

# The Blue Belt Programme – Marine Protection in the UK Overseas Territories

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# UK's vision for marine protection

- Create a Blue Belt around the UK and the UK's Overseas Territories
- By 2020 the UK and UKOTs will have protected over 4 million km<sup>2</sup> of ocean
- Effective and efficient management of the marine area as a whole
- Different designations domestically and in each UKOT

# Why do we need a Blue Belt?

- 94% of the UK's biodiversity, including over 340 endemic species in the OTs
- Each Territory is unique in its diversity
- The UK is a signatory to the CBD, which includes a target of 10% of global waters protected by 2020
- The UK is committed to the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development

# The Overseas Territories



- 1 ANGUILLA**  
Capital: The Valley
- 2 BERMUDA**  
Capital: Hamilton  
A group of 138 islands and islets, 20 of which are inhabited
- 3 BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY**  
Lands, islands and ice shelves that lie south of 60°S between 20°W and 80°W  
Principal areas include South Orkney and South Shetland Islands, the Antarctic Peninsula (Palmer Land and Graham Land), the Filchner and Ronne Ice Shelves and Coats Land.
- 4 BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY (Chagos Archipelago)**  
A group of 55 islands. Only the largest, Diego Garcia, has a (temporary) population.
- 5 BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
Capital: Road Town  
A group of 70 islands, 15 of which are inhabited. Main islands are Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke.
- 6 CAYMAN ISLANDS**  
Capital: George Town  
The islands consist of Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac.
- 7 FALKLAND ISLANDS**  
Capital: Stanley  
The Territory comprises numerous islands situated in the South Atlantic Ocean, the largest being West and East Falklands.
- 8 GIBRALTAR**  
Narrow rocky peninsula, 6sq kms in area, connected to southern Spain by an isthmus.
- 9 MONTSERRAT**  
Capital: Plymouth (deserted due to volcanic activity).
- 10 PITCAIRN ISLANDS**  
Capital: Adamstown  
Includes the uninhabited islands of Henderson, Ducie and Oeno. Henderson Island is a World Heritage Site.
- 11 ST HELENA, ASCENSION and TRISTAN DA CUNHA**  
Capital: St Helena: Jamestown  
Capital Ascension: Georgetown  
Capital Tristan Da Cunha: Edinburgh of the Seven Seas.  
Gough Island, part of the Tristan Da Cunha Group, is a World Heritage Site.
- 12 SOUTH GEORGIA & THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS**  
Administrative Centre: King Edward Point.
- 13 SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS of AKROTIRI and DHEKELIA**  
These are the areas of Cyprus which remained under British sovereignty when the 1960 Treaty of Establishment created an Independent Republic of Cyprus. There are two locations: the Western Sovereign Base Area which consists of Episkopi and Akrotiri stations, and the Eastern Sovereign Base Area which consists of Dhekelia station and Ayios Nikolaos.
- 14 TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS**  
Capital: Cockburn Town  
A group of over 40 islands only 8 of which are inhabited. The largest islands are Grand Turk, Providenciales, South Caicos, Middle Caicos, East Caicos, North Caicos and Salt Cay.

# A partnership approach

- OTs lead delivery
- Supported by MMO and Cefas to provide marine science, marine management, compliance and enforcement expertise
- Partnership working with NGOs, academia and others
- On the ground and remote support
- Innovation and technology



