

# Blue Belt Overseas Territory Work Programme: Ascension Island

## Extended Work Plan

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Marine  
Management  
Organisation



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## Table of Acronyms

Acronym	Full
<b>AIG</b>	Ascension Island Government
<b>AIMS</b>	Ascension Island Marine Sustainability
<b>ASIOS</b>	Ascension Island Ocean Sanctuary
<b>BBC</b>	British Broadcasting Corporation
<b>BEST</b>	EU voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in the overseas territories
<b>CEFAS</b>	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>EFZ</b>	Exclusive Fishing Zone
<b>FCMO</b>	Fisheries Conservation and Management ordinance
<b>FCO</b>	UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office
<b>ICCAT</b>	International Committee for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
<b>MMO</b>	Marine Management Organisation
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area
<b>SAEC</b>	South Atlantic Equatorial Current
<b>UKOTs</b>	United Kingdom Overseas Territories
<b>USAF</b>	United States Airforce

# Introduction

## Background information

Ascension Island (7°56' S, 14°22' W) is part of the British Overseas Territory of St Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha, and its history centres on its strategic location in the mid-Atlantic. It is an isolated volcanic island in the equatorial waters of the South Atlantic Ocean, approximately 1,600 km (1,000 miles) from the coast of Africa and 2,250 km (1,400 miles) from the coast of Brazil. The island is small in area (88 km<sup>2</sup>) and geologically young, having emerged around 1.5 million years ago.

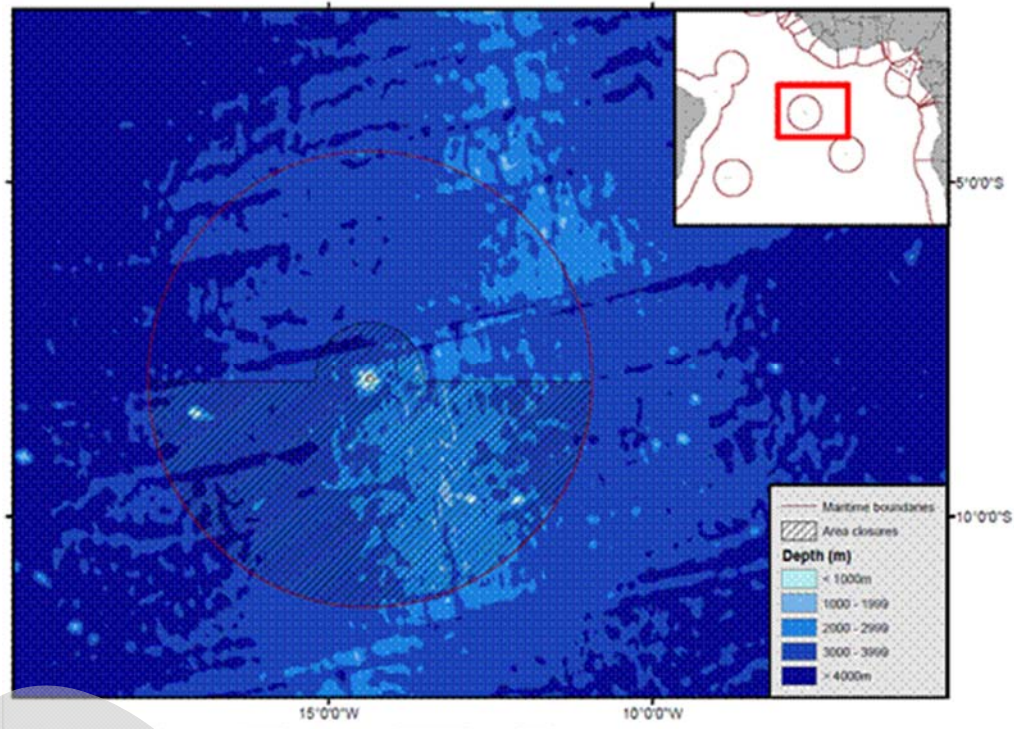


Figure 1. The Ascension Island Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) depicting the area closed to commercial fishing (shaded area).

