

MASTS Small Grant Scheme

Proposer	Miss Charlotte Hopkins University of Glasgow
Position Held	PhD Researcher
MASTS Award	£500
Completion Date	May 2013

Project Title

Climate change resilience in the design, implementation, monitoring and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Lessons for Scotland's MPA Network

Details of Project

My aim in this project was to examine the issues surrounding climate change and MPAs at a time when MPAs are widely used as management tools aimed at safeguarding marine biodiversity. My PhD is investigating issues surrounding the design and implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and climate change within a Scottish context.

I am using international experience and expertise to gain an understanding of how considerations of climate change resilience have been used in practice, and what lessons can be applied to the Scottish process. I travelled to Australia and New Zealand in order to conduct face-to-face semi-structured interviews with key participants and knowledgeable individuals working within the MPA process in each country.

The interviews were specifically designed to explore how existing MPAs have been changed/adapted for climate change resilience and to understand how new MPAs (in design, implementation, management and monitoring) are incorporating principles of climate change resilience.

I can now develop specific lessons from these international case studies that can be applied to the Scottish MPA Project.

Outputs

The international component of my data collection in Australia and New Zealand has been completed with a total of 12 semi-structured interviews conducted.

I have worked in concert with Universities, other organisations, policy makers and government agencies building links between institutions and strengthening international collaboration.

A presentation on the PhD project and the Scottish MPA Process to the New Zealand, Department of Conservation featuring the MASTS logo was conducted during the fieldwork.

Further Proposed Outputs

Analysis of my interview data will be conducted and used to frame research questions for the Scottish component of my research, specifically investigating how considerations of climate change have been incorporated into policy, and the perspectives of key stakeholders to a climate change resilient Scottish MPA network.

Future presentations planned at the MASTS Annual Science Meeting and within the University of Glasgow presenting the results of this work, featuring acknowledgment of how MASTS have helped fund this research.

Details of Expenditure

£500 towards the cost of a return flight to Australia/New Zealand