

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

Work Programme

**UKOT & CD Training and Research
Programme Work Programme**

September 2011

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Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Training and Research Programme



Workplan Jan 2010 – March 2012

Actions and Progress: 26 September 2011



The OTs need to address a range of baseline survey, monitoring and research issues in conservation, ranging from the protection of native biodiversity and their habitats to the control of invasive species. However, due to their relatively small populations, they often don't have a wide enough range of skills, expertise and time to address these issues on their own. Although there are some research initiatives on individual OTs, there are no cross territory co-ordinated programmes which provide training in order to systematically address research gaps. In addition, access to relevant expertise between and outside the OTs can be difficult in the absence of existing links. As a result, conservation issues are often addressed piecemeal, and there is limited opportunity to share best practice between OTs.

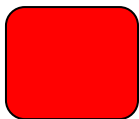
The aim of this programme is to address these issues through:

1. Training and capacity building for individuals and organisations in the OTs.
2. Access to UK-based research and advisory expertise.
3. Activities to enhance knowledge transfer between OTs.
4. Collaboration with tertiary education facilities in the OTs and in OT regions.

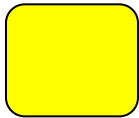
For more information see <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=5130>



- This document lays out the programme of work for the OT and CD Research and Training Steering Group (OTCDSG) to progress the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Research and Training Programme.
- Actions are derived from a Steering group workshop held in 2009.
- Updates on actions are given by OTCDSG members at 3 monthly intervals to coincide with quarterly meetings.
- The status of actions are measured via a traffic light system:



nothing yet done



activities taking place to deliver the action but not fully completed



Action completed.



action completed, but is recurrent.






Steering Group




- **The Steering group is comprised of officially nominated representatives from Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.**
- **The List of members is regularly updated at <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/UKOTSGMemberslistApril2010.pdf>**





Objective 1 : Training and capacity building for individuals and organisations in the Overseas Territories.

Key output	priorities	Activity	Action/ Responsibility	cost	Timing	Quarterly update April 2010	Quarterly update July 2010	Bi-annual update Dec 2010	Bi-annual update August 2011	Status
1.1 Identify likely funding source & set up scholarship for BSc, MSc and PhD	high	1.1.1 Scholarship for BSc, MSc and PhD	JNCC (TP)	c £15,000 - £20,000 pa	Scholarship to start in September 2011, advertise by Oct 2010	Discussion on scholarship started, funding still to be found.	JNCC – sent email to OTBG exploring funding possibilities. Consideration of scholarship included in reading MOU	Possible MSc scholarship for 2011-12 being explored with UKOTA	MSc scholarship awarded to Giselle Duncan, Anguilla to start Sept 2011	
1.2 Develop opportunities for short term training	medium	1.2.1 Facilitate short courses for a number of Ots	JNCC (EM)	c £10,000 p.a.	31-Mar-10	System for funding training courses set up	JNCC launched training support 31/03/10	Funded 8 territories to undertake variety of training – paper to UKOTBG and Nature News	Funded 9 territories on training courses,	
						Short courses have been identified and circulated to SG. New courses can be added.	JNCC provided spreadsheet of courses and continued to update training information webpage	JNCC continue to circulate information on training courses to SG	circulate info on courses as available to OTSG. Sent info about training funding to	



								OT mailing list	
	1.2.2 JNCC to develop tailor-made course/s to address training needs in OTs					No tailor made courses yet developed	No tailor made courses yet developed	Activity removed from WP as no training gaps identified by OTs/CDs	
	1.2.3 Encourage OT to develop training material to share/make available to other, e.g. Bermuda ecosystem evaluation	Bermuda (SS)		01/07/2010	Bermuda send in economic valuation – JNCC still to put on line	Bermuda send in economic valuation – JNCC still to put on line	Technical executive summary on JNCC website	No further action required	
	1.3.1 Encourage inclusion of env education in primary and secondary school curriculum			2011-2012	Not due to start until March 2011			JNCC created summary webpage: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5131 On env ed resources	





1.3 Environment issues in school curriculum	medium	1.3.2 Encourage inclusion of env education in primary and secondary school curriculum	Cayman (Gina) to circulate info on Mangrove + Coral reef programmes (JNCC can put on website). TCI circulate National Trust materials if available		31-Mar-10	Still to do	Cayman – no longer relevant. TCI – tbc.		JNCC created summary webpage: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5131 On env ed resources	
		1.4 Workshop to help OT and CD students, raise environmental issues and provide opportunities for them to collaborate and build support networks	JNCC (TP)	c £?	1 st - Spring 2010, 2 nd - Autumn 2011	JNCC hosted OTSEW 12-13 Apr 2010 for environmental students studying in UK. Report from workshop on website.		Discussion with UKOTA about possible workshop, funding etc. Set up working group to take forward planning. Idea for 2-day event to be broadened to all OT and CD students, held at Univ Reading in	JNCC applied to Defra for exemption to hold this event but not granted permission. Defra Biod team supportive and trying to follow up within Defra. Will have to be deferred until Spring 2012	





								Sept 2011		
1.4 Organise annual OT and CD student workshop	high									



Objective 2: Access to Research and Advisory Expertise.

Key output	priorities	Activity	Action/Responsibility	cost	Timing	Quarterly update April 2010	Quarterly update July 2010	Bi-annual update December 2010	Bi-annual update August 2011	Status
2.1 one stop shop - link into scientific community	high	2.1.1 Establish MoU with Univ of Reading and Univ of Exeter (?) to provide links to UK expertise. MoU to include best practice for researchers working in OTs	JNCC (TP)		31-Mar-10	Meeting with Reading happened. Draft MOU circulated to SG for comment	Draft MOU sent to University of Reading (23/6/10)	MoU signed with Uni of Reading. 9 specific outputs, progress reported against activities in work plan	Univ of Reading appointed person to take forward actions in MoU in Sept. Update on progress to be circulated October 2011	
		2.1.2 Establish MoU (?) with FERA and VLA to provide links to UK laboratories	JNCC (EM)	c £1,000	31-Mar-10	Have met with Fera – exploring the content of an MOU. Opportunities that Fera offers circulated	JNCC to draft MoA with Fera	Meeting with Fera and JNCC Oct 2010 then subsequent JNCC discussion with Defra. No extra funding to support MoU at this stage but JNCC continue to work closely with Fera on	(Fera) NNS Sec creating template for each territory to post high priority info on NNS. Starting with Bermuda, test page and templates will be circulated in mid Sept. Update on plant pest	






								OT and CD research priorities	identification – Fera continue to provide free service to OTs, details at: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4083	
		2.1.3 List of consultants from UKOTs and other who can do areas of work laid out in research priorities	University of Reading/JNCC		Ongoing	No action so far	JNCC checking whether can do this internally.	JNCC circulating list, SG members to add contact details, will go on JNCC website and be updated as required	List on huddle so all can access/update/share	
		2.1.4 Explore links to fisheries resource management expertise and advice	JNCC/University of Reading		Ongoing	Met with CEFAS about another topic and mentioned this – need to follow up in more detail	Cefas will come to JNCC on 28 th June to talk about the possibility of this.	Action 6.1 from Oct SG meeting – Nikki sent OT questionnaire to identify key components of work. NC following up specific proposals.		




