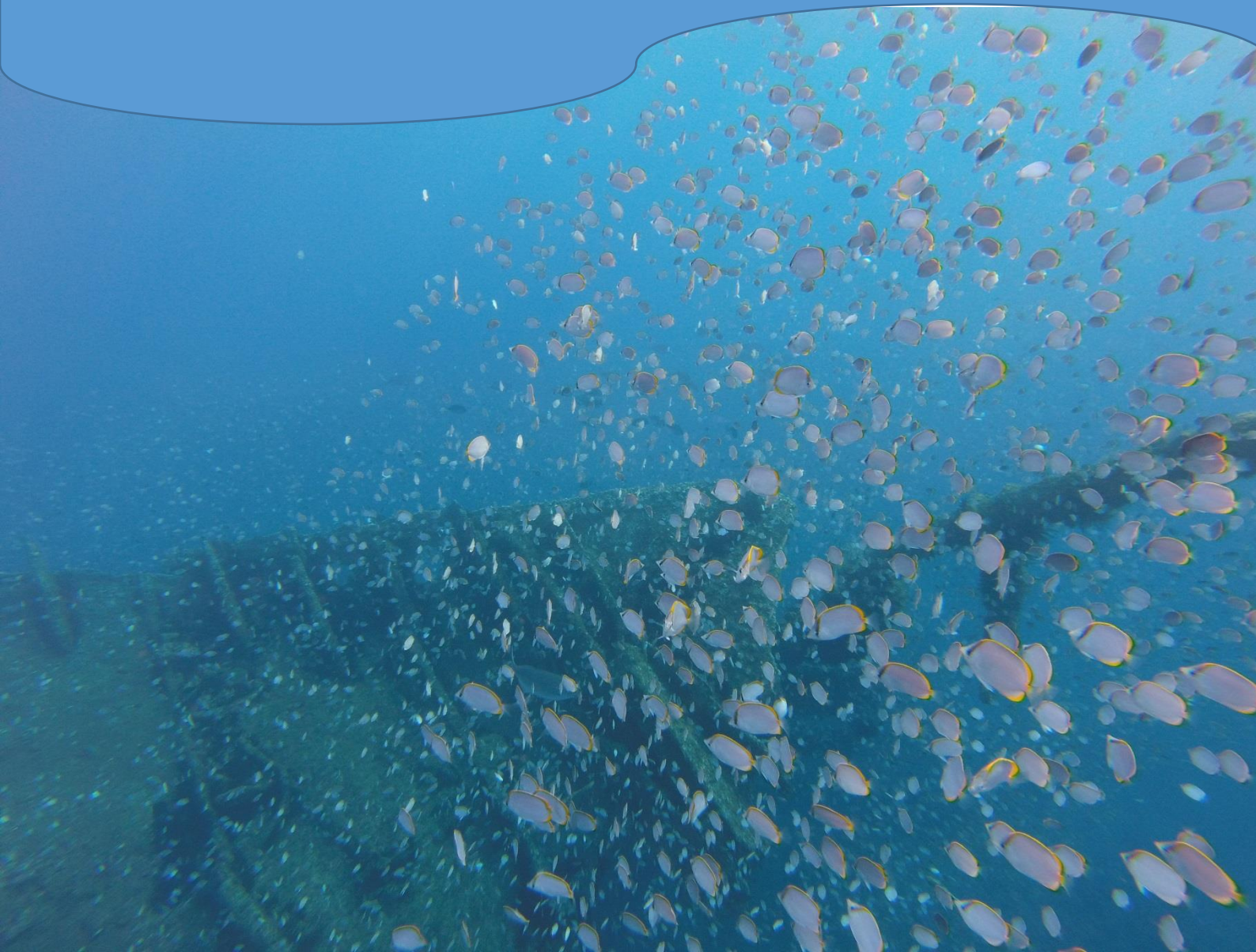


Blue Belt Workshop Report



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Executive Summary

The Blue Belt Programme held a workshop in St Helena on 11 March 2019. The aim of the workshop was to: take stock of what has been achieved under the Blue Belt Programme so far, share lessons and good practice to inform the remainder of the programme and look towards the legacy beyond 2020. The workshop was attended by 20 participants from Ascension Island, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI), St Helena and Tristan da Cunha as well as the Falkland Islands, Namibia, the UK and the USA.

The first group-work session reflected on progress made to date towards the UK Government's commitment to provide long term protection of over four million square kilometres of marine environment across the UK Overseas Territories (OTs). The participants noted that the Blue Belt Programme has been very successful in:

- expanding scientific knowledge of the biodiversity of the OTs enabling the OT governments to give evidence-based advice to inform policy recommendations
- enhancing capacity in the OTs in terms of training, equipment and facilities and sharing of data
- the satellite surveillance work and collaboration with fisheries patrols

The workshop participants then discussed what they hoped would be achieved by the end of the Blue Belt Programme in March 2020. This session highlighted that there is still a lot of work to be done in the OTs and potential sticking points included: time taken for new legislation to go through the formal process, lack of capacity in the territories, insufficient funding and lack of equipment and infrastructure for monitoring and enforcement. A large group discussion then concentrated on the potential for establishing a marine managers' network in the South Atlantic. This session considered issues such as data management, training, communications and sustainable financing. It was suggested that the OTs could consider membership of the Big Ocean Network. Finally, the workshop considered the legacy of the Blue Belt Programme. Participants were asked to think about their vision for their Marine Protected Area (MPA) / marine area for the year 2024. The final group-work session then discussed what needed to be done to achieve this vision.

The workshop was very successful in providing the opportunity for the different OTs to network and share lessons learned and experiences of good practice. It is hoped that this will lead to more collaborative working in the future to ensure continued good relationships and knowledge exchange.

