

For more information

The development of the programme is being led and co-ordinated by Professor Ken Norris at University of Reading and by Tara Pelembe and Elizabeth Moore at JNCC.

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UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Conservation



Training and Research Programme

**JOINT
NATURE
CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE**



**University of
Reading**

Biodiversity and the UK Overseas Territories

The United Kingdom has 14 Overseas Territories (OTs) that support a wealth of biodiversity. As a result, the UKOTs have identified a number of baseline survey, monitoring and research issues in conservation as high priority.

These range from the protection of native biodiversity to the management of threats such as habitat loss and non-native, invasive species. Due to their relatively small populations, the UKOTs often don't have the entire range of skills, and/or time to address these issues on their own. Although there are existing research initiatives and projects within individual UKOTs on biodiversity conservation issues, there are no long term cross territory, co-ordinated programme that provides training for skills development, access to relevant research, advisory expertise to develop new projects, and mechanisms to share knowledge, experience and best practice between the UKOTs.



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A New Integrated Programme in Biodiversity Conservation

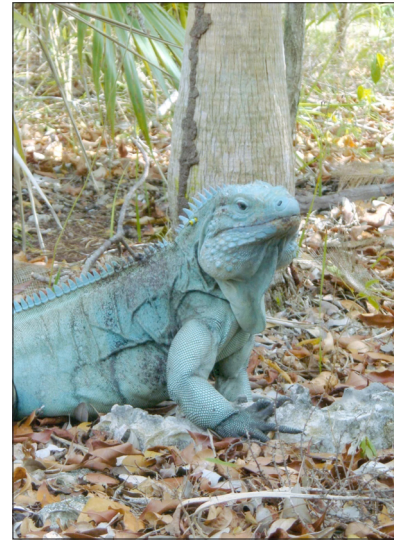


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help the UKOTs develop practical solutions to the research priorities they have identified, and in this way make a significant contribution to biodiversity conservation in the UKOTs.

The University of Reading and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), together with representatives from the UKOTs, are developing a new training and research programme in biodiversity conservation to address these common challenges faced by the UKOTs. The primary aim of the programme is to

The new programme aims to provide:



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- Training and skills development for individuals from the UKOTs to enhance research capacity within the UKOTs.
- Access to UK-based research and advisory expertise to develop new conservation projects in the UKOTs.
- A web-based gateway, and other activities, to enhance knowledge exchange between the UKOTs.
- Collaborative tertiary education opportunities in the UKOTs or regionally.

What is being done to develop this new programme?

JNCC is co-ordinating the formation of a Management Board for the programme, which will be a joint body consisting of representatives from Reading University, JNCC and the UKOTs. The role of the Management Board will be to guide the development and implementation of the programme. We will soon produce a leaflet describing the training and skills development opportunities available within the programme, which will be circulated widely to the Education Departments and Schools in the UKOTs, and will also be available online. We are beginning the process of developing new research projects with specific UKOTs, and considering how we might enhance knowledge exchange between the UKOTs. The programme will require funding to realise its full potential, and we are developing plans to secure the resources needed to take the programme forward.



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