Objective 3: Activities to enhance knowledge transfer between OTs.

Key output	priorities	Activity	Action/ Responsibility	cost	Timing	Quarterly update April 2010	Quarterly update July 2010	Bi-annual update December 2010	Bi-annual update August 2011	Status
3.1 Research publication		3.1.1. Explore option for OT researchers to publish their research in peer-reviewed publications	JNCC/Univ of Reading (MoU)		2011-2012	Not due to start until March 2011 (can be included in annual review of Reading MOU?)	Included in draft MOU with Reading	Output 5 from MoU. No contact from UKOTs to Univ of Reading	Update from Uni of Reading to be circulated Oct 2011	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 Best practice		3.2.1 Standardisation of assessments e.g. EIA - best practice	To be explored as required (no current action)		2011-2012	Not due to start until March 2011	Not due to start until March 2011		Email discussion Mch 2011, create webpage for resources and discuss requirement at Sept SG meeting. Take forward to Jan review meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>





Key output	priorities	Activity	Action/ Responsibility	cost	Timing	Quarterly update April 2010	Quarterly update July 2010	Bi-annual update December 2010	Bi-annual update August 2011	Status
3.3 Website	high	3.3.1 Develop website for the UK OT SG	JNCC/Univ of Reading continue to update and develop OT programme website/s	£10,000	Ongoing	Included in draft MOU with Reading	Included in draft MOU with Reading	Output 7 from MoU. Univ of Reading to start this process Jan 2011	Update from Univ of reading to be circulated Oct 2011	
			All to send in documents for upload onto website including EIA and economic valuation case studies (Bermuda, TCI Montserrat) and beach profile monitoring methodology (BVI, TCI Anguilla)		31-Mar-10	JNCC section of website continually updated. Bermuda case study submitted	JNCC section of website continually updated. Programme website is part of the MOU for the University of Reading.	Two internal JNCC meetings to discuss re-design of OT/CD webpages. Sections maintained and updated, re-design will happen gradually	JNCC OT and CD website re-designed – all information now under specific territory with links to thematic programmes such as training and research	
3.4 Accessing scientific journals		3.4.1 Explore options for accessing academic/scientific journals including Google Scholar and EBSCO	Reading/JNCC (HB?)		Ongoing	Included in draft MOU with Reading	Included in draft MOU with Reading	Output 4(?) from MoU. Univ of Reading are following up, Jan 2011	Update from Univ of reading to be circulated Oct 2011	



Key output	priorities	Activity	Action/ Responsibility	cost	Timing	Quarterly update April 2010	Quarterly update July 2010	Bi-annual update December 2010	Bi-annual update August 2011	Status
3.5 Workshop	HIGH	3.5 Organise UKOT research conference (once every two years) with focus on research activity by OT personnel	JNCC (TP/EM)		Autumn 2011	Raised at OTBG by Kedell Worby's.	Nothing additional	Working group meeting held brainstorming session Aug 2010, outcomes circulated to OTCD SG. Paper to be sent to UKOTBG to gather support	No funding available at the current time. Defer this and discuss at the Review of Work Programme Meeting in Jan 2012	





Objective 4: Collaboration with tertiary education facilities in the OTs and OT regions.

Key output	priority	Activity	Action/responsibility	Cost	Timing	Quarterly update April 2010	Quarterly update July 2010	Bi-annual update December 2010	Bi-annual update August 2011	Status
4.1 Identifying tertiary education possibilities in the UKOTs.	medium	4.1.1 TCI to develop modules on economic valuation training for tertiary education institutions in Ots	TCI (Marlon)		Jun-10	Samia exploring economic valuation module for Tertiary education.	Samia exploring economic valuation module for Tertiary education.	Update from Samia at Jan 2011 SG meeting	JNCC and Samia discussing option for contract for this. Have draft spec	
4.2 Teacher transfer module development		4.2.1 transfer of teachers, and developing modules of work.	To be explored as required (no current action)		2011-2012	Not due to start until march 2011	Not due to start until march 2011		Discussed at Jan SG. uncertain about ops for getting env issues on curriculum.	



Objective 5: Implementation of Research Priorities

Key output	priority	Activity	Action/responsibility	Cost	Timing	Quarterly update April 2010	Quarterly update July 2010	Bi-annual update December 2010	Bi-annual update August 2011	Status
5.1 Financial support for Research priorities	High	5.1.1 JNCC contribution contracts	JNCC (EM) - to issue 2 calls pa	£9,000 pa	ongoing	First call for contribution request issues and requests submitted	Two projects funded (TCI & Falkland/S GSSI). Reminder that second call to be issued Sept 2010 for one project	Third project funded (Falklands Islands)	Funded 3 projects in Apr 2011 – IoM and 2 in TCI.	
5.2 Current Research priorities		5.1.2 OTs and CDs to develop research priorities, submit to JNCC on annual basis.	All OTs and CDs		ongoing	Most OTs submitted	Most OTs submitted	Requested 2011 priorities 13/12/10	All submitted priorities as part of Biod Review process.	

