

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

Discussion Paper

**JNCC provides financial support to UK
OTs and CDs to address priority
training needs**

January 2011

For other documents from
UKOT & CD Training and Research Programme

Visit: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=5130>

To find out more about JNCC Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies
programme see <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ukotcd/>

To find out more about the JNCC see www.jncc.gov.uk



JNCC provides financial support to UK OTs and CDs to address priority training needs

With a relatively small amount of money JNCC has enabled 7 OTs and CDs and 17 people from Government and non-Government organisations to undertake priority training which is helping deliver conservation benefits in these areas.

What

In March 2010 JNCC offered financial support to the OTs and CDs to attend short training courses. Initially the support was a fixed amount of up to £1,000 per territory to enable as many territories as possible to benefit. After 6 months requests were invited for unallocated funds on a first come first served basis.

How

Members of the OT and CD Training and Research Programme¹ Steering Group were invited to submit requests to JNCC for the training funds. They could nominate anyone within the territory to take part in the training. The course could be located anywhere in the world and it could be for any aspect of nature conservation depending on the priorities of the territory.

Who and when

The table highlights the diversity of training that was undertaken by conservation professionals within the OTs and CDs. Some was cross territory and this enabled development of networking and relationship building across islands, some was practical hands-on conservation, some training included larger groups of individuals, some training is being undertaken over a longer timeframe and results in a higher level of qualification and specialism.

Summary table showing territories that have received JNCC funding for training			
Name of OT/CD	Details of training (course title and name of supplier)	No. of people attending	When training held
SBA Cyprus	Practical turtle conservation, Dr Andreas Demetropoulos, SBA Cyprus	5 from Env Dept	June 2010 (3 days) Aug 2010 (3 days)
Isle of Man	Arc View GIS Basic Training, Isle of Man	5 from Manx Wildlife Trust	2-3 Aug 2010
Bermuda	Marine spatial planning, University of the Azores	1 from Env Dept	7-12 Aug 2010
Ascension Island	Intermediate GIS training, Len Coleman, St Helena	1 from Env Dept	8-19 Nov 2010
South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	1st year of MA in GIS, online course, University of Leeds	1 from Env Dept	Jan - Dec 2011

¹ The UK OTs and CDs Training and Research Programme aims to build capacity in the UK OTs and CDs and address their research needs in the long term. For more details see: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5130>

Summary table showing territories that have received JNCC funding for training			
Name of OT/CD	Details of training (course title and name of supplier)	No. of people attending	When training held
Turks and Caicos Islands	ArcGIS, ESRI, USA	1 from Env Dept	Mar 2011
Montserrat	Adaptation to climate change, online course, Centre for Sustainable Development	1 from Env Dept 2 from Montserrat National Trust	Jan – Mar 2011

Why this is important?



Picture shows Darren Christie by Harker Glacier, South Georgia, taken by Pippa Christie

To illustrate why this is such an important initiative for some of the OT's we could take the example of South Georgia. Darren Christie, South Georgia Environment Officer says the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) falls "into a grey area when it comes to funding. GSGSSI has a staff of 6, and has no dedicated training budget. We are based in

the Falklands, as South Georgia is unoccupied. I have applied to 2 different local Falklands funding sources, but funding is understandably dedicated to people working for Falklands entities. The only other funding is the Commonwealth Scholarship, which I have also tried, but requires sponsorship by the Falklands Government. Again, priority is given to those employed by the Falklands. In short, I have tried to get this course [MsC in GIS] funded for 4 years now with no success. This [JNCC] initiative is my only option, as I'm sure it is for others in some of the other territories, so I think it is incredibly important, and is worth noting in the face of all the budget cuts at present"

Feedback from some of the territories and individuals who have taken part in training funded by JNCC also highlights the success of this scheme in meeting their conservation needs: 'As a GIS professional this course was also an opportunity to network with other GIS professionals from several different countries'



Picture shows Natasha Williams taken on St Helena, taken by ???

Also, on turtle conservation training: 'A very useful training course which relates to the conservation of 2 priority species. A very good value for money and time'

Annex 1

Results from Survey Monkey on OT and CD Training Support Evaluation

Paper by Elizabeth Moore, JNCC, January 2011

Thank you to all those who took part in the survey to evaluate the financial support for training which JNCC offered for the financial year 2010-2011. The results from the survey are summarised below.

Background

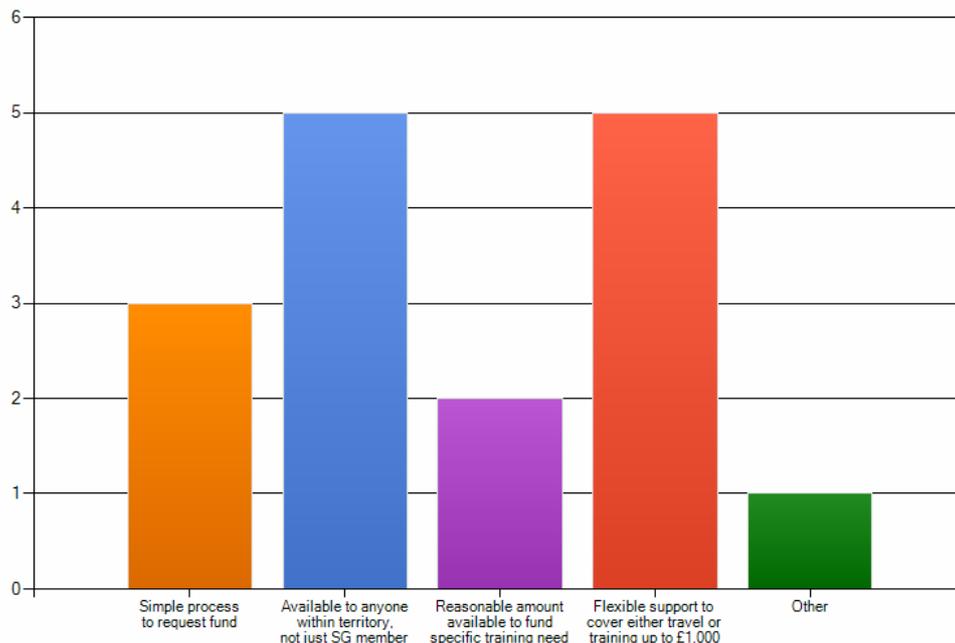
- 8 people took part in the survey, 5 from OT Governments, 2 from CDs (1 Gov and 1 NGO) and 1 from UK Gov
- 4 people had applied for training funding and 3 hadn't. (Unfortunately 1 skipped this question so we don't know whether or not they had applied for funding.)

