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# South Atlantic Natural Capital Assessment: South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands NCA workshop follow-on meeting



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## Review table

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Date</b>
Version 1	Ness Smith	30/07/17
Version 2	Tara Pelembe and Paul Brickle	08/08/17
Version 3		
Version 4		

### Acknowledgements:

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## **Introduction**

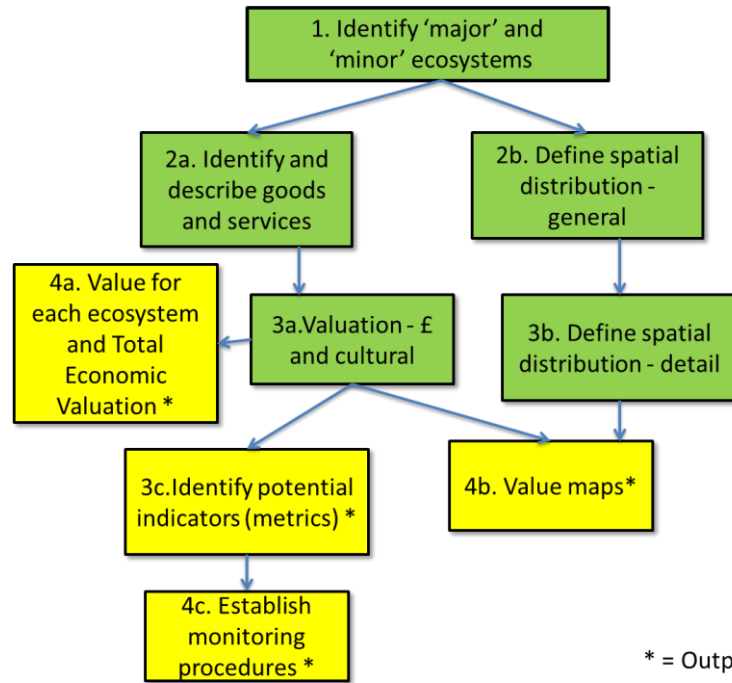
The project manager (NS) gave a quick review of the Natural Capital Assessment (NCA) concept, and how it can be used to make management decisions. She then described the NCA project in more detail:

The UK Government, through the FCO managed Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, is supporting a suite of natural capital projects across the UK's South Atlantic and Caribbean Overseas Territories. This work is designed to improve economic stability in the Territories through enhanced environmental resilience as part of a programme led by the UK's Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra). The natural capital project began in September 2016 and will be completed by March 2019 with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee as the Implementing Body.

In the South Atlantic, the natural capital project work is being undertaken by South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) under contract to the JNCC. The project will assist the UK's Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic to assess and map natural capital, value priority assets and deploy decisions support tools to secure long-term economic benefits from the sustainable management of the territories' natural assets. This support will be provided through the development and collation of spatial (mapped) evidence, and a Territory-to-Territory partnership for technical exchange and capacity building within the UK's Overseas Territories in the region. The outcome will be a framework for the South Atlantic UK Overseas Territories to assess the value of the environmental goods and services available and integrate this information into marine and terrestrial spatial planning, economic planning and environmental protection.

SAERI will be providing an evidence base for GSGSSI to make decisions on the areas identified as a priority in this workshop. The project focuses on four key deliverables (Figure 1):

