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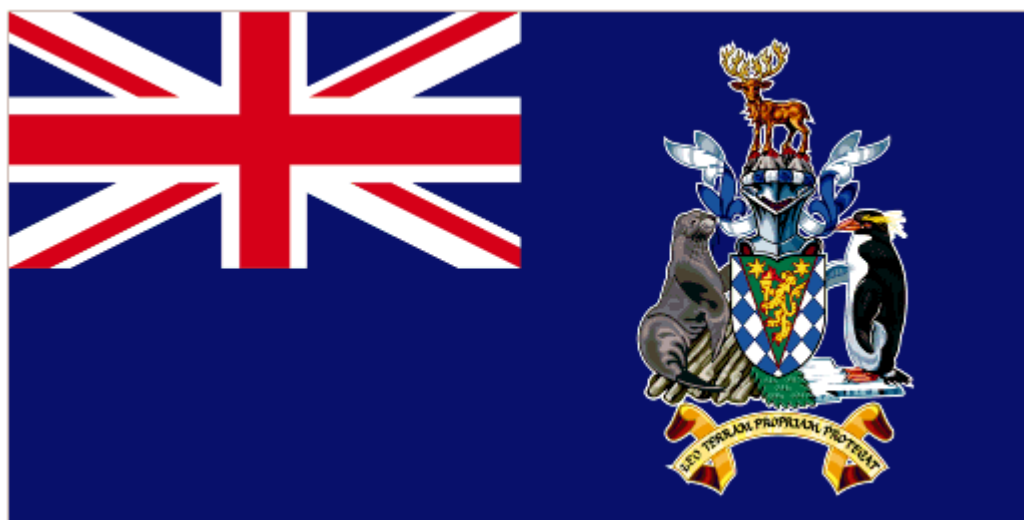
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Se refiere a:

ESTRATEGIA DEL GOBIERNO DE GRAN BRETAÑA PARA EL TERRITORIO DE ULTRAMAR DE GEORGIAS Y SANDWICH DEL SUR DURANTE EL PERÍODO 2010 – 2015.

El único objetivo al colocarlo en el sitio es que no nos hagamos los distraídos, y llegado el momento, pongamos caras de sorprendidos y nos rasguemos las vestiduras ante las cámaras de televisión mientras decimos: a mi no me habían informado.



**BANDERA DEL
TERRITORIO BRITÁNICO DE ULTRAMAR
DE
GEORGIAS Y SANDWICH DEL SUR**

UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT STRATEGY: SOUTH GEORGIA & THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: 2010-2015

Introduction

1. This strategy paper aims to outline and guide the UK Government's policy on South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands over the next five years. It has been developed in conjunction with the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI), and complements their 5 year strategy, covering the same period.

Background

2. South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are situated 800 miles south-east of the Falkland Islands. Discovered, and claimed for Britain, by Captain James Cook in 1775, South Georgia is approximately 170km long and 2 - 40km wide. The South Sandwich Islands are a chain of eleven small volcanic islands stretching from 56° - 60° South. SGSSI has a Maritime Zone of over 1 million square km. UK administration has been in place continually since 1908 and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) has been a separate UK Overseas Territory since 1985 (it was previously a Dependency of the Falkland Islands).
3. Currently the office of Commissioner of SGSSI is held by the same person as holds the office of Governor of the Falklands, and the Territory is administered from Stanley. But this is not a constitutional requirement. There is no permanent population, but British Antarctic Survey (BAS) operates two year-round scientific bases on South Georgia. One of these bases, at King Edward Point, is jointly funded by FCO/GSGSSI and also accommodates GSGSSI Officers who manage activities on the Island and undertake customs and immigration functions. GSGSSI has annual revenue of around £4.5 million, derived primarily from fishing licences, tourist landing fees and the sale of stamps. Revenue is spent on fisheries research, patrol and protection, and environmental management.