# Delivering an Integrated Marine Managed legacy



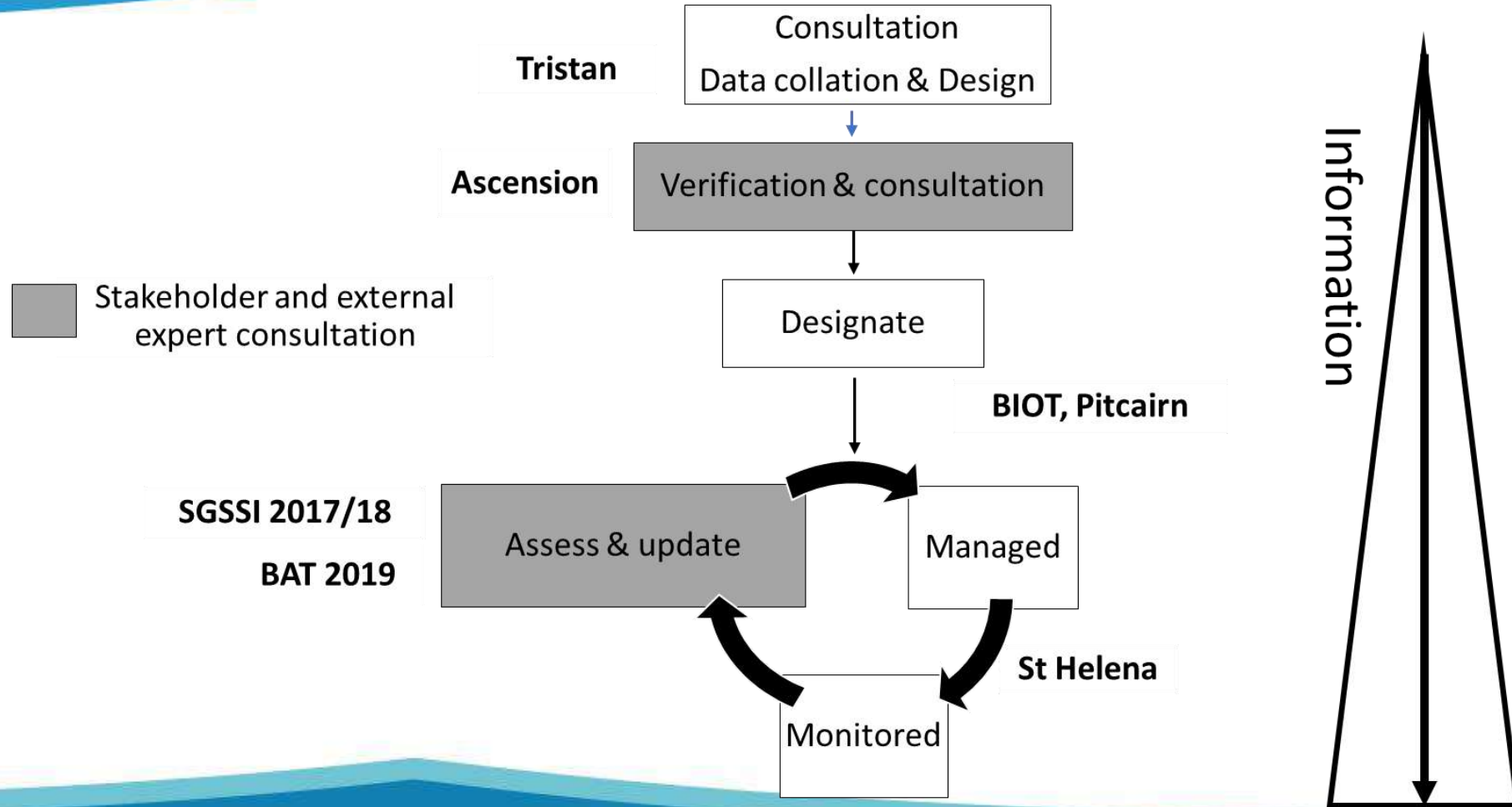
# Compliance and Enforcement

## Examples of activity to date:

- **Exploring novel technologies**
- **Intelligence hub** based at the National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC) to manage, add value and disseminate tasking to all of the OTs.
- **Monitoring, logging and analysing** intelligence from satellites, near and on-site tracking and observations, open source research, monitoring all OT EFZs remotely, NMIC surveillance, and collating military and NGO input.
- **Delivering training packages** on enforcement and intelligence management to the OTs.
- **Supporting** OTs at RFMOs; reviewing RFMO IUU listings as a sanction for dealing with IUU.
- **Undertaking on-site patrols** (eg: Tristan June 2017, Ascension in Feb-March 2018), working with NMIC and training officers in IUU contact procedures, evidence collection and presentation.

# Current status

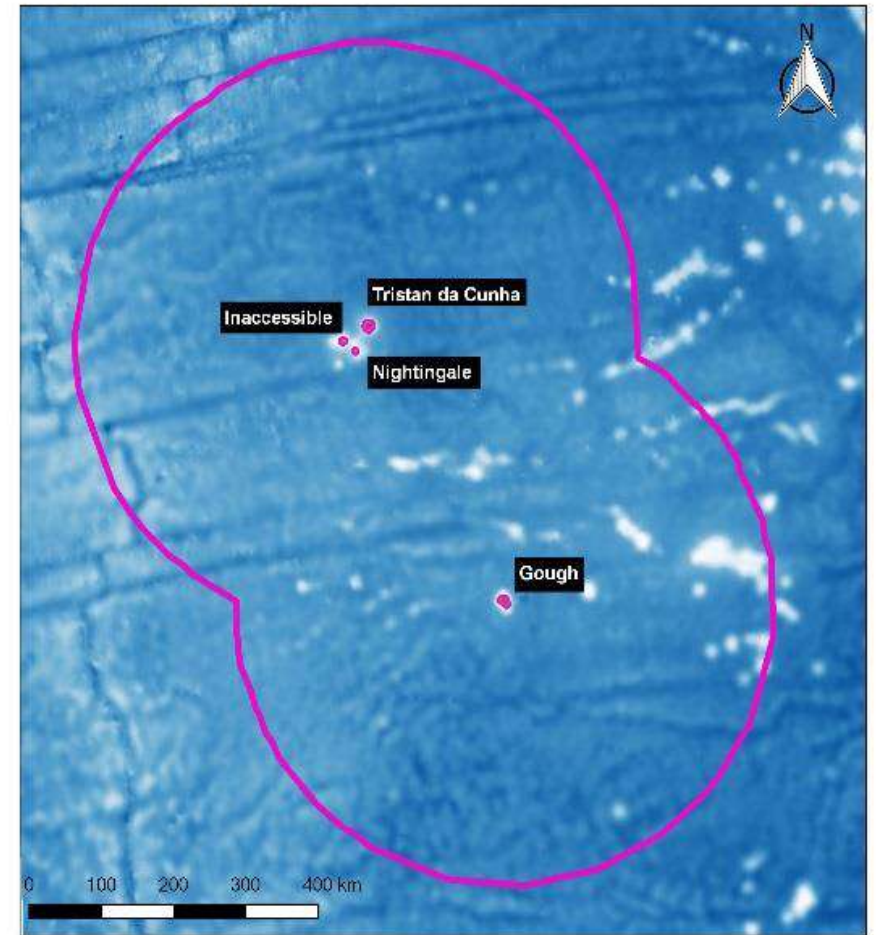
Total of 2.9 M km<sup>2</sup> (40%) of UK OT waters protected. Of this 1.5 M km<sup>2</sup> (20%) is highly protected