The Research Priorities for each OT for 2011 follow – SG members to update six monthly progress on these (at April, October meetings)



Overview of OT Research Priority Areas 2011

OT	Inventory	Ecological restoration	Invasive species	Climate change	Terrestrial survey	Marine zoning assessment	Coastal and marine species and ecosystems	Water resources management	Compliance with Commitments to ACAP	Marine ecosystem mapping	Protected Area/ species m'gmt	Ecosystem Evaluation	Connectivity	monitoring
Anguilla	1				2/3		2							
Ascension Island	1		2	3										
Bermuda			1		3 (pollinators)						2			
BAT			2	1/2										
BIOT	1			2									3	
Cayman					1/3									2
Falkland Islands*			2	1			3							
Isle of Man					1 (habitat change) 3 (invertebrate status)							2		
Pitcairn Islands*	3		1 (management)					2						
St Helena		2		3	1 (baseline)		1 (mapping)			1 (baseline)				
South Georgia and			2 (links to climate change)	1 (impacts on key					3					



OT	Inventory	Ecological restoration	Invasive species	Climate change	Terrestrial survey	Marine zoning assessment	Coastal and marine species and ecosystems	Water resources management	Compliance with Commitments to ACAP	Marine ecosystem mapping	Protected Area/ species m'gment	Ecosystem Evaluation	Connectivity	monitoring
South Sandwich Islands				fish species)										
SBA Cyprus*			1 (management)	3 (impact on wetlands)				2 (hydrological parameters at Akrotiri wetlands.						
TCI *			2 (management)							1	3			
Tristan da Cunha	1 (baseline plants) 2 (baseline invertebrates)						3							

* denotes research priorities from 2010. All others are from 2011



Ascension Island



Research Priorities 2011

**Contributed by Olivia Renshaw – Assistant Conservation Officer,
Conservation Department, on behalf of Stedson Stroud – Ascension Island
Government Steering Group member.**



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2010	Update Dec 2010
Ecological restoration	<p>Plants: Review of long-term population trends in order to make informed, basic assessments of conservation needs. Currently we do not have baseline data on the ecology of endemic and native species necessary to ensure the sustainability of the restoration of habitats on Ascension. Gathering this data is of paramount importance if the current threats to their survival are to be addressed.</p> <p>An understanding of the most effective methods for ensuring the survival of re-introduced populations is also required. More detailed population monitoring over a sustained time period is required to assess the levels of seedling recruitment of the endemic plants.</p> <p>To evaluate the conservation status of the species it is necessary to understand the persistence and recruitment rates of current/future populations. This is partly being achieved through scientifically rigorous monitoring of permanent sites and the experimental introduction of endemics and natives to new locations. On-going assessment of performance required. Assessment of the ecology and taxonomy of Ascension’s bryophytes is urgently needed as we currently do not know the level of endemism amongst this group but also because bryophytes are crucial to the survival of vascular endemic species. It is likely that there are specific micro-climatic conditions required by both bryophytes and endemic/native vascular species; it is not yet known what these conditions are particularly with regard to the amount of mist and rain, therefore, experimental trials and monitoring are needed.</p> <p>Inventory of species: Establish an inventory of the species which are currently on Ascension. Apart from the plants, we still know very little about the other taxonomic groups. A basic survey of terrestrial invertebrates, marine fauna and bryophytes would get my vote. Once we know what’s there we</p>	1	Dept of Env, Ministry of Env, whole of territory Gov, wider stakeholder group: Alan Gray CEH, Phil Lambdon	<p>Ascension Island Government (AIG) has a formal Environmental Charter, AIG is also a signatory to the CBD, CITES, CMS, London Convention, Ramsar Convention, and the WHC. These priorities address the following commitments in the Ascension Island Environment Charter:</p> <p><i>Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.</i></p> <p>Similarly, these priorities would uphold the following UK government commitments in the Ascension Island Environment Charter:</p> <p><i>Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management which is consistent with Ascension Island’s own plans for sustainable development.</i></p>	Marine baseline survey – identify main species at 3 locations, establish how so change with depth at 3 locations, establish main flora fauna and habitat above the high water mark at one location and establish the main habitats and species lists at all dive locations	



might be able to work out whether there are any species in serious danger of extinction, or any invasives which really need to be wiped-out before they become established.

Invertebrates: We still know very little of Ascension's invertebrate taxonomy and ecology and the level of interactions between other taxa, e.g. pollination. More invertebrate studies should be a priority and baseline information and an assessment of IUCN status would be a useful first step.

The population ecology of land crabs should also be a priority since these species are likely to be a crucial component of Ascension's terrestrial ecology.

Marine: Although we have very good data on turtles other important marine species remain unknown. Data on the population ecology of many inshore and pelagic species around Ascension should be a priority area of research particularly as some species are economically important.

Help Ascension Island to ensure it has the legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations.

Use UK, regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes regular consultation with interested non-governmental organisations and networks.

These research priorities will also help ensure that Ascension Island is meeting its international agreements in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2010	Update Dec 2010
Invasive species	<p>Ascension is more heavily invaded by invasives that almost any other island on Earth (95% of plant species are introduced). This represents a fantastic opportunity to study how whole new ecosystems are developing at an amazing rate. Ascension’s commonest ant is a serious global invasive called <i>Pheidole megacephala</i>, the big-headed ant. This has probably already wiped-out a reasonable proportion of the native invertebrates.</p> <p>We have good baseline information on invasive species but assessment of the ecological implications of, for example, invasive plants are required since this has implications for native habitats and planned ecological restoration.</p> <p>Longer-term strategies for reducing the rate of encroachment by invasive species onto key habitat areas are required. For example, it is not yet known whether the germination sites of endemic species are gradually being outcompeted by weeds in wild situations, and how establishment interacts with climate and/or grazing. Currently there is a lack of detailed records on financial losses resulting from invasive species and the most cost effective methods of control. There is a need for an Island-wide control programme particularly with regard to problem species such as rats.</p> <p>Fire risk of <i>Prosopis juliflora</i>: There is an increasing amount of Prosopis biomass particularly around places of habitation (e.g. Two Boats, Travellers) and an assessment of the potential risk of wild/accidental fire in these areas and the likely consequences to human life and economy is required. This is of paramount importance since Ascension lacks the resources to be able to cope with a potential large scale fire.</p>	2	Dept of Env, Ministry of Env, whole of territory Gov, wider stakeholder group: Alan Gray CEH, Phil Lambdon	<p>Ascension Island Government (AIG) has a formal Environmental Charter, AIG is also a signatory to the CBD, CITES, CMS, London Convention, Ramsar Convention, and the WHC. These priorities address the following commitments in the Ascension Island Environment Charter:</p> <p><i>Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.</i></p> <p>Similarly, these priorities would uphold the following UK government commitments in the Ascension Island Environment Charter:</p> <p><i>Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management which is consistent with Ascension Island’s own plans for sustainable development.</i></p>		



Help Ascension Island to ensure it has the legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations.

Use UK, regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes regular consultation with interested non-governmental organisations and networks.

