British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Conservation Management Planning Workshop 5-6th March 2018 Workshop Report

Report prepared by the Blue Belt Programme

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Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture Science

Marine Management Organisation

Contents

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This report does not contain the views of the BIOT Administration or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Introduction

The British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Administration held a Conservation Management Planning Workshop at London Zoo on 5th and 6th March 2018. The aim of the workshop was to engage with key partners and stakeholders to begin the process of developing a new Conservation Management Plan for the Territory.

The workshop had an ambitious agenda involving identifying the key threats, constraints and opportunities, agreeing a vision for the plan and starting to develop management objectives and actions; the workshop agenda is provided in Appendix 1. The workshop was attended by over 30 experts who have worked in BIOT for many years including scientists from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the universities of Bangor, Lancaster and Swansea, as well as representatives from the Chagos Conservation Trust, Bertarelli Foundation, MRAG and CORDIO East Africa; a list of organisations represented at the workshop is provided in Appendix 2. The workshop was led by independent facilitators from the Blue Belt Programme: Dr Emily Hardman from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Simeon Archer-Rand and Dr Martin Collins from Cefas.

DAY 1

Welcome

Dr Emily Hardman from the Blue Belt Programme opened the workshop, welcomed the participants and introduced the Commissioner for BIOT, Mr Ben Merrick.

The Commissioner spoke about how conserving BIOT's environment is a priority for him and his Administration. He gave an overview of the importance of BIOT at a global scale in terms of its biodiversity, unique habitats and species and lack of human impacts. He explained that the BIOT Administration is aiming to develop a strategic and ambitious Conservation Management Plan to ensure effective management of the Territory over the next 5 years. Dr Mark Spalding, Chief Science Adviser to the BIOT Administration then gave a brief introduction to the Territory.

Presentations

Emily Hardman gave an introduction to the aim of the workshop and a brief overview of the management planning process. She highlighted the sort of information that is usually included in management plans, what would be discussed during breakout group sessions over the 2 days and how this would help to inform development of the Conservation Management Plan.

There were then a series of presentations by workshop participants who have worked in BIOT for many years, highlighting current research activities on the important habitats and species as well as on-going work to address some of the threats to these habitats and species as follows:

- Invasive non-native species - Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Key species: corals, sharks, manta rays, reef fish, pelagic sharks, sailfish and tuna and cetaceans - ZSL
- Key species: coconut crabs, turtles and seabirds - ZSL
- Recent and upcoming research projects - Bertarelli Programme in Marine Science
- Monitoring, Control and Surveillance within the MPA – MRAG and MMO
- Management of Diego Garcia - Dr Mark Spalding BIOTA's Chief Science Adviser
- Terrestrial habitats of BIOT – Dr Mark Spalding BIOTA's Chief Science Adviser

Current and emerging threats, constraints and opportunities

The workshop participants were split up into three breakout groups to discuss: (i) current and emerging threats; (ii) key evidence gaps; (iii) current management constraints; and (iv) new opportunities as follows:

- Group 1 Management of Diego Garcia
- Group 2 Management of key species and habitats
- Group 3 Management of human activities and key threats

The three groups identified a number of quite different threats; the only threats identified by all three groups were invasive non-native species, marine litter/plastics and recreational fishing. Other threats discussed were:

- **Group 1:** solid waste management, sewage, hazardous waste, coastal engineering and recreational fishing
- **Group 2:** climate change, Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing, visiting yachts (anchor damage and sewage discharge), pollution from waste, leachates from the landfill site and fuel spills, sound/noise pollution, coastal engineering, visiting yachts, and scientific expeditions.
- **Group 3:** IUU fishing, fishing just outside of BIOT waters impacting migratory species, lost Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), visiting yachts, ship groundings and marine pollution, light pollution and mineral extraction.