The workshop highlighted the benefits of the Blue Belt Programme to date across the South Atlantic OTs. Discussions around the final year, will enable Blue Belt Programme resources to be more focused to address the identified sticking points to ensure delivery by March 2020. There are also a number of opportunities for future work to ensure that the OTs have the on-going support they need to enable effective management of their marine areas in the long-term. These include sustainable financing, on-going technical support and training, and communications support. The Blue Belt Programme should begin to implement these actions during the final year to ensure appropriate legacy arrangements are in place and should consider how this support can be best provided in the longer-term.

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List of acronyms

AIG	Ascension Island Government
BAS	British Antarctic Survey
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CSSF	Conflict, Stability and Security Fund
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EMSA	European Maritime Safety Agency
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IFAC	Inshore Fisheries Advisory Committee
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated [fishing]
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
MCA	Maritime & Coastguard Agency
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OTs	Overseas Territories
SAERI	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute
SGSSI	South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands
SHFC	St Helena Fisheries Corporation
SHG	St Helena Government

Blue Belt Workshop, St Helena 11th March 2019

Workshop Report

1.0 Introduction

The Blue Belt Programme held a workshop at the Community College in Jamestown, St Helena on 11 March 2019. This workshop was planned to complement the St Helena Conference 2019 'Natural Capital in the South Atlantic', as representatives from all of the South Atlantic Overseas Territories (OTs) were present in St Helena. With one year left on the current Blue Belt Programme, the aim of the workshop was to take stock of what has been achieved to date and to share lessons and good practice to inform the remainder of the programme and look towards the legacy beyond 2020. The workshop agenda is provided in Appendix 1. The workshop was attended by 20 participants from Ascension Island, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI), St Helena and Tristan da Cunha as well as the Falkland Islands, Namibia, the UK and the USA. An attendee list is provided in Appendix 2. The workshop was led and facilitated by Joanna Stockill and Emily Hardman from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Elizabeth Clingham, St Helena Blue Belt Manager.

2.0 Workshop Summary

2.1 Welcome and introductory presentations

Joanna Stockill, Head of the Blue Belt Programme at the MMO opened the workshop, welcomed the participants and introduced the aims and objectives of the day.

Dr Emily Hardman, Senior Integrated Marine Manager for the Blue Belt Programme at the MMO gave an introductory presentation explaining the background to the Blue Belt Programme and the integrated marine management approach being taken in the five OTs. She gave a brief overview of the science and research activities being undertaken in each OT, the work being done to support effective management of human activities and compliance and enforcement activities, including satellite surveillance and identification of new technologies. Participant questions included whether access to the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) satellite imagery will be affected by Brexit and how quickly the satellites can be deployed if something suspicious is found.

Elizabeth Clingham, St Helena Blue Belt Manager talked more specifically about the work being supported by the Blue Belt Programme in St Helena including scientific research (tuna tagging, grouper tagging and the James Clark Ross and Discovery surveys) and capacity building (training, equipment and a new lab); management of human activities (development of management strategies for sand extraction, marine tourism and waste water discharges); legislation (drafting a new Fisheries Ordinance); and compliance and enforcement (support for a marine enforcement officer). The participants asked how lessons learned around drafting the new fisheries legislation could be shared with other OTs e.g. Tristan da Cunha and noted that work around drafting new legislation needs to ensure join-up with the project 'Maritime Obligations & Reduction in Contingent Liabilities' being led by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA).



Joanna Stockill welcoming everyone to the workshop and Elizabeth Clingham explaining the work being supported by the Blue Belt Programme in St Helena

2.2 Highlights of Blue Belt work from the South Atlantic OTs - round table discussion

Representatives from each OT were asked to share with the whole group what they saw as the main highlights of the Blue Belt Programme and wider marine work over the past 3 years; these are detailed below.

Ascension Island: are working towards a Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation later this year and have been collecting a lot of scientific information to support this designation. Highlights from the Ascension Island Government (AIG) include: tracking how the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is used by seabirds, different fish, sharks and turtles; AIG staff and researchers have also been doing plankton sampling and using Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs) to understand the biodiversity within Ascension Island's EEZ. As a result, the Island Council has now been given a lot of evidence to enable them to make a decision. Participants from AIG noted that there was a lot of bad feeling on-island originally and they have worked hard to encourage the Council to take an objective view of the potential opportunities and responsibilities that would come with an MPA – this has been a huge success. AIG has also been working with the inshore recreational fishermen and has set-up an Inshore Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC) to ensure stakeholder-led management. The first meeting was in November and the IFAC includes six fishermen plus two staff from AIG. The group has been discussing monitoring and management options and there has been some really good, open dialogue and very honest feedback.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI): have just completed the five year review of the MPA to ensure that it is meeting its objectives. The review panel, which had an independent chair as well as representatives from the tourism and fishing industries, SGSSI Government and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), reviewed all of the scientific evidence obtained over the past 5 years. The panel made a series of recommendations and, a series of enhancements to the MPA were made as a result; this has been a big success story. The Government of SGSSI is now developing a research and monitoring plan to fill the main evidence gaps. They also had the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) re-certification of the toothfish fishery and increased their score for sustainability.

