

Session 13: Environmental Education and Awareness

Chairing & facilitating team: Ann Pienkowski (UKOTCF), Sarita Francis (Montserrat), Andrew Dobson (Bermuda), Stephen Warr (Gibraltar)

Introduction to Environmental Education and Awareness Session – Ann Pienkowski (UKOTCF)
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Using local broadcast media (radio): Montserrat – Sarita Francis (Montserrat National Trust) and Stephen Mendes (Montserrat Department of Environment)
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Field trips and open-days: Promoting the Natural Environment in Small Territories, with Gibraltar as a Case Study – Keith Bensusan (Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society/Gibraltar Botanic Gardens)
Multi-media apps in environmental education – Stephen Warr (Department of Environment, Government of Gibraltar)
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From left: Ann Pienkowski, Stephen Warr, Sarita Francis and Andrew Dobson

Introduction to Environmental Education and Awareness Session

Ann Pienkowski (UKOTCF)



Pienkowski, A. 2015. Introduction to Environmental Education and Awareness Session. pp 358-360 in *Sustaining Partnerships: a conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Gibraltar 11th to 16th July 2015* (ed. by M. Pienkowski & C. Wensink). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

A key multilateral environmental agreement for conservation is the Convention on Biological Diversity. Not all UKOTs are currently signed up to CBD, but inclusion is a goal of UK and UKOT NGOs, and of some of the governments. CBD has some very clear statements about the importance of environmental education and public awareness.

Even for those territories not currently included in UK's ratification of CBD, most are signed up to similar commitments in other conventions and in the Environment Charters. The Environment Charters signed in 2001 between UKOT and UK governments has a firm commitment on environmental education.

A JNCC-commissioned report noted that governments should ensure that the significance of local and global biodiversity should be widely discussed in the education system. The same report identified also, as key threats to biodiversity, lack of public awareness of biodiversity concerns and lack of political interest and support for conservation and wildlife issues.

Environmental Education and Awareness need to address different audiences in different ways. The presentations in this session give practical examples of work going on in the UKOTs and CDs on schools curricula, using broadcast media, multi-media apps and other public awareness raising actions, including field-trips and outdoor classrooms. In fact, the subheadings of the presentations relate to the sections of UK's latest report to the CBD.

The Environment Fund for Overseas Territories and then the Overseas Territories Environment Programme initially supported environmental education and public awareness projects, but such projects were excluded from funding in the last few years of OTEP, and such projects are also excluded from Darwin Plus funding.

Some environmental and public awareness aspects can be included as part of other biodiversity projects funded by Darwin Plus, but where is the major funding needed to address the threat to biodiversity identified in the JNCC report of May 2013 to come from? Also, to be effective, how do we address integration into the school programmes? Experience has shown that it is essential to design courses integrated into the curricula; if education is simply attached to other projects, it will not be effective however good the products.

And how do we address the key questions:

Why don't politicians and decision makers know about biodiversity in their countries / regions?; and

If they do know, why do we hear of so many examples of inappropriate and unsustainable built development?

Ann Pienkowski, Honorary Environmental Education Coordinator; Secretary Wider Caribbean Working Group, UKOTCF apienkowski@ukotcf.org

Introduction

A key multilateral environmental agreement for conservation is the Convention on Biological Diversity. Not all UKOTs are currently signed up to CBD, but inclusion is a goal of UK and UKOT NGOs, and of some of the governments.

The inhabited UKOTs and CDs to which CBD has been extended are the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, St Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, Isle of Man and Jersey. Recommendation 10 of the Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry into Sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories (<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmenvaud/332/332.pdf>) said:

“The UK must fulfil its core environmental obligations to the UN under the CBD in order to maintain its international reputation as an environmentally responsible nation state. The FCO must agree a timetable to extend ratification of the CBD with all inhabited UKOTs where this has not yet taken place. That may entail preparations in the UKOTs, which must be clearly timetabled. The FCO must immediately extend ratification of the CBD to all uninhabited UKOTs.” (Paragraph 19)

So it is very positive that, on 27th March 2015, the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands announced the declaration of the extension of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The EAC made some other very significant recommendations, including:

“Defra must restate its commitment to Environment Charters and use them to deliver its CBD commitments in the UKOTs. Darwin Plus funding should be linked to compliance with the terms of Environment Charters.”

[noting that Defra has increased spending on protecting biodiversity in the UKOTs since 2007-08] “a further step change in Darwin Plus funding is required adequately to address the scale of the UK’s international responsibilities to protect biodiversity.”

CBD and the Environment Charters have some very clear statements about the importance of environmental education and public awareness.

Even for those territories not currently included in UK’s ratification of CBD, most are signed up to similar commitments in other conventions and in the Environment Charters.

Article 13 of CBD is Public Education and Awareness. It states:

“The Contracting Parties shall:

(a) Promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biological diversity, as well as its propagation through media, and the inclusion of these topics in educational programmes; and

(b) Cooperate, as appropriate, with other States and international organizations in developing educational and public awareness programmes, with respect to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.”

CBD’s Communication, Education and Public Awareness programme (CEPA) was established to support Article 13.

The Aichi Biodiversity Target 1 relates specifically to Article 13: “By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.”

Aichi Target 19 is about improving, sharing and applying knowledge. For example “There is a need to make better use of biodiversity information in decision making.”

In UK’s fifth national report to CBD (JNCC 2014) includes Appendix 4, where those UKOTs signed up to CBD report on progress towards the implementation of their strategic plan for biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. (Appendix 4 can be viewed at: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/CBD_UK5NR_ConsultationDraft_Appendix4.pdf).

Strategic Goal A (Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society) consists of 4 targets which UKOTs had to report on: Awareness, Integration, Incentives and Subsidies, Sustainable production and consumption.

JNCC commissioned a report (Kinnersley 2013) which included a breakdown of CBD’s Aichi goals, and the requirements to deliver effective nature conservation and meet CBD’s Aichi goals, prepared by the Isle of Man Government. This states that governments should:

“Ensure significance of local and global biodiversity, the impacts of our activities and lifestyles on them, and what we can do to minimise this are widely discussed in:

Government at all levels;

The local media;

The education system; and
Other social groups.”

The JNCC report identified also key threats to island biodiversity, two of which were:

- Lack of public awareness of biodiversity concerns;
- Lack of political interest and support for conservation and wildlife issues.

