbean Hub web portal](#) in the near future.
- Developing an evidence base for the UK on how carbon emission factors from peatlands are affected by peatland type, condition and management
  - Work here has involved reviewing what experimental and monitoring evidence exists for how peatland types, management and condition affects fluxes of different greenhouse gases; and designing future monitoring and work to fill the most important gaps in our knowledge.
  - A concise summary of the work being carried out can be found on [the Living with Environmental Change website](#)
- Using existing surveillance data to assess the biodiversity impacts of climate change in the UK
  - This work ([Biodiversity Impacts of Climate Change Observation Network or BICCO-Net](#)) looks at how existing data and surveillance schemes can be used in new and powerful ways to identify the species, communities and habitats likely to most seriously affected by climate change.
- Getting better value from UK seabird monitoring
  - The UK has a long established (over 20 years) set of schemes for monitoring the populations of seabirds run by a variety of voluntary and government organisations. JNCC commissioned and led a review of the purposes, sampling strategy and outputs from these schemes in 2007. As a result of that review, the co-ordination of and outputs from that programme have been thoroughly revamped to increase their use and relevance. For example as well as now producing annually updated trends for all 26 species covered by the schemes, the [website](#) also provides an assessment of the main drivers of change, their impact and what the monitoring data tell us about the trend or magnitude of that impact.

## How can we best help you?

We will have a fairly limited opportunity to discuss and develop individual proposals further at the meeting on 26 January. Consequently I will use that time to suggest some possible projects based on our interpretation of the needs identified in the training and work programme for Overseas Territories that JNCC has developed to capture current priorities. However these will simply be illustrations; no work can or will be taken forward without the agreement of the relevant territory.

If anyone has any ideas they would like to discuss further please do get in touch - either by e-mail ([mark.crick@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:mark.crick@jncc.gov.uk)) or Skype (mark-crick) - before or after the meeting.

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