

UK: Overseas Territories Environment Programme

Shaun Earl (FCO) & Steve Arthur (DfID)

October 2007

For further info see:

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1013618138375>

Fund overview:

The Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) is jointly funded by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development. The initial funding was £3 million for 3 years, £1.5 million from the FCO and £1.5 million from DFID. It was established as the result of the Environment Charters in 2001 and the 1999 White Paper.

OTEP has the role of supporting the OTs with the implementation of the Environment Charters and environment management more generally.

OTEP has 1 bidding round per annum, in September of each year for the following financial year. Projects are considered by an Assessment Panel made up of FCO, DFID, DEFRA, JNCC, UKOTCF and Kew Gardens.

Projects approved have ranged from economic valuations of the environment to habitat restoration and environmental legislation to educational programmes.

Results and impacts:

The objectives of OTEP include supporting the Territories in meeting international obligations (eg. MEA's), as well as environmental management and the implementation of their Environmental Charters.

Basic fund information:

FCO

2003 £84,023

2004 £599,169

2005 £1,350,455

2006 £824,150

Operational since: OTEP has been operational since 2003, with the first approved projects beginning from Apr 2004.

Total income (mil US\$): For a Government programme we cant really talk about "income", but in total DFID has allocated £3m to OTEP, in two 3-year phases of £1.5m (2003/4 - 2005/6 and 2007/8 - 2009/10). We normally monitor spending in financial years, but calendar year figures for DFID spending are as follows.

2002:

2003: £4884

2004: £282,135

2005: £600,564

2006: £570,380

total - £1,457,963

NB. It is difficult to convert these numbers to exact US\$ amounts given that individual payments are spread over a 4 year period. It is also difficult to disaggregate biodiversity expenditure - though it is undoubtedly a high proportion of the total. The evaluation of the programme in early 2006 found that biodiversity was the major theme in 75% of the approved projects (both DFID and FCO). Major fields of biodiversity expenditure would include habitat protection / management , and invasive species control , but any percentages quoted would be guesswork. For DFID programmes the disbursement mechanisms are Government to Government aid (roughly a third of total expenditure in 2006), and grants to local and international NGOs (the other two thirds).