The Ascension Island's Exclusive Fishing Zone (EFZ) was declared in 1978 and includes the surrounding seas to the 200 nm limits and has an area of approximately 442,000 km<sup>2</sup>. An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) was declared in 2017 and occupies the same area as the EFZ. Although not part of a seamount chain, some seamounts fall within the EEZ, including the Harris Stewart Seamount (8°28'00" S, 16°58'00" W) and the Grattan Seamount (9°44'00" S, 12°49'00" W).

Ascension Island lies within the northern branch of the South Atlantic Equatorial Current (SAEC), with sea surface temperatures ranging from 22 °C to 29 °C. This branch of the SAEC forms the northerly portion of the South Atlantic Ocean gyre, and is a broad, westerly-flowing movement of water which channels a productive belt of water from the Congolese coast out into the equatorial Atlantic.

The objective of the Blue Belt initiative is to enhance the protection of the marine environment across the UKOTs. The initiative stems from the UK Government's commitment to 'creating a Blue Belt around the UK's Overseas Territories, subject to local support and environmental need', with a goal to protect over 4 million km<sup>2</sup> of ocean by 2020.

## Biodiversity

The nearshore marine fauna and flora of Ascension Island is well documented from SCUBA surveys undertaken by the Shallow Marine Surveys Group and a recent Ascension Island Marine Sustainability Project. Several papers describing the marine fauna and flora found around Ascension Island have been published in a recent special issue of the Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the UK. The island's shallow nearshore marine biodiversity is a mix of both east and west Atlantic biota. Habitat diversity is relatively low due to the absence of tropical coastal habitats such as mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs which are generally associated with high biodiversity. The whole coastline is also exposed to large Atlantic swells. The main habitats include volcanic rock, maerl pebble and sandy substrates. Marine invertebrate diversity is considered to be low, but still requires further quantification. Fish communities around Ascension Island are characterised as extremely abundant with low species richness and a high level of endemism).

Ascension Island is also the most important tropical Atlantic breeding site for seabirds, supporting 11 species and over 400,000 individuals. The most important site is a small offshore island called Boatswainbird Island. Seabird species include endemic species such as the Ascension frigatebird (*Fregata aquila*) and species whose Ascension Island populations contribute greatly to the overall Atlantic populations, which include tropicbirds, boobies and terns (Ascension Island Conservation Centre, 2018). It is an important breeding site for the endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), with the largest number of breeding turtles (3,000 +) in the South Atlantic.

## Fisheries

Fishing within the Ascension Island EEZ is regulated through licensing under the Fisheries Conservation and Management Ordinance. Conditions include adherence to all the current International Committee for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendations. The licensing scheme requires fishing vessels to be registered under ICCAT, have Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) fitted and adhere to stringent safety regulations. Since the implementation of this new licensing scheme the numbers of applicant vessels has declined significantly. As part of the designation of an Ascension Island Marine Protected Area it is anticipated that at least half of Ascension Island's maritime environment will be permanently closed to commercial fishing.

The main commercial fishery that occurs within and around the Ascension Island EEZ is a pelagic longline fishery targeting bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*). The most recent stock assessments reported that both of these stocks remain overfished with catches of both species exceeding the ICCAT catch limits. Other species regularly caught in this fishery include swordfish and several species of marlin. The longline fishery also reportedly catches a range of bycatch species which includes sharks, as well as limited numbers of marine turtle and sea birds.

## Other human activities in the marine environment

Recreational and sports fishing within the EEZ is primarily by rod-and-line or spear from sports fishing vessels, along with occasional rod-and-line fishing from rocky outcrops along the coastline. Tuna, billfish, food and bait fish are the main target species. Currently there is no system in place to record annual catches. Tourism is currently limited by the facilities and access to the island, although the Ascension Island Government is actively seeking to promote low-level eco-tourism on the island as a new source of revenue.

Potential sources of risk to water quality on Ascension include the sewage works, the desalination plants at the BBC Atlantic Relay Station, the USAF base and point source pollution from port operations, together with the release and accumulation of garbage and solid waste (from on- and off-island sources).

