



Beyond Aid: The Future UK Approach to Development

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About us:

- [iv] The UK Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) Office is coordinating this response. Within the UK responsibility for handling IOC matters, including ensuring appropriate UK representation at IOC and its subsidiary bodies, is devolved by Government to the Natural Environment Research Council, who fund the UK IOC Office, hosted within the International and Strategic Partnerships Office at the National Oceanography Centre.
- [v] The Office is assisted by members of the National Committee for IOC and calls on the expertise of scientists, policy makers and marine partners from throughout the UK and, where appropriate, the UK's Overseas Territories. IOC is represented by the Chair of the UK National Committee for IOC on the UK Marine Science Coordination Committee (MSCC) International Network. Close liaison is maintained with the UK's Permanent Delegation at UNESCO and the staff of the UK UNESCO National Commission, with whom we are currently working to produce two reports on the activities and future of IOC.

Declaration of interests:

- [vi] The NERC-owned National Oceanography Centre (NOC) is the focal point for UK Ocean Science, home of the fleet of Royal Research Ships, National Equipment Pool and National Oceanographic Library. Many of NOC's programmes are funded through public money via NERC and ESPRC as well as other government departments such as DEFRA.
- [vii] The IOC has functional autonomy within UNESCO and receives just under 2% of UNESCO's funding, with DFID paying the UK's subscription.
- [viii] This response presents the views of NOC and the UK IOC Committee and may not necessarily reflect those of our parent body NERC.

Inquiry Questions:

- [ix] **A new IDC inquiry will consider what might come next in the UK's approach to development, including the following issues:**
- **The coherence of policies which affect development (including aid, security, prosperity, and climate);**
 - **The impact of the UK's non-aid policies on developing countries;**
 - **The underlying government mechanisms needed to support any changes, including:**
 - **The role of DFID in facilitating other UK Government departments and other UK organisations to assist developing countries;**
 - **The role of DFID in influencing the policies of other Whitehall departments;**
 - **Whether a stand-alone Department for International Development has a long-term future.**



- [x] Our response will principally focus on issues **iv**, **v** and **vi** as these are aspects which relate to areas of IOC activities.
- [xi] The UK Department For International Development (DFID) manages the UK Government relationship with UNESCO and provides core funding. UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) was established by the United Nations in 1960, to be the focal point for ocean science and services matters in the UN system. The ocean is a critical component for sustaining life on Earth, influencing climate, nitrate, and phosphate cycles, biological diversity and ecosystems, as well as impacting on freshwater, food, energy, and genetic and medical resources¹. Thus the establishing aims of IOC were to enhance the use of human and infrastructure resources, through intergovernmental cooperation, to improve our global knowledge of the ocean.
- [xii] Today this aim still holds with IOC aiming to improve the governance, management, institutional capacity and decision-making processes of its member states with respect to marine resources, climate variability and fostering sustainable development of the marine environment in particular in developing countries². Today the IOC undertakes active work in many areas including:
- Protecting people from marine hazards, including tsunamis
 - Influencing other government departments
 - Capacity building
 - Ocean science
- Protecting people from marine hazards, including tsunamis.***
- [xiii] IOC has 40 years of experience coordinating the Pacific Tsunamis warning system and today is leading a global effort to establish additional ocean-based tsunami warning systems as part of an overall multi-hazard disaster reduction strategy³.
- [xiv] In the UK the IOC office has been undertaking work with UK Overseas Territory staff and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to ensure that all overseas territories (OT), initially in the Caribbean, have tsunami warning systems in place to ensure that warnings are received and acted upon by trained staff. As recently as July 2014 Montserrat became the final Caribbean OT to designate a national tsunami contact point, and should shortly appoint a national tsunami warning focal point. Several of our OTs have only the bare minimum of infrastructure, personnel and training in place to adequately respond to a major event such as a large tsunami or storm surge, and additional assistance from DFID or other departments to facilitate preparedness for extreme events would be very welcome.
- [xv] The problem is not lack of data (though any additions to the tide gauge network are welcome) but rather the institutional arrangements required to ensure that data is converted into warnings, disseminated to decision makers and emergency services quickly so that population evacuation, mobilisation of first responders etc. can take place before the tsunami, storm surge or other hazard arrives. NERC has expertise at NOC and BGS that can be harnessed to make a tremendous difference to the risk to lives and property from extreme events in coastal regions, small islands and developing states (SIDS) and our staff would very much welcome the opportunity to contribute to this important field. It should also be noted that the lack of modern, high resolution coastal bathymetry charts is a barrier to the implementation of a full range of hazard preparedness or the implementation of marine spatial planning, and any assistance the UK is able to provide in the improvement of the accuracy, quality and resolution of charts can make a big difference.
- Influencing other government departments***
- [xvi] In terms of influencing other government departments DFID has a very low visibility in the marine context. DFID is not strongly represented at the government's Marine Science Coordination Committee, often not sending a

¹ In troubled waters pp.82 - 83

² <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/ioc-oceans/about-us/>

³ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/ioc-oceans/sections-and-programmes/tsunami/>



delegate to meetings. DFID tends not to respond to marine consultations and considering that Small Island Developing States and Coastal Regions are probably the most vulnerable places for the impacts of climate change, sea level rise and extreme events such as tsunami and coastal flooding, DFID does not appear to have a marine, small islands or coastal team attending relevant conferences, taking part in stakeholder engagement etc. If there is such a unit, it is invisible to the marine science community at present. The exception is the DFID-aligned UK National Commission for UNESCO, where staff are taking a strong interest in marine matters.