Environmental Education and Awareness need to address different audiences in different ways. The presentations in this session give practical examples of work going on in the UKOTs and CDs on schools curricula, using broadcast media, multi-media apps and other public awareness raising actions, including field trips and outdoor classrooms. In fact, the subheadings of the presentations relates to the sections of UK’s latest report to the CBD:

- Schools curricula
- Using local broadcast media
- Using wider broadcast media
- Field trips and open-days
- Multi-media apps in environmental education
- Social media
- Public awareness raising strategies
- Wider public awareness actions and engagements

The Environment Charters signed in 2001 between UKOT and UK governments had a firm commitment on environmental education:

UK Government commitment 8: Use the existing Environment Fund for the Overseas Territories, and promote access to other sources of public funding, for projects of lasting benefit to the Territories’ environments.

UKOT Government commitment 9 (for inhabited UKOTs): Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.

The Environment Fund for Overseas Territories and then the Overseas Territories Environment Programme initially supported environmental education and public awareness projects, but such projects were excluded from funding in the last few years of OTEP, and such projects are also excluded from Darwin Plus funding.

Some environmental and public awareness aspects can be included as part of other biodiversity

projects funded by Darwin Plus, but where is the major funding needed to address the threat to biodiversity identified in the JNCC report of May 2013 to come from? Also, to be effective, how do we address integration into the school programmes? Experience has shown that it is essential to design courses integrated into the curricula; if education is simply attached to other projects, it will not be effective however good the products.

And how do we address the key questions:

Why don’t politicians and decision makers know about biodiversity in their countries / regions?; and
If they do know, why do we hear of so many examples of inappropriate and unsustainable built development?

References

JNCC. 2014. Fifth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity: United Kingdom, Peterborough: JNCC

Kinnersly, R. 2013. No. 489 – A generic guide for small islands on the implications of signing up to the Convention on Biological Diversity, May 2013. Document no. 489. (This is no longer available for download from the JNCC website, but I am happy to email a pdf to anyone interested.)

Schools curricula: Tristan da Cunha

Jim Kerr (Tristan da Cunha Government)



Kerr, J. 2015. Schools curricula: Tristan da Cunha. pp 361-365 in *Sustaining Partnerships: a conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Gibraltar 11th to 16th July 2015* (ed. by M. Pienkowski & C. Wensink). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

1. Introduction to Tristan da Cunha – its remoteness and small population
2. Introduce St. Mary's School, only school on the island, catering for pupils from 3yrs-16yrs; approximately 30 pupils.
3. Tristan Studies introduced into the curriculum in early 1980s as a Mode 3 CSE covering all aspects of life on the island, including topics such as history, climate, vegetation and wildlife. Pupils were taught about the importance of conservation.
4. Up to 1992, when I left the island, students were directly involved in monitoring a colony of yellow-nosed albatrosses and counting penguins. The data from these projects were shared with the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of Ornithology, Cape Town University.
5. When CSE examinations ceased in the late 1980s, Tristan Studies continued and a local certificate was awarded to successful students (not recognised in the outside world).
6. From 1992 to 2009, there was no expatriate support for education on the island and understandably standards declined.
7. I returned in 2009 as Education Adviser to assist in getting the school back on track. By then, the island had a Sustainable Development Plan with education as one of the highest priorities. Tristan Studies had continued through the intervening 17 years but had changed little and the teachers had lost enthusiasm for the subject. The island's conservation department were continuing to monitor seabird colonies but the school was rarely involved.
8. Some students who were involved with the albatross project in the late 1980s and early 1990s are now in positions of authority in the Tristan Government and have a good understanding of the need for conservation and sustainability.
9. When I last left the island in October 2014, a decision had been made to replace Tristan studies with Geography GCSE, although most topics within that curriculum would be related to Tristan whenever possible.
10. It is the long-term aim that students aged 16 will have the opportunity to gain the equivalent of 5 GCSE examinations that would enable them to access further education overseas.
11. Sustainability, particularly in terms of renewable energy, and conservation to protect the environment including two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, are two of the most important topics that will be taught as part of the new Geography/Tristan Studies Curriculum.

Jim Kerr, UK Adviser, Government of Tristan da Cunha
(Head of Education, Tristan da Cunha 1985-1992; Education Adviser, Tristan da Cunha 2009-2014) ukadviser@tdc.uk.com

It is important to set the context for conservation in the schools curricula on Tristan da Cunha. Tristan is the most remote inhabited island in the world, situated in the mid South Atlantic, 1500 nautical miles west of Cape Town, South Africa. There is no airport and the nine ship sailings to the island per year take anywhere between seven and ten days to get there. The population is small, numbering approximately 270 and everyone lives





in the settlement of Edinburgh of the Seven Seas (above) located on a narrow plain on the most northerly point of the island.



With the population being so small, there is only one school (St Mary's School, above with The Base – see below – towering behind). It caters for children between the ages of 3 and 16 (below).



In recent years, there have been just under 30 pupils attending the school, and these are divided into five classes and a pre-school playgroup. Three classes cover the infant and junior part of the school (5yrs-11yrs) and two the secondary (11 yrs-16yrs). It is unusual to have more than 6 pupils in



a class (above: Class 2) and there have been times when some classes only have two or three pupils!

When I last left the island in October 2014, there were seven island teachers, none of whom have formal teaching qualifications. Some have lengthy experience in the school; some have benefitted from training in the UK; and all have received ongoing professional development on the island since 2009. Currently, there is an expatriate education adviser on the island specialising in the teaching of science and a recently recruited expatriate teacher who specialises in primary education. The recent increase of expatriate support has been necessary as two of the most experienced island teachers have retired and another will retire within the next three years. Recruitment of new island teachers from such a small population has been very difficult.

Conservation was first introduced into the island school's curriculum in the early 1980s, at a time when the island had been supported for several years with at least two expatriate staff. The subject of 'Tristan Studies' was devised and taught to the 14 to 16 age range by an expatriate geography specialist, Richard Grundy. The subject sought to teach the children about all aspects of life on the island, including its history, climate and weather, topography, geology, governance, vegetation and wildlife. An important part of this curriculum was developing an understanding of the need for conservation. This was an examination subject, mode 3 Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE), the highest grades of which were considered the equivalent of a GCE 'O' Level.