### Local capacity

The Director of Fisheries & Conservation is supported by a team of five people which includes 1 senior and 2 fisheries scientists. Legal support is provided by Crown Counsel. There are no permanent residents on the Island and those who work there are usually on short-term contracts. High staff turnover means there is poor institutional memory and a regular requirement to train new staff. Lab facilities are suitable to support the research requirements of this programme (from both an equipment and H&S perspective). There is limited capacity to undertake regular fisheries patrols.

## Current MPA Status (linked to FCO mandate)

**Design:** A closed (to commercial fishing) area in the southern area of the EEZ has been earmarked as a potential MPA. However, formal MPA designation has been deferred whilst existing scientific data are collated and analysed and until new research can be undertaken to inform decisions on design and location.

**Designation:** Government commitment is to designate over 50% of the Ascension EEZ as a marine reserve. Enabling MPA designation legislation is now in place.

**Management:** The current closed area prohibits commercial fishing, but is open to sports fishing undertaken for commercial gain. There is management of specific activities (inshore fishing and tourism) but as there is no formally designated MPA, there is currently no associated marine management plan.

**Monitored:** Limited monitoring of seabirds, turtles and licensed fishing vessels.

**Enforced:** There is basic enforcement of the current closed (commercial fishing) area in some places, but there is no comprehensive enforcement strategy. Access to assets, tools and/or technology for surveillance and enforcement is extremely limited. Legislation, investigative process and powers are also limited.

## Desired Outcome for 2020

*Ascension has an evidence-based Marine Protected Area in place, occupying a minimum of 50% of the EEZ, within which fishing and other human activities are sustainably managed and effectively regulated.*

## Blue Belt Ascension Island Work Programme

This Work Programme has been designed to assist the Ascension Island Government (AIG) to successfully designate an MPA and implement associated management and monitoring strategies to ensure sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation. Proposed deliverables have been planned to ensure that the requirements of the AIG are met and that outputs fulfil the objectives of the Blue Belt initiative and complement on-going work under existing initiatives.

Specific activities and deliverables, similar to those required by other UKOTs in the Blue Belt programme, have been described in detail in a Cross-territory Work Programme, which should be read in conjunction with this Work Programme. These are:

- **RFMO engagement** – collaboration with ICCAT with regarding the management of Bluefin Tuna
- **Invasive non-native species** – establishing the risk of invasive species to Ascension Island biodiversity and development of an appropriate management strategy
- **Marine emergency response** – development of a strategy for responding to pollution or collision events in Ascension.
- **IUU fishing** - Advice on the development and implementation of cost effective monitoring and enforcement strategies
- **Other human activities** – consideration of future activities on Ascension Island and development of appropriate strategies to develop them sustainably.

All work proposed as part of this plan has been discussed and agreed with AIG and their relevant departments. Quarterly update meetings will be held with representatives from the AIG Conservation and Fisheries Department (AIGCFD), AIG, Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) to discuss issues, progress and changes to the Work Programme.



## Workstream 1: Legislation, policy and strategy

Activity: Advice on, and support for, the development of legislation, management strategies and policies

Ascension Island has made a commitment to establishing a regime for marine protection around the waters of their EEZ by 2020 that is likely to include a 50% no-take zone. The following deliverables and activities are planned to support the development of legislation, management strategies and policies (Table 1).

Table 1 Planned tasks for Ascension Island *legislation, policy and strategy* workstream. The lead organisation or contact (where identified) is included in bold type.

Outcome	Activity	ID	Task	Description	Deliverables	Mandate/objectives	When	Who (* indicates joint piece of work)
<b>LEGISLATION, POLICY AND STRATEGY</b>								
Laws and policies to underpin designation and management	Advice on, and support for, the development and finalisation	ASC_1.1	Review all marine and environmental legislation and confirm all enabling legislation is in place. Provide legal advice and support when requested/required	National Protected Area Ordinance enabling legislation was amended in 2017. Provide support and advice to AIG Crown Counsel if further amendment/review required	1. Legal advice provided	Designate Manage	Oct 2018	<b>Crown Counsel</b>  <u>BB support</u> <b>MMO</b>