Capacity Building

- [xvii] The capacity building programme works to empower developing countries to sustainably use their coastal and marine resources through self-driven capacity development. Without such work there would be a much greater risk of irreversible damage or destruction of resources from ocean hazards and a loss of economy for future generations⁴.
- [xviii] IOC is currently in the process of drafting a new strategic plan on capacity development⁵. The UK IOC office has been involved with the IOC's inter-sessional working group discussing the development of the plan, and on a UK basis has initiated stakeholder meetings to investigate current activity, capability and gaps, so that action can be taken to address areas where additional capability is required. With the need to address marine spatial planning, establish marine protected areas and improve the ability of SIDS to react to a rapidly changing world, considerable additional resources will be required. As referred to in the above paragraph, the lack of capacity is a bigger problem than lack of data – there are international systems able to provide all the information that is needed for local managers to address a range of hazards, but limited in-house ability to transform data into products. As also mentioned, capacity would also be improved by the availability of up to date high-resolution seabed charts – knowing the shape of the seafloor enables local planners to make more accurate assessments of storm surge/tsunami dynamics and enable better evacuation plans to be drawn up, as the areas expected to receive the largest waves can be avoided.

Ocean Science

- [xix] In the area of ocean science IOC has strong involvement with improving ocean observations and services, working to coordinate large scale, international programmes which will ultimately work to transition traditional oceanographic science into operational oceanographic services and products, which provide societal benefit and protect the environment. A selection of the international coordination programmes that IOC is involved with, include:
- Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)⁶
 - Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)⁷
 - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE)⁸
 - Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS)⁹
 - Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)¹⁰
 - Ocean Observations Panel for Climate (OOPC)¹¹
 - Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)¹²
 - Argo¹³

- [xx] The work of the IOC ties in with key UK aid objectives as set out by the coalition government. These objectives include:

⁴ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/ioc-oceans/sections-and-programmes/capacity-development/>

⁵ http://ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=12875

⁶ <http://www.ioc-goos.org/>

⁷ <http://www.jcomm.info/>

⁸ www.iode.org/

⁹ www.iobis.org/

¹⁰ www.gloss-sealevel.org/

¹¹ www.jcommops.org/dbcp/

¹² www.jcommops.org/dbcp/

¹³ wo.jcommops.org/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Argo



- ***Delivering obligations to the overseas territories*** - Helping to provide an improved environment for economic and social development and promote self-sustainability. However it is not clear if DFID's remit includes assistance to UK Overseas Territories, and if DFID assistance is not available for them, it is unclear if FCO or other bodies are empowered or have budgets that are able to be utilised to enable better capacity building in these areas.
- ***Influencing the global development system*** - working with the international system, Whitehall, multilateral organisations and emerging economies to ensure coordinated worldwide action to deliver international development goals¹⁴.

- [xxi] The money managed by DFID, which goes to UNESCO is therefore key helping to facilitate the current UK aid objectives. This is accomplished in part through the work of multilateral organisations such as IOC-UNESCO. Furthermore the work of the IOC helps to deliver obligations to overseas territories. Montserrat is a key OT, which the UK IOC office has been working with recently and has been highlighted as a key aid dependent OT, which will receive continued support from the UK government¹⁵.
- [xxii] ***It is our opinion that the role of DFID in facilitating organisations such as IOC-UNESCO to assist developing countries is of critical importance.*** However the pathways to securing DFID assistance are unclear – there isn't an obvious gateway to DFID, and the system for accessing DFID funding is not clear or transparent to the first-time user.
- [xxiii] When examining the future continuation of funding to IOC-UNESCO through DFID, there is no strong reason why funding could not be routed through another government body such as FCO, BIS or DEFRA if DFID no longer existed in its current form. However, in its current form the priorities of DFID and the allocation of UK aid tie in strongly with IOC-UNESCO priorities.
- [xxiv] Whatever the future function, structure or existence of DFID, a key priority is the continuation of funding to IOC-UNESCO. The UK IOC office, working with the UKNC produced a key document, which highlights the value of UNESCO, including IOC activities to the UK¹⁶.
- [xxv] If funding for UNESCO were withdrawn or not sustained in a future without DFID, it would be strongly recommended that IOC funding should be maintained through institutional (e.g. National Oceanography Centre) financial sources. Such sources would have to be routed via the research councils and ultimately the department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS).

¹⁴ www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/67658/DFID-business-plan.pdf

¹⁵ www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/214110/FINAL_BAR_20TECHNICAL_20REPORT.pdf

¹⁶ <http://www.unesco.org.uk/uploads/Wider%20Value%20of%20UNESCO%20to%20UK%202012-13%20full%20report.pdf>