



UKOTCF

Wider Caribbean Working Group (WCWG) eBulletin

August 2016

Number 15

In This Bulletin

- UKOTCF Annual Report
- *Sustaining Partnerships* Conference Proceedings
- Progress for Environment Charters and Aichi Targets
- New Project for Montserrat - Save Our Special Species
- Montserrat Video - Birding in Paradise
- Britain's Treasure Islands Book
- Anguilla National Trust Annual Report
- Turks and Caicos Reef Fund Coral Reef Restoration Project
- Turks and Caicos National Museum National Archives Digitization Project
- Chevening Scholarship awarded to Director TCI Red Cross
- Cayman National Conservation Law - appeal for continued public support
- Mangrove Restoration - To plant or not to plant?
- Online Course on Mangrove Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Island Invasives Planning Guide Proposal.

Here is the August edition of the WCWG eBulletin. The summer is often a quiet time, with people away on vacation, but there has still been a lot going on. Please let us know what is going on in your part of the world.

UKOTCF Annual Report

UKOTCF's Annual Report for 2015-16 is now available to download from the UKOTCF website at www.ukotcf.org. This comprehensive report illustrates the many achievements of UKOTCF over the year, including the hugely successful conference *Sustaining Partnerships* held in Gibraltar in July 2015.



Sustaining Partnerships Conference Proceedings available to download.

The full Conference Proceedings, together with recommendations and conclusions, can be found at: www.ukotcf.org/confs/gibraltar2015.htm



Progress for Environment Charters and Aichi Targets

UKOTCF has published the latest review, collated from territory information, of progress in implementing the Environment Charters (or equivalents) and towards Aichi Targets. This can be downloaded from the UKOTCF website www.ukotcf.org. UKOTCF thanks the many people in territories or elsewhere who provided or checked information for this.



New Project for Montserrat – Save Our Special Species

May 2016 saw a series of meetings and planning activity in Montserrat, supported by others in UK and USA, to set up a new 2-year project Maximising long-term survival prospects of Montserrat's endemic species and ecosystem-services (short title – Save Our Special Species). The project is part-funded by UK Government's Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment & Climate Fund, and is a partnership coordinated by UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF).

Other project partners include: Montserrat Government (Department of Environment; DoE); Montserrat National Trust (MNT); Treweek Environmental



(From left:) Dr Mike Pienkowski (Honorary Executive Director of UKOTCF), Hon Claude Hogan (Montserrat's Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing & Environment) and Mrs Dulcie James (President of Montserrat National Trust) celebrate the Memorandum of Understanding that they have just signed (Photo: Ravo Ratianimarina, MNT).

Consultants; and Montana State University, USA (MSU).

Further details about the project are available at: www.ukotcf.org/pdf/UKOTCF_MNT_MATLHE201605.pdf

Montserrat Video – Birding in Paradise

The first of UKOTCF's new in-house short videos by Ann Pienkowski is available on YouTube. Find the link at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkJydGp_Ydw



Britain's Treasure Islands

Order your copy of new book filled with superb photos of wildlife of all UK Overseas Territories. The book is linked to the series *Britain's Treasure Islands* broadcast in the Spring on BBC4. Buying via UKOTCF makes a contribution to UKOTCF's conservation work at no extra cost to yourself. Go to www.ukotcf.org/treasureIslands/ for more information.



The Anguilla National Trust Annual Report for 2015

This report is now available to download from:

www.dropbox.com/s/l4xeea35buhy1ft/ant%20annual%20report%20-%202015.pdf?dl=0

The report illustrates the hard work and wide range of projects that the Anguilla National Trust is involved in.



Turks and Caicos Reef Fund Partner in Coral Reef Restoration Project

The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF) is a partner in a project led by St Maarten Nature Foundation to restore Elkhorn *Acropora palmata* and Staghorn *A. cervicornis* coral reef zones by establishing coral nurseries. This 3-year RESCQ project (Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Coral Reef Quality) funded by the European Union BEST 2.0 programme has just started. The project partners are IMARES Wageningen UR, Saba Conservation Foundation, Stenapa St Eustatius, and the Turks & Caicos Reef Fund. A coral nursery will be established on each of the four islands, to grow coral fragments and transplantation at selected restoration sites. TCRF took part in a workshop in St Maarten in July, which included how to build and install coral trees or ladders. Don Stark, Chairman of TCRF, said "We will be looking for volunteers to help with maintenance once the nurseries are in place. So let us know."

Find Turks & Caicos Reef Fund on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TCREEF/



Roddy McLeod learning to build coral "trees" or ladders in St. Maarten

Turks and Caicos National Museum National Archives Digitization Project

A grant from the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme to the Zemi Foundation is funding a two-year project to digitize thousands of rare and vulnerable documents in the Turks and Caicos Islands. This project has just started with training of staff and volunteers on the digitization process. All digitized files will be available to researchers, free of charge, online by the autumn of 2017 on the Endangered Archives Programme website. You can find out more at:

www.facebook.com/TurksCaicosNationalMuseumFoundation/



Hon. Josephine Connolly, Deputy Speaker of the House, on her visit to the museum, observing how the historical records are being digitized.

