



Making the Right Connections: **a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities**

Grand Cayman
30th May to 5th June 2009

Organised by:

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, with the support of the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, and hosted by the Cayman Islands conservation bodies

The Cayman Islands will host an international environmental conference from 30th May to 5th June 2009, with a focus on UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small islands.

The conference is being organized by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum in consultation with the Cayman Islands Department of the Environment and the National Trust for the Cayman Islands. It is supported by the Overseas Territories Environment Programme of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development. It will be the fifth such conference following the first held in London in 1999, the second in Gibraltar in 2000, the third in Bermuda in March 2003 and the fourth in Jersey in October 2006. The proceedings of the Gibraltar, Bermuda and Jersey conferences can be seen at www.ukotcf.org

The conference will provide a forum for government environmental bodies and NGOs to discuss key conservation issues, to highlight success stories, exchange ideas, and to forge partnerships. It is hoped that Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities that share similar environmental problems will benefit from learning about one another's history and experience of planning and conservation initiatives.

The overall aim is to draw on similarities and differences in experience across the territories, to provide insights into common challenges, leaving participants better equipped to address local needs.

The main topics have been determined after wide consultations amongst conservationists working in the Overseas Territories. These have been organised into the following programme. This outline programme is provisional. It will be amplified and updated periodically on the web-site (www.ukotcf.org). Please note that the schedule may change up to the last minute.



Sat 30 May	Arrivals & Registration
Sun 31 May	Session 1: Opening and introduction to Cayman experience
daytime	Field visits to terrestrial ecosystems in Grand Cayman, incorporating a post-lunch presentation on current Cayman issues etc
evening	Opening of Conference and Reception
Mon 1 Jun	
morning	Session 2: Maintaining momentum - setting the scene and reporting progress since the Jersey conference <i>2a. Scene setting/objectives for the Cayman conference</i> <i>2b. Progress on Environment Charter implementation</i> <i>2c. Environmental education</i> <i>(2d is later in the programme)</i>
afternoon	Session 3 (ex-9): Climate change – impacts, adaptation and mitigation
early evening	Session 4: Wider Caribbean Working Group meeting
Tue 2 Jun	
morning	Session 5: Spatial Planning, Protected Areas and International Standards – assets or liabilities?
afternoon	Session 6: Raising our profile - engaging policy makers and the public
evening	Session 7: outside evening event hosted by the National Trust for the Cayman Islands
Wed 3 Jun	
morning	Session 8: Enhancing capacity - how on earth are we going to cope with the workload?
early afternoon	Session 2 (continued): Maintaining momentum - setting the scene and reporting progress since the Jersey conference <i>2d. Invasive species</i>
late afternoon	Session 9: Europe Territories Working Group meeting
early evening	Session 10: Southern Oceans Working Group meeting
Thu 4 Jun	
morning	Session 11: Joined-up thinking – institutional arrangements for environmental management
afternoon	Session 12: Conference conclusions & closing
late afternoon & evening	Evening cruise to marine ecosystems in North Sound (viewed from boat) and on to closing conference dinner near NE shore of North Sound.
Fri 5 Jun	Departures

Participants should plan to arrive in Grand Cayman on Saturday 30th May 2009 and leave on Friday 5th June. (It may be possible for those wishing to stay longer to book rooms via the conference at the conference rate. If you wish to do so, please contact UKOTCF as soon as possible.)

A booking form is available on the UKOTCF web-site (www.ukotcf.org). It is recommended that this be completed and returned as early as possible, to secure places. (If information for some parts of the form is not available by then, please return the form and send the supplementary information later.) You will be advised as soon as possible whether a place is available. In order to secure your booking, a non-returnable deposit is required at the time of booking. The balance of payment will be due by 31st January 2009. Because the conference will be liable for costs after this time, refunds cannot be made. Participants are advised to take out appropriate travel insurance.