One of the most successful features of Tristan Studies was the direct involvement of students in conservation projects. When I first arrived on the island in 1985, pupils were involved in a project to monitor a colony of yellow-nosed albatrosses (top of next page) and I continued this until I left in 1992.



The albatrosses we studied nested on the mountain behind the settlement and getting there involved a strenuous climb on narrow pathways to The Base, a plateau approximately 1800 ft above the village. (View from The Base below).



The youngsters were involved in finding the nest sites, reading and recording the ring numbers of adult birds, monitoring the growth of the chicks (below) and ringing them. A computer, the first one to be used on the island, was used to record the data and a map of the area was made to record the location of nests. All these data were shared with the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of Ornithology, University of Cape Town who found it useful to



compare with data they were collecting on Gough Island, 223 nautical miles to the SSE of Tristan.

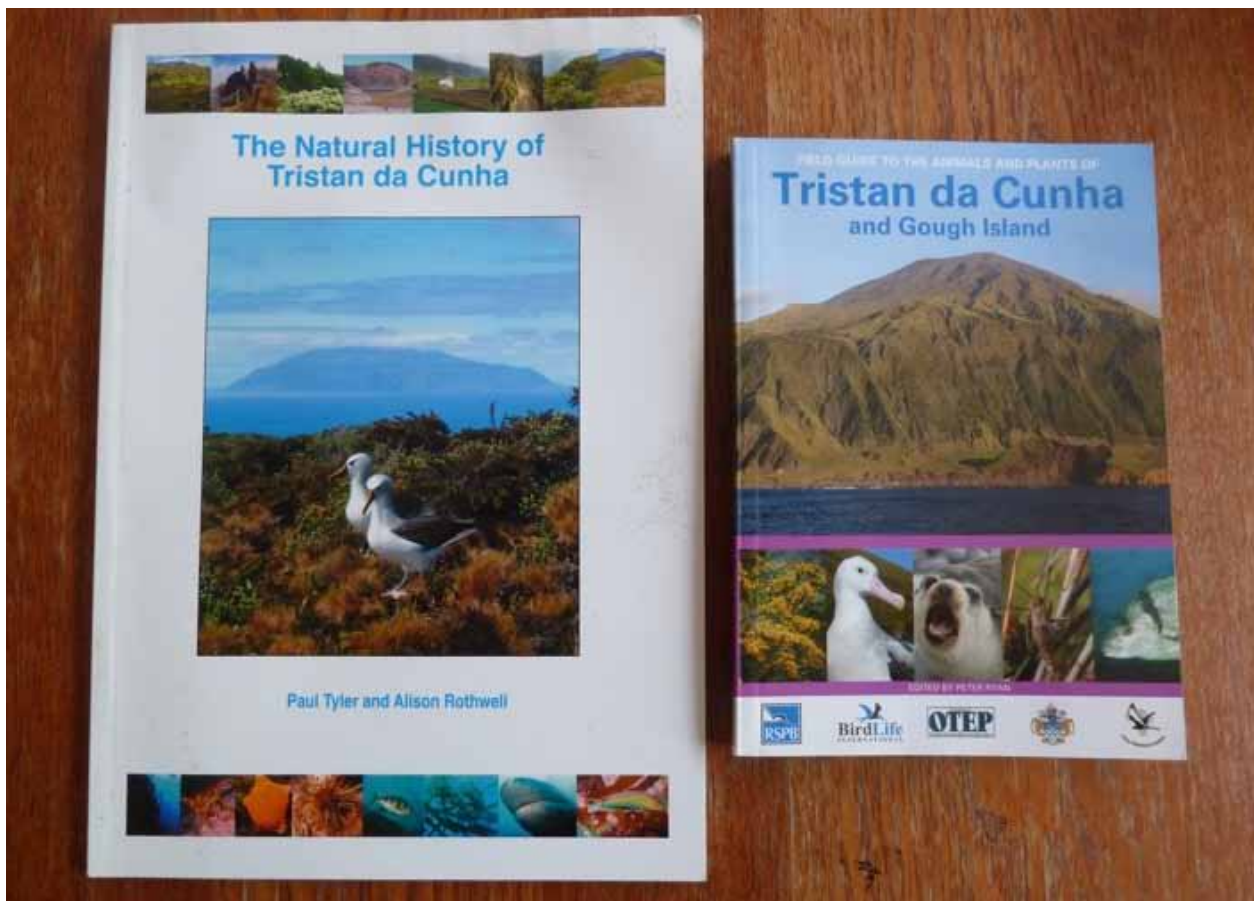
Most of the children enjoyed these activities and developed a keen interest in the seabirds of their island; some began to see these birds as beautiful creatures to be protected. At the time, many older members of the community regarded the albatross as tasty protein and resented the fact the birds had recently been protected by law. In the last season that I involved the students in these activities (1991-1992), we found a pair of breeding adults one of which had been ringed as a chick by my predecessor 7 years previously.

Unfortunately, in the late 1980s, the CSE examination ceased, so pupils were unable to get a recognised qualification in Tristan Studies. The subject continued to be taught and a local certificate was awarded.

I left the island in 1992 and returned to the UK. DFID, then the ODA, had withdrawn funding for expatriate teachers, and education on the island was left under local control. This was the start of a seventeen-year period when island teachers had little support from the outside world. No expatriate teachers were employed on the island during this time and, although some island teachers visited the UK for training, this was inadequate to meet all their needs, and educational standards understandably began to fall. Tristan Studies continued throughout that time but the direct involvement in studying seabirds ceased and there was far less fieldwork related to the subject. There was no formal conservation department in the 1990s, so the teachers had no one to turn to whoever could help with fieldwork and conservation activities.

In 2009, it was recognised that Tristan education desperately needed expatriate support and I returned to the island as Education Adviser. As expected, standards had fallen and much work was needed to improve the 'basics'. Tristan Studies was still being taught but had not developed in any way; the teachers were still relying on notes that I had made in 1991! It was still regarded as an important subject but the teachers involved had less enthusiasm and it was clear that the subject needed a whole new approach.

There were, however, two resources that the teachers were making good use of: the *Field Guide to the Animals and Plants of Tristan da Cunha*, edited by Peter Ryan of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town; and the *Natural History of Tristan da Cunha*,



by Paul Tyler and Alison Rothwell that was funded by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. A combination of these publications was enabling students of all ages to develop a better understanding of Tristan's habitats and related wildlife.