# Tristan da Cunha: Context

- Remote archipelago (37° - 41° S) in the South Atlantic;
- 4 main islands, only 1 inhabited (pop. 280);
- World Heritage Sites on Gough & Inaccessible;
- EFZ of 755,000 km<sup>2</sup>;
- Oceanographically complex;
- Important breeding location for many seabirds, including Tristan albatross;
- Fisheries for tuna, lobster & seamount species.



# Tristan da Cunha: Current status

- Fisheries

- MSC Certified fishery for Tristan rock lobster (*Jasus tristani*);
- Occasional fishery for blue-nose warehou (blue-eye trevalla);
- Albacore and southern blue-fin tuna on the edge of the zone;

- Limited tourism and other activities;

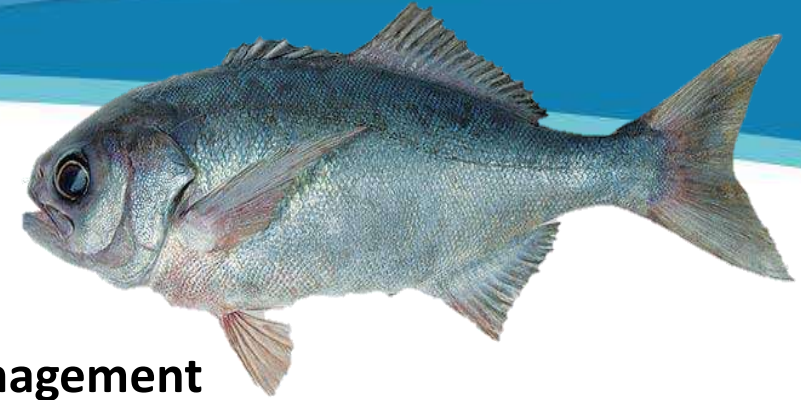
- Risk from shipping traffic;

- Limited environmental baseline data;

- Review and update legislation and management system.

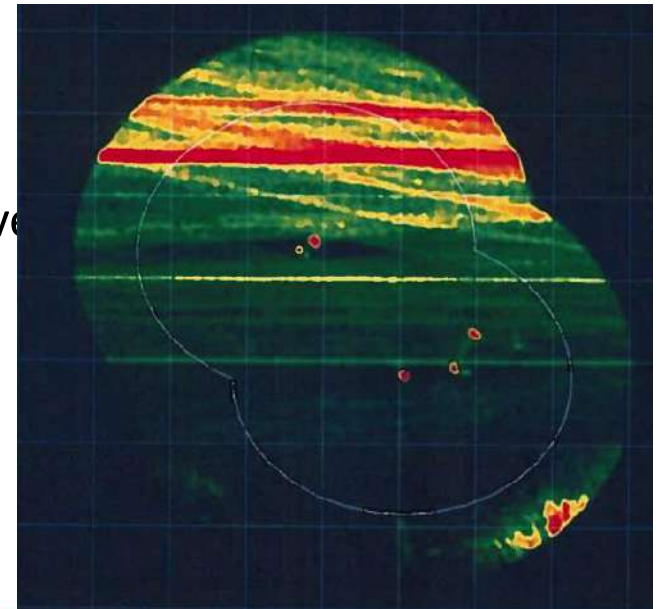


# Tristan agreed priorities



## Agreed Blue Belt will support development of the Tristan da Cunha Management Plan:

- Baseline data for biodiversity
- Review and update legislation, policy & management system
- Sustainable diversification of fisheries
- Sustainable Surveillance & Enforcement Strategies
- Reduce pollution risk, working with MCA to designate a PSSA and to improve marine pollution emergency response capability
- Safety equipment and boats
- Improve data management
- Capacity building and training



# 2020 Goals

- 4million sq km of protected and well managed Blue Belt
- Led by OT Governments & stakeholders; |
- Locally agreed management plans in place
- Clear Environmental Benefits
- Integrated Marine Management achieved in each OT
- Effective compliance and enforcement in place



# Any questions?

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