Group 2 also discussed current management constraints and future opportunities. Some key constraints included: lack of funding and lack of resources (there is a small team with a high turnover of staff and therefore a reliance on volunteers); the remote geographical location and the constraints of Diego Garcia being a military facility; and the Marine Protected Area (MPA) legislation. Lack of knowledge of BIOT's environment was also highlighted as a management constraint and a number of key evidence gaps were identified. Upcoming opportunities included the Blue Belt

Programme and the Bertarelli Programme in Marine Science (BPMS), advancing technology for exploration as well as monitoring and enforcement, positive engagement with those with a stake and interest in BIOT including the military leading to more opportunities for citizen science and global campaigns around reducing single-use plastics.

Vision

When the participants had first arrived at the workshop venue they were asked to write their vision for BIOT on a post-it note.

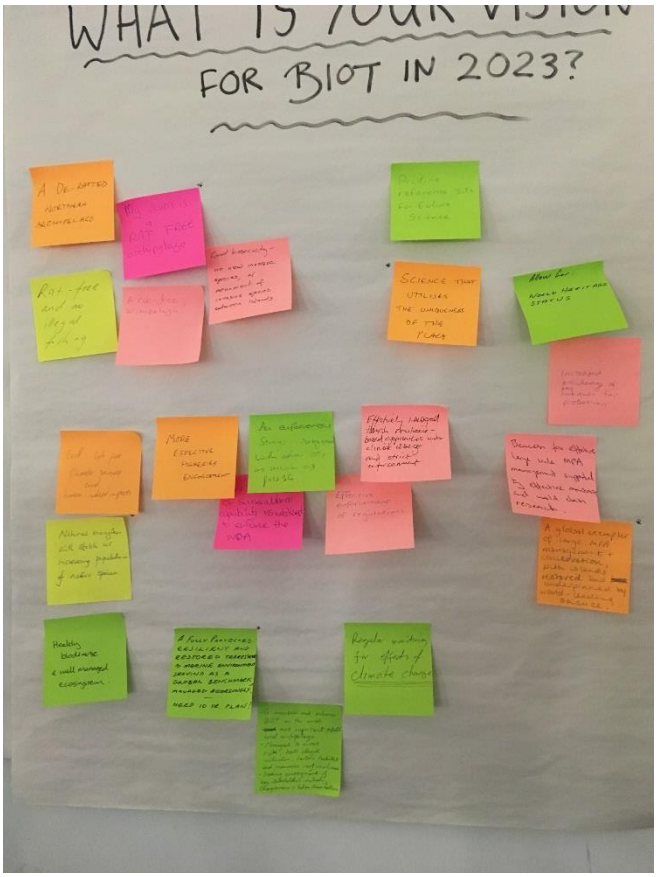


Plate 1: The workshop participants' visions for BIOT

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

Removal of invasive species:

- A de-ratted northern archipelago
- A rat free archipelago
- Rat-free and no illegal fishing
- A rat-free archipelago
- Good biosecurity – no new invasive species or movement of invasive species between islands

Effective management and enforcement:

- More effective fisheries enforcement
- An enforcement strategy integrated with other Overseas Territories as much as possible
- The full suite of surveillance capability is utilised to enforce the MPA
- Effective enforcement of regulations
- Effectively managed through resilience-based approaches under climate change and strict enforcement