By then, the island had a conservation department and it was part of their remit to involve the school in projects such as counting penguins and monitoring other seabirds. Unfortunately school involvement was rare partly due to the dangerous nature of accessing seabird colonies. Both parents and professionals were more health and safety aware and were far more anxious about youngsters climbing the mountain or travelling round the

islands in small boats. Equally, very few of the island teachers were willing to leave the settlement plain on expeditions due to a fear of heights or seasickness. While I was working in the school during the last few years, we organised some fieldwork based on the Settlement Plain, a visit to Nightingale and Inaccessible for four students using the fishery protection vessel (much safer), and a trip round the island looking at volcanic features in the cliffs (see photos below). In all of these activities, we were able to access the expertise of visiting experts and scientists.

Many of the students that had been involved in the albatross project in the 1980s and 1990s now hold positions of authority in the Tristan





Government and some are island councillors. (See photo of 2009 Island Council above.) I think that their early experiences helped them to have a good understanding of the need for conservation and sustainability, and they were involved in the writing of the island's first sustainable development plan in 2009.

When I worked in the school last year, we made a decision to add IGCSE Geography to the school curriculum and align Tristan Studies topics to those of the IGCSE course. IGCSE Geography has three main themes, population and settlement, the natural environment and economic development and the use of resources. Specific case-studies are not included in the syllabus, so the teachers can select Tristan-based studies to illustrate the themes. Within the third theme, economic development and the use of resources, pupils need to:

- Demonstrate the need for sustainable development, resource conservation and management in different environments.
- Identify areas at risk and describe attempts to maintain, conserve or improve the quality of the environment

This was very much welcomed by the local staff and, fortunately, my successor is a Geography, as well as Science, specialist and he has been able to take it forward.

It is a longer-term aim of Tristan's Education Department that students at the age of 16 will have the opportunity to gain the equivalent of at least 5 IGCSEs including Maths, English, Geography, Science and IT. This would enable some of them to access further education in the UK or South Africa; very few have had that opportunity in the last 20 years. (Some of the students overseas shown at the top of next column.) Currently there is one Tristan student attending a private secondary school in Cape Town, working towards her Matric (equivalent of A levels).



Both sustainability, particularly in terms of renewable energy and conservation to protect and improve the environment (Tristan has two UNESCO World Heritage sites), are vital for Tristan's future. The Island Council, in their Sustainable Development Plan, recognise the importance of education in these areas and are supportive of the school making Conservation and Sustainability a high priority in the school's curriculum.

Schools curricula: Wonderful Water Curriculum Development in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

Ann Pienkowski (UKOTCF)



Pienkowski, A. 2015. Schools curricula: Wonderful Water Curriculum Development in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). pp 366370 in *Sustaining Partnerships: a conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Gibraltar 11th to 16th July 2015* (ed. by M. Pienkowski & C. Wensink). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

The objective of this project (partly funded by the Overseas Territories Environment Programme - OTEP) was to develop curriculum-linked teaching materials on the importance of wetland ecosystems and the vulnerable natural freshwater systems in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The project arose from the concerns of the Director of Education in TCI that students were not aware of the biodiversity importance of their local natural wetland and freshwater systems, and that rapid and uninformed development was damaging these, particularly cave systems with endemic species. .

The project developed curriculum-linked teaching materials, using local examples. The materials were targeted at the upper primary / lower secondary level, but have been shown to have wider application. Workshops for teachers were held in TCI in 2011 and 2012, to introduce the project, trial the materials, and get local feedback.

Each teaching unit consists of a pupils' text and teachers' guide, with full colour illustrations, and suggested activities. Most units have supporting Powerpoint pdf presentations of the illustrations in the pupils' text and teachers' guides. All the materials were produced electronically, so that teachers could use them flexibly, for example via computer projection. This also meant that materials could be updated fairly readily, and avoided the expense of printing text books.



*TCI Director of Education,
Mr Edgar Howell, examines
rock structure in cave.*

A grant from the Royal Bank of Canada's Blue Water programme enabled further teaching materials to be developed, concentrating on the natural freshwater systems in TCI. Much more could be done, but lack of funding has currently put this project on hold.

The Deputy Director of Education in TCI, who took the lead in establishing the Wonderful Water curriculum in TCI, has reported that teachers and students like the materials, and delivery via computer projection is effective.

Ann Pienkowski, Honorary Environmental Education Coordinator and Secretary Wider Caribbean Working Group, UKOTCF apienkowski@ukotcf.org

This talk explains how the Wonderful Water Curriculum Development project developed curriculum-linked teaching materials to address lack of knowledge of the importance of TCI wetlands and the natural freshwater systems, in a country with very low rainfall.

A key factor throughout this project was to produce materials which teachers could use in delivering the learning objectives that were already part of their required teaching, particularly those aspects required for statutory assessment at the end of the



primary phase.

The teaching materials being used at the time of the project development were adequate for delivering required learning objectives, but used examples from elsewhere in the Caribbean, for example Jamaica which is very different geologically and ecologically from TCI, and even some materials from UK!! So students were not learning about the importance of their own environment.



The objective of this project (partly funded by the Overseas Territories Environment Programme - OTEP) was to develop curriculum-linked teaching materials on the importance of wetland ecosystems and the vulnerable natural freshwater systems, as well as the need to conserve water, in the Turks and Caicos Islands, using only TCI as a source for the teaching materials.



It was also important that the teaching materials included suggestions for active group work, and activities outside of the classroom. Students need to experience their environment if they are to value it, and engage actively in their learning, rather than have a diet solely of “chalk and talk”.

The project arose from the concerns of the Director of Education in TCI, Mr Edgar Howell, that students were not aware of the biodiversity



importance of their local natural wetland and freshwater systems, and that rapid and uninformed development was damaging these, particularly cave systems with endemic species. Mr Howell and I jointly developed the project proposal, and worked together to bring the project to a successful conclusion.