UK Interests in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

4. The UK has long-term strategic, scientific, environmental and sustainable resource management interests in SGSSI. These interests form part of, but in many cases are also quite distinct from, the UK's wider interests in the South Atlantic and Antarctica. From a strategic perspective, the maintenance of British sovereignty over SGSSI is also linked to our commitment to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and British Antarctic Territory, generating a significant UK role in the region. Although the three Overseas Territories are administered entirely separately, Argentina continues to draw links between them to

justify its sovereignty claims to all three¹. South Georgia is also the only relatively safe and permanently manned harbour in the area of the South Atlantic between the Falklands and South Africa.

5. SGSSI is one of the richest biological sites in the Southern Ocean. Fed by the circumpolar and Weddell Sea currents, it is teeming with wildlife, including millions of seals and penguins. The marine environment is abundant in fish and krill, and is a regular feeding ground for many whale species. South Georgia also has many important breeding populations of birds, including several globally threatened or near-threatened species. The islands are internationally recognised for their biological importance, and are among the most pristine environments on the planet, attracting around 7,500 ship-borne tourists each season. The successful environmental protection of SGSSI gives the UK significant international profile, and is consequently a key principle underlying the UK's interests in the Territory.
6. The principle of environmental protection and ecosystem management is now enshrined in the resource management policies of SGSSI. From the historical depletion of whales and seals to near extinction, their current protection in and around the Islands has been a relative conservation success story, particularly in relation to fur seals. Fishing is the most important industry, but it is very carefully managed, including through the Antarctic Treaty's Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). SGSSI receives international recognition for its sustainable fisheries management policies, for example, the toothfish fishery has been certified by the Marine Stewardship Council and illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, which had been a problem in the past, is now all but eradicated from SGSSI waters. The broad provision of fishing licenses to a range of CCAMLR Parties enables the UK to demonstrate the effectiveness of its environmental requirements, which exceed that of CCAMLR, and enhance the UK's (and SGSSI'S) profile at CCAMLR. The revenue from fisheries licenses enables GSGSSI to maintain financial self-sufficiency.

Headline Aim and Objectives for the UK's interests

7. The headline aim for the UK is to ensure the security and good governance of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, by safeguarding its sovereignty and supporting its long term economic and environmental security. In addition to supporting GSGSSI to deliver its own 5-year strategy, the following headline objectives set out the specific focus for the UK Government over the next five years:

¹ Argentina has maintained a claim to the sovereignty of South Georgia since 1927 and the South Sandwich Islands since 1948.

UK Headline Objectives to underpin the security and good governance of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

1. To ensure the security of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands through a continual British presence, which supports GSGSSI's implementation and enforcement of the rule of law;
2. To promote British Sovereignty over SGSSI and increase awareness of the UK's current and historical interests in the Territory, both within the UK and internationally, and help maintain UK influence within the region;
3. To uphold the UK's leading role within the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in contributing to the effective conservation of the Southern Ocean, including to underpin and protect the sustainable management of the SGSSI fishery;
4. To work with GSGSSI to ensure sound financial and risk management and economic policies which contribute to the long-term financial self-sufficiency of the Territory, and minimise contingent liabilities;
5. To support GSGSSI's environmental stewardship of the Territory, including through tough environmental and biodiversity protection measures, effective fishery and tourism management; and, where feasible, the eradication of non-native species to restore the natural habitat of South Georgia.

Delivery of the UK's Objectives

8. The success of this strategy document will be assessed annually as to whether measurable progress has been made against each of these 5 objectives, to underpin delivery of the headline aim. In order to pursue the UK's objectives over the coming five years, the FCO, in partnership with GSGSSI, and working collaboratively with relevant other UK Government Departments and wider stakeholders will focus on the following priorities under each objective:

- 1. To ensure the security of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands through a continual British presence, which supports GSGSSI's implementation and enforcement of the rule of law:**
 - Continue to support CBFSAI's role in the defence of the Territory, including through working with MOD to agree future requirements;

- Work with GSGSSI and BAS to develop a long-term sustainable business plan for the base at King Edward Point, including maximising opportunities to increase scientific outputs;
- Ensure the strategic case is made to underpin continued British Antarctic Survey presence and scientific work on the islands, both marine and terrestrial;
- Work with GSGSSI to ensure effective governance structures are in place to address all activities undertaken in the Territory, particularly through progressing the Legislative Review: including by liaising on priority needs, providing policy and legal advice, reviewing draft legislation and once assented to, putting Ordinances through the disallowance process.

