



British
Antarctic
Territory

BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY STRATEGY PAPER 2011 - 2013

This Strategy Paper sets out a framework of the headline objectives and funding priorities for the ‘Special Expenditure’ provision within the annual Estimates of the Government of the British Antarctic Territory over the next five years. This framework has been drawn up after consultation with a range of stakeholders. It is a ‘living’ document and will be reviewed annually.

Introduction

1. The British Antarctic Territory (BAT) comprises the sector of the Antarctic south of latitude 60 degrees South, between longitude 20 degrees West and 80 degrees West. The UK’s claim to this part of Antarctica is the oldest of any made on the continent. All territorial sovereignty claims to Antarctica are held in abeyance under Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty 1959.
2. The BAT is an UK Overseas Territory and is administered in London by staff in the Polar Regions Unit of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Government of the Territory has its own legislative framework and makes a range of legal and administrative appointments. The BAT Government also has an advisory body on Place-Names and operates four Post Offices. The BAT has no indigenous population and presence in the Territory is provided by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), who operate three scientific stations and the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT), who manage the historical base at Port Lockroy.
3. The BAT receives annual revenue from income tax on over-wintering scientists, stamp sales and interest from its capital reserves. This income is used to finance the governance of the Territory, as set out in the annual Estimates, as well as a range of special projects to

further underpin good governance. In the last couple of years, income has fallen slightly below expenditure and the BAT has taken the decision to draw upon its capital reserves to fund a number of projects in support of its strategic objectives.

4. This Strategy Paper aims to set out a forward framework on how we continue to balance income and expenditure whilst maintaining an appropriate level of capital reserve to respond to unforeseen circumstances.

Headline Objectives for the British Antarctic Territory

5. The overall aim for the Government of the British Antarctic Territory is to support delivery of the FCO's Strategic Priority for the Overseas Territories by ensuring security and good Governance of the BAT through effective administration and sound financial management. In order to underpin this aim, the following are the headline objectives for the BAT:

Headline Objectives to underpin the Security and Good Governance of the British Antarctic Territory

1. To ensure the security of the BAT through supporting the UK's high profile within the Antarctic Treaty System;
2. To promote UK Sovereignty of the BAT and increase awareness, including through education, of the UK's current and historical interests in the Territory both within the UK and internationally (within the scope of the Antarctic Treaty);
3. To protect the BAT environment, including its British heritage, by developing a range of tools to minimise any direct human impacts and supporting the UK's leading influence in environmental issues in Antarctica within the Antarctic Treaty System;
4. To ensure the BAT has an effective legislative and administrative framework to address all activities conducted within the Territory;
5. To manage the Territory's finances in accordance with best financial practice

Use of BAT Funds for Annual Special Expenditure

6. Whilst maintaining a suitable level of capital reserve to respond to unforeseen or emergency operations (at or around the 2005 level), the Government of the British Antarctic Territory will utilise a proportion of its funds to support best delivery of the headline objectives.
7. The priority will be to commission and support projects that are undertaken in partnership with key stakeholders. Except in exceptional circumstances, the Territory's funds will only be made available where no other appropriate funding sources are available.

Forward Strategy for 2011 - 2013

8. Each year, depending on levels of income available, the Territory will seek to commission and support a range of projects across the four priority areas.

1. *Environmental Protection and Minimising Human Impacts* - including:

- Development of a better understanding of the BAT environment;
- Development and implementation of best Antarctic environmental practices, including an environmental strategy;
- Enhancement of UK expertise on tourism management and minimising human impacts;
- Identification of rare flora and fauna and/or special areas across the BAT and development of protection and conservation measures;
- Proactive management of key Protected Areas in the Territory;
- Identification of future environmental challenges and development of mitigation measures.

2. *Education and Outreach* – including:

- Development and continual enhancement of a BAT website (including information on environment, tourism, history, administration etc.);
- Production of a range of tools to ensure consistent and high quality environmental briefing for visitors to the BAT;
- Development and dissemination of high quality education materials for schools;
- Promotion of the BAT, both historically and currently, particularly as part of the important legacy of the International Polar Year 2007/08.

3. *Heritage* – including:

- Conservation and management of British heritage within the BAT, particularly through supporting the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust as the lead organisation for

British heritage in Antarctica. Also through supporting the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), which plays a major role in promoting BAT Heritage within the UK;

- Development and implementation of a heritage strategy for the BAT.

4. Governance and Promoting UK Sovereignty – including:

- Increase accessibility of existing BAT legislation and enhancement of training materials and guidance for BAT officials;
- Ensuring that the BAT has an effective, up-to-date and appropriate legislative framework and administrative measures to implement it;
- Utilisation of most up-to-date information and mapping tools to increase access to the work of the Antarctic Place-Names Committee.

9. The objective for delivery of this Strategy Paper is that by 2013 measurable progress will have been made in each of these four areas. Progress will be monitored and kept under review through annual meetings with key BAT stakeholders. Any revisions to this document will also be agreed at these annual review meetings.

10. The Commissioner of the British Antarctic Territory has approved this Strategy Paper.

Signed.....*Date*.....

Rob Bowman

***Administrator of the Government of the British Antarctic Territory
(Polar Regions Unit/FCO)***