These research priorities will also help ensure that Ascension Island is meeting its international agreements in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2010	Update Dec 2010
Climate change	The implications of climate change for Ascension are currently unclear. Data on, for example, changes to rainfall and temperature will underpin the selection of the most effective and sustainable conservation techniques for both terrestrial and marine habitats	3	Dept of Env, Ministry of Env, whole of territory Gov, wider stakeholder group: Alan Gray CEH, Phil Lambdon	Ascension Island Government (AIG) has a formal Environmental Charter, AIG is also a signatory to the CBD, CITES, CMS, London Convention, Ramsar Convention, and the WHC. These priorities address the following commitments in the Ascension Island Environment Charter: <i>Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.</i> Similarly, these priorities would uphold the following UK government commitments in the Ascension Island Environment Charter: <i>Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management which is consistent with Ascension Island’s own plans for sustainable development.Help Ascension Island to</i>		



ensure it has the legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations. Use UK, regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes regular consultation with interested non-governmental organisations and networks. These research priorities will also help ensure that Ascension Island is meeting its international agreements in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.



Additional projects outwith Research priorities

- Photographic and sample collection: to study zonation and intertidal ecology of different sea shores on Ascension island.
- Measurement of ammonia emissions from Sooty Terns (May/June 2010)



. Anguilla

Research Priorities 2011

Anguilla: Research Priorities 2011 (from Review of Biodiversity in the UKOTs publication – Karim Hodge)

- General inventory (active research and literature reviews) of the marine environment.
- National assessment of the alteration of terrestrial and marine landscapes as a result of current development trends - towards understanding and managing observed changes in the distribution and occurrence of biological diversity.
- Comparative studies of the biological diversity and stable communities on the Offshore Keys and Rocks of Anguilla to support further efforts to understand and mitigate the longstanding changes brought about by feral animals (goats and chickens).

KH Update SG meeting April 2010:

2 OTEP projects successful:

improve agricultural plots <http://www.ukotcf.org/otep/docs/ProjectsTerritory2010.pdf>

Reptile and macro invertebrate assessment

KH Update SG meeting July 2010:

Change in Government, CITES legislation to take effect 1st Sept 2010, biodiversity heritage Act to take effect by end of 2010. Regulations complete in November, being brought into force section by section. Hope to get environmental protection Act approved shortly



RC Update SG meeting October 2010:

Ongoing work includes OTEP soil amelioration project, CITES implementation and invasive species identification and control



Bermuda



Research Priorities 2011

Contributed by Samia Sarkis – Bermuda Government Steering Group member



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2011	Update Oct 2011
Invasive species	Control of invasive species; investigating legislation and programme development- includes both terrestrial and marine	1	DCS, Environmental Protection input	Links: www.conservation.bm for protected species and recovery plans		
Protected area/species management	Implementation of protected species (terrestrial and marine) recovery as per published plans- includes verification of status of threatened species, characterization of species at all levels, and critical habitat identification and legislation; restoration for seagrass and mangroves; development of propagating programmes for re-introduction into natural environment for selected protected species.	2	DCS, Environmental Protection input	Links: www.conservation.bm for protected species and recovery plans		
Investigate pollinators	Investigating pollinators in Bermuda, triggered by decline of honey bee; this includes level of pollination by various pollinators, and identification of target species by pollinators.	3	DCS, Environmental Protection input	Links: www.conservation.bm for protected species and recovery plans		

Additional projects outwith Research priorities

- April 2010 (SS) Collaborate with Durrell on breeding and conserving skinks

AC Update SG meeting October 2010:

- Extended protection to the spotted eagle ray
- Held island-wide survey for the Bermuda land snail
- Undertaking research into the decline of bees (60% decline in last 12 months)



Research Priorities 2010

1. Includes plant, terrestrial animals, and inland pond species. Verification of status of threatened species and critical habitat identification and legislation to ensure protection. This includes comprehensive survey and verification of taxonomy using herbarium vouchers, as well as population level genetics to assess variation and potential hybridization in some cases.
Update April 2010: Restoring native and endemic plants in Bermuda as control for invasives – population level genetics to maintain genetic diversity
2. Including those optimising coral reef , seagrass and mangrove restoration as mitigation measures, and restoration of threatened marine populations through investigations in growth and survival requirements for early life stages (as outlined in recovery plans). The latter includes, queen conch, seahorse species, and grouper species
Update April 2010: OTEP 2010 project: sea grass restoration guide development <http://www.ukotcf.org/otep/docs/ProjectsTerritory2010.pdf>
3. Evaluation of current MPA's, identification of new zones in consideration of ecosystem requirements for conservation and management. Developing strategy for spatial management using ecosystem-based approach. Within the scope of this lies the need for investigation of currents across the Bermuda platform and over the edge (including tidal and oceanic). This will provide data for understanding sources of recruitment, settlement patterns of marine species, and insight into connectivity with Caribbean populations, as well as help identify potential causes for fish kill or other widespread disease events.
Update April 2010: High seas MPAs – IUCN collaboration

Departments consulted: Dept of conservation services, Dept of Env protection, Bermuda Zoological Society (NGO)

Link to biodiversity strategy: Based on actions recommended in recovery plans, stemming from legislation enacted following biodiversity plan- all Directly addresses Objective I (Protected areas), J (Species and Habitat management plans), K (Research and monitoring).



British Antarctic Territory

British Antarctic Territory: Research Priorities 2011 (from Review of Biodiversity in the UKOTs publication – Rob Bowman)

- Antarctica's environment is a critical barometer of the world's climate health and the British Antarctic Territory is important as a global laboratory. Scientists from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS)¹ and other UK scientists are playing a leading role in a wide range of Antarctic research programmes. BAS launched its new Polar Science for Planet Earth (PSPE) programme in 2009. PSPE has six main themes: Climate, Chemistry and Past Chemistry, Ecosystems, Environmental Change and Evolution, Ice Sheets and Oceans.
- Much of the current work of the Antarctic Treaty's Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) is focused on effective protection of the environment and in particular the impacts of climate change and non-native species. Similarly, CCAMLR is considering the dynamics of Southern Ocean ecosystems including the response to the impacts of climate and fisheries. The UK makes a significant contribution to CEP and is taking a leading role in work in CCAMLR to identify and establish marine protected areas.

¹ BAS discovered the ozone hole over Antarctica in 1985, so triggering international concerns about the effects of atmospheric pollution.