St Helena: Georgia Aquarium's highlights over the past few years have been recognition of whale shark mating behaviour in St Helena which up until that point, had never been seen anywhere else in the world (NB mating behaviour has now also been seen on the Ningaloo Reef in western Australia); the scientists have also recorded an equal number of adult males and females which is also unique in the world. There has been early engagement with the marine tour operators to get good practice in place right from the start. It was noted that Dr Simon Pierce from the Marine Megafauna Foundation described St Helena as having the best whale shark encounters in the world. For the Emergency Planning team, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) audit is due in September 2020 and a working group has now been set-up to

look at the gap analysis around issues such as marine pollution response and enforcement with support from the MCA. The main highlights from the St Helena Government (SHG) Marine Conservation Section include the tuna tagging work and it was noted that they now have information about a resident stock and tuna behaviour and movement patterns, which show a potential connection between St Helena and the Ivory Coast. This work has really brought the fishermen on-board as they have been very interested in the study and the results. There has also been a number of other Darwin Initiative projects such as work on the sustainable lobster population and the pelagic ecosystem work. Another success has been marine tour operator engagement in establishing guidelines for interacting with marine megafauna and the next steps that the Blue Belt Programme will facilitate, so that voluntary systems become formalised in legislation and licensing. There has been support for resourcing from the Blue Belt Programme: three staff members visited the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) for capacity-building and there is also the new lab and new equipment. The vacancy for the new Marine Enforcement Officer post should be advertised soon, which is a real highlight. For the St Helena Fisheries Corporation (SHFC), the highlight has been better communication between science and the commercial fishery. It was noted that initially, the science moved ahead very quickly whereas the fishery was not as quick and the lack of communication created challenges. SHG and the SHFC have worked a lot at improving communication and are now working more closely together.

Tristan da Cunha: participants from Tristan da Cunha commented that originally there was a lot of apprehension regarding the type of designation that would be needed and the potential impact on current activities taking place. They noted that the fact that the UK government said that Tristan da Cunha did not have to designate an MPA, just establish some form of large-scale marine management strategy was therefore a success. A real highlight has been the international recognition for Tristan's marine environment: the National Geographic expedition spent a lot of money and this really put Tristan on the map and made some amazing discoveries e.g. scientists think that the waters are a nursery for blue sharks. The James Clark Ross survey also looked at impacts from fishing on the seamounts and the lifecycle of lobster, so there has been a lot of really important science work undertaken. The satellite surveillance work to identify Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing has been a success and there has also been one physical enforcement patrol. There has also been support for the local resource through refurbishment of the inshore patrol vessel, a new RIB, cameras and training for local Tristanians. The local community is still waiting to see what happens in regards to the management strategy; >80% of the local economy is dependent on fishing so they do not want to lock themselves into something that does not allow them to diversify in the future.

Falkland Islands: There is on-going work on marine spatial planning (MSP) led by the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) as well as other work on key biodiversity areas. Delivery of the original MSP work caused concern among some industry stakeholders and created some barriers for ongoing work. The fishing industry has quite a strong lobbying body and the MSP process highlighted the importance of improving early engagement and building relationships to ensure stakeholders are on board.

Namibia: Awareness is now starting to increase and an MPA was designated in 2011 (a managed resource area). There has been a Blue Economy Initiative looking at MSP and as a result, a lot of very good data have been collected. The conservation community therefore has a lot of good technical and scientific information but they now need to get buy-in from the government to involve conservation more in marine resource management.

2.3 Group work session 1: Reflecting on progress towards effective marine protection

The workshop participants were split up into three groups, so that each group contained a good mixture of representatives from the different OTs as well as from the different sectors (government, NGOs, academic, fisheries). Each group was asked to reflect on progress made towards effective marine protection considering what the main success have been to date, what has worked well and any barriers to success.

This was seen as an opportunity for knowledge exchange and to share best practice from across the OT marine programmes.

Main success were noted as:

- expansion of scientific knowledge and enhanced profile of the OTs
- enhanced capacity in the OTs in terms of training, equipment and facilities and sharing of data
- the satellite surveillance work and collaboration with fisheries patrols

Specifically for Ascension Island, main successes included:

- getting buy-in from the Island Council
- improved engagement with the local community through the development of the IFAC
- improved knowledge of the important biodiversity around the seamounts

St Helena felt that the MPA designation was a success as they had done a lot of consultation in advance and were able to get the fishers and marine tour operators on-board, so that everyone was supportive. They also felt that main successes included:

- having access to technical support so that they are now able to give evidence-based advice to inform policy recommendations
- progress with the fisheries legislation
- senior management recognising the need for change (regarding IMO obligations)
- being able to assemble the right consortium of people to support research and management for the whale sharks

SGSSI noted that they have now moved from two to four year licensing, which has increased investment and improved standards across the fleet due to greater certainty.

Barriers to success that were highlighted by the three groups included:

- **Sustainable financing:** concerns were raised about uncertainty around the future of the Blue Belt Programme and long-term financial support. It was noted that in OTs with no or very little tourism it is very difficult to sustainably finance an MPA and in particular, on-going operational costs and long-term monitoring are very difficult things to get external funding for. There was a discussion around establishing conservation trust funds (the Falkland Islands are currently in the process of establishing an environmental trust fund and Mauritania has a trust fund to support effective management of one of their MPAs) and Blue Bonds (e.g. Seychelles).
- **Lack of resources:** all groups noted that there are a lack of resources in the OTs and that the additional work associated with Blue Belt can cause conflict with other local priorities. There is also often high staff turnover leading to a loss of knowledge (and data). It was suggested that training should be given to a number of different staff, not just one individual to build resilience. In particular, access to Ascension Island meant that it was very difficult for AIG staff to benefit from training opportunities.
- **Communications:** all groups noted that there is a lack of resource for communications in the OTs; the OTs are removed from the UK communications community and would benefit from support to better publicise their work, respond to concerns on social media and keep them updated on online discussions and news items.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** it was noted that there is often insufficient resource on-island for OTs to undertake sufficient stakeholder engagement and that transparency in decision-making is really important to ensure that the local community and other stakeholders understand what it means for them and the Territories.

The full discussion points from all three groups are included in Appendix 3.



Group work sessions discussing the main successes to date

2.4 Group work session 2: What will be achieved in 2019-2020?

The participants remained in their three groups and were asked to discuss what they hoped would be achieved by the end of the Blue Belt Programme in March 2020 across their marine programmes and to highlight any potential sticking points.

