

NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES AND CROWN DEPENDENCIES



JNCC Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Programme:

Costed Action Plan 2008-2011

Focus on Financial year 2009/2010

Updated by Tara Pelembe
JNCC Overseas Territories Officer
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**JOINT
NATURE
CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE**

Overall aim of the programme

Provide, to UK Government departments, the Governments of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and others, timely and sound advice to support the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target, the progressing of Environment Charters, and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

Background

Although the 14 UK Overseas Territories and three Crown Dependencies occupy a relatively small area, they make a significant contribution to global biological and geological diversity (e.g. the rich endemic flora and fauna of several of the isolated island Territories, the coral reefs of the British Indian Ocean Territory, and the seabird and sea mammal populations of the south Atlantic Territories). If the UK is to make a full contribution to the CBD target to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 appropriate action in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is essential. The main threats to the rich biodiversity of the Territories are non-native species, climate change and the impacts of development.

Nature conservation within the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is the responsibility of the governments of those Territories. The Overseas Territories governments are supported by the FCO, Defra and those in the Crown Dependencies by the Ministry of Justice. The JNCC's role is to advise and support this process, working closely with the Territories and Government departments.

In 2007/08, JNCC produced a costed assessment of nature conservation priorities in the Overseas Territories in response to a request from the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity. In the same year JNCC co-ordinated the production of nature conservation research priorities in the Overseas Territories. Both have provided the framework for JNCC's own costed action plan, which will form the basis of our work over the corporate plan period. We intend to extend this approach to the Crown Dependencies.

The JNCC Overseas Territories Programme consists of 5 projects.

Key performance indicators 2009/2010

Provide advice to Overseas Territory governments and others on key nature conservation issues:

- by June 2009, prepare a draft UK Government strategy to support the work of Overseas Territories governments on biodiversity conservation in the Territories for the consideration of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Ecosystems and Biodiversity (IDMGEB), and contribute to implementation of the strategy as appropriate;
- by December 2009, develop practical advice on adaptation to climate change within one region/territory (to be extended to other Territories as demand requires by December 2010);
- by March 2010, develop a costed action plan to address priority issues relating to non-native species in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

By March 2010, facilitate with the UK science community a programme to address Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies research priorities.

By March 2010, provide advice, prepare guidance and arrange training to governments of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and others on funding sources for nature conservation projects.

Project 0179 - Advice and communications

Aim: To provide ongoing advice and support to UK government in addressing marine and terrestrial nature conservation priorities in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, and facilitate more effective exchanges of information, experiences and skills within and between Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, UK Government and NGOs.

Project targets

- Facilitate more effective exchanges of information, experiences and skills within and between the Overseas territories and Crown Dependencies
- Arrange an annual workshop for with the Crown Dependencies Governments
- Organise training for workshop facilitation
- Consider follow up to GCR review
- Strengthen and develop a network and contacts at all levels within the UK/OT/CD (including OT/CD governments and reps)
- Continue to liase with UKOTCF, RGB Kew, RSPB and other NGOs as appropriate
- Continue to raise OT/CD profile in UK and Europe (government, NGO, academic institutions)
- Continue to promote the role of JNCC and main OT/CD priorities at conferences (e.g. UKOT Conference, GLISPA)
- arrange quarterly / six monthly regional network meetings with regional OT and CD groups
- Continue to update content and structure of the JNCC web pages on the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies as required
- produce 2 online newsletters
- Support capacity building within OTs/CDs with a focus on developing a skill share scheme for cross territory skill share and JNCC – OT skill share/secondment schemes
- *by June 2009, prepare a draft UK Government strategy to support the work of Overseas Territories governments on biodiversity conservation in the Territories for the consideration of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Ecosystems and Biodiversity (IDMGEB), and contribute to implementation of the strategy as appropriate;*

Project 0180: Funding and research for biodiversity

Aim: To take forward recommendations from 2007 Overseas Territories nature conservation assessments by identifying and securing additional funding for biodiversity conservation within the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, and by providing a brokering service for research projects.

Project Targets

- To support and advise the UK and Overseas Territories Governments in addressing their nature conservation priorities as set out in the paper prepared for the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity

Funding

- Set up project Steering Committee (to include JNCC, DFID, DEFRA, FCO and representation from OTs)
- Identify and collating existing funding sources available to UKOTs for nature conservation through desk research, interviews and meetings.; consider previous unexplored sources of funding (including grants, corporate funding)
- Produce a report on the findings which includes a set of guidelines for funding applications to funds identified appropriate for target audience (OT practitioners). This should also include a database a web component and should clarify which funding sources are not available.
- Create and implementation of a dissemination strategy for funding background publications created which considers how the report can be effectively disseminated; Key events where the report can be launched/promoted (e.g. Cayman Conference May 2009, South Atlantic Invasives Species workshop May 2009) etc.
- Train and support a minimum of 3 individuals from OT governments on writing and submitting 3 territory or regional funding applications to relevant funding sources (as identified in report). Training will be in the form of
 - either inviting OT personnel to UK to work on the drafting and submission of a funding proposal,
 - or the funding officer visiting an OT to work on the drafting and submission of a funding proposal with an individual.
- An important component of the training will be ensuring that the project fits within national strategies and national priorities (e.g. NEMS/BAPS/SDS).
- Co-ordinate quarterly Steering committee meetings, and produce agendas and minutes.
- Prepare quarterly progress reports for Steering Committee and donors.
- The majority of the work will be office-based but will involve attendance at meetings and other fora at various localities in the UK and in OTs as required for the training component.