2. To promote British Sovereignty of SGSSI and increase awareness of the UK's current and historical interests in the Territory, both within the UK and internationally, and help maintain UK influence within the region;

- Ensure British sovereignty is upheld and defended at all appropriate opportunities in international fora and elsewhere as necessary, including through the provision of clear guidance for UK Delegations and overseas posts;
- Promote this strategy document with cross-Whitehall colleagues and other interested stakeholders with a view to reinforcing and protecting the UK's key interests and influence in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the wider region;
- Work with GSGSSI to enhance strategic international interest in the Territory, including through commercial (tourism and fishing) and science opportunities, focusing on those whose involvement will help to reinforce British sovereignty, or key UK/GSGSSI objectives;
- Support GSGSSI in management and conservation of the industrial and cultural heritage of the Territory;
- Ensure that proposals for SGSSI stamps and coins gain timely approval.

3. To uphold the UK's leading role within the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in contributing to the effective conservation of the Southern Ocean, including to underpin and protect the sustainable management of the SGSSI fishery;

- Ensure the UK continues to lead within CCAMLR on effective ecosystem management and marine protection issues across the Southern Ocean;
- Use the best available science to develop, with GSGSSI, robust annual stock assessments to support negotiations at CCAMLR for sustainable catch limits around SGSSI;
- Work with GSGSSI to ensure compliance with all CCAMLR Conservation Measures, and identify opportunities to develop measures to support GSGSSI objectives;

- Promote the sustainable fisheries management delivered by GSGSSI, as evidenced by the Marine Stewardship Certification of the toothfish fishery, and ensure that nothing agreed at CCAMLR would negatively impact on sustainable management, or undermine British control of the GSGSSI Maritime Zone.

4. To work with GSGSSI to ensure sound financial and risk management and economic policies which contribute to the long-term financial self-sufficiency of the Territory, and minimise contingent liabilities;

- Agree overall financial and economic objectives with GSGSSI;
- Give formal approval to GSGSSI's annual Estimates, particularly to identify and mitigate any potential contingent liabilities;
- Work with GSGSSI to identify and develop any opportunities for economic diversification, within the agreed overall objectives for the Territory.
- Ensure clarity on the decision-making process, so that it is clear which decisions are taken by GSGSSI and which by the UK Government.
- Assist in working up, maintaining and testing a major incident plan.

5. To support and underpin GSGSSI's environmental stewardship of the Territory, including through tough environmental and biodiversity protection measures effective fishery and tourism management; and, where feasible, the eradication of non-native species to restore the natural habitat of South Georgia.

- Agree with GSGSSI an overall environmental policy to ensure balance is achieved between commercial use of GSGSSI and environmental protection and conservation;
- Support GSGSSI's continual development of its fisheries policy to ensure it is responsive to changing developments, politically and environmentally;
- Work with GSGSSI to develop its tourism policies, both to take account of the specific nature of GSGSSI, but in respect of ship-borne tourism, to contribute also to an overall approach to tourism for the region, including Antarctica;
- Ensure that large-scale environmental projects, such as the rat eradication programme, take account of views of stakeholders, and that appropriate safety and risk mitigation procedures are followed;
- Work with GSGSSI to develop a network of marine protected areas within the Maritime Zone, with the first MPAs enshrined in legislation by 2012;
- Promote international recognition for South Georgia's contribution to global biodiversity and the overall environmental stewardship of the Territory.