British Indian Ocean Territories

BIOT: Research Priorities 2011 (from Review of Biodiversity in the UKOTs publication – Joanne Yeadon and Charles Sheppard)

The following research priorities have been identified for BIOT by the group of scientists who have carried out research there.

- General database and ecological mapping of changes to underpin management;
- Reef resilience studies to aid management of climate change effects;
- Connectivity (species and genetic) of Chagos with other areas of Indian Ocean



Cayman

Research Priorities 2011

Cayman: Research Priorities 2011 (from Review of Biodiversity in the UKOTs publication – Mat Cottam, Manager Terrestrial Ecology Unit; Mr. Jeremy Olynik, Geographic Information Systems Officer; Mr. Tim Austin, Deputy Director for Research; Gina Ebanks-Petrie, Director, Cayman Islands Department of the Environment)

- Identification of native trees to promote landscaping with native species, and reduce the reliance on exotic imports and potential for the introduction of invasives
- Developing monitoring protocols for endangered species e.g. Cayman Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala caymanensis* and *A .l. hesterna*), Sister Islands iguana (*Cyclura nubila caymanensis*) and red mangrove restoration to determine success and cost-effectiveness.

Continue to contribute to the identification of previously unknown species of animals and plants such as past successes with Cayman sage *Salvia*

GE Update SG meeting April 2010:

- OTEP project : Shark and dolphin management <http://www.ukotcf.org/otep/docs/ProjectsTerritory2010.pdf>
- Darwin project: Looking at MPA system, assess reef resilience, plan and promote extension with public involvement and consultation http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/find_projects/?_submitted_findProjects=1&project_type=all&category=any_issue&location=Cayman+Islands&start_year=2010&end_year=any&submit=Refine+this+search
- JNCC/Defra funds: Invasive species (lionfish) <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4396>



MC update SG meeting May 2011:

- Darwin Initiative to Enhance an Established Marine Protected Area System, Cayman Islands. <http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/project/18016/>. Currently 6 months into project which looks at marine parks – 25 years on. Looking at comprehensive review of the park focussing on fisheries and fish biomass and resiliency - might be able to expand the parks to meet the Caribbean challenge (c. 30% Protected areas).
- Successful Blue Iguana conservation programme – looking to extend and address rock iguana question in more detail – more structured approach. – Working with Durrell for past 3 years – survey and prep ground work to identify areas
- Also sent draft climate change policy out for review – need to get presented to cabinet – wrap up to ECACC project funded through DFID
- lionfish project – still getting a lot of support from the local community – one of the largest marine issue at the moment, looking to expand work into research into the most effective way of catching the lionfish.



. Falkland Islands



Research Priorities 2010

Contributed by Nick Rendell – Falkland Islands Government Steering Group member



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2010	Update Dec 2010
Climate change	Predicted changes in climate and how these changes may affect native species and ecosystems and land-use and marine use activities.	1	Dept of Env, wider stakeholder group (via FI Biodiversty Strategy 2008-2018)	<p>The FI Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by the Falkland Islands Government in 2008. The three areas of research listed above all come from the priority research areas identified in this document. The most critical knowledge gaps sited in the Biodiversity strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Predicted changes in climate b. Coastal and marine species and ecosystems c. Impacts of introduced plants and animals <p>These critical knowledge gaps are supported by the biodiversity priority threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threat 2: Uncertainty/lack of information Threat 4: Invasive Species Threat 9: Climate Change <p>The FI Biodiversity Strategy is located online: http://www.epd.gov.fk/?page_id=40</p>		



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2010	Update Dec 2010
Invasive species	Impacts of introduced plants and animals, as well as diseases on native biodiversity.	2	Dept of Env, wider stakeholder group (via FI Biodiversty Strategy 2008-2018)	<p>The FI Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by the Falkland Islands Government in 2008. The three areas of research listed above all come from the priority research areas identified in this document. The most critical knowledge gaps sited in the Biodiversity strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Predicted changes in climate b. Coastal and marine species and ecosystems c. Impacts of introduced plants and animals <p>These critical knowledge gaps are supported by the biodiversity priority threats:</p> <p>Threat 2: Uncertainty/lack of information</p> <p>Threat 4: Invasive Species</p> <p>Threat 9: Climate Change</p> <p>The FI Biodiversity Strategy is located online: http://www.epd.gov.fk/?page_id=40</p>	<p>April 2010 (NR) Zebra trout remediation, survey group and habitat mapping (Darwin http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/project/EIDP0041/)</p> <p>Developing knowledge to eradication house mice from UKOT islands http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/project/18017/</p> <p>TP from Darwin website – FC led project.</p> <p>April 2010 (NR) Defra and JNCC funds – IAS projects http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4402</p> <p>Surveys of priority islands in the</p>	



Passage/Weddell area and the Falklands Sound for the presence of rodents and other invasive alien species, and an investigation of the eradication potential of islands found to be rodent-infested.

Eradication of Norway Rats from four islands in Port Salvador.

Purchase of rodent bait required for biosecurity contingency plans.



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2010	Update Dec 2010
Coastal & marine species and ecosystems	There is a need to build up increased baseline knowledge of many top predator marine mammal and seabird species. Additionally our knowledge of the shallow marine and deep water environment is minimal and research is needed in this area.	3	Dept of Env, wider stakeholder group (via FI Biodiversty Strategy 2008-2018)	The FI Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by the Falkland Islands Government in 2008. The three areas of research listed above all come from the priority research areas identified in this document. The most critical knowledge gaps sited in the Biodiversity strategy are:a. Predicted changes in climateb. Coastal and marine species and ecosystemsc. Impacts of introduced plants and animals These critical knowledge gaps are supported by the biodiversity priority threats:Threat 2: Uncertainty/lack of informationThreat 4: Invasive SpeciesThreat 9: Climate ChangeThe FI Biodiversity Strategy is located online: http://www.epd.gov.fk/?page_id=40	April 2010 (NR) Rock hopper distribution and dietary information OTEP http://www.ukotcf.org/otep/docs/ProjectsTerritory2010.pdf April 2010 (NR) Sea lion Action Plan (Darwin Challenge fund)	

Additional projects outwith Research priorities

April 2010 (NR) Raptor species interactions with agriculture (Darwin Challenge fund)

NR Update SG meeting July 2010

- JNCC invasive species funding useful small scale projects developing, also work on marine invasive species and rodent eradication

NR Update SG meeting October 2010

- 2 seal tagging projects (elephant seals and southern sea lions)
- Protection of Cobbs Wren (endemic passerine)



- Peat sampling for climate change research
- Shallow Marine Survey Group about to hold workshop to share results of their work

NR update SG meeting May 2011

Had a review of the biodiversity strategy – 3-day workshop with scientists and stakeholder groups – have reprioritised the top research aspirations . 2 broad areas

- Coastal marine species and ecosystems. Shallow marine environment needs to be a priority because so little work done – baseline data (includes marine bird species etc.)
- Biosecurity and invasive species control. Important area highlighted in the past

FC- several new projects:

Darwin challenge fund – Southern sea lions including satellite tracking. Getting good data back on that.

