



# UKOTCF

## Wider Caribbean Working Group (WCWG) e-Newsletter

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**Welcome** to the 5th issue of the Wider Caribbean Working Group eNewsletter. This newsletter is delighted to report many positive developments which will help take conservation forward in the Caribbean. For example, UKOTCF member organisation, the Zoological Society of London, reports some exciting conservation news and, as Alison Debney says below, ZSL is interested in setting up collaborative projects with UKOTs. The Caribbean Hub, just launched, aims to ease communication paths. However, as always, there are issues concerning inappropriate development. We hope that by airing such issues within our WCWG network, as well as elsewhere, we can continue to raise awareness and promote best practice principles.

I can be contacted via email: [apienkowski@ukotcf.org](mailto:apienkowski@ukotcf.org)

### Bermuda Development Concern

#### Concern about a Special Development Order (SDO) for Tucker's Point.

The Bermuda National Trust has received many calls from concerned members of the public and from other NGOs regarding the Special Development Order which would, if granted, give the go-ahead for development of pristine hills in Castle Harbour, such as Paynter's Hill and Quarry Hill, along with other undeveloped lands in the area.

The land earmarked for the development includes pristine hills and endangered woodland on top of a network of ancient underground caves. Allowing large swathes of green space to be used for property development is against the sustainability principles enshrined in Bermuda's planning law.

The Planning Development Applications Board does not have the authority to allow such a large development on open space.

However a Special Development Order can be used to circumvent those statutes if Government deems it a 'national priority'.

Only very small areas of natural habitat survive in Bermuda and the hills of Castle Harbour are one of the few places left where multiple habitats of major and critical significance are sustained.

The geology of the area has meant that it has remained relatively undeveloped while the rest of Bermuda was being built upon. Indirectly, this has resulted in this section of the island serving as a safe haven for numerous unique life forms, many critically endangered, in the most extensive remaining tracts of forest left that pre-date settlement. These areas consist of some of the last natural refuges of critically endangered flora such as the Yellow-wood tree or the endemic Wild Bermuda Pepper, to name a few.



*Yellow-wood tree*  
Photo by Bermuda Conservation Dept

## Cross Territory and General

Zoological Society of London



*Alison Debney surveying coral reef*

Below these hills are globally important caves joined by extensive passageways which sustain a disproportionate amount of diverse and unique wildlife and flora. In Bermuda's caves more than 60 endemic species have been identified and due to the vulnerability of these ecosystems to threats, such as development, 25 of these species have been listed as critically endangered.

These lands are protected also by a myriad of legislation, which reflects the area's nature as part of an extensive tract of open space that supports important ecology, large woodlands, and recreation land, and provides amenity value beyond measure. The larger the tract of undeveloped land the more wildlife it can sustain; the concern is that to continue to fragment this area with development, as the proposal may seek to do, will severely degrade the habitat value of the area and Bermuda as a whole.

The Bermuda Audubon Society is also concerned, pointing out the area is home to a wide variety of seabirds. Environmental group Bermuda Environmental and Sustainability Taskforce (BEST) also opposes the plan.

**UPDATE 1 March 2011.** At the final stage of finalising this eNewsletter, this was drawn to our attention. The Tucker's Point SDO was passed by the House of Assembly in the early hours of 1 March 2011. You can read the report from the Royal Gazette online at <http://www.royalgazette.com/article/20110301/NEWS/703019999/1001>

## Cross Territory and General

### Zoological Society of London

UKOTCF Member organisation, ZSL, has provided the following article.

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL), a charity founded in 1826, is a world renowned centre of excellence for conservation science and applied conservation. ZSL's mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. This is realised by carrying out field conservation and research in over 50 countries across the globe and through education and awareness at our two zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade. We strive to achieve our mission by: conducting world leading conservation science, implementing effective field conservation projects globally, providing decision makers with the best conservation advice and building conservation capacity and inspiring people to connect with the natural world. Recent conservation successes include the following:

ZSL was a driving force behind the successful campaign to create the world's largest Marine Protected Area, designating the Chagos archipelago a no-take marine reserve, protecting over 220 coral species (almost half the recorded species of the Indian Ocean) and more than 1,000 species of reef fish.