Ascension Island:

- Completion of the Ascension Island Ocean Sanctuary Darwin Initiative project and publication of associated peer-reviewed papers
- Designation of the MPA (Ascension Island Council position is that designation requires a commitment from the UK government for long-term funding), production of the MPA Management Plan (December 2019) and an associated media strategy
- Development of the required legislation (including separate inshore fisheries legislation post December 2019);
- Establishment of a trust fund
- Continuation of compliance and enforcement activities
- Long-term environmental monitoring

Potential sticking points were: **sustainable financing** and **the lack of equipment and infrastructure** for monitoring and enforcement (e.g. no patrol boat); it was also noted that there will be a new Governor [NB now in post], Administrator and Island Council in September and therefore support around messaging will be required.

SGSSI:

- Updating of the Fisheries Ordinance
- Delivering a new fisheries Compliance and Enforcement policy and associated legislation
- Development of an MPA Research and Monitoring Plan (as part of a Darwin Initiative project)

It was noted that Blue Belt support for work in SGSSI has been good.

St Helena: hope to have a world class MPA by the end of 2020. Specific work will include:

- Completion of the tuna and grouper stock assessment to determine future licensing
- Development of fit for purpose fisheries legislation and new regulations for management of sand extraction, waste water discharges and marine tourism with good buy-in from stakeholders
- A long-term marine enforcement officer post (it was suggested that an enforcement team would be ideal)
- Better compliance with International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) submissions

- The lab completed and in use with appropriate infrastructure and equipment for long-term monitoring
- A clear structure for storage and management of data
- Review of the Marine Management Plan to incorporate new scientific evidence and policy development
- A future sustainable financing strategy
- A new Maritime Authority established with appropriate legislation and a new Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) post for maritime obligations work

It was noted that everyone is working very well collaboratively but that potential sticking points include: the **time taken for new legislation to go through** the formal process; **lack of capacity** on-island; and **insufficient funding** (e.g. additional funding is needed for the lab). In regards to the maritime obligations work, it was noted that this is a huge piece of work that had not been seen as a priority before; there is no Maritime Authority and there is still a requirement to draft new ordinances so the work really needs buy-in from the top levels of SHG.

Tristan da Cunha: hope to have a world class marine protection strategy in place with a declaration sometime in early 2020. Specific work will include:

- Completion of the Discovery Expedition DY 100
- Development of an options paper for the Island Council with a Council decision made in July/August
- Relevant legislation drafted sometime around October 2019

The full discussion points from all three groups are included in Appendix 4.

2.5 Establishing an MPA Managers Network in the South Atlantic

This session aimed to build on the morning's discussions around sharing experiences to think about how this could be strengthened beyond 2020. It was suggested that rather than just creating a network of MPAs, a network of marine managers could also be established. Joanna Stockill gave a presentation highlighting some different case studies of networks and initiatives that had been established elsewhere to develop longer-term ways of work across regions. Case studies included:

- The Protected Area Working Group of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and specifically the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal which provides an online platform where protected area practitioners can share expertise and benefit from opportunities;
- The Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN) which aims to be a network for knowledge, information, anticipation and synthesis and supports sharing of experience between managers of Mediterranean protected areas through exchanges and the development of management tools to support effective management of their MPAs;
- The Western Indian Ocean Certification of Marine Protected Area Professionals (WIO-COMPAS) programme, which provides professional training for MPA professionals;
- SAERI which aims to conduct world class research and build capacity within and between the UK South Atlantic OTs.

The presentation was followed by a large group discussion, facilitated by Joanna to consider the different case studies and discuss whether some sort of similar network could be established for the South Atlantic region. The discussion concentrated on the following topics:

Data management: it was noted that at the moment, the OTs just submit their metadata to SAERI but it would be good to go back to having one single data repository. The workshop participants commented that it seems unnecessary to start again and makes more sense to use the existing SAERI database; this would get more buy-in - there just needs to be a push to use it more. They also felt that as data management requires a certain level of expertise, it would also be better to have a couple of people to manage it

centrally rather than to separately train people in each individual OT and SAERI already has a data manager in post. The participants noted that organisations / individuals are generally happy to submit data to the SAERI database; some data such as that from the oil industry is included but is not shared publically. They also commented that it is better to have the data stored off-island in case local servers go down. It was noted by the participants that SAERI is currently working with Dundee University to pull-in all of the relevant satellite data and that the new St Helena Research Institute is also being established and will have a new data manager post.

Training: One suggestion from the workshop participants was to have a regional training event with people from each OT coming together in one place and training being provided in a range of different subjects during the event. It was noted that a lot of the staff are scientists who have ended up managing without any actual management training. Ascension Island noted that they had trialled the MMO compliance and enforcement training on the internet and it worked OK even with the poor internet connection there (NB no staff currently on-island took part in this trial). The participants noted however that it would be useful to be able to access all training through one hub i.e. have the training from MMO, Cefas, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) etc. all together in one place.

Regional network: The workshop participants questioned whether 'regional' actually works in the South Atlantic where each OT is so different and should we in fact, be thinking more globally and joining up with other networks with similar ecosystems or fisheries? One participant suggested the Big Ocean Network (<https://bigoceanmanagers.org/>) as an option: the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) is already a member and the other OTs would now be eligible. It was noted that the Big Ocean Network has a website and staff managing it; there is a small subscription fee but it gives access to a huge network; for example they offer MPA manager exchange programmes. It was also flagged that representatives from the Big Ocean Network will be at the Ascension Island Government / Blue Belt Symposium in Exeter in July.

Communications: Some workshop participants asked whether the aim of the network could be focussed around communications and advocacy, giving the OTs a voice to promote their work on a regional / global scale.