Reasons for not requesting the financial support for training

- 1 required more than £1000 for course plus T&S
- 'Other' responses included:
 - i. better to bring trainer to OT, not accounted for in this support
 - ii. combination of not having sufficient time to devote to a training course during the period and not having the time to research relevant courses that fit the criteria and the financial support offered

Opinions on financial support for training

What was positive about the opportunity to request financial support (select as many as appropriate)



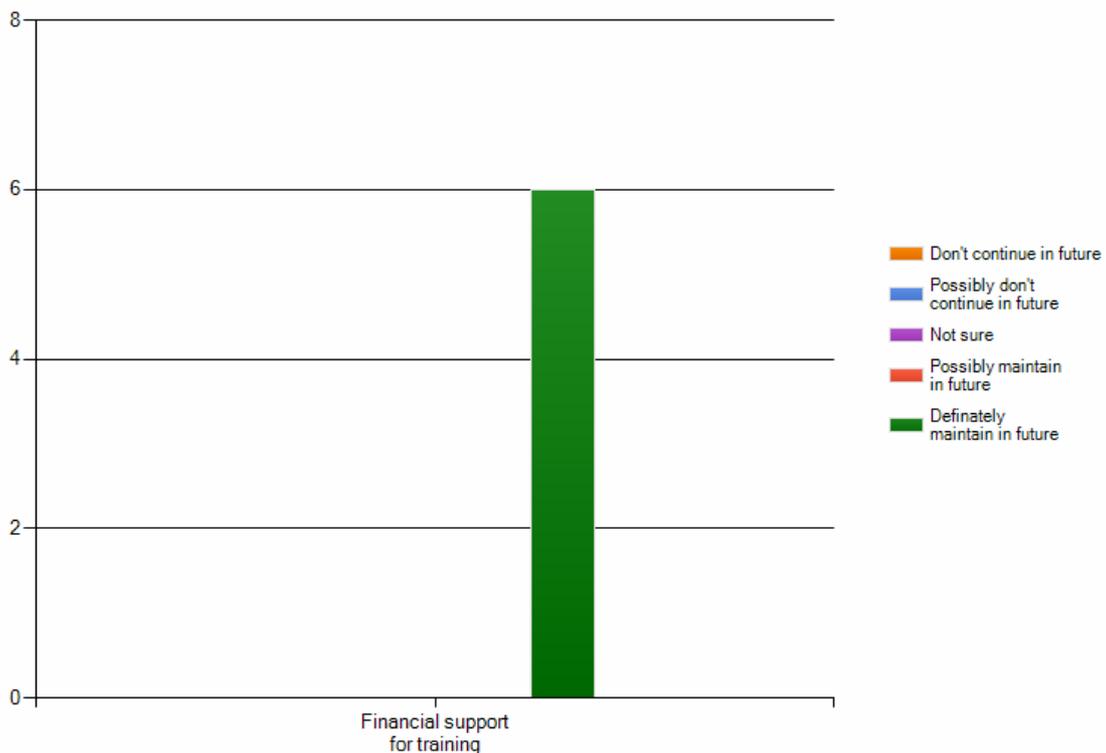
Other included: 'no other support for training available'

How would you rate the processes used for providing financial support for training?

- Available to anyone within the territory, not just SG member - 3 rated 'very good'
- Amount available to fund specific training need:
 - i. 1 'very good'
 - ii. 2 'average'
 - iii. 1 'quite bad'
- Flexible to cover either travel or training – 4 rated as 'very good'

Suggestions for future improvements

Please indicate whether or not you think the financial support for training should be continued next year.



Suggestions for improving financial support

- More funds and increased range of applications
- Allow funds to bring trainers to OTs
- More flexibility in amount offered to each OT
- Help to have an idea on the frequency of fund availability

Other thoughts and comments on financial support for training

The existing scheme is a very good support system for technical training in aspects that would be prohibitively expensive or inaccessible to NGO's. Our training in GIS systems has been a massive benefit to the staff who undertook it - without the Training Support we would still be swimming in the lake is ineptitude !

To support this programme could also establish a wider database on available training courses in key subject areas.

This is an INCREDIBLY important initiative, in the case of our OT more so than any of the other JNCC funds, as there is no other training fund available. Thank you!

1,000 GBP per territory is a substantial sum of money; the difficulty is that for us it seems to only cover part of the funds required; at times applications are not submitted, because individual/government does not have possibility of funding the rest. This may explain in part the apparent "lack of response".