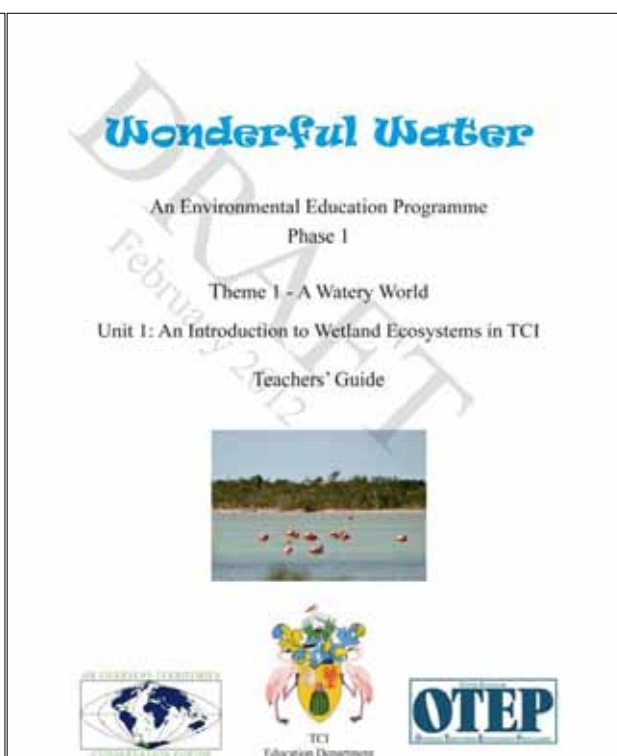
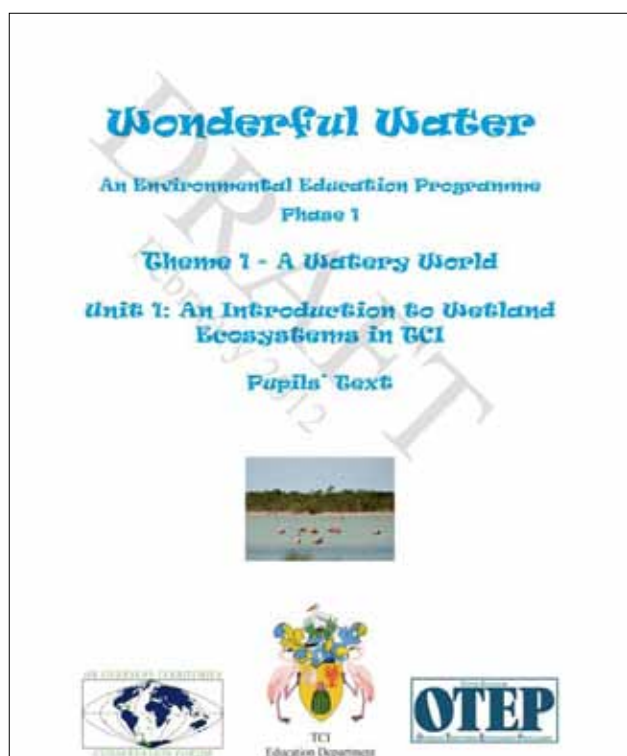
The project developed curriculum-linked teaching materials, using local examples. The materials were targeted at the upper primary / lower secondary level, but have been shown to have wider application.

An advisory group was established in TCI, consisting of teachers, representatives of the Department of Education in TCI, and other local stakeholders. As the materials were drafted, they were sent to the advisory group for comment and revision.



Workshops for teachers were held in TCI in 2011 and 2012, to introduce the project, trial the materials, and get local feedback.

Each teaching unit consists of a pupils' text and teachers' guide (see top of next page), with full colour illustrations, and suggested activities. Most units have supporting Powerpoint pdf presentations of the illustrations in the pupils' text and teachers' guides. The Turks and Caicos Islands have many contract teachers, from around the Caribbean and even further afield, such as the Phillipines. These teachers will not have local knowledge of TCI ecosystems, so one of the objectives of producing



the teachers' guides was to give further background information on TCI's wetland environments, and suggest activities. All the materials were produced electronically, so that teachers could use them flexibly, for example via computer projection. This also meant that materials could be updated fairly readily, and avoided the expense of printing text books.

The first stage of the project was Curriculum Development. The steps taken here were to consult the TCI education department and teachers on the existing curriculum teaching materials currently in use in schools. It was important to include in the

WW materials the learning objectives needed for statutory assessment at the end of primary school if teachers were going to be able to include the WW materials in their teaching.

A curriculum framework (below) was developed, based on current practice in TCI and the English National Curriculum. The curriculum framework was for both primary and secondary students, and covered Living Things, Materials and Scientific Enquiry. One of the main aims of producing the framework was to give an overview which linked desired learning outcomes to activities and tasks for students, together with statements

Draft Curriculum Framework for Wonderful Water: Science and Geography, Phase 1 Living Things– February 2012

Science Curriculum Programme of Study	Other Curriculum Links	Learning Outcomes	Themes / Activities / Tasks	Assessment Criteria / Statements of competency (Levels 2, 3, 4, 5)
Living things in their environment	LINK WITH SCIENTIFIC ENQUIRY – SEE ABOVE			
Ecosystems				
What an ecosystem is.	English Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find out about some of the different wetland ecosystems in TCI - Be introduced to some of the wide variety of plants and animals which are found in wetland ecosystems. - Find out about some of the ways in which wetland ecosystems are balanced. 	Theme 1 – A Watery World Unit 1: Wetland Ecosystems in TCI Unit 2.1 Mangrove Ecosystems	L2: Match animals and plants to a wetland ecosystem using pictures or photographs. L3: Know that a healthy ecosystem is balanced (enough food and water for the plants and animals to live and reproduce successfully) L4: Know that an ecosystem is a community of living things that sustains itself. L5: Recognise that a healthy ecosystem supports a wide variety of living things, not just large numbers of individuals (biodiversity).
Why ecosystems are important.	English Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discover some of the ways in which wetland ecosystems are important. - Find out about different zones in a mangrove ecosystem. - Find out about different mangrove tree species in TCI - Find out about different living things in the mangrove ecosystem - Find out why mangrove ecosystems are important 	Theme 1 – A Watery World Unit 1: Wetland Ecosystems in TCI Unit 2.1 Mangrove Ecosystems	L2: Know one reason why a wetland ecosystem is important. L3: Give at least 2 examples of how wetlands benefit people L4: Give at least 3 examples of how wetlands benefit people. L5: Discuss what the effects would be, on people living nearby, of losing a wetland

of competency to guide progression. There was never any intention that the WW materials being produced would cover the whole curriculum. But the framework does allow any future development of environmental education materials to be linked to a structured curriculum.