Sustainable financing: Options for sustainable financing were discussed. It was noted that the Falkland Islands are establishing a Trust Fund and are hoping to have this set-up by next year. In 2016, the Falkland Islands Government approved the principle of establishing a Falkland Islands Environment Fund for the purpose of administrating oil industry offsetting payments to deliver an environmental legacy. The intention for the environment trust fund will be that it will be separate from the government budget and will aim to be a self-sustaining fund in future. The final structure and organisation of the trust fund has yet to be approved. The participants highlighted that there are concerns about the government slashing the environment budget as a result. The Terms of Reference are therefore really important and the Falkland Island Government is drafting new legislation to support this. It was noted that a community trust fund is also being set-up in Ascension Island supported by Blue Marine Foundation.

The fundamental message from the discussion was not to re-invent the wheel!

2.6 The future post-2020

During afternoon tea break, all of the workshop participants were asked to write on a post-it note what their vision for their MPA / marine area was for the year 2024.



The workshop participants' visions for their MPA / marine area in 2024

The responses were grouped into 4 general themes as shown below:

Well-managed MPA

- A well-managed and regulated MPA
- Sustainably managed fisheries; MPA appropriate for species ranges and population; marine tourism accreditation scheme legally launched
- Sustainable MPA with clear evidence to support statement; robust legislation and enforcement; relevant monitoring; good communication; local buy-in; economic independence because of above
- Well established and managed MPA with sustainable use of natural resources; legislation in place; continued monitoring of marine environment in order to continuously update MPA management
- MPA in place with support from everyone on-island; sustainable financing model in place; international research hub for marine science; developed / developing tools to monitor biological indicators; good relationship with NGOs
- Established well run inshore recreational / sports fishing sector with ordinance developed through community input; ability to monitor MPA through patrol and research cruises; stronger research connections with other OTs (joint projects)
- Evidence based management, not just paper parks to meet the 30% target; acceptance that an MPA does not have to be complete no-take, sustainable use is also a means of protection; understanding of how an MPA fits within a wider regional system and how our decisions may impact other areas – dangers of displaced activity

Well-resourced MPA

- Established; long-term monitoring plan with accompanying finance and resources secure
- MPAs with sufficient resources to monitor and enforce their goals:
 - Staff
 - Operating budgets (not grants)
 - BOATS! (and labs)

World class example

- Tristan da Cunha is a world-leading example of how to combine a marine economy with a meaningful marine protection regime

- St Helena viewed as a world class example of a well-managed and enforced IUCN Category VI MPA which benefits both environment and it's people
- For the MPA to be an ocean observatory / living laboratory for understanding ecological processes and global change in an interconnected Atlantic.

Wider benefits

- Feasibility of MPA high seas corridors through inclusion of OT's in wider research or management programmes including international partners (Brazil, Gulf of Guinea etc.)
- Have St Helena plastic free and have all business use renewable

A word cloud (www.tagcrowd.com) was created to show the most commonly used words in the visions to highlight those words that held particular importance to the workshop participants. The word cloud highlighted that the most commonly used words were: MPA, sustainable, management, monitor, well-managed, research, resources and enforce.



The workshop participants then returned to their three groups and were asked to discuss what needed to be done to achieve this 2024 vision, thinking about who would do it, what support would be needed (technical, financial etc.) and how the OTs could support each other.

The participants noted that it was important to not become complacent and to keep the momentum going post-2020. Requirements to meet the vision highlighted by the workshop participants included:

- **Sustainable financing:** it was noted that a mechanism for long-term funding needs to be in place. Participants suggested that the Blue Belt Programme could help to draft a long-term financing strategy with additional support from OT governments, NGOs, industry and academic institutions.
- **Local resourcing and infrastructure:** the participants highlighted that there need to be core staff on-island employed locally; there is also a need for additional legal drafters to support drafting of the required new legislation. Participants from Ascension Island and St Helena felt that they needed additional equipment and infrastructure e.g. a research hub (Ascension Island) and a vessel for monitoring and patrols (Ascension Island and St Helena). The requirement for a vessel was

discussed, balancing the additional costs, crew and health & safety requirements of a large vessel that could patrol the entire EEZ and undertake research on the seamounts versus a smaller boat that could be used for inshore patrols, research and monitoring. It was discussed that it makes sense for compliance and enforcement to be more centralised with some on-island capacity but noted that low cost solutions are important. The participants noted that on-going scientific support is needed and better links with universities developed (e.g. development of MOUs, student programmes etc.).

- **Capacity-building:** the participants commented that on-going training is required to ensure local staff have the appropriate skills; this should include training in grant writing / fundraising and maritime training (to be provided in St Helena rather than in South Africa). One participant suggested that there could be a local pool of staff who could be deployed across the different OTs.
- **Collaborative working:** it was noted by the workshop participants that it will be important to ensure continued good relationships and knowledge exchange, for example data sharing and regular get-togethers (e.g. a regular conference) as well as to build new relationships with the west coast of Africa and east coast of Brazil.
- **Communication:** the workshop participants commented that it will be important for the OTs to keep abreast of new approaches and opportunities and for them to be able to share information about opportunities for research and collaborative projects.
- **OT government support:** some participants noted that OT governments will need to step-up to their new responsibilities, particularly in terms of finances (e.g. incorporating costs for long-term monitoring into budgets) and resourcing and that it will be really important to retain political buy-in and local support to drive things forward. Ascension Island did not however, feel this was appropriate or possible given their current funding model.

The full discussion points from all three groups are included in Appendix 5.

2.7 Workshop close

Joanna Stockill thanked all of the participants for their hard work, input and ideas throughout the day. She explained that all of the discussions points would be written-up as a workshop report for circulation to everyone and that the suggestions, particularly around the Blue Belt Programme legacy, would help to inform discussions around the future of the programme.