Outcome	Activity	ID	Task	Description	Deliverables	Mandate/objectives	When	Who (* indicates joint piece of work)
	of legislation, management strategies and policies.	ASc_1.2	Support the production and publishing of an Inshore Fisheries Ordinance	Provide support to Crown Counsel to update an Inshore Fisheries Ordinance as necessary	1. Advice to Crown Counsel 2. Enacted Inshore Fisheries Ordinance		May 2019 Dec 2019	<b>Crown Counsel</b> AIGCFD  <u>BB support*</u> <b>MMO</b> Cefas
		ASC_1.3	Production of an Ascension Island MPA boundary "Evidence and Options Document"	Document for Ascension Island Council which synthesises best available data (linked to ASIOS project objectives) and presents the relative costs and benefits (based upon socio-economic and ecosystem service values) of various MPA management scenarios.	1. Template agreed 2. DRAFT document completed for submission to Island Council 3. Stakeholder consultation 4. Island Council decision made upon an agreed MPA design		May 2018 Sept 2018 Oct/Nov 2018 Feb 2019	<b>AIGCFD</b> Exeter University Nat Cap Project  <u>BB support*</u> <b>Cefas</b> MMO
		ASC_1.4	To update and finalise the existing draft Ascension Island Marine Management Plan	Update with new information and inshore ordinance allowing for an agreed review and consultation period (linked to ASIOS project). The management plan must deliver	1. Final Draft Ascension Island Marine Management Plan produced for consultation		June 2019	<b>AIGCFD</b> Exeter University  <u>BB support*</u> <b>MMO</b> Cefas

Outcome	Activity	ID	Task	Description	Deliverables	Mandate/ objectives	When	Who (* indicates joint piece of work)
				both ASIOS project outputs and products necessary for the designation process.				
		ASC_1.5	Stakeholder consultation and review of marine monitoring and management plan	To organise and facilitate a comprehensive stakeholder consultation incorporating both the evidence and recommendations document and the marine management plan (linked to ASIOS project)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Stakeholder consultation</li> <li>2. Initial Ascension Island Marine Management Plan agreed</li> <li>3.Fully consulted Management Plan adopted</li> </ol>		<p>Mar/Apr 2019</p> <p>May 2019</p> <p>Dec 2020</p>	<p><b>AIG</b></p> <p><u>BB support*</u></p> <p><b>MMO</b></p> <p>Cefas</p> <p>FCO</p>
		ASC_1.6	Draft and adopt MPA order to designate MPA and adopt management measures	Based on the outcome of stakeholder consultation (ASC 1.5), draft an MPA Order to outline the management measures agreed, and to formally designate Ascension Island MPA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MPA Order drafted</li> <li>2. Ascension Island MPA formally designated by adoption of MPA Order, published in the Gazette</li> </ol>		<p>Jun 2019</p> <p>Sep 2019</p>	<p><b>AIG</b></p> <p><u>BB support</u></p> <p><b>MMO</b></p>

## Workstream 2: Resource assessment and management

Activity: Determine sustainable management for key fisheries species, advise on sustainable fisheries strategies and management plans and the review and assessment of other ongoing anthropogenic activities

Fishing within the Ascension Island EEZ is regulated through licensing under the Fisheries Conservation and Management Ordinance (FCMO). Conditions include adherence to all the current International Committee for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendations. The main commercial fishery that occurs within and around the Ascension Island EEZ is a pelagic longline fishery targeting bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna. Inshore fisheries which are currently unmanaged include the grouper and spiny lobster. The main aim of Workstream 2 is to increase our understanding of the distribution of key offshore species and to assess habitat usage. In conjunction with this, an assessment of current inshore fisheries (grouper, spiny lobster) will be undertaken to inform the development of species specific management plans and the formulation and implementation of an Inshore Fisheries Ordinance.

Ascension Island also has a number of other anthropogenic activities that occur in its maritime zone. These include, but are not limited to, recreational fishing (spear and rod and line), dive trips, desalination plant extraction, discharges from and into the marine environment, and ship to shore transfer of fuels. Ascension Island is also visited by yachts and passenger/cargo vessels, which may cause some limited marine pollution. Some of these activities are poorly controlled/regulated and/or little is understood about their effects on the marine environment. Workstream 2 will also consider the possible effects these activities may have on the marine environment, recommend appropriate mitigation, monitoring and management (where needed) and support adoption (or review) of current licensing and regulation.