The second stage was the production of the teaching materials, both the pupils' text and teachers' guides. Here is an example of the page from the Pupils' text which gives students the objectives for the unit *An Introduction to Wetland Ecosystems in TCI*. It says:

- You will find out about some of the different wetland ecosystems in TCI,
- be introduced to some of the wide variety of plants and animals which are found in wetland ecosystems,
- find out about some of the ways in which an ecosystem is balanced,
- discover some of the ways in which wetland ecosystems are important.

The development of the teaching materials

WWA Watery World Phase 1 PT Draft Feb 2012
Unit 1 - An Introduction to Wetland Ecosystems in TCI

Introduction

The Turks and Caicos Islands land area is small, about 500 sq km. However, there are enormous areas of shallow banks (the Caicos Bank and the Turks Bank), coral reefs, extensive tidal flats and marshes, and numerous lagoons, creeks, swamps and freshwater ponds. So TCI is truly a watery environment.

These wet areas are incredibly important for wildlife, for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the future wealth and health of TCI.

We hope that you enjoy learning about the wetland treasures of TCI.

Objectives

These lessons and activities will help you to understand what is meant by ecosystem and learn about different wetland ecosystems and why they are important.

You will

- find out about some of the different wetland ecosystems in TCI
- be introduced to some of the wide variety of plants and animals which are found in wetland ecosystems
- find out about some of the ways in which an ecosystem is balanced
- discover some of the ways in which wetland ecosystems are important.



This donkey is feeding on plants which can grow in salty conditions, on an old Salt Pan

© UKOTCF & TCI Education 2012

involved ongoing consultation with educators in TCI, and workshops for teachers, one set in the first year of the project, and another in the second year.

The workshops included presentations, demonstrations of group teaching, and teachers trying out practical activities. The presentations were given by people in TCI with expert knowledge, for example from the water company, the Department of Environment and Coastal Affairs (now DEMA, Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs), and the Department of Culture. The demonstrations of group teaching were given by a TCI senior biology teacher with a group of her own students. The practical investigations involved teachers trying out, and reviewing, some of the practical activities suggested in the teachers' guides.

During the 2-year part OTEP funded stage of the project, as well as the curriculum framework, teaching materials were produced on:

TCI Wetland Ecosystems, including their biodiversity importance and the Mangrove Ecosystem. The latter was a particular request of TCI teachers during the first series of workshops held in TCI.

The Mangrove Ecosystem unit (see top of next page) has sections on:

- Mangrove ecosystems and their importance
- Adaptations of mangrove species
- Feeding relationships in a mangrove ecosystem
- Threats to mangrove ecosystems
- Climate change and mangroves
- Caring for mangroves
- Classification of organisms in a mangrove ecosystem.

These sections specifically addressed the curriculum requirements of the GSAT assessment which students in TCI have to take at the end of the primary phase.

The materials are still labelled "draft", together with the date of their production. This is to remind people that they can be updated without too much cost, and the date of production allows as assessment of how up-to-date they are.

A grant from the Royal Bank of Canada's Blue Water programme enabled further teaching materials to be developed,



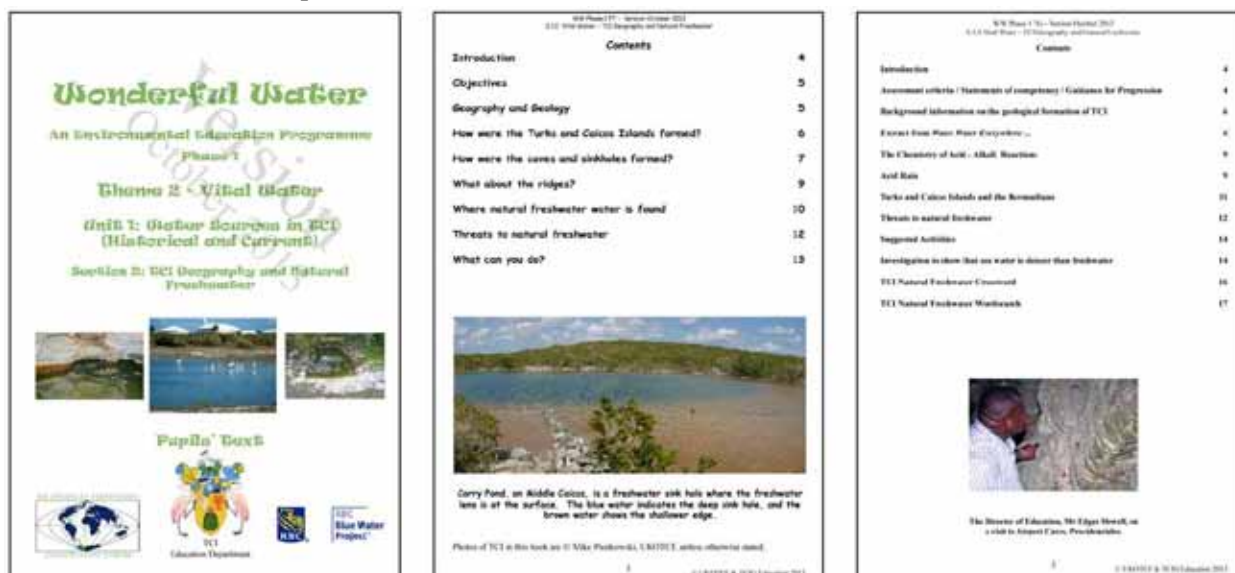
concentrating on the natural freshwater systems in TCI. This was for the second theme of the Wonderful Water materials, titled “Vital Water.” A unit was produced on TCI geography and natural freshwater, and included information on the freshwater lens and cave systems, threats to these and actions which the students themselves could take.

Much more could be done, but lack of funding has currently put further production of materials for this project on hold.

The Deputy Director of Education in TCI, who took the lead in establishing the Wonderful Water curriculum in TCI, has reported that teachers

and students like the materials, and delivery via computer projection is effective.

The Director of Education, at the end of the part-funded OTEP stage of the project, commented: “the relevance of the project is in sync with the realities of life in the TCI and small island states. In addition, I am pleased that teachers, other stakeholders and private sector partners are engaging with the curriculum materials as they are being developed, and are providing critical feedback to move the work along. This will definitely help to ensure that the notion of conservation and sustainability become entrenched in the attitude and behaviour of children and the people of TCI.”