3.0 Conclusions

The workshop was very successful in providing the opportunity for representatives from the different OTs to network and share lessons learned and experiences of good practice. It is hoped that this will lead to more collaborative working in the future to ensure continued good relationships and knowledge exchange.

The workshop highlighted the benefits of the Blue Belt Programme to date across the South Atlantic OTs. Discussions around the final year, will enable Blue Belt Programme resources to be more focused to address the identified sticking points to ensure delivery by March 2020. There are also a number of opportunities for future work to ensure that the OTs have the on-going support they need to enable effective management of their marine areas in the long-term. These include sustainable financing, on-going technical support and training, and communications support. The Blue Belt Programme and OTs should consider how this support can be best provided in the longer-term.

The workshop discussions also highlighted a number of requirements for the Blue Belt Programme to investigate during the final year to ensure appropriate legacy arrangements are in place as follows:

- **Sustainable financing:** Blue Belt to investigate sustainable financing options to maintain management activities post 2020 and to draft a long-term financing strategy for the OTs (XOT 6.2)

- **Resources:** Blue Belt to investigate costs associated with vessels for St Helena and Ascension weighing-up size of vessel with requirements and costs
- **Communications:** Blue Belt to consider whether more communications support could be provided to the OTs, particularly around the announcements of the MPA designation in Ascension Island and a marine protection strategy in Tristan da Cunha
- **Capacity-building:** Blue Belt to consider suggestions for a regional training event and / or to discuss with other organisations such as JNCC whether all online training could be housed in one place. The WIO-COMPAS programme could be investigated to see whether it or a similar scheme may be appropriate.
- **Data management:** Blue Belt to follow-up suggestions to have a single data repository housed at SAERI and to investigate further the role of the St Helena Research Institute (XOT 4.1)
- **Networks:** Blue Belt to consider membership of the Big Oceans Network for the OTs

Appendix 1 St Helena Blue Belt Workshop Agenda

9:00 – 9:15	Arrival and registration
9:15 – 9:30	Welcome: Aim of the workshop and housekeeping – Jo Stockill
9:30 – 10:00	Introduction to the Blue Belt Programme – Emily Hardman
10:00 – 10:20	The Blue Belt Programme in St Helena – Elizabeth Clingham
10:20 – 10:35	Coffee break
10:35 – 11:05	Highlights of Blue Belt work from the South Atlantic OTs – round table: 5 minutes per OT with general discussion
11:05 – 12:00	<p>Group work session 1: Reflecting on progress towards effective marine protection; an opportunity for knowledge exchange and sharing best practice from across OT marine programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the key successes to date?• What has worked well? Opportunity to share best practice approaches• Have there been any barriers to progress? Trouble shooting discussions <p>Feedback to the group</p>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:45	<p>Group work session 2: What will be achieved in 2019- 2020</p> <p>Each OT will present what they hope will be achieved by 2020 across their marine programmes, and any sticking points.</p>
13:45 – 14:30	Presentation: Establishing an MPA Managers Network in the South Atlantic - case studies and group discussion – Jo Stockill
14:30 – 14:45	<p>Tea break</p> <p>During tea, everyone to write on a Post-It note, their vision for the UK OT's MPAs in 2024</p>
14:45 – 15:45	<p>Group work session 3: Blue Belt Programme legacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What needs to be done to achieve your 2024 vision?• Who will do this?• What support do you need to do this (technical, financial etc.)?• How can OTs support each other? <p>Feedback to the group</p>
15:45 – 16:00	Final reflections and next steps – Jo Stockill
16:00	Finish

Appendix 2 Workshop Participants

Name	Organisation
Al Dove	Georgia Aquarium
Andy Richardson	Ascension Island Government
Annalea Beard	St Helena Government - EMD
Anthony Van Rensburg	St Helena Fisheries Corporation
Beth Taylor	St Helena National Trust
Chris Carnegie	Tristan da Cunha Government
Dee Baum	Ascension Island Government
Emily Hancox	Falkland Islands Government
Gerald Benjamin	St Helena Government - ANRD
Ian Johnson	St Helena Government – Emergency Planning
Isabel Peters	St Helena Government - EMD
Jamie Ellick	St Helena National Trust
Joachim Naulaerts	St Helena Government - EMD
Juliette Perche	Namibia Nature Foundation
Kate Chadwick	Ascension Island Government
Marco Yon	St Helena Government – Emergency Planning
Rhys Hobbs	St Helena Government - EMD
Sam Weber	University of Exeter
Simon Wade	St Helena Government – Emergency Planning
Sue Gregory	Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Appendix 3 Group-work session 1 notes

Group 1

Main successes:

- **Expanding knowledge:** species, habitats, biomass etc. – know so much now; MPA designation facilitated growth
 - What made it work:
 - Networking
 - Simplicity
 - Barriers:
 - Lack of communication between OTs (grouper)
 - Previous data management / staff turnover
- **Capacity building:** kit; training; expansion; human; exposure – international (Cefas / BAS); NGOs; broaden; support; MCA
 - Barriers:
 - Uncertainty future BB and local; finance; based on current loads
 - Under resourcing; human / projects
 - Timing impacting other local priorities
 - Lack of local communication – back tracking and creating balance
 - H&S differences
- **Number of firsts:** new records; species; movement
- **Revised profile of Territory:** collaborations; Stanford, GA [Georgia Aquarium], BAS; support from NGOs; broaden political view locally / international; proudness
- **Science capacity:** lab; evidence-based decision making; using science first to make decisions
 - Barriers:
 - Resourcing communication
- **Data management:** NGOs priorities; use data in different work-streams

Group 2

Main successes:

- **Ascension:** Long process to get buy-in from Ascension Island Council from feeling 'put on'. Focus on economics and what to do in other 50%. Regulations tighter now too. Focus on MPA now, not what it used to be,
 - Challenge: hard to project economics into the future – uncertainty in decision making.
 - Speak to you audience – what it means to them
- **SGSSI:** Moved from 2 to 4 year licensing → has increased investment and improved standards due to greater certainty.
 - Challenge: those that didn't get licence not happy → some legal challenge. Risk of Judicial Review (JR) – required lots of work ensuring due process was followed and documented at all stages in case of a JR.
 - Consultation and transparency in decision-making very important to help minimise risk of challenge.
- **St Helena:** MPA designation; getting fishermen and marine tour operators on-board. No resistance as lots of consultation in advance

Challenges:

- How to sustainably fund the MPA e.g. no tourism
- Reducing HMG budget needs to make up from revenue
- Need to compete for budget but have better leverage

- Challenge getting NGO on-board; trust fund model BUT need core funding from HMG.
- Initial fund as a catalyst; Blue Bond drivers; small-scale start-up projects and business. In Mauritania – oil/industry fund MPA → taxing system.
- Locals do not get benefit, it is a global benefit so need to draw on wider funding. Provide a product; CSR importance.
- Long-term monitoring is very difficult to get funding for. Keeping things ticking over. Easier to get funding for short-term/sexy work. Even working with e.g. BAS long-term gets cut as not able to do papers.
- If St Helena gets all the maritime obligations sorted and registrations in place, might be more attractive for those to register; could be a flag state (fully functioning); raise money for the island.
- Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) of what you make from registration vs cost of meeting international regulations. MCA working group are looking to setting application fees.
- Sharing outreach is difficult – no dedicated comms resource. Mechanism for better publicity. Removed from UK comms community so no one to help support response to tweets / balance the argument, help with Q&A.
- NGOs are very well resourced. Strong lobby. Do not have resource to counter.
- OT PR person → keep an eye on what comms out there and what's going on.

Group 3

Main successes:

- **St Helena:** having access to technical support, filling evidence gaps. Using this to give evidence-based advice to inform policy recommendations.
- Fisheries legislation – more progress since Blue Belt
- Having senior management recognise the need for change regarding IMO obligations ensuring ships meet safety standards etc. Now it's on their radar, will hopefully move forward
- Assembling the right consortium of people: SHG, local knowledge from marine tour operators and fishers; biological knowledge; funding and expertise for whale sharks. Local knowledge base was a huge advantage.
- **Ascension:** expanding knowledge regarding the key biodiversity around seamounts; filling evidence gaps
- More transparency regarding conservation work; sharing information with local community
- Inshore Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC)
- **Falkland Islands:** Similar work updating legislation; Darwin projects looking at key biodiversity areas and marine spatial planning

What's worked well?

- The 2020 target [for Blue Belt] and specific goals has pushed things along = an incentive.
- Satellite surveillance and collation with fisheries patrol; ground-truthing etc.; good communication with MMO regarding sightings etc. – daily when on patrol.
- Having functioning governments in the OTs is a huge advantage.

Barriers:

- Access to the island is a massive issue in Ascension for training etc.; science training can't be done online although could work for MMO enforcement training; internet access affects online training. Option: hold a training event maybe on another island with other OTs involved.
- Staff retention / turnover and loss of knowledge; ensure training is given to a number of staff, not just 1 individual.
- Working with the community doesn't happen enough. Community meetings; Facebook etc., get lots of information out there and be as transparent as possible; 1 to 1 meetings; smaller groups.
- Continuity of funding – what happens after??
- Capacity in-island – a lot of extra work; lack of staff and equipment.

Appendix 4 Group-work session 2 notes

Group 1

Ascension:

- MPA designation
- MPA Management Plan produced
- MMO coordinate IUU fishing
- Continued monitoring
- Data; peer-reviewed publications – lots!! (St Helena & Ascension)
- Steer on future research
- Sticking points:
 - Next year will determine future monitoring
 - Sustainable funding for the MPA – local council not prepared to designate until agreed
 - Patrol boat? (St Helena & Ascension)
 - Infrastructure for monitoring and enforcement

St Helena:

- Tuna and grouper stock assessment – to determine future licensing, thresholds, MSY
- Fit for purpose fisheries legislation and regulations
- Regulation for EPO: sand, water quality and marine tourism
- Stakeholder buy-in
- Marine enforcement officer – long-term
- Good capacity building
- Clear data structure, storage and management
- WORLD CLASS MPA!
- Lab completed and in use
- Maritime Authority established with legislation/regulations to enforce; better H&S
- Better understanding of the St Helena ecosystem to inform decision making
- Better compliance with ICCAT submissions (or other RFMOs)
- Infrastructure for continued monitoring, data collection and enforcement; auditing
- Exit strategy from external support
- MMP reviewed

Tristan da Cunha:

- Discovery trip complete
- Options paper for Tristan Council
- Further Cefas info – May 2019
- Council decision July/August 2019
- Legislation drafted October +/- 2019
- MPA (?) declaration early 2020
- WORLD CLASS MARINE PROTECTION:
 - Sustainable
 - Safe (Vessel management)
 - Enforced
 - Economic

Group 2

Ascension:

- December 2019 designation (hard deadline) – needs HMG commitment to long-term funding; SR19 vs very long term
- Legislation: MPA; Fisheries – IUU in this or elsewhere
- Inshore fisheries Order or Ordinance
- Inshore Fishery Advisory Committee – split off from designation so not holding up designation
- MPA Management Plan for December 2019
- Similar model to SGSSI – 1st MMP in 2011 (codified policy in legislation), reviewed in 2013 (science) → 5 year review
- Reassurance from HMG on funding
- Celebration around designation on island
- Media strategy around designation. Our own message, not NGO
- Trust fund board to be established to encourage take up.
- New Governor, new Administrator, New Council (September) – support on messaging

St Helena:

- Fisheries legislation – hopefully by June; long process to get through Committee / Council – no control over this part; Consult – go out to districts
- Economic Development Committee – could do a shorter process
- Share a draft to consult earlier?
- MEO role will need to be broader at start to cover enforcement of other activities while Fisheries Ordinance progresses
- CSSF post on Maritime Obligations

SGSSI:

- Fisheries ordinance was due to be updated by December 2018; work ongoing to complete it with MMO support
- Support from Blue Belt Programme has been good
- MMO assistance on framework/guidelines on fines, penalties – development of a fisheries Compliance and Enforcement policy
- Darwin – Research and Monitoring Plan for MPA following 5 year review

Group 3

Ascension:

- MPA designation
- ASIOS project wrapping up
- On-going work building up a better picture on key fisheries species, understanding MSY etc.
- MPA Management Plan in place – should just be a basic plan in place in the next 4 months, but will be a work in progress
- Inshore Fisheries ordinance – need one!

St Helena:

- Enforcement team would be ideal
- Blue Marine Foundation fill gaps in EMD work e.g. marine litter training and outreach, whale shark research
- All working very well collaboratively – only sticking point is capacity and funding
- Review current Marine Management Plan – do this earlier rather than later; feed in new information from Blue Belt and address gaps
- No major sticking points; will need to go out for public consultation – formal process, takes time
- Lab and centre – planning permission; needs more funding; need to work out what happens to staff who are currently in the building – need somewhere for them to move to

- September 2020 target to be ready for IMO audit – huge piece of work; no Maritime Authority; needs buy-in from the top; need to create an Authority, develop laws – needs new Ordinances (writing in progress); need to find right fit that meets mandate and needs of St Helena; wasn't seen as a priority before (similar in Falklands)
- Is there an opportunity for better integration between the OTs in the final year? Coordinate more closely and do things on a regional basis.

Appendix 5 group-work session 3 notes

Group 1

What needs to be done and by who:

- Legal drafters need to draft law - Government
- Politicians need to lead policy – Government
- Local management teams continue to inform policy / future work: revenue generation – Government / stakeholders / industry
- Current funders to support with drafting gradual exit strategy – Blue Belt
- Sustainable funding needs to be in place – Industry / Tristan da Cunha Government, St Helena Government, Ascension Island Government / Academic institutions / NGOs
- Ring fencing money (lab, tourism, licensing etc.) – St Helena Government
- Carry on riding the wave – not complacent
 - Keep momentum
 - Keep positive / drive
 - Keep current – Researchers / Tristan da Cunha Government, St Helena Government, Ascension Island Government / Industry
- Local government to step up to new responsibility - finances / resourcing / safety
- Capture economic benefits of environment
- Community buy-in; communication

Support required:

- Government (local) funding / industry
- Continued relationships / upskilling / retention
- Educated consumer – knowing what you want and where to get it

How OTs can support each other:

- Data sharing
- Maintaining personal relationships
- Regular get together, conference (next Tristan)
- MOUs

Group 2

Ascension:

- Need core of staff – on-island capacity e.g. 3-4 FTE (Ascension retain staff); need to keep staff once programme ends
- Build capacity in writing grant applications
- Be live to new opportunities
- Vessel
- Research hub
- Ongoing support regarding reviews and management plans
- Compliance & enforcement – makes sense to be more centralised with some on-island capacity
- Academics for larger ‘sexy projects’ BUT Blue Belt could support facilitating this
- Central support to keep abreast of new approaches and opportunities
- Issues:
 - Future of Ascension
 - Access needs sorting

SGSSI:

- Outreach / information sharing about opportunities to do research here
- SGSSI is world class
- Not enough knowledge exchange to highlight the work done by the Government of SGSSI
- Big Ocean Network as an opportunity
- New technology – bespoke solutions, challenges of climate and accessibility
- Be more cognisant of our needs e.g. monitoring, and steer researchers to target these gaps in knowledge for management
- Utilising vessels of opportunity e.g. fishing boats and crew to deploy equipment e.g. cameras

St Helena:

- Local pool of staff who can be deployed across OTs → resilience
- Local employment, capacity
- Low cost solutions are important
- Retain political buy-in and local support to drive things forward. Buy-in

General:

- High sea MPAs
- Genetics of key species
- Geographical ranges
- Scientific support
- RFMOs to facilitate
- E.g. SGSSI working with Birdlife International to look at fishery managements outside of MPA e.g. albatross that breed on South Georgia are often killed as bycatch in high seas fisheries outside our Maritime Zone

Group 3

- Address sticking points e.g. financial constraints discussed in previous session
- Sustainable financing structure
- Fundamental shift on base budget
- Technical support → skilled staff
- More networking, better communications between OTs and organisations; MOUs with universities
- Boat needed (or small plane?) for monitoring and patrols; crew – would need 2 captains, engineers etc. or other options e.g. utilising patrol vessel for other things – needed in St Helena and Ascension
- Need boat not just for patrols but also research – reduce research costs for hiring vessels
- BUT need to consider size of vessels, maintenance, cost of fuel, crew, health & safety obligations etc. to survey such a huge area
- Would like St Helena Government to have a Maritime Framework in place – so all staff fit in one place and is more streamlined
- Training – need maritime training done in St Helena rather than sending people to South Africa
- More partnership working across OTs – build relationships with west coast of Africa and east coast of Brazil
- Long-term monitoring – prioritise and incorporate into budgets – done by OT Government staff

- Need technical specialist support, more links with universities to analyse data and ensure methods are comparable and also have students coming out to do research.

Questions to take away

- How quickly can EMSA deploy satellites – could they be used to support search & recovery operations?
- Can the 2019/2020 budget information for St Helena be shared (total amount and activities being funded with cost breakdown)? This would support applications for co-funding.