Katunggan It Ibajay (KII) Mangrove Eco-Park was launched in Ibajay, Panay, Philippines. This is a community-run livelihood project developed by ZSL that includes an 800m boardwalk through a mangrove forest containing over 27 species, including century-old trees. The Eco-Park attracted over 1,200 visitors (mainly local) in the first month alone and has been voted a 'must-see' attraction in the region by a national airline, bringing much needed income to communities and supporting conservation of the forest

In early 2010, ZSL revealed that Thames eel populations had declined by 98% in just five years. Following our regular monitoring work in the Thames and its tributaries, the Critically Endangered European eel is now protected under European legislation.

In 2010, ZSL celebrated the 20-year anniversary of the groundbreaking Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP). The CSIP coordinate the investigation of all whales, dolphins and porpoises, marine turtles and basking sharks that strand around the UK coastline and has produced one of the biggest open access scientific datasets, which includes some of the first evidence of dolphin deaths in fishing nets, links

## Caribbean Hub Launch



between chemical pollutants and deaths due to infectious diseases and the discovery of “decompression sickness” in deep-diving whales.

Recent ZSL conservation activities in the Caribbean include working with forestry staff in Dominica and Montserrat to tackle the threat of chytrid fungus on endangered mountain chickens. ZSL is also working with partners in Haiti to strengthen the Macaya National Park in massif de la Hotte, and in Hispaniola to save the solenodon, a nocturnal shrew-like venomous mammal found only on Hispaniola.

ZSL is keen to set up new partnerships in the wider Caribbean to tackle the threats to wildlife and their habitats particularly in the aquatic environment. If you are interested in setting up a collaborative project please contact Alison Debney, Programme Manager, Marine & Freshwater Conservation Programme UK, Europe and UK Overseas Territories  
(alison.debney@zsl.org)

## Caribbean Hub Launch

Mat Cottam writes:

The Caribbean Hub, an exciting new Caribbean Conservation Networking project, was launched in January.

[www.CaribbeanHub.net](http://www.CaribbeanHub.net) facilitates professional communities with an interest in combating invasive species, climate change and preserving biodiversity in the Caribbean.

The Hub arose from a call for action from attendees at the meeting: ***Helping Islands Adapt : A Workshop on Regional Action to Combat Invasive Species on Islands to Preserve Biodiversity and Adapt to Climate Change*** (12-16 April 2010, Auckland, New Zealand). Seed funding for the establishment of the Hub was contributed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) in June 2010, along with ongoing support from the Cayman Islands Department of Environment.

The long term objective of the Hub is to bring together ideas, people, projects, experience, expertise, funds and common resources in the Caribbean.

The Hub incorporates:

- a dedicated Caribbean discussion forum linked to detailed, searchable profiles of organizations and personnel currently working in the Caribbean, and to international donors and organisations interested in working in the Caribbean.
- a central repository for links to local and regional list servers, news and information, notice of meetings and events, and job opportunities.
- resources, including publications and adaptable forms and documents.
- project support, including development, methodologies, expertise, collaborative opportunities and funding.

The Hub operates as an independent entity. All registered members are equally invested in the initiative, and are free to propose development of the site and associated projects to suit their own interests and needs. The Hub is currently in the early stages of start-up. However, it is envisaged that, as the Community grows, the direction and content of the Hub will develop in accordance with the expressed needs of the Community. This will ensure that the Hub remains a dynamic and relevant tool to aid conservation in the Caribbean - targeting needs and taking advantage of opportunities as they arise.

Anyone is welcome to have a look around the site. However, if you want people to be able to search for and find you, or if you wish to post on the discussion board, you will need to register first. You can register with as much (or as little) information about

## Turks and Caicos Islands

### Pine Recovery Project



*Caicos Pine Seedling*  
Photo by Dr Eric Salamanca

### Endangered and Endemic Plant Project



*The tall orchid Encyclia altissima*  
Photo by Dr Eric Salamanca

### SCSCB Bird Monitoring Project



*Flamingos at Wheeland Pools*  
Photo by Dr Mike Pienkowski

yourself as you like.

We encourage everyone to sign up today, and help build this resource into something from which we can all benefit.

The Hub is moderated by Dr Mat Cottam, of the Cayman Islands Department of Environment.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Mat at Mat.Cottam@gov.ky.

## Turks and Caicos Islands

### OTEP-funded Caicos Pine Recovery Project:

The Caicos Pine Recovery Project has succeeded in nearly doubling the nursery population of TCI's National Tree, Caribbean pine *Pinus caribaea* var. *bahamensis*. From cone collections taken on Pine Cay in November 2010, the project acquired over 700 seeds, the largest pine seed collection yet.