Using local broadcast media (radio): Montserrat

Sarita Francis (Montserrat National Trust) and Stephen Mendes (Montserrat Department of Environment)



Francis, S. & Mendes, S. 2015. Using local broadcast media (radio): Montserrat. pp 371-373 in *Sustaining Partnerships: a conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Gibraltar 11th to 16th July 2015* (ed. by M. Pienkowski & C. Wensink). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

Traditional forms of disseminating information to communities and seeking their involvement to protect natural and cultural heritage are varied and time-tested. The proliferation of new media (internet, smart phones, and websites) should not and cannot replace some traditional methods of engaging stakeholders. In Montserrat, given our experiences over the last forty five years, we therefore must have at our disposal a range of approaches to environmental education which must have at its core the broadcast media. The volcanic eruptions started in 1995, and the radio became the lifeline of the population as far as safety was concerned. In addition, the Diaspora (most of whom evacuated) continue to rely on ZJB Radio Montserrat (which is carried over the internet) to inform on the events in the country. It is therefore obvious that the radio is an important key resource in promoting environmental education and cultural awareness on Montserrat. On Montserrat, there are many examples where radio has been used for motivating the populace to be involved in owning and protecting the heritage over the years.

Sarita Francis, Executive Director, Montserrat National Trust
mnatrust@candw.ms

Stephen Mendes, Environment Technician - Education, Montserrat Department of Environment
mendess@gov.ms

The variety of techniques used by the Ministry of Environment, the Montserrat National Trust and other partners include:

- Internet: Website, Facebook
- School and group visits to Montserrat National Trust, Museum and other sites
- Special programmes where different stakeholders are targeted
- Visit to schools and communities to promote projects
- Fun-days
- Competitions.

However, traditional forms of disseminating information to communities and seeking their involvement to protect natural and cultural heritage are varied and time-tested. Radio, reaches a wider audience locally and can motivate the population to action.

Radio broadcasting in Montserrat started from about 1952 with the start of a Radio Station (Radio Montserrat, now ZJB) at the residence

of the Manager of the Montserrat Company (now Olveston House, owned by Sir George Martin). The station was eventually taken over by Government of Montserrat and relocated in the Botanical Station Compound at the Grove.

In the late 1960s, Montserrat became the Caribbean Primary Radio Broadcasting Centre, with the advent the Giant Big RA (Radio Antilles)



Rose Willock and Children's Hour on Radion Antilles 1976



Radio Antilles

broadcasting on 100,000 watts of AM power. This Station, owned by a German and French company, broadcasted throughout the northern Caribbean down to South America in English, Spanish, German and French. The announcers came from Montserrat and across the Caribbean and Europe, and were trained at a high standard. One of these persons still resides on Island and produces the very popular 3-hour Cultural Show every Saturday.

Antilles TV, developed by the owners of Radio Antilles started operations around 1980 and provided a nightly local news broadcast and relayed limited international news. Prior to this, Montserrat was able to access only ABS TV in Antigua, using the individual outdoor TV antennae. Cable TV provided the avenue for local TV broadcasting but this, to a large extent, was one of the casualties of volcanic crisis.

The volcanic eruptions started in 1995, and the radio became the lifeline of the population as far as safety was concerned. Radio broadcast on ZJB broadcast 24hrs a day since the height of crisis, when scientists would give updates at least three times a day with special emergency announcements as changes occurred at the volcano.

The population depended on this source to make decisions on life and business. In addition, the Diaspora (most of whom evacuated) continue to rely on ZJB Radio Montserrat (which is carried over the internet) to inform on the events in the country.

Although there has been a period of quiet at the volcano for the last four years, it is very common to hear radios in offices and homes, playing throughout the day as this was the way of life of the island for over fifteen years. More recently, there has been the gradual use of the internet and social media which carry items on Montserrat. However, radio is still the popular media to convey messages on-island and off-island, with ZJB Radio on Montserrat the preferred medium of the masses.

It is therefore obvious that the radio is an important key resource in promoting environmental education and cultural awareness on Montserrat.

On Montserrat, there are many examples where radio has been used for motivating the populace to be involved in owning and protecting the heritage over the years:

University Voice 1970s promoting history and



Sydney Mendes reading a poem on radio

environment by Montserrat National Trust (MNT)
Committee Members

National Bird, Flower, and Tree Competition,
1970-80s – MNT Environmental Education (EE)
Committee

Best Village Competition 1988-91 – MNT EE
Committee

Montserrat Oriole Campaign 1992 – RARE, Rose
Willock, MNT EE Committee

Centre Hills Reserve Project 2008 – Centre Hills
Project

Montserrat Mountain Chicken Project – Stephen
Mendes, DOE

Farmers Corner – Agriculture Department

The Cultural Show (Interviews with local and
visiting specialist, publicising special environment
and cultural events such as Cleanup Campaigns,



*Former head teacher, Rev Morgan, and MNT Executive
Director, Sarita Francis, on MNT Heritage Show*



*ZJB Radio/Department of Environment Education and
Awareness – from 2008: 27 public service announcements
written and aired, 10 quiz weeks, 25 radio programmes,
40 press releases, 33 radio interviews, an environment
jingle still in use in 2015, sponsored junior calypso.*

Festivals etc, engaging with the Diaspora) 2010 –
Rose Willock

Montserrat National Trust Heritage Show,
Promoting the work of the Trust, Interviewing
persons 2013 – MNT

Radio Announcers, call in programmes, news items
– Radio Montserrat ZJB

Radio has a powerful influence in Montserrat
and the Diaspora. Its use in disseminating
information and creating change must not be
undervalued. Therefore, a comprehensive strategy
must be employed by Government and NGOs to
coordinate, collaborate, improve and utilise this
medium for maximum effect.