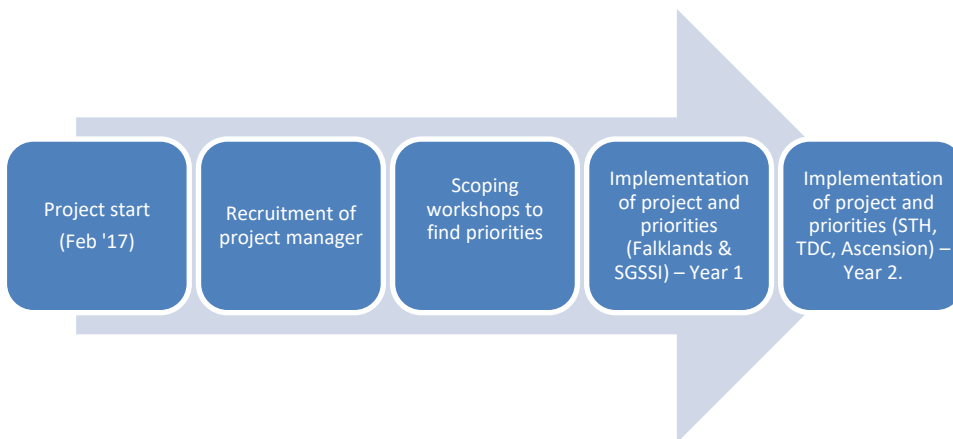
- Spatial data on the distribution of selected natural capital assets, both marine and terrestrial, derived from satellite imagery and other existing resources, as relevant to each Territory;
- Valuation of priority natural capital assets (value mapping integrated into national GIS) and the assessment of economic and societal benefits arising from them;
- Application of analytical tools that will support decision making in the context of environmental management and economic development;
- Methods for monitoring changes to priority natural capital over time using appropriate attributes (develop metrics).



**Figure 1:** framework for the Atlantic Natural Assessment

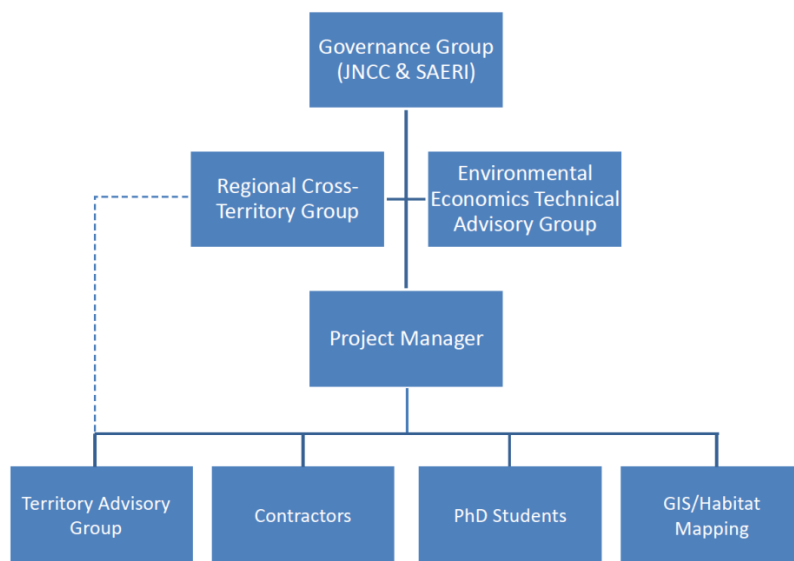
**Conceptual South Capital project**

This framework will be applied across all of the South Atlantic Overseas Territories, with the Falkland Islands and South Georgia being the main focus in year one, followed by Ascension, St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha in the second year (Figure 2).



**Figure 2: Work-flow for the NCA Project**

There are four Groups set up to support the project (Figure 3.) As the GSGSSI is small, they are also the de-facto Territory Advisory Group, although the project manager will engage with IAATO and BAS to gauge interest.



**Figure 3: Governance structure of the South Atlantic Overseas Territories Natural Capital Assessment Project**

### Summary of the first SGSSI NCA project workshop

NS then talked through Table 1, which summarises results from the first workshop held in February. This links the priority ES the principle policy issues which an assessment could help address. It also sets out, quite broadly, the availability of data for each ES. N.B. There was only one GSGSSI representative at the first workshop, Paul Brewin, who is no longer working for the Government.