So far, 154 healthy seedlings are growing in the nursery, and seeds continue to sprout. These trees represent about 20% of the total seed collection, and also represent nearly 50% of the nursery's tree population. Protection from pests (cockroaches love to munch tender seedlings at night) and disease (damping-off fungus kills seedlings if they are kept too wet) is crucial at this stage, and the seedlings are cared for, counted, and documented daily. Tiny though they may be, they represent the future of the Turk & Caicos Islands' National Tree.

### JNCC-funded Endangered and Endemic Plant Rescue and Research Project:

The Endangered and Endemic Plant Rescue and Research Project has surpassed its goal of securing ten endangered or endemic TCI plant species in conservation collections. Thirty-three species of plants are now growing in Department of Environment and Coastal Resources nurseries. Species with IUCN and CITES status as endangered include cacti and orchids, and species endemic to TCI, TCI and the southern Bahamas, the Bahamas Archipelago (including TCI), and TCI and Cuba are being grown in two nurseries supported by the project. An additional endemic plant, the capillary buttonbush *Spermacoce capillaris* has been safeguarded with a seed collection in Royal Botanic Gardens Kew's Millennium Seed Bank. Some of the seedling plants have been incorporated into the new Botanical and Cultural Garden of the Turks & Caicos National Museum, viewable to tourists and the public alike. In January 2011, seeds of another Bahamas Archipelago endemic species, the blood-red powder-puff *Zapoteca haematomma* sprouted in the nursery.

### Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) Bird Monitoring Training Project

SCSCB have given funding to the TCI Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) to provide training for a bird monitoring programme. On 27 January 2010, the DECR launched its first bird identification training day. The bird monitoring field training sessions will take place at various ponds on Providenciales on foot, and by kayak in Princess Alexandra Nature Reserve including mangroves around Mangrove, Donna, and Little Water Cay shores and Half Moon Bay sandbars. These initial trainings will be based on Providenciales, but later will expand to other islands. Members of the TCI Environmental Club and other environmental and bird enthusiasts are invited to partake in the training sessions. As part of this programme, a recreational bird-watching session was held on 2 February to celebrate World Wetlands Day. This included bird watching and clean-up at Wheeland Pools, in Providenciales

## TCI National Museum and UK Volunteers



*Fraser Hutt helping with planting in the Botanic Garden  
Photo courtesy TCNM and the Hutt family*

## Wonderful Water Workshop



*Students from H.J. Robinson High School, Grand Turk, taking part in a demonstration lesson given by Ms Cordelia Creese, as part of the Wonderful Water workshop  
Photo by Dr Mike Pienkowski*

## Anguilla

### Anguilla Marine Monitoring

## TCI National Museum UK volunteers

The National Museum of the Turks and Caicos Islands were pleased to welcome volunteers from the UK for 3 weeks in December, Sally and Duncan Hutt, with their son Fraser. Of particular help was their work in the former Museum Arboretum, which is being transformed into a botanic garden. This site is next to the Museum, on a plot where a house was destroyed in Hurricane Ike in September 2008. One of the projects they worked on was to create a dune garden at the seaward edge of the site in an area that gets quite a lot of sea spray. This involved bringing in sand to make an artificial dune and putting in a few plants in the newly created habitat.

In addition other areas were tidied, including removing the prickly succulent Dragon Bone *Euphorbia lactea*. This invasive plant comes from Africa, and was planted as an ornamental. In one cleared area bulbs of rain lily *Zephyranthes portoricensis* were planted to await the next rain.

## Wonderful Water workshop

UKOTCF and the TCI Education Department are collaborating over developing a curriculum-linked teaching programme on water systems in TCI for upper primary and lower secondary pupils, with support from OTEP. A brief report about this project was given in the last eNewsletter. Since then, draft curriculum materials have been prepared for upper primary and lower secondary school students, on the theme of Wetland Ecosystems in TCI. In February, workshops were held in TCI to introduce teachers to these draft materials so that they could try them out with their students. Feedback and comment as these materials are trialled will guide the development of the other Wonderful Water teaching materials. Over 40 people attended the workshops in Grand Turk and Providenciales. As well as being introduced to the project and the materials, participants observed a demonstration lesson on feeding relationships, being delivered by Ms Cordelia Creese, one of the project partners in TCI, to a group of Grade 8 students. Additionally, teachers from Enid Capron Primary School, Providenciales, gave a presentation on one way in which they had planned to use the materials. The demonstration and presentation, together with the draft teaching materials, were very well received. The participants were enthusiastic about the project, and some reported that they too had learnt something about TCI Wetlands.