2 Challenge projects (sea lions and raptor)

Shallow marine survey group – Darwin bid



Guernsey

Research Priorities

Guernsey: Research Priorities 2011 (from Review of Biodiversity in the UKOTs publication Dr. Charles David, Guernsey Biological Records Centre, States of Guernsey Environment Department & La Société Guernesiaise)

- The Guernsey Renewable Energy Commission (GREC) was formed in 2008 to investigate the potential for, facilitate and consent the development of, macro renewable energy projects, particularly tidal. Research has started on the ecological effect that tidal power devices will have but the research priority is to continue this research to investigate ecological impacts after their commissioning

AM Update SG meeting April 2010:

- Phase 1 habitat survey (whole island)
- Removal of invasive plant
- Monitoring –Lihou island
- Marram grass restoration

JD Update SG meeting July 2010:

- Almost complete Stage 1 habitat survey, more than 10% more tree cover than 10 years ago but losing agricultural land & increase in cartilage use

AM Update SG meeting October 2010:

- Invasive species management (scrub which is causing loss of grassland)
- Tidal energy project



- Baseline survey to find out which species and habitats are present



Isle of Man

Research Priorities 2011

Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2011	Update Oct 2011
Terrestrial survey	Comparison of rates of habitat change inside and outside EU (using UK, IOM and other CDs or OTs)	1	Dept of Env, Food & Ag, Manx National Heritage	No national biodiversity strategy agreed yet		
Ecosystem evaluation	Economic value of Manx Biodiversity, terrestrial and marine (eg value of marine habitats to commercial fisheries)	2	Dept of Env, Food & Ag, Manx National Heritage	No national biodiversity strategy agreed yet		
Terrestrial survey	Invertebrate status assessments and appropriate conservation policies	3	Dept of Env, Food & Ag, Manx National Heritage	No national biodiversity strategy agreed yet		

A fourth research priority for 2011 is: Habitat quality and carbon storage assessments for the Manx Uplands



LC Update SG meeting April 2010:

- Bird monitoring project (in 5th year)
- Rare plant propagation project
- International basking shark conference
- Impact of climate change on rocky shores

FG Update SG meeting July 2010:

- 19 organisations on island signing biodiversity recording partnership

LC Update SG meeting October 2010:

- Proposal to eradicate rats on calf of Man
- Projects on marine biotopes and endemic value of biodiversity



- Jersey

- No research priorities submitted

John Pinel provided an update on activities at May 2011 SG meeting

- In process of updating Jersey's wildlife law
- Undertaking Phase 1 habitat survey summer 2011 (last one carried out 10 years ago) – have to make locally relevant + comparable with last survey
- Work with Guernsey to establish local biological records centre
- Birds on the edge – looking at the conservation of farmland birds in Jersey – DOE + Durrell + Jersey NT – first large joint project – habitat restoration in the coastal areas – have big problem with land abandonment. In very difficult and inaccessible areas of Jersey
- Have been doing a lot of work on amphibians and reptiles – agile frog. Grass snake in v. low numbers – know very little about it. Looking to get a PhD looking at the grass snake. Hoping to get external funding for that too.



Pitcairn Islands



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Research Priorities 2010

Contributed by Simon Young – Pitcairn Islands Government Steering Group member



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update October 2010	Update Dec 2010
Alien invasive species management	Particularly something on how to sustain past efforts e.g. On roseapple clearance.	1	Advice from DfID. Natural resources Division on Pitcairn Island			
Water resources management	Modelling of future water availability and how it might be affected by climate change, tourism, changes to water use patterns	2	Advice from DfID. Natural resources Division on Pitcairn Island			
Baseline survey information	Could include plant survey, invertebrates, marine survey	3	Advice from DfID. Natural resources Division on Pitcairn Island			



St. Helena

Research Priorities 2011



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2011
Terrestrial Survey, Marine Ecosystem mapping	<p>Baseline flora and fauna surveying and monitoring of terrestrial and marine habitats and analysis and subsequent utilisation of data.</p> <p>Survey and research to establish invertebrate baseline data; Botanisation of inaccessible areas; Analysis of all flora and fauna baseline survey and monitoring data; Development of species/ habitat management plans; Incorporation of data in decision making.</p>	1	Dept of Env, Agriculture and Natural Resources Dept, Ministry of the Env, St Helena National Trust, St Helena Nature Conservation Group	St Helena does not have a national environment/ biodiversity strategy but these research priorities do fall in line with Departments Strategic Plans.	
Ecological restoration	<p>Terrestrial ecological restoration</p> <p>To support existing ecological and restoration initiatives, looking at the ecosystem approach; plant health issues including analysis of plant and soil pathogens; Research into hybrid-prone species and conversion of hybrids; and the potential for micropropagation.</p>	2	Dept of Env, Agriculture and Natural Resources Dept, Ministry of the Env, St Helena National Trust, St Helena Nature Conservation Group	St Helena does not have a national environment/ biodiversity strategy but these research priorities do fall in line with Departments Strategic Plans.	
Climate change	<p>Climate Change Implications on terrestrial and marine species, habitats and ecosystems</p> <p>Biological and ecological implications of climate</p>	3	Dept of Env, Agriculture and Natural Resources	St Helena does not have a national environment/ biodiversity strategy but these	



	change on native biota, ecosystems and services.		Dept, Ministry of the Env, St Helena National Trust, St Helena Nature Conservation Group	research priorities do fall in line with Departments Strategic Plans.	
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IP Update SG meeting April 2010:

- Darwin Project: endemic plants and habitat assessment project
- Darwin Challenge funds: invertebrate baseline information
 - http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/find_projects/?_submitted_findProjects=1&project_type=all&category=any_issue&location=Anguilla&start_year=2010&end_year=any&submit=Back+to+start
- JNCC/Defra invasive projects: eradicate invasive species in National Park area and save endemic (gumwood) tree <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4403>
 - The implementation of a project to recover the Bastard Gumwood and restore native habitats thus preventing the ongoing spread of invasive alien plant species.
 - The implementation of a programme to clear the highly invasive Pheasant Tail Fern from identified priority areas within the biodiversity rich mountain peaks of St Helena.