Table 2. Planned tasks for Ascension Island *Resource Assessment and Management* workstream. The lead organisation or contact (where identified) is included in bold type.

Outcome	Activity	ID	Task	Description	Deliverables	Mandate/ objectives	When	Who
RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT								
Ensure monitoring and sustainable management of fisheries.	Review inshore fishery activities	ASC _2.1	Fisheries Profile	Description of Ascension Island fisheries, including a review of species, catches, governance, management and IUU fishing. Identifies gaps in knowledge. Will inform other ASC_2 deliverables.	Report finalised	Design Manage	Feb 2018	<u>BB support</u> <b>Cefas</b>

		AS_2.2	Provide support on development of inshore fishery monitoring and management plans for each inshore fishery	Based on best available data provide advice and develop monitoring and management plans (ASC_1.5) for key inshore fisheries (commercial and recreational): Spiny lobster; Grouper; Tuna species.	1. Provide advice and support 2. Mechanisms for monitoring and managing inshore fisheries agreed		Ongoing Dec 2019	<b>AIGCFD</b> <u>BB support*</u> <b>Cefas</b> <b>MMO</b>
Assess the effects of human activities on the MPA and advise on management strategies	Economic assessment of fisheries under various MPA scenarios	ASC_2.3	Assessment of likely changes in fisheries behaviour under various MPA scenarios.	Provides targeted input into the Evidence and Options Document, this will estimate the costs and benefits of selected MPA management scenarios, focusing only upon the fisheries and MPA management aspects. Links to work done by SAERI Nat Cap Project on non-fisheries values of possible MPA scenarios.	1. Report (see ASC_1.3)		Aug 2018	<u>BB lead*</u> <b>Cefas</b> <b>MMO</b>  AIGCFD involvement
	Review current water quality issues	ASC_2.4	Assessment of risk (waste water) and mitigation strategy	Understand the current state of marine water quality around Ascension Island, establish the risks from human activities to water quality and develop an appropriate management strategy.	1. Baseline review and risk assessment 2. Review of existing management framework for water quality and recommendations for next steps 3. Water quality monitoring proposal		Lower priority Reconsider for 2019/2020	<u>BB support</u> <b>MMO</b>

					4. Water quality management strategy developed  5. Implementation of strategy and monitoring of effectiveness,			
	Review potential marine-related tourism activities	ASC _2.5	Assessment of potential marine-related tourism activities recommendations for development.	Management strategies developed for new activities	1. Produce report/assessment		Lower priority Reconsider for 2019/2020	<u>BB support</u> <b>MMO</b>

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## Workstream 3: Biodiversity and habitat use

Activity: Develop an understanding of the biodiversity of marine environment, including the movements and habitat use of megafauna, as well as the associated threats.

There is a limited information available on the biodiversity of the Ascension Island marine environment, particularly offshore species and habitats (such as the seamounts). Additional studies (Table 3) have been identified to supplement existing knowledge of both the marine environment and human activities that occur there. This information will support MPA design (by helping to identify key habitats and species that may require protection) and MPA management (of the threats to native habitats and species), whilst also providing a baseline from which to monitor in future. The proposed work will draw on both existing and newly collected data.

Table 3. Planned tasks for Ascension Island *Biodiversity and Habitat Use* workstream. The lead organisation or contact (where one has been identified) is shown in bold type.

Outcome	Activity	ID	Task	Description	Deliverables	Mandate/ objectives	When	Who
BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT USE								
Enhanced knowledge and understanding of marine biodiversity and threats to the marine environment to inform design of marine protection.	Develop an understanding of the biodiversity of marine environment, including the movements and habitat use of megafauna, as well as their associated threats	ASC_3.1	Research into the distribution of key fisheries and protected species (tagging (species telemetry data) and BRUV video data)	To increase our understanding of the distribution of key fisheries and protected species within the Ascension Island EEZ. To further understand how habitats within the EEZ are utilised by these species. Findings to feed into the recommendations and evidence document (ASC_1.4) and the Marine Management Plan (ASC_1.5)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Input into the Ascension Island MPA evidence and option document drafted</li> <li>2. Report/scientific publication.</li> </ol>	Design Manage	Aug 2018  As per Darwin Initiative / BEST project timelines	<b>AIGCFD</b> Exeter University  <u>BB support</u> <b>Cefas</b>