- Healthy, biodiverse and well managed ecosystems

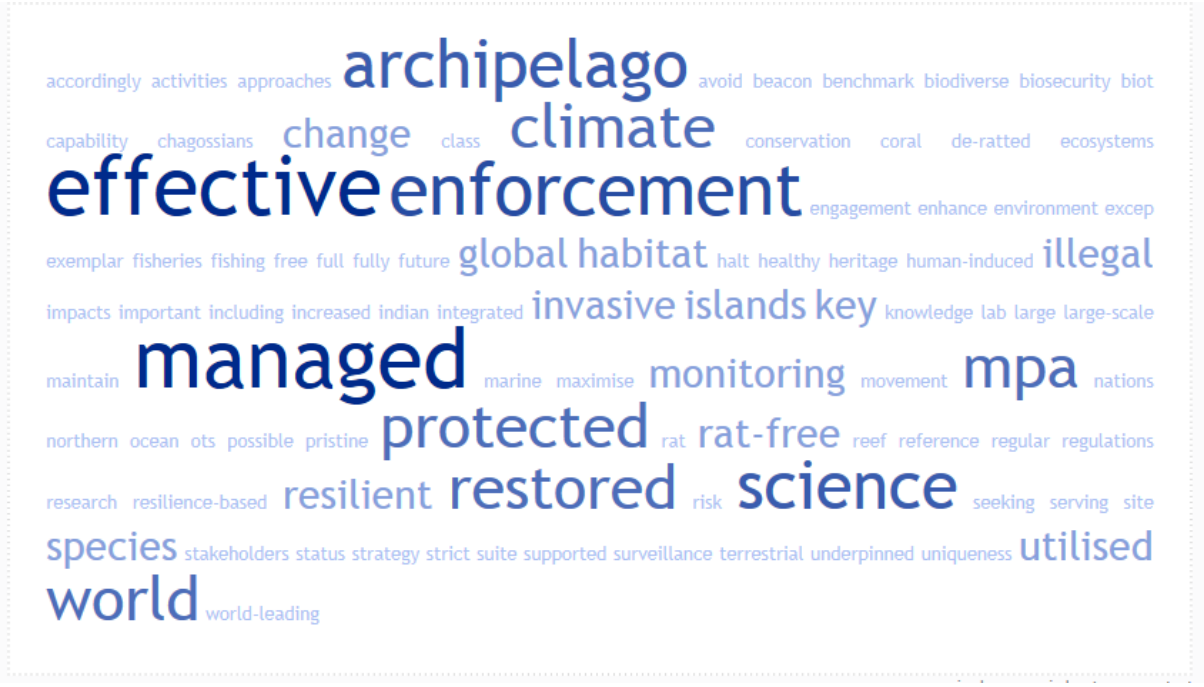
Research and monitoring:

- Science that utilises the uniqueness of the place
- Increased knowledge of key habitats for protection
- Beacon for effective large-scale MPA management supported by effective monitoring and world class research
- Pristine reference site for future science
- Regular monitoring for effects of climate change
- Exceptional lab for climate science and human-induced impacts

Global model:

- A fully protected, resilient and restored terrestrial and marine environment serving as a global benchmark, managed accordingly
- To maintain and enhance BIOT as the world's most important protected coral archipelago; managed to avoid risk, halt illegal activities, restore habitat and maximise reef resilience; seeking engagement of key stakeholders. including regional partners.
- A global exemplar of large MPA management and conservation, with islands restored and underpinned by world-leading science.
- Allow for World Heritage status

A word cloud (www.tagcrowd.com) was created to highlight 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: effective, managed, enforcement, science, climate, protected, restored and world. These words could therefore be included within the vision or mission statement for the Conservation Management Plan.

DAY 2

Emily welcomed the participants to the second day of the workshop and gave a brief introduction explaining what would be discussed during the breakout group sessions. Following a question that had been raised during the introductory speeches on Day 1 about the existence of previous Management Plans for the Territory, the Deputy Administrator for BIOT provided some feedback on the interim Conservation Management Plan that had been written in 2014. She reported on progress to date, noting which activities had been progressed and explained why some of the proposed actions had not yet been able to start. She highlighted that the interim plan was very focussed on scientific research whereas the new plan aimed to focus much more on management of the Territory.

Management Objectives

The workshop participants were split up into the same three breakout groups as on Day 1 to develop SMART (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-limited) Management Objectives.

Group 1 (Management of Diego Garcia) proposed the following Management Objectives:
Solid waste:

- No plastic bottles in use on Diego Garcia by 2023

Beach litter:

- All beaches on Diego Garcia cleaned (through the Base Operating Support Contractor (BOSC) and volunteers) once a year
- By 2023, every island in the archipelago is cleaned at least once, concentrating on the Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

The cost implications for waste destruction on Diego Garcia were questioned by the group.

Leachates from landfill:

- Assess and monitor water quality and ecological impacts associated with waste water discharge and potential leachates from landfill (by 2020 understand the impacts and potential mitigation measures; by 2023 mitigation plan including ongoing monitoring in place)

Air pollution:

- Commit BIOT to standards in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) standards by 2020

It was discussed whether having World Heritage Site would help to address this issue but noted that there is political restraint on this.