## Anguilla

### Anguilla Marine Monitoring Programme

In September 2010 the Anguilla Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources released a preliminary version of a report on the condition of Anguilla's marine resources. This is part of an ongoing study of Anguilla's marine resources, entitled **The Anguilla Marine Monitoring Programme (AMMP)**. AMMP was initiated by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR) in 2007. The initial findings do not compare well to a 1990 study and report by the Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados, in which Anguilla's marine environment was described as having a 'variety of diverse and attractive marine habitats which are in relatively good condition, with little apparent impact from human activities.'

The draft report **Status of Anguilla's Marine Resources 2010**, results from three years of data collection and analysis (2007 – 2009) from AMMP. It highlights the changes that have taken place in Anguilla's marine environment over the past two decades. This preliminary report states that Anguilla's shallow reef benthic (bottom) habitats are generally in a poor state of health with an overall low hard coral cover and areas dominated with high levels of macro-algae. In 1990 the mean percentage cover of hard coral was 13.95 (an average over 9 sites). However, in 2010, this figure had declined dramatically to about 4.1 % (an average over 10 sites). This is a 70 % decline in hard coral cover in just 20 years. In some areas, such as the Forest Bay and Sandy Hill

## Bermuda

### Valuing Bermuda's Coral Reefs



*Coral Reef in Bermuda  
Photo by Jan Locke*

Bay, the decline in coral cover is 90 % and 74 %, respectively. One detail that has not changed since 1990 is that the southern coastline of Anguilla is in a worse condition than the northern coastline.

## Bermuda

### Valuing Bermuda's Coral Reefs

Samia Sarkis (Bermuda Conservation Department) writes:

This study had funding from OTEP over a two year period from 2007 – 2009 (Environmental Valuation: Tools and Capacity-Building for Integration in Policy, Bermuda - OTEP BDA402), and is being used currently for new legislation in Bermuda.

Valuing environmental resources in economic terms enables the integration of environmental concerns in policy and decision-making by placing them on a comparable basis with economic and social impacts. Coral reefs around Bermuda are a valuable asset to the island, and of global importance as the northernmost coral reef system in the Western Atlantic. This natural resource is fundamental to sustaining Bermuda's community, providing economic benefits worth up to \$1.1 billion every year, just through protecting the coast from storms and hurricanes, supporting the tourism industry, supporting commercial and recreational fisheries, and contributing substantially to a quality of life envied worldwide. Far from being a luxury, conservation of coral reefs is something that the government and the community cannot afford not to invest in.

Currently, Bermuda is undergoing increasing development for business and tourism reasons, and this places intense pressure on Bermuda's natural resources in general. The economic valuation study on the island's coral reefs addresses the lack of recognition of ecosystem services provided by this ecosystem. The resulting Total Economic Value (TEV) averages \$722 million per year and is based on the valuation and percentage contribution to this figure of the six ecosystem services identified: tourism 56%, coastal protection 37%, recreation and culture 5%, amenity 1%, fishery 0.7% and research and education value 0.3%. This represents 10-17% of Bermuda's GDP. This is an underestimate of the true value, given that a number of services, namely the more intangible values, are not included here.

Four main recommendations emerged from the 2-year study:

1. Prioritize potential policy interventions in an economically sound manner, e.g. developing legislation specifically for marine developments, and a standard damage cost procedure for injury to the reef.
2. Actively involve the tourism industry in the development of sustainable coral reef management.
3. Make use of the cultural importance residents place on marine ecosystems to improve coral reef management
4. Balance consumptive and non-consumptive uses of coral reefs by strategizing spatial management and protecting critical marine areas.

The study led to the development of a policy brief, and a cabinet paper. All 4 recommendations were approved by cabinet in September 2010, and actions are going forward for the implementation of Recommendation 1. Assessing a natural resource in economic terms has made an impact on politicians and decision-makers, and was incorporated in the Throne Speech given by the Governor in November 2010.