- Conduct an overview of (non-economic) challenges and constraints for biodiversity conservation in OTs, with options for overcoming these (including proposal for further capacity building and for following up on the identification of the new funding sources)
- by December 2009 produce information and guidance on funding sources for the Overseas Territories and providing training:
- ***By March 2010, provide advice, prepare guidance and arrange training to governments of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and others on funding sources for nature conservation projects.***

Research

- by March 2010 establish in collaboration with Reading University, a research programme for the Overseas Territories;
- Assist with the publication of research as required by OT/CD partners.
- Support one CASE studentship
- Assist with the publication of research as required by OT/CD partners.
- Maintain profile of Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies within GBSC and UK BRAG respectively raising issues of concern when appropriate.
- Continue to support TCI habitat mapping project (including support for Darwin marine mapping project)
- by March 2010 to develop a programme of marine support for the Overseas Territories in the light of priorities identified in report EMB
- Identify scope and needs of the SA OTs through visits and report on marine needs. Work with SA OTs to access funding to address some of these marine needs
- Advise on Falklands OTEP project.
- By March 2010, facilitate with the UK science community a programme to address Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies research priorities.

Project 183: Multilateral environment agreements

Aim: To provide advice and support to Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and UK Government departments on the interpretation and application of multilateral environmental agreements that have been extended to the Territories, including CBD, Ramsar and CITES, and to support and advise Overseas Territory governments on the implementation of Environment Charters.

Project Targets

- Provide ongoing advice and support to UK Government departments and the Governments of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies on the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- Monitor progress of MEA process guidance for OT inclusion.
- Take forward JNCCs role in providing support and advice based on agreed government priorities and the availability of adequate resources.
- Provide basic advice on request from UK government, OTs and CDs.
- Act as CITES scientific authority for Falklands and BIOT
- Coordinate CITES training and capacity building in OTs/CDs where interest is expressed (including Montserrat training course 2009). by March 2010 arrange one CITES training course to support capacity building in the Overseas Territories and / or Crown Dependencies
- Undertake a review of OTs signed up to CITES identifying areas of need (prioritised with costs) and assist with the implementation of action needed to fill the gaps.
- Prepare for DEFRA, in consultation with others, a prioritised assessment of key issues with respect to Ramsar implementation (including designations where appropriate) for each OT and CD. These issues will be expected to differ as a consequence of variable past implementation.
- Promote implementation of priority issues in the context of the UK delivery of Ramsar's strategic plan and national obligations
- Provide CBD advice and training as required to OTs and CDs and continue engagement with GLISPA and CBD island programme of work
- Provide CMS advice to government departments and BIOT administration on MOU for Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean turtles including.

Project 178 – Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Aim: To better enable UK and its Overseas Territories to conserve albatrosses and petrels, primarily through ensuring obligations under ACAP are met

Project targets

- to provide advice and support to the UK and Overseas Territory Governments in meeting commitments under the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)
- Continue to work with project steering group among sponsors and others
- Continue to implement full work plan
- Support Defra/represent UK at ACAP AC and MoP meetings
- Represent UK on all ACAP working groups.



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Project 181 Sustainable Development

Aim: To provide support and advice to Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies on issues including, economic valuation, climate change, the ecosystem approach and invasive species.

Project Targets

Economic valuation

- Implement vision and strategy for economic valuation work in OTs and CDs building on work already done:
- Provide advice to OTs and CDs on economic valuation projects as required
- Disseminate economic valuation work at UKOT conference.
- Develop workshop for UK-based organisations interested in EEWOC.

Climate Change

- Implement long term strategy for JNCC input into Climate Change and OTs which includes response to opportunistic requests for Climate Change advice from OTs including
- Continued support to CCCCC/DFID project on mainstreaming adaptation to Climate change in the Caribbean UKOTs.
- Advise on Ecosystem mapping the Turks and Caicos Islands
- *by December 2009, develop practical advice on adaptation to climate change within one region/territory (to be extended to other Territories as demand requires by December 2010);*

Invasives

- *by March 2010, develop a costed action plan to address priority issues relating to non-native species in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.*
- Co-ordinate annual OT/CD invasive species workshop
- Assist with Caribbean Invasives EU project as required.

For more information contact

Tara Pelembe
Overseas Territories Officer
International and European Unit
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Monkstone House
City Road
Peterborough
PE1 1JY
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1733 866919

Fax: +44 (0) 1733 866855

Email: tara.pelembe@jncc.gov.uk

Website: www.jncc.gov.uk