Biosecurity:

- By 2020 inspection protocols in place and effective for Diego Garcia and yachts
- By 2023 have enhanced facilities in place and operational
- By 2020 have bio-secure unpacking at dockside
- By 2020 have a full listing and prioritisation of non-native species for control and eradication: use this for expanding and improving control of non-native species on DG
- By 2023 have eradicated rats from two more islands (Yeye and Manoël?)

Construction:

- Compulsory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) backed up with relevant legislation

Group 2 (Management of key species and habitats) proposed the following Management Objectives:

- Representative terrestrial habitats are conserved through restoration [rehabilitation / assisted regeneration] of vegetation and faunal communities by 2023
- Productivity and resilience of shallow benthic habitats is enhanced by 2023
- The regional and global value that BIOT holds for the conservation of pelagic species is demonstrated and communicated widely by 2023
- Deep water habitats in BIOT are fully protected and better understood by 2023

Following the workshop, these Management Objectives were refined by the group facilitator, Emily Hardman, to be more SMART and to provide a clearer link to the proposed Management Actions; these are shown in Table 2 below.

Group 3 (Management of human activities and key threats) proposed the following Management Objectives:
IUU Fishing:

- Quantify the amount of IUU fishing that takes place in BIOT
- Improve the likelihood of detecting IUU fishing through testing technologies.
- Increase education awareness in countries which illegally fish

It was noted than in order to quantify the amount of IUU fishing, the number of surveillance platforms would need to increase to track both small, wooden vessels and large vessels; however technology currently struggles to pick-up small boats. A drone trial was discussed and the fact that the capability of the BIOT Patrol Vessel (BPV) first needs to be assessed to measure how useful a drone would be and assess value for money. It was suggested that planes could be asked whether they can spot vessels and if so, to report it (emphasising that it's important to report nil returns). It was also noted that there needs to be increased engagement with regional partners and that all IUU pick-ups and suspicious activity (picked up by the Intel Hub at the National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC) need to be reported to the Flag States.

Recreational fishing:

- Quantify the impact of recreational fishing (shore-based, yachts, boat-based in Diego Garcia etc.)
- Review current guidance on rec fishing to clarify rules

The group discussed that there needed to be increased awareness of the rules on recreational fishing through an education programme, improved reporting of catches, ongoing creel surveys and that there should be a policy to throw back any endangered species of fish.

The group also discussed recreational fishing from yachts including a need to understand how much fish is caught by getting someone to chase the yachts for their fishing logs. It was also suggested that the yachts could be encouraged to report any vessels they see fishing within BIOT waters to the Senior Fisheries Protection Officer.

Ship groundings:
It was noted that BIOT needs a clean-up policy for grounded ships / a marine emergency response plan and that the Administration should be able to fine vessels that have washed up on BIOT's shore if it can be proved where the vessel originated from. It was noted that BIOT needs to understand which international conventions it is signed up to and needs to decide how environmental costs could be recovered. It was also stressed that it should be compulsory for there to be an EIA prior to any ship grounding being cleaned up.

FADs:

- Develop and implement a policy for dealing with FADs

It was discussed that there is a need to decrease the impact of FADs to marine biodiversity in the Marine Protected Area (MPA) which required a coordinated response to remove them from beaches and the sea. It was suggested that these could be achieved by increasing surveillance and by educating people to report FADs (e.g. make reporting a permit requirement), gaining a better understanding of the currents and where vessels are fishing and developing a policy on clean-up recommendations.

Yachts:

- Management of yachts mooring on the benthos
- Management of the biosecurity threat imposed by yachts

The group felt that there was need for a benthic survey to locate the best areas for yachts to moor (should be on sand, not coral) which would inform advice/policy and that this should be communicated to the visiting yachts. It was questioned whether legislation could be introduced to manage this activity. In regards to biosecurity, it was discussed that the existing biosecurity leaflet also needed to be distributed to visiting yachts and that there was a need for a biosecurity policy with an aim of ensuring 100% compliance with this policy.

Light pollution:

- Review and reduce unnecessary lights projecting onto turtle-nesting beaches by 2020.