Acknowledgements

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The Overseas Territories Environment Programme of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and
the Department for International Development

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
Cayman Islands Department of the Environment
The National Trust for the Cayman Islands



Foreign &
Commonwealth Office
London

Conference venue

The conference will take place at a modern international hotel on Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman. Accommodation, breakfast, lunch and meetings will be held at the hotel, although a few events and the conference dinner are expected to be held elsewhere. There are a range of options at the hotel and nearby for participants to buy dinner on those days where this does not form part of the programme. Please note that the rooms and public spaces of the hotel are non-smoking environments.

Conference format

In response to feedback from participants in the previous conference, the duration of this conference will be one day longer (although shorter than the conference plus workshops of 2006), allowing for more priority topics to be addressed at reasonable length. Contributions should be concise to make use of this. In order to develop an integrated programme, speakers will be invited. However, all participants are invited to offer posters (see below).

Sessions: Conference sessions will utilise a variety of formats to address their topics. These will include reviews, discussion papers and draft “tool-kits” prepared in advance, programmes of short talks to stimulate discussions, and panel discussions. In response to feedback from participants in previous conferences, it is envisaged that all or nearly all sessions will be in plenary, rather than using parallel sessions. However, break-outs within sessions may be used if appropriate.

Posters: Poster presentations may be offered by any participant, including those invited to make a presentation in some other form. The latter may find a poster useful to present information which does not fit readily into their spoken presentation slot. The subjects of posters are not restricted to the topics of sessions. There are constraints – which we are trying to overcome – on display board space available. Therefore, the conference organisers cannot guarantee to accept all posters etc offered, but will do their best to do so. Making the requests early will maximise the chances of this.)

Summaries for conference papers: A summary of any form of presentation to be given (including posters), should be sent by email attachment to cquick@ukotcf.org by 31 January 2009 so that it can be included in the conference pack. The summary may be from a paragraph to about a page in length.

Proceedings: We plan to publish the proceedings on the Forum’s web-site (from where proceedings of the Jersey Conference of 2006, the Bermuda conference of 2003 and the Calpe 2000 conference in Gibraltar can already be down-loaded). Therefore, an electronic text version of papers based on presentations (including posters) should be sent to cquick@ukotcf.org by 30 April 2009. Digital versions of illustrations should be supplied at the same time, as jpeg or similar files, not embedded in text files. Authors will be given the opportunity to make amendments to papers, if desired, after the conference.

Costs: The costs for the conference (arriving Saturday 30th May and leaving on Friday 5th June) will be GB£ 790 per person in a room shared with one other or GB£ 1190 per person for a single occupancy room. These rates (which include some support from the conference budget) cover accommodation, transfers from and to airport, transfers to other conference venues, field visits, tea/coffee breaks, breakfasts, lunches, dinner on two days, and conference costs. Participants should budget to meet separately the costs of drinks and any additional costs such as telephone calls, gratuities and laundry, as well as dinners on other days. There are a range of dining options at or near the hotel. All participants will be responsible for paying the hotel for any extras such as meals not included in the conference cost, drinks, laundry, telephone calls and gratuities.

If you wish to stay longer, please advise us by email of your preferred requirements and we will investigate for you. (Concessionary hotel rates negotiated by UKOTCF are available via the conference booking for 3 days before and 3 days after the main conference period.) If you wish to attend only part of the conference, please advise us by email, and we will investigate the possibility, but please note that preference may have to be given to those wishing to attend the whole conference.

In order to secure your booking, a non-returnable deposit of £100 is required at the time of booking. The balance of payment will be due by 31st January 2009. Bookings should be made by this date because, soon after, rooms have to be released to the hotel and so may not remain available. Even if rooms are available later, the concessionary price may not be available. Because the conference will be liable for costs after this time, refunds cannot be made. Participants are advised to take out appropriate travel insurance.

Booking arrangements for Cayman residents not requiring hotel accommodation will be made available later.

Booking: A booking form is available on the Forum's web-site (www.ukotcf.org).