		ASC_3.2	Research into the ecology of Inshore fished species	To provide evidence necessary for the development of an inshore Fisheries Ordinance (ASC_1.2 and the Ascension Island Marine Management Plan (ASC_1.5)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Input into the Ascension Island MPA evidence and option document drafted</li> <li>2. Report/scientific publication.</li> </ol>		<p>Aug 2018</p> <p>Feb 2019</p>	<p><b>AIGCFD</b></p> <p><u>BB support</u></p> <p><b>CEFAS</b></p>
		ASC_3.3	Seamount sphere of influence study	The processing and reporting of existing (acoustic, BRUV video and plankton samples) data. Outputs to feed into the Ascension Island MPA recommendations and evidence document (ASC_1.4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Input into the Ascension Island MPA evidence and recommendations document drafted</li> <li>2. Report/scientific publication.</li> </ol>		<p>Aug 2018</p> <p>As per Darwin Initiative / BEST project timelines</p>	<p><b>AIGCFD</b></p> <p>Exeter University</p> <p><u>BB support</u></p> <p><b>Cefas</b></p>



## Workstream 4: Data systems and management

Activity: Capacity building, facilities and improvements to existing systems / processes

AIGCFD have been collecting both biological and physical data from both inshore and offshore environments within the Ascension Island EEZ. This work has been undertaken under the auspices of several different projects. To ensure that the data collected is both stored securely and made accessible, a bespoke public facing GIS database will be designed and maintained as a deliverable within the ASIOS project.

Table 4. Planned tasks for Ascension Island *Data Systems and Management* workstream. The lead organisation or contact (where identified) is included in bold type.

Outcome	Activity	ID	Task	Description	Deliverables	Mandate/ objectives	When	Who
DATA SYSTEMS AND MANAGEMENT								
Ensure Ascension Island has facilities and expertise required to deliver outcome	Capacity building, facilities and improvements to existing systems / processes	ASC_4.1	Exploring opportunities to make the Ascension Island database and public facing web GIS more accessible.	Task within the ASIOS Project. To provide additional support to incorporate additional datasets and ensure the database is maintained.	GIS database	Design Manage	Ongoing / Dec 2020	<b>AIGCFD</b> <b>Exeter University</b> <u>BB support</u> Cefas MMO

## Workstream 5: Local capacity and training

Activity: Training, capacity building, facilities and local engagement

Capacity building and provision of support to AIG staff is an integral part of the delivery of the Blue Belt objectives and essential for the long-term legacy of the programme. Training, guidance and support will be provided (where necessary).

Table 5. Planned tasks for Ascension Island *Local Capacity and Training* workstream. The lead organisation or contact (where identified) is included in bold type

Outcome	Activity	ID	Task	Description	Deliverables	Mandate/ objectives	When	Who
Local capacity and training								
Ensure Ascension Island has the expertise required to deliver outcome	Training, capacity building, facilities and local engagement	ASC_5.1	Otolith preparation and reading	Staff training to be delivered remotely or at the Cefas laboratory	Bespoke training course given	Design Designate Manage Monitor Enforce	As required	BB Lead <b>Cefas</b>
		ASC_5.2	Plankton identification	Staff training to be delivered remotely or at the Cefas laboratory	Bespoke training course given		Ongoing / Dec 2020	BB Lead <b>Cefas</b>
		ASC_5.3	Raising public awareness of Ascension Island MPA and Blue Belt Programme work	Communication support, through translation of workplan outputs into appropriate public facing documents to keep Ascension Island stakeholders will informed of progress	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ascension comms plan developed</li> <li>Stakeholder communication documents produced</li> </ol>	Aug 2018  See comms plan for timelines	<b>AIGCFD</b>  <u>BB support</u> <b>MMO*</b> Cefas	

		ASC_5.4	Assessing public perception of an Ascension Island MPA through the Blue Belt Programme	Survey	Questionnaire and report delivered		Dec 2018	<b>AIGCFD</b> <u>BB Support</u> <b>MMO*</b> Cefas
		ASC_5.5	Providing support on integrated marine management, compliance and enforcement	Advice and training	Support where required		Ongoing	<u>BB lead</u> <b>MMO</b>