It was noted that there is a lighting manual which was written for Florida by NOAA.

These Management Objectives were refined and further developed by the group during the subsequent group breakout session on Management Actions; these are shown in Table 3 below.

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

Biosecurity

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) introduced the project 'Tackling Invasive Non-Native Species in the UK Overseas Territories' which is being funded through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) and was initiated in 2016. The project aims to help develop comprehensive biosecurity for the UK Overseas Territories by providing them with access to UK expertise on risk analysis, pathway management, pest identification, horizon scanning, contingency planning, rapid response capability and species management. APHA explained that a gap analysis of the current biosecurity in each Overseas Territory has been undertaken and this identified that the greatest gaps were in horizon scanning for future invasive species and analyses of the pathways of introduction.

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) then introduced their work on horizon scanning in the Overseas Territories. It was explained that the aim of the work is to produce the likelihood of the arrival and establishment of new non-native species that are most likely to impact biodiversity and ecosystems or impact socioeconomically in the next 5-10 years. A brief overview was given of the proposed methodology and highlighted that it would involve a workshop of the taxonomic experts and BIOT representatives to agree a consensus of the species most likely to be introduced and the risk rankings based on their expert judgements.

Management Actions

During the afternoon session, the three groups continued to work to refine their Management Objectives and develop specific Management Actions for each objective. The discussions are shown in Tables 1 to 3 below.

Table 1 Management Actions proposed by Group 1 (Management of Diego Garcia)

Proposed objective	Action(s)
Solid waste	
No plastic bottles in use on Diego Garcia by 2023	More recycling
	Communications policy in place to support eliminating single use plastic
Beach litter	
All beaches on Diego Garcia cleaned once a year	
By 2023, every island in the archipelago is cleaned at least once, concentrating on the IBAs	Removal of FADs and fishing gear should be prioritised.
Leachates from landfill	
Assess and monitor water quality and ecological impacts associated with waste water discharge and potential leachates from landfill	Understand the impact of old landfill on Diego Garcia
	Understand the impacts associated with waste water discharge and potential leachates from landfill and consider potential mitigation measures (by 2020)
	Mitigation plan including ongoing monitoring in place (by 2023)
	Review contingency plans for hazardous waste and marine incidents on Diego Garcia and within entire jurisdiction (have up-to-date plans in place)
Air pollution	
Commit BIOT to standards in the UNFCCC and CBD standards by 2020	
Biosecurity	
By 2020 inspection protocols in place and effective for Diego Garcia and yachts	Review and update Diego Garcia biosecurity plan
By 2023 have enhanced facilities in place and operational	
By 2020 have bio-secure unpacking at dockside	
By 2020 have a full listing and prioritisation of non-native species for control and eradication: use this for expanding and improving control of non-native species on Diego Garcia	
By 2023 have eradicated rats from two more islands (Yeye and Manoël?)	
Construction	
Compulsory EIA backed up with relevant legislation	

Table 2 Management Actions proposed by Group 2 (Management of key species and habitats) [NB it was noted that the input of Kew is essential for the actions associated with the Management Objective around habitat management plans]

Proposed objective	Action(s)	Priority
Terrestrial habitats and species		
The populations of nesting turtles and seabirds are maintained at their current level or population size has increased by 2023	Eradicate rats from Peros Banhos (Yeye and Manoël at a minimum) by 2023	High
	Implement measures to stop poaching (of adults, eggs and juveniles) across the archipelago.	
	Produce and implement a biosecurity plan across BIOT to prevent (re) invasion by non-native flora and fauna and undertake monitoring of the presence of invasive non-native species	
	Undertake a programme to remove macro-plastics from key islands to reduce threats to nesting seabirds and turtles	
	Limit light pollution impacts on turtles on Diego Garcia.	
	Scope options for and develop a plan for the long-term monitoring of the status and distribution of seabirds and nesting turtles across BIOT to determine trends over time (e.g. SFPO observations for seabirds)	
	Undertake targeted research to reduce the current assumptions on population size of turtles [to be completed by MSc/PhD students]	
	Reassess IBA designations	
Important foraging grounds for seabirds and turtles are identified and threats from poaching and IUU fishing within these grounds are reduced by 2023	Include the priority foraging grounds for breeding seabirds and turtles identified as part of the BPMS in enforcement activities related to the control of IUU and poaching.	
	Develop a plan for the long-term monitoring of the status and distribution of foraging turtles across BIOT to determine trends over time	
The status and distribution of coconut crabs across BIOT is determined by 2023	Undertake a baseline survey of the status and distribution (presence and absence, age and size structure) of coconut crabs in BIOT	
	Develop a plan for the long-term monitoring of the status and distribution of coconut crabs to determine trends over time	