**Table 1: Summary of results from workshop one linking ES with policy issues.**

	Ecosystem service identified in workshop 1	Primary ecosystem(s) providing service	Principle policy issue assessment could address	Data availability (rough guide only)
Provisioning	Fisheries	No ecosystems defined	Policy that increases the resilience of the fisheries to climate change. Supporting spatial planning	Excellent time-series data of catch, known spawning grounds, spawning biomass, etc.
Regulating	Carbon sequestration	No ecosystems defined		Poor – although we will be creating new habitat map

Cultural	Tourism	No ecosystems defined	Better understanding of the socioeconomic effects of retreating glaciers. Supporting spatial planning	16 year time-series IAATO, visitor site-use data.
	Biodiversity (existence value)	No ecosystems defined	Better understanding of the socioeconomic effects of retreating glaciers. Economic viability of conservation efforts; efficient allocation of resources. Action 2.2. from the NBAP (raise awareness in UK, FI, EU. <b>Landing fees</b> )	Excellent spatial distribution of key charismatic species. New data would be collected for CVM study.
	Research	No ecosystems defined	Better understanding of the socioeconomic effects of retreating glaciers.	Good data which would be backed up with CVM study
	Heritage ( <b>added by project manager post-workshop</b> )	No ecosystems defined	Heritage Framework, management of heritage assets, tourism management. <b>Landing fees</b>	Known heritage sites, literature, films, archives. Backed up by CVM study.

NS suggested that the following services be prioritised:

- Tourism is of increasing importance to the economy, principally through cruise-ship calls, and an assessment could feed into the terrestrial protected areas planning process. Assessment could map numbers of visitors per site, and values for each site based on average spend. There are some excellent data available from IAATO.
- Biodiversity (existence value) could feed into a number of areas of policy, particularly the terrestrial protected areas planning process, and tourism strategies, and would provide an interesting perspective on how others perceive SGSSI – such studies in the Netherlands have led to increased funding for its OTs.

That these services should be excluded:

- Carbon sequestration; there are few spatial data to enable such a study, and any benefits of improving this ES would be of more global than local value.
- Research; not as important to the economy as tourism and fisheries and new data, in the form of WTP surveys, would be required.

And asked for thoughts on:

- Fisheries are a key industry and major contributor to the economy, an assessment could feed into management/policy options, and there are good quality data available. Would an NCA add anything to the existing knowledge and management however?
- Heritage; an assessment could feed into the final heritage framework and future tourism strategies. Good data available on known assets could be supplemented with a discreet choice experiment to look at different management options.

## Discussion

- All were happy to discard carbon sequestration.

- Tourism was not considered useful for policy or management. GSGSSI stated that tour operators were already nervous about the implementation of terrestrial protected areas and they did not want to add to their concerns with an additional, direct, study. GSGSSI would really like to understand the impacts of tourism to help inform terrestrial planning. NS explained that an impact assessment was not within the remit of the project, but that scenario work could look at a range of impacts to explore management options.
- GSGSSI cannot afford to do any more heritage conservation work than is currently planned and therefore the values would not be useful.
- Research was of great interest; SGSSI is renowned for the quality of research conducted, but it is logistically and financially difficult to get people there. An assessment could look at the current value as well as a WTP which would enable GSGSSI to assess the benefits of laying on extra passages.
- Biodiversity is important across all strands of work, terrestrial and also marine. Wilderness value is of interest with regards to protected areas and tourism; e.g. does seeing a tagged penguin detract from people's experience and perception of being remote? What are the values of protected areas where no one is allowed to go?
- Fisheries were of interest, particularly the value of the closed areas which could feed into the MPA review. NS explained the complexities of such valuations, which require detailed and robust data. GSGSSI were also interested in the value of seabed biodiversity. This would tie-in with current research on the impact of long-lines on benthic communities – could quantify how much ES is being lost as a result of damage. Again, NS explained that data availability is important here, and there may not be enough information to do such an assessment. NS agreed to conduct some more research on these areas to see what might be possible.

### **Next Steps**

It was agreed that NS would work up proposals for valuing biodiversity (existence value) and research that would be possible within the time-frame and resources available to the project. NS will also look at the fisheries options and assess feasibility. Methods will be devised with help from the Environmental Economics Technical Advisory Group, and there will be on-going engagement with GSGSSI over the coming weeks. GSGSSI agreed to provide NS with contact details of data and other relevant specialists at BAS.

## **Annex I: Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Sue Gregory</b>	Marine Environment and Fisheries Manager, GSGSSI
<b>James Jansen</b>	Chief Executive, GSGSSI
<b>Ness Smith</b>	South Atlantic Natural Capital Assessment Project Manager, SAERI