IP update SG meeting October 2010:

Critical species list

JNCC invasives project

Marine scientific officer recently recruited and will develop OTEP bid for baseline survey



Environmental impact assessment procedures manual - general public awareness, workshops and training

IP provided update at SG meeting in May 2011

- Undergoing major institutional review. Have signed an MOU with DFID which has led to a number of reforms – incl. Institutional and land reforms + modernising SHG. Idea try to create an all encompassing piece of legislation
- Line management changed – report to the Deputy Chief Sec – interim measure.
- Full review of environment institutional set up – proposal being finally considered before implementation. Outcome to create a new env. Dept – 3 main sections.
 1. Environmental assessment and advocacy
 2. Nature conservation (policy and strategic level)
 3. Risk Management (includes climate change)
- Completed phase 1 of categories for PA – looking at PA already have proposed, boundaries, criteria and including new areas (including key wirebird sites) + permitted activities etc. Review led by National Trust is being finalised. Working on PA legislation – (to decide whether included in overarching legislation or separate)
- Developing TORs to build on initial proposed designation of areas including ground truthing and legal designation. Need to take strategic environmental assessment (SEA) – Everything has to be completed by December 2011

Conservation and biodiversity

- Priority 1 – flora and fauna survey – invert baseline data – successful visit from 3 people from Buglife (Darwin scoping) – worked with stakeholders – setting priorities – integrating invert conservation into ecosystem and habitat approach. Buglife will be developing a full Darwin project to be submitted for the up coming round.



- Nikki Chapman was on island for 6 weeks – worked with marine section and managed to assist in helping to put ideas forward on how to analyse the 7 years data that exists.
- Terrestrial – have a Darwin project to increase capacity to conserve native biodiversity – running an NVQ programme- 3 students doing that + September intake.
- Major EIA in progress – phase 2 of wharf improvement project (breakwater development).
- EIA training by a trainer – AICOM – 47 people across SHG and the private sector – general awareness and knowledge of EIA processes has increased - + understanding of why EIAs are needed + useful tool.



South Georgia and South Sandwich islands



Research Priorities 2011

Contributed by Darren Christie – South Georgia Government Steering Group member



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy
Climate change (impacts on key fish species)	Understanding the potential impacts of climate change on key exploited fisheries species (toothfish, icefish and krill).	1	Whole of territories Gov and ACAP implementation plan for South Georgia and ACAP Coordinator for South Georgia	Support commitments under key treaties: ACAP Environment Charter Progressing extension of CBD to South Georgia
Invasive species links to climate change	Survey work to identify populations and distribution of both terrestrial and marine invasive plant and invertebrate populations, and the current state of glacial fronts in order to both prioritise and establish the scale of invasive species management in response to climate change.	2	Whole of territories Gov and ACAP implementation plan for South Georgia and ACAP Coordinator for South Georgia	Support commitments under key treaties: ACAP Environment Charter Progressing extension of CBD to South Georgia
Compliance with commitments to ACAP	Ensure compliance with commitments to ACAP, especially through maintaining long-term data sets. These include whole island surveys every 10 years following the 2003/4 Albatross census and the 2005/6 Petrel Surveys, and the continued annual surveys of the breeding Wanderer populations on Albatross and Prion Islands. Additional survey work would be required if rapidly declining populations were identified.	3	Whole of territories Gov and ACAP implementation plan for South Georgia and ACAP Coordinator for South Georgia	Support commitments under key treaties: ACAP Environment Charter Progressing extension of CBD to South Georgia



Research Priorities for 2010:

1 and 3 same as 2011

2: Use data from recent surveys of invasive plants and invertebrates in conjunction with invasive mammal distribution to identify key sites at risk from climate change. This includes a survey to identify cryptic mouse populations around the island.



Sovereign Base Areas Cyprus



Research Priorities 2010

Contributed by Pantelis Charilaou – SBA Cyprus Steering Group member



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2010	Update Dec 2010
Invasive species management	Options for management of invasive <i>Acacia saligna</i>	1	Dept of Env, Ministry of Env, whole of territory Gov, Defence Estates, all relevant Republic of Cyprus departments and NGOs: Birdlife Cyprus, Terra Cypria, Cyprus Wildlife Society, Cymepa			
Hydrological parameters at Akrotiri wetlands	Association of hydrological parameters with habitats and species at Akrotiri wetlands	2	Dept of Env, Ministry of Env, whole of territory Gov, Defence Estates, all relevant Republic of Cyprus departments and NGOs: Birdlife Cyprus, Terra Cypria, Cyprus Wildlife Society, Cymepa			
Climate change impact on wetlands	Climate change impact on habitats and species at Akrotiri wetlands	3	Dept of Env, Ministry of Env, whole of territory Gov, Defence Estates, all relevant Republic of Cyprus departments and NGOs: Birdlife Cyprus, Terra Cypria, Cyprus Wildlife Society, Cymepa			



PC update SG meeting July 2010:

- Designated 3 Special Protection Areas (under EU Birds Directive) and planning to designate Special Areas of Conservation (under the EU Habitats Directive)

PC update SG meeting October 2010:

- Working on management plans for 3 designated Special Protection Areas and candidate Special Areas of Conservation
- Work on illegal hunting of small birds
- Marine turtle survey to establish baseline and look at impact of fishing
- Management of acacia (invasive plant)



Tristan da Cunha



Research Priorities 2011

Contributed by Trevor Glass – Tristan da Cunha Steering Group Member



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2011
<p>Terrestrial survey (baseline plants)</p>	<p>Research is needed on the distribution, abundance and ecology of native and invasive plant species across the whole of Tristan, including the cliffs, the rarely visited areas of the Base, and the Peak (rising to 2060m). A systematic geo-referenced vegetation survey of Tristan would provide a baseline for monitoring changes in native vegetation due to the effects of grazing pressure and climate change. Bryophytes are a very important component of plant communities and we would like to see research into the taxonomy, distribution, abundance and ecology of populations on Tristan.</p> <p>While human impacts have been limited at the uninhabited islands of Nightingale, Inaccessible and Gough, the main island of Tristan has sustained huge environmental changes. Concerns have been raised about the spread and establishment of alien invasive species on the cliffs and uplands of the island and the negative impact of grazing pressure on native vegetation. In order to understand and manage the threats to the native vegetation, baseline data is urgently needed.</p>	1	<p>Government Administrative Department, Tristan Government Conservation Committee, JNCC, RSPB, RBG Kew</p>	<p>These priorities are linked to objectives of the Tristan Biodiversity Action Plan 2006-2010 (currently being reviewed and updated): 'The knowledge of Tristan's key habitats and species is increased' (Objective 6) and 'Tristanians have the capacity to effectively manage biodiversity' (Objective 3); also to 'Gough and Inaccessible Management Plan 2010-2015'.</p>	
<p>Terrestrial survey (baseline invertebrate)</p>	<p>Invertebrates on all of the islands of the Tristan archipelago are poorly known. We would like to see research carried out to collect baseline information</p>	2	<p>Government Administrative Department, Tristan Government Conservation Committee, JNCC, RSPB, RBG</p>	<p>These priorities are linked to objectives of the Tristan</p>	