Proposed objective	Action(s)	Priority
Habitat management plans are produced and being implemented to restore native vegetation on a minimum of XX islands by 2023	Undertake ground-truthing surveys of remotely sensed imagery for each island and collate the results with Kew's habitat work	
	Undertake a baseline survey of terrestrial invertebrates	
	Use the above information to produce habitat management plans for each island	
	Undertake work to restore native vegetation as set-out in the island habitat management plans (e.g. assisted regeneration) on XX islands as a minimum.	
Shallow benthic habitats and species		
Knowledge of the current status of the shallow benthic habitats and the status and trends of key reef species across the whole of BIOTA is improved by 2023	Consider the options for acquisition and analysis of high-resolution satellite imagery to map shallow benthic habitats across BIOT (e.g. Sentinel 2, QuickBird, WorldView 2[1])	
	Undertake exploratory survey work of Great Chagos Bank to ground-truth satellite imagery	
	Evaluate current scientific data to identify status and trends of key reef species (e.g. endemic species, reef-building species etc.).	
	Develop a long-term SMART monitoring strategy for BIOTA to monitor the shallow benthic habitats taking into consideration outputs from the BPMS and resource and budgetary constraints	
The impact of human activities on shallow benthic habitats is understood and used to inform management decisions by 2023	Undertake survey work to assess the impacts of anchor damage and waste water from yachts on shallow reefs and lagoons and evaluate the results to assess risk and determine appropriate management actions (ranging from awareness-raising to enforcement actions)	
	Use results from the BPMS to determine the next steps to assess the reef shark/top predator response to IUU fishing; scope out and source funding for this work.	

[1] High resolution images (e.g. QuickBird and WorldView 2: resolution of ~2m for the multispectral bands and 46-60cm for the panchromatic bands) costs approx. $20 per sq. km for the images and $25 per sq. km for processing and developing habitat maps. Living Oceans Foundation have already purchased some imagery within BIOT; or lower resolution Sentinel 2 imagery which is open access and has a revisit frequency of 10 days but is lower resolution (10m spatial resolution).

Proposed objective	Action(s)	Priority
	Undertake a comprehensive research project to determine the effects of rat removal on reef health and reef fish productivity	
The feasibility of reintroducing dugong to BIOT is understood by 2023	Identify whether dugongs currently occur within BIOT by trialling the use of drones to identify the presence of dugong feeding tracks within seagrass beds	
	Engage with regional dugong scientists to establish habitat suitability and nearest population to determine the likelihood of a population having previously occurred in BIOT	
	Depending on the results of the above actions, undertake a feasibility study for the re-introduction of dugong based on the IUCN guidelines for reintroductions.	
Pelagic habitats and species		
Understanding of the regional and global value that BIOT holds for the conservation of pelagic species is improved by 2023	Establish a protocol and training for marine cetacean sighting recordings on BPV	High
	Undertake a short-term trial and determine the feasibility of developing a long-term monitoring programme for marine mammal sightings	High
	Source funding to upscale the pilot project modelling the distribution of pelagic sharks and marine mammals based on habitat characterisation.	
	Undertake research to evaluate the impact of the MPA on pelagic species	
Regional and global conservation of pelagic species is supported through active engagement by BIOT Administration with regional organisations by 2023	Ensure representation of BIOT at Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) meetings and engage with other regional organisations such as the Seychelles Fishing Authority	High
	Ensure that scientific data are shared with relevant regional bodies and included in regional databases	
Deep water habitats and species		
Knowledge of deep water habitats in BIOT is improved by 2023	Source funding for existing proposal for surveys of the deep-water habitats in BIOT	
	Undertake proactive engagement with NERC to encourage collaborative projects for deep sea research in BIOT	