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## Blue Belt Ascension Island Key Milestones and Deliverables

There are four key milestones and deliverables that will indicate success of Blue Belt programme in supporting Ascension Island to achieve its desired outcome by 2020:

1. Requisite legislation in place for MPA designation (May 2018);
2. Ascension Island MPA designated (June 2019);
3. Finalised Marine Monitoring and Management Plan in place (June 2019);
4. Requisite legislation in place for MPA management (June 2019);

Other deliverables that will play a critical part in the Programme's success:

5. Key reports delivered to enhance understanding of biodiversity of the marine environment (Dec 2018);
6. Fisheries economic assessment of cost benefits under MPA management scenarios produced (Dec 2018);

Cross territory deliverables relevant to the designation and management of Ascension Island MPA (refer to cross-territory Work Programme for more detail)

7. Compliance and enforcement, process and procedure developed;
8. Emergency response procedures developed;
9. A review and assessment of biosecurity procedures in relation to non-native invasive species delivered.

## Associated Programmes of Work

- A. Darwin Plus project: "The Ascension Island Ocean Sanctuary (ASIOS): planning for the Atlantic's largest marine reserve". End date 30/09/19.-Will contribute significant scientific evidence, a GIS database, MPA management information.
- B. CSSF (FCO) project: Promoting greater marine protection around Ascension Island.
- C. Darwin Plus project: Tracking marine megafauna at Ascension Island towards evidence based 'Blue belts' EU Best 2.0 project: An ecological assessment of Ascension Island's shallow-water seamounts as candidate MPAs. End date 30/09/18.
- D. Ascension Island Marine Sustainability (AIMS) – A Fisheries and Marine Biodiversity Report. End Date 31/03/16
- E. Blue Belt Cross Cutting work programme: To facilitate the development, implementation and enforcement of marine protection strategies within the territorial waters of UKOTs.
- F. CSSF Natural Capital Assessment.

## Summary of work started in 2017-18 and proposed work for 2018-19

Table 6 provides a summary of work started or completed in 2017-18 and work to be undertaken in 2018-19.

Table 6. Blue Belt Ascension Island progress to date and work planned for 2018-19.

ID	Tasks / Outputs	Progress / Status	Comments
ASC_1.1	Review all marine and environmental legislation and confirm all required legislation is in place. Provide legal advice and support when requested/required	Ongoing	
ASC_1.2	Publish an Inshore Fisheries Ordinance	Not yet started	
ASC_1.3	Production of an Ascension Island MPA boundary evidence/recommendations document	Not yet started	
ASC_1.4	To update and finalise the existing draft Ascension Island Marine Management Plan and Monitoring Plan	Ongoing	
ASC_1.5	Stakeholder consultation and review of evidence/recommendations and marine management plan	Not yet started	
ASC_2.1	Fisheries Profile	Completed	
ASC_2.2	Provide support on development of inshore fishery monitoring and management plans for each inshore fishery	ongoing	
ASC_2.3	An assessment of changes in fisheries behaviour in relation to the current licensing scheme and fisheries closures	Started	Chapter in draft for submission to Evidence and options paper
ASC_3.1	Research into the distribution of key fisheries and protected species (tagging and BRUV video data)	Ongoing	Not BB led
ASC_3.2	Research into the ecology of Inshore fished species	Ongoing	Not BB lead
ASC_3.3	Seamount sphere of influence study	Ongoing	Task within the BEST project, not BB led
ASC_4.1	The creation of the PostGis database and QGISMS Access front ends, a public facing web GIS	tbc	Task within the ASIOS Project, not BB led
ASC_5.1	Provide training for AIG staff on the use of the information system	tbc	
ASC_5.2	Otolith preparation and reading	Not yet started	
ASC_5.3	Plankton identification	Ongoing	
ASC_5.4	Raising public awareness and assessing public perception of an Ascension Island MPA	Ongoing	
ASC_5.5	Providing support on integrated marine management, compliance and enforcement	Ongoing	