Chevening Scholarship awarded to Director of TCI Red Cross

Mrs Lormeka Williams, the Director of the Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross (and formerly of the Department of Environment & Coastal Resources), has been awarded a prestigious Chevening Scholarship for the 2016/2017 academic year to study a Masters degree in Conservation Biology at the University of Kent, UK, starting in

September. Chevening Scholarships to study in the UK are awarded globally each year to outstanding individuals with leadership potential who are committed to contribute to the future development of their home countries, Commenting on her award, Lormeka Williams noted her previous work on conservation projects with the UKOTCF and other international organisations. UKOTCF congratulates Lormeka, wishes her every success, and hopes she enjoys her studies.

Lormeka Williams being presented with her award by HE Peter Beckinham, Governor TCI.



Cayman National Conservation Law – appeal for continued public support

The full implementation of the National Conservation Law is “not a panacea” to address all of the challenges surrounding conservation and environmental protection in Cayman and it will still need the support of, and pressure from, the public to ensure it is used properly. The Department of Environment’s director has said that ensuring government entities give due lawful consideration to the environment when making decisions in future will require the vigilance of the public as well as the National Conservation Council (NCC) to make it work but the law is an important tool.

DoE Director Gina Ebanks-Petrie said that she hoped that, given the power in the legislation now, public pressure will ensure that the Central Planning Authority (CPA) will give greater consideration to the implications of development applications for the environment. She also noted that in cases where there are environmental protections in place, the CPA would be obligated to follow the National Conservation Council (NCC)’s directives.

The full article can be read at: <https://caymannewsservice.com/2016/08/ncl-will-need-public-support/>

Mangrove Restoration - To plant or not to plant?

When is mangrove restoration appropriate? An article by Wetlands International describes briefly some of the pitfalls of mangrove restoration projects. You can read the article at:



www.wetlands.org/blog/to-plant-or-not-to-plant/

Launch of Online Course on Mangrove Biodiversity and Ecosystems

The UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have launched a 10-unit online (Certificate) course on Mangrove Biodiversity and Ecosystems.

This curriculum was built to bring awareness of the importance of Mangroves to healthy ecosystems and human communities. The open-access post-graduate Mangroves Course is designed to build expertise in mangrove biology, ecology, assessment, management, and restoration and is predominantly aimed at young academics, professionals, managers, and any other interested individuals, especially from developing countries. The course provides the opportunity for professionals to build their capacity without taking personal leave to attend classes.

Topics are covered in the course:

Unit 1: Introduction to Mangroves

Unit 2: Ecosystem Structure & Function

Unit 3: Floral Diversity

Unit 4: Faunal Biodiversity

Unit 5: Mangroves and Climate Change

Unit 6: Mangroves and Coastal Defense

Unit 7: Mangroves and People

Unit 8: Mangrove Restoration and Afforestation

Unit 9: Economic Valuation for Mangrove Conservation

Unit10: National Policies and Laws and International Agreements Applying to Mangroves

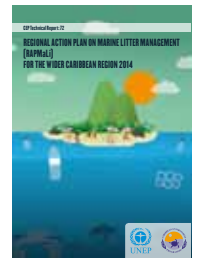
Further information at: www.conservationtraining.org/course/index.php?categoryid=34

Enrolment can also be done at: <http://inweh.unu.edu/postgrad-mangroves/>

Marine Litter in the Caribbean Region

UNEP's Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP-CAR/RCU) has produced a report on this which includes Anguilla, BVI and the Cayman Islands. The report brings together information on marine litter in the region and includes country profiles and case studies.

The report can be found at www.cep.unep.org/cep-documents/rapmali_web.pdf



Island invasives planning guide proposal for inter-ocean collaboration on a guide for planning and developing island invasive species programmes

In 2009, many Pacific island countries and territories adopted the Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific to assist them to design their national or island invasive species strategies and action plans and their NBSAPs (national biodiversity strategies & action plans), and to assist regional and international organisations to design and prioritise their programmes of assistance to these countries. The Pacific Guidelines can be found at: www.sprep.org/att/publication/000699_RISSFinalLR.pdf

It has been proposed that island invasives practitioners from all ocean regions collaborate on a guidance document that would be useful to island invasives planners and managers everywhere.

There is an opportunity to hold face to face discussions on this, at the World Conservation Congress, to be held in Hawaii, 1-10 September 2016

Dr Alan Tye, InvaZiles Project Coordinator, is assessing support for this, and would like responses from interested persons, preferably before the beginning of September, to the following 4 questions:

1. Do you consider that a document similar to the Pacific Guidelines could be useful for island invasives planners and managers in your islands or region? (Comments, or suggestions on content.)
2. Would you like to contribute to the development of such a document, at least by commenting on drafts?
3. Are you going to the World Conservation Congress and if so would you be interested to attend sessions on this topic?
4. Any other comments, suggestions or recommendations?

If this sounds interesting to you, please send responses to Dr Alan Tye at alan.tye@iucn.org or alantye@gmail.com