Proposed objective	Action(s)	Priority
	Undertake proactive regional engagement around deep sea research e.g. with India	
Mechanisms are in place to fully protect deep water habitats from current and future threats by 2023	Collate existing information on seabed resources and current license applications for deep sea mining in and adjacent to BIOT waters	High
	Conduct a policy review of seabed protection in BIOT and address any relevant gaps	High
	Monitor deep sea mining applications adjacent to BIOT which may impact on habitats within the MPA	High
	Ensure that IUU enforcement covers benthic trawling	
Communication: science to management		
The results of scientific research and monitoring are effectively communicated to decision-makers and the wider community by 2023	Produce policy briefs from all scientific outputs for communication to BIOTA and the UK government	High
	Develop communication materials based on outputs from scientific research, monitoring and volunteer projects to target a wider audience	High
	Continue to support and encourage the existing volunteer programme on Diego Garcia	
	Develop volunteer opportunities for the Chagossian community to participate in long-term monitoring for seabirds, nesting turtles, coconut crabs, coral reefs and reef fish.	

Table 3 Management Actions proposed by Group 3 (Management of human activities and key threats)

Proposed objective	Aim	Action(s)	Timeframe	Proposed start	Priority	Lead
IUU fishing						
Quantify the level of IUU fishing in BIOT's MPA to establish a baseline	To understand the current level of IUU fishing in BIOT	MRAG and MMO to produce a paper setting out the current level of IUU	1 year	Autumn 2018	High	MRAG / MMO (Blue Belt)

Proposed objective	Aim	Action(s)	Timeframe	Proposed start	Priority	Lead
from which the scale of IUU fishing can be monitored over time		fishing based on existing evidence				
		Ask planes to report any vessel sightings?				
Work towards eliminating IUU fishing by X% from baseline by 2023	To enforce BIOT's MPA to reduce the loss of resources through exploitation	SFPO to provide a monthly BPV activity schedule covering the next 12 months to ensure patrols cover key areas where IUU fishing is likely.	1 year	Autumn 2018	High	BIOTA / MRAG
Increase the use of new technologies to increase the footprint of surveillance by X%	Increase the likelihood of detecting IUU fishing	Assess recently trialled technologies, including drone trials (summer 2018) and NMIC intel hub	6 months	January 2019	Medium	MMO (Blue Belt)
		Develop a plan for trialling new technologies in BIOT based on outcome of January 2019 assessment and review alternative surveillance technologies	6 months	July 2019	Medium	MMO (Blue Belt)

Proposed objective	Aim	Action(s)	Timeframe	Proposed start	Priority	Lead
Continue to follow-up with all suspicious vessel activity as far as possible through the appropriate channel	Pursue all vessels which could have illegally fished in BIOT to prevent them returning to BIOT in the future	Create a policy setting out how vessels suspected of illegally fishing should be pursued, including issuing red cards to flag states at IOTC, via diplomatic routes, letters to vessel owners etc., making an assessment of size of vessel as a basis for the damage the vessel could potentially cause	1 year	January 2019	Medium	BIOTA / FCO / MMO (Blue Belt)
Continue to increase awareness of IUU fishing in the Indian Ocean	Increase our understanding of drivers for IUU fishing					
Consider ways to improve disposal of IUU catch	Improve disposal of IUU catch to minimise the impact of the environment	Consider investing in new, larger freezers on the BPV to better dispose of IUU catch at sea	4 years	2022	Low	BIOTA
Management of FADs in the MPA						
Increase reporting of FAD sightings and frequency of removing FADs	Minimise the harmful impact FADs can have on the MPA by	Develop a policy on reporting FAD sightings e.g. encouraging yachts to report FAD	2 years	July 2019	Medium	BIOTA / MRAG