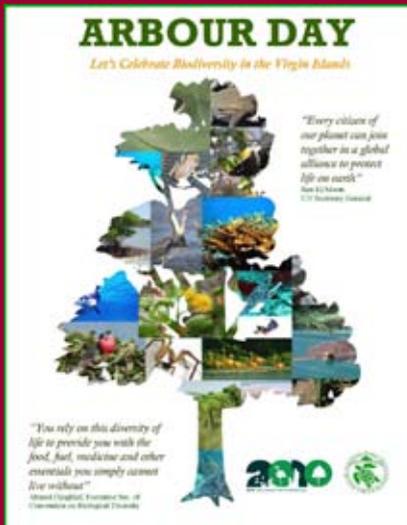
This was a complex study, involving Bermuda-based scientists, engaging all relevant government departments, requesting the assistance of a representative section of the community and tourists in face to face interviews, and implemented by a Bermuda-

## British Virgin Islands

### Update from the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands



Hurricane damage to J.R. O'Neal Botanic Gardens



## Cayman

### National Trust for the Cayman Islands Fundraising



based coordinator, JNCC representative, and a team of environmental economists from the University of Amsterdam. Both the complete report (228pp) and policy brief (16pp) are available to download from <http://www.conservation.bm>

## British Virgin Islands

### Update from the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands

#### Hurricane Earl Inflicted Severe Damage at the J.R. O'Neal Botanic Gardens

The passage of the category 2 hurricane Earl over the Virgin Islands (UK) on August 30th 2010 resulted in extensive damage across the Territory. At the Joseph Reynold O'Neal Botanic Gardens in Road Town, Tortola, 66 mature trees over 15 years old were either uprooted or damaged with limbs and trunks destroyed. Several structures, including the nursery, fern house and the pergolas were damaged and required extensive repair. The Gardens remained closed during the clean up operations and were finally reopened on 24 November 2010.

#### Arbor Day Celebrates International Year Of Biodiversity

During the month of November, the Trust held its annual Arbor Day ceremony at the St. George's Primary School in Road Town, Tortola. As part of the celebrations, 32 trees were planted along the driveway/entrance to the school. The theme **Let's Celebrate Biodiversity in the Virgin Islands** was chosen to raise awareness of Virgin Islands' biodiversity whilst celebrating the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) International Year of Biodiversity (IYOB).

#### National Parks to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2011 with an array of activities to mark this significant event in the Trust's history. The development of a national parks system in the Virgin Islands began in 1961 when Joseph Reynold O'Neal collaborated with U.S. philanthropist Laurence Rockefeller to set aside lands for conservation purposes. Today there are 21 national parks and the system will continue to expand in the future.

The 50th anniversary celebrations will be an opportunity to recognize individuals, stakeholders and organizations who have supported the Trust in its conservation goals, and provide the opportunity for some fundraising activities.

## Cayman

### National Trust for the Cayman Islands Fundraising

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI) continues its successful fund-raising programme. The Gala Dinner and Auction, on 30 October, raised in excess of \$23,500.

Gala Dinner Photo: L-R: Fred Burton, Guest Speaker; Mrs Taylor; H.E. the Governor Mr D. Taylor; Carla Reid, Chairman; Frank Balderamos, General Manager and Erika Walton, Development and Marketing Officer. Photo: Eugene Bonthuys. (Photo courtesy of NTCI)

More news about National Trust for the Cayman Islands activities can be found in **The Preserver** <http://nationaltrust.org.ky/newsletter.html>

## Blue Iguana Recovery Programme: A model for development in sensitive areas

Fred Burton is Director of the NTCI Blue Iguana Recovery Programme (BIRP). This programme is part of the EU funded protected areas project, involving TCI, BVI, Cayman and UKOTCF, as reported in the previous eNewsletter and more recently in *Forum News 37*. An important element of the programme is to share expertise on ways of providing visitor facilities in sensitive protected areas, with as minimal an impact on the area as possible. The new protected area, where the project will be centered in Cayman, is near pristine dry scrubland. Plans for developing visitor facilities in this area are being guided by a local steering group made up of a wide range of stakeholders with support from the overall Project Steering Committee. Detailed plans are being formulated to address identified needs and potential threats.

Invasive species (such as dogs and cats) that are alien and destructive in the dry shrubland environment, will be controlled or eliminated. The Grand Cayman Blue Iguana, which is originally native to this environment, will be restored and will become the charismatic flagship species that characterizes the Reserve and draws visitation.