<p>s)</p>	<p>on invertebrate taxonomy, populations and ecology, and also research on the impacts of introduced species and habitat change on invertebrate populations. This could include establishment of a long-term monitoring programme</p>		<p>Kew</p>	<p>Biodiversity Action Plan 2006-2010 (currently being reviewed and updated): 'The knowledge of Tristan's key habitats and species is increased' (Objective 6) and 'Tristanians have the capacity to effectively manage biodiversity' (Objective 3); also to 'Gough and Inaccessible Management Plan 2010-2015'.</p>	
<p>Coastal and marine species and ecosystems</p>	<p>It has been observed that the balances in Tristan's marine ecosystem are shifting. Seal numbers are increasing and this may have impacts on rockhopper penguin numbers due to competition for food and space. Other OTs have also recorded increases in seal numbers (eg. South Georgia) where rockhopper penguins have been recorded to be in global decline. Research could be carried out on seal/penguin interactions, baseline information on seal numbers and distribution could be collected as well as a penguin census; GPS mapping of all rookeries could be carried out for all islands in the archipelago. Seal</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Government Administrative Department, Tristan Government Conservation Committee, JNCC, RSPB, RBG Kew</p>	<p>These priorities are linked to objectives of the Tristan Biodiversity Action Plan 2006-2010 (currently being reviewed and updated): 'The knowledge of Tristan's key habitats and species is increased' (Objective</p>	



	<p>and penguin diet could also be investigated.</p> <p>Tristan has globally important populations of many seabird species and marine mammals several of which are endemic. These populations have been, are, and undoubtedly will be impacted by fishing operations in the seas in which they feed. The key issues are: (1) bycatch of seabirds by longline and trawl fishing operations, particularly in the poorly policed Tristan EEZ; (2) impacts of fisheries' take on the abundance and type of marine prey available to marine vertebrates. Unbalanced ecosystems such as those in which top predators and mesopredators have been largely removed, are generally more sensitive to perturbations such as climate change; ensuring that Tristan's marine ecosystem is balanced and diverse will contribute to increasing resilience.</p> <p>In order to understand and manage these interactions research is needed into demography, population trends, at-sea ecology and feeding locations of the key populations. In addition, fisheries based research is needed to understand the economics sustainability and bycatch rates of relevant fisheries.</p>			<p>6) and 'Tristanians have the capacity to effectively manage biodiversity' (Objective 3); also to 'Gough and Inaccessible Management Plan 2010-2015'.</p>	
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Turks and Caicos Islands



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Research Priorities 2010

Contributed by Wesley Clearveaux – TCI government Steering Group member



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2010	Update Dec 2010
<p>Marine ecosystem mapping and vulnerability assessment</p>	<p>Including Climate Change and Marine Resource Mapping. Funds would be required for satellite imagery; consultant, equipment; boat time; travel and subsistence; workshops and conferences, training and species monitoring and assessment amongst others.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Dept of Env, Ministry of Env.</p>	<p>These are currently relevant to the priorities of the DECR in keeping with its mission. The marine mapping of the TCI is critical in ongoing management of the marine habitat and its limited resources. The TCI is currently witnessing the effects of invasive species and more work has to be done to determine the extent and distribution of these and other invasive species while simultaneously seeking to eradicate them. Protected area management plans are key for continued protection of all habitats. Additional funding is needed to strengthen knowledge in these areas to ensure proper management of resources.</p>		



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2010	Update Dec 2010
Management of invasive species	Study to assess and determine the national status of invasive species. This will include the extent and distribution of terrestrial and marine invasive species. Develop Invasive Species Management Strategy using a participatory approach. Develop and draft appropriate legislations. Develop and Implement Eradication Programmes.	2	Dept of Env, Ministry of Env.	These are currently relevant to the priorities of the DECR in keeping with its mission. The marine mapping of the TCI is critical in ongoing management of the marine habitat and its limited resources. The TCI is currently witnessing the effects of invasive species and more work has to be done to determine the extent and distribution of these and other invasive species while simultaneously seeking to eradicate them. Protected area management plans are key for continued protection of all habitats. Additional funding is needed to strengthen knowledge in these areas to ensure proper management of resources.	<p>Otep National tree restoration http://www.ukotcf.org/otep/docs/ProjectsTerritory2010.pdf</p> <p>JNCC/Defra funded lionfish project http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4398</p>	



Priority (short description)	Priority (long description)	Rank	Departments consulted	Link to biodiversity strategy	Update April 2010	Update Dec 2010
Increase effectiveness of protected areas management	Develop management plans for all the Protected Areas. Training of Staff, building local capacity to manage the TCI Protected Areas. Public Awareness Campaign. Systematic environmental monitoring a view to detect changes and mitigate impacts as well as to obtain baseline information	3	Dept of Env, Ministry of Env.	These are currently relevant to the priorities of the DECR in keeping with its mission. The marine mapping of the TCI is critical in ongoing management of the marine habitat and its limited resources. The TCI is currently witnessing the effects of invasive species and more work has to be done to determine the extent and distribution of these and other invasive species while simultaneously seeking to eradicate them. Protected area management plans are key for the continued protection of all habitats. Additional funding is needed to strengthen knowledge in these areas to ensure proper management of resources.		



Additional projects outwith research priorities

WC (April 2010) OTEP energy policy development <http://www.ukotcf.org/otep/docs/ProjectsTerritory2010.pdf>

WC Update SG meeting July 2010

- Government approved legislation on marine pollution and 3 further sets of legislation (environmental management, biodiversity and CITES) to be approved by the end of the summer