Proposed objective	Aim	Action(s)	Timeframe	Proposed start	Priority	Lead
	removing them as soon as possible	sightings, encourage MWR boats to report FAD sightings, educate residents in Diego Garcia to spot and report FAD sightings				
		Increase understanding of ocean currents to better predict where FADs may enter BIOT's MPA – produce a paper which could help OISPs/FIPAs be aware to look out for FADs				
		Develop a policy on cleaning up / removing FADs from the ocean and beaches, taking into account potential invasive species on FAD				
Management of visiting yachts						
Effective management of yachts moored on the benthos	Ensure that moored yachts do not damage the coral reefs	Ensure yachts anchor in sand and not on coral by surveying areas to				

Proposed objective	Aim	Action(s)	Timeframe	Proposed start	Priority	Lead
		locate the best place for yachts to moor via a benthic survey.				
Minimise risk of invasive non-native species entering BIOT via yachts	Reduce the number of invasives in BIOT	Biosecurity policy for yachts to be written. Extend biosecurity message to yachts and ensure 100% of yachts comply with policy				BIOTA
Management of recreational fishery						
Quantify the impact of the recreational fishery	To understand the level of recreational fishing in BIOT	Quantify shore-based, yachts, boat-based etc. fishing in BIOT with a survey				BIOTA
		Ongoing / frequent creel surveys				BIOTA
Clarify current rules on recreational fishing	Minimise risk of people misinterpreting the rules	Review current guidance on recreational fishing				BIOTA
		Increase awareness of rules of recreational fishing through education programmes				BIOTA
		Create a policy to put endangered fish back into the				BIOTA

Proposed objective	Aim	Action(s)	Timeframe	Proposed start	Priority	Lead
		sea (+ potential citizen-tagging initiative to be introduced)				
Ship groundings						
		Determine which international conventions BIOT is signed-up to				
		Develop an marine emergency response plan and a clean-up policy for grounded ships				
		Introduce a policy that it is compulsory for an EIA prior to any ship grounding being cleaned-up				
		Determine how environmental costs could be recovered (can the Administration fine vessels that have washed up on BIOT's shore?)				
Light pollution						
Review and reduce unnecessary lights projecting onto						

Proposed objective	Aim	Action(s)	Timeframe	Proposed start	Priority	Lead
turtle-nesting beaches by 2020						

Workshop close

The BIOT Administration thanked all of the participants for their hard work during the 2 days. The next step would now be to take all of the information discussed during the group breakout sessions and use this to inform drafting the Conservation Management Plan. BIOTA will lead on developing the Plan but would request the input of the workshop participants for sections relevant to their area of expertise and that there would be opportunities for everyone to provide comments on the various drafts.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Workshop Agenda

5th March 2018

09:30-10:00 Arrival
10:00-12:30 Presentations (break to be included) - *Welcome from the Commissioner* - *Introduction from the workshop facilitator, MMO* - *Presentation on invasive non-native species, APHA* - *Presentation on key species, ZSL* - *Presentation on recent and upcoming research projects, Bertarelli Programme in Marine Science* - *Presentation on marine management, MRAG and MMO* - *Presentation on the management of Diego Garcia, BIOTA's Chief Science Adviser*
12:30-13:15 Lunch
13:15-17:00 Break-out group sessions (break to be included): *Current & emerging threats and evidence gaps* *Opportunities* *Agree a vision for BIOT 2018-2023*
17:00-17:30 Refreshments and close

6th March 2018

09:30-10:00 Arrival
10:00-12:30 Break-out group sessions (break to be included): *Development of SMART objectives* *Opportunity for group-wide discussion*
12:30-13:15 Lunch
13:15-14:15 Session from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology on biosecurity / horizon-scanning
14:15-16:55 Break-out group sessions (break to be included): *Development of SMART objectives continued* *Opportunity for group-wide discussion*
16:55-17:00 BIOTA to close

Appendix 2: Workshop attendees

	Attendee list
1	BIOT Administration
2	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
3	Marine Management Organisation
4	Cefas
5	ZSL
6	Bertarelli Foundation
7	Chagos Conservation Trust
8	MRAG
9	Bangor University
10	CORDIO East Africa
11	Animal and Plant Health Agency
12	Lancaster University
13	Swansea University
14	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
15	Natural England