Infrastructure for human access in the Reserve will be developed to very high environmental standards, with minimal footprint on the natural environment. Buildings, notably a visitor centre which will serve as the entry control to the protected area, will be operated off-grid with zero emissions of pollutants to the local environment. Pedestrian access will also be designed to minimize its footprint, seeking to provide human passage that does not constrain movement of wildlife in the landscape, and does not create opportunities for invasion of alien plants and animals.

There is no doubt that project partners, as well as the wider conservation community, will benefit from the example being set by NTCI BIRP re sustainable development in sensitive areas.

## Montserrat

### Mountain chickens return to Montserrat



Six-week-old mountain chicken froglet

## Montserrat

### Mountain chickens return to Montserrat

Some mountain chickens (the rare frog endemic to Montserrat and Dominica) were first sent to the UK in 1999 to preserve them as a basis for re-establishment after volcanic eruptions began. The species is also in danger now from the chytrid fungus, which has been on Montserrat since 2009. This fungus is responsible for the elimination of several amphibian species in several countries and also the mountain chicken from Dominica. So in 2009, some mountain chickens were again removed from Montserrat

More than 200 mountain chickens have been bred in captivity in Jersey and Sweden. As reported in the previous eNewsletter, the Darwin Initiative, which also funded the Centre Hills project in 2005, is funding a three-year research programme to learn more about the mountain chickens and their ecology, and the effects of the fungus on these frogs.

In January, a total of 63 froglets were returned to Montserrat from the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, after being bred and raised in Jersey, Channel Islands. Thirty-four of the mountain chicken froglets have been fitted with radio transmitters and microchips while the other 29 only have microchips. They will be released into the forest and monitored over the next four months. At the moment, there are surviving frogs on Montserrat, but it is uncertain why they have survived. The results from this trial, made possible by the successful *ex-situ* breeding programme, will help develop a management plan for the survival of the mountain chicken in the wild.

Residents are being encouraged not to hunt the frog, and to stay on designated trails and footpaths when hiking, so that the habitat of the frogs will not be disturbed and the fungus will not inadvertently be spread by mud on shoes.

## Tackling the problem of feral livestock on Montserrat



*Montserrat oriole*  
Photo by Dr Mike Pienkowski



*Feral pogs rooting up turtle nests on Rendezvous beach*  
Montserrat Department of Environment

This work is being carried out by the Montserrat Department of Environment.

To view more images of the froglets, visit the Spirit of Montserrat Facebook page

## Tackling the problem of feral livestock on Montserrat

The Montserrat oriole is threatened by destruction of the *Heliconia* in which it nests, by feral animals.

Feral livestock numbers have risen sharply since the volcanic eruptions of 1996/97, which destroyed an estimated 60% of Montserrat's natural forest cover. This is due, in part, to the release of livestock following the evacuation of the southern part of the island, along with the common practice of keeping loose livestock from which many animals are recruited annually to feral populations.

Previous projects have identified the threat posed by feral livestock to Montserrat's natural environment and in particular the Centre Hills. In an ecosystem that has evolved in the absence of mammalian herbivores, large numbers of goats, sheep and cattle predate many native plants, reduce forest regeneration rates, and exacerbate soil erosion on the mountainous terrain. These processes have led to destruction of much of the native *Heliconia caribea*, which is the preferred nesting plant for the Montserrat Oriole. Pigs are especially destructive in rooting up vegetation and predated on many native species, including endangered sea turtle eggs and hatchlings. In addition, an increasing feral livestock population is expected to have socio-economic impacts, for example: through the transmission of livestock diseases; via a threat to people from attacks and traffic collisions; and by contributing to pollution of watercourses.

Since July 2009, the Government of Montserrat has been assessing feral livestock activity in and around the Centre Hills by means of a network of infra-red game cameras. These have identified areas of high activity in order to guide a management strategy, incorporating both control using locally trained hunters and improved livestock rearing, tagging and registration schemes. The camera network is currently being used to assess the effectiveness of these measures. A final project workshop in March 2011 aims to finalise a plan for the management of feral livestock, not only for Montserrat but as a help for the Caribbean region as a whole.

The project entitled ***Reducing the impact of feral livestock in and around the Centre Hills*** is supported by the UK Government and funded through the Darwin Initiative.

Jeff Dawson is the co-ordinator of the project, which is being managed under the auspices of the Montserrat Department of Environment.