*Rose Willock interviews Jo Treweek, Catherine Wensink
and (behind the camera) Mike Pienkowski after the
UKOTCF-supplied EIA workshop, January 2015*

Using wider broadcast media: *Britain's Treasure Islands*

Stewart McPherson (Redfern)

McPherson, S. 2015. Using wider broadcast media: *Britain's Treasure Islands*. pp 374-375 in *Sustaining Partnerships: a conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Gibraltar 11th to 16th July 2015* (ed. by M. Pienkowski & C. Wensink). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

Over three years, all the UKOTs have been visited for filming, resulting in 4 1-hour films for broadcast internationally within the next year. UKOTCF, and many of those at the conference and other in the UKOTs, have helped in this. A special compilation video of about an hour from these films was shown at the conference. Stewart, UKOTCF and others are collaborating also in the production of a series of short videos, one for each UKOT and several on cross-territory issues, incorporating video and still material from the filming for this project, supplemented by material made available by others. When editing is complete, these will be available freely in several places, including www.ukotcf.org. UKOTCF and other partners are working with Stewart also on a book.

Introduction to the video

Ann Pienkowski

Stewart McPherson cannot be here for the conference and sends his apologies – and his video! I am here to introduce his video on *Britain's Treasure Islands*.

I have been asked to introduce this video for several reasons.

First, it fits logically within the session on Environmental Education and Awareness. Most of this occurs tomorrow morning, and I will put this item in more context when I introduce that session then.

Second, I was rather pleased – if not surprised – that, for some of the videos being produced (not that being shown shortly), video material that I recorded in some of the territories is being used!

UKOTCF has been trying for many years to get TV programme-makers to take more interest in the UK Overseas Territories and their amazing treasures, both natural and cultural. So, we were delighted that Stewart McPherson had decided to do this. Stewart had, like us, been unsuccessful in getting any of the networks to commission this, but decided to go ahead and do it at his own expense (or rather by taking out lots of loans!), and then try to sell the result to the networks.

UKOTCF has tried to help Stewart in whatever way it could. This includes:

- Technical advice and providing contacts

throughout the project

- Helping to raise funds for extra products
- Organising, with the help of HM Government of Gibraltar, London meeting rooms to allow Stewart to give updates to stakeholders.
- Commenting on draft story-board texts
- Commenting on draft video programmes
- Provision of wildlife and other stills from the UKOTs for the video programmes and related book
- Provision of wildlife video material from UKOTs for the video programmes.
- Commenting and supplying texts and photographs for the book.

Many people in the territories and in other organisations, especially Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, have also provided lots of help and advice.

The good news is that the main TV series is complete, and we will see one of the 4 full episodes shortly. This is a special one-off preview, because TV broadcast will not happen until late this year or next. Obviously, the negotiations with networks are confidential – and Stewart's recovery of his financial outlay, and presumably the future wellbeing of his family, depend on this. However, I can say that a major Australian network will be screening the series in prime time, several major UK networks are interested and we hope close to agreement, and there is interest too in North

America and mainland Europe.

A beneficial consequence of the series not being commissioned in advance is that Stewart can use the rest of his excellent video taken by professional cameramen – with gaps filled by amateurs, such as me – to make a series of short videos of about 10 minutes each, one for each UKOT and about the same number of cross-territory short videos on various taxonomic groups.

Our own Catherine Wensink, UKOTCF Manager, provided a lot of help and advice to Stewart on setting up the crowd-funding exercise which raised the funds for professional editors to work on these, and the Government of Gibraltar contributed also.

These short videos, once ready (we hope later this year) will be freely available for wide use, and we will certainly have links from the UKOTCF website, including from our Virtual Tours.

We are working with Stewart also on the other main product, a book to go with the series. I know that Mike has spent more time on sorting out his UKOT wildlife photos on this than for any other project!

As I mentioned, Stewart sends his apologies for not being here. Being an explorer, he is currently in Greenland. How we got the video from Stewart, whose normal base is Sydney, Australia, is a story in itself. Suffice it to say that it involved:

- A 48-hour upload by Stewart on to a web file-transfer site
- Mike staying up all night just a day before he had to travel here, to download 75% of it before the system failed 18 hours in.
- Stewart couriering it to me as he passed through Heathrow on his way from Sydney to Greenland; and
- Mike later discovering that he and Stewart were in different parts of Heathrow Terminal 3 at the same time as each other!

The 1-hour video that you are now going to see includes 3 parts:

1. A message from Stewart
2. A compilation of about 5 minutes of clips from all of the 4 videos of the main TV series – with some rather strange juxtapositions of shots.
3. The whole of the first of the 4 films of the TV series. As Mike mentioned in the Southern Oceans Working Group, the folk from Ascension were the first to sign up for this conference, but a happy event about now has

prevented their attending. So we are very pleased that this episode covers Ascension, as well as St Helena and Tristan da Cunha.

The whole video including those three parts lasts 1 hour – so let's get started.

Field trips and open-days: Promoting the Natural Environment in Small Territories – Gibraltar as a Case Study

**Keith Bensusan (Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society/
Gibraltar Botanic Gardens)**



Bensusan, K. 2015. Field trips and open-days: Promoting the Natural Environment in Small Territories – Gibraltar as a Case Study. pp 376-379 in *Sustaining Partnerships: a conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Gibraltar 11th to 16th July 2015* (ed. by M. Pienkowski & C. Wensink). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

Effective public engagement and understanding are essential in conservation. This is particularly the case for smaller territories and organisations, which need to articulate clearly how their small communities and territories can and do contribute to global biodiversity and its preservation. Although such organisations often have limited resources, a grass-roots approach can often achieve good results without a significant financial burden. Public activities, in which individuals are brought closer to nature, are effective means with which to achieve these aims. Small territories can promote conservation particularly effectively by joining international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), demonstrating the global relevance of smaller territories to biodiversity conservation and participating in large, well organised and international public engagement initiatives. Through their receptiveness to new ideas and their influence on parents, children can often be catalysts of changes in attitude, and it is important that such programmes make an effort to offer activities that either have appeal for children, or are specifically aimed at them. The use of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, can also enhance an organisation's educational outreach effectively and at no additional cost. This talk will illustrate how both GONHS and the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens use a combination of all of the factors summarised in order to educate the public and promote the conservation of Gibraltar's important terrestrial and marine habitats and species.

Dr Keith Bensusan, Council Member & Head of the Strait of Gibraltar Bird Observatory / Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society kbensusan@gonhs.org

The UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies are all small at a global scale. Their natural resources are managed or promoted by small governments and organisations, often with limited resources.

All of the UKOTs and CDs have natural features that make them special. In fact, 94% of unique species that the United Kingdom is responsible for are found in the UKOTs and CDs.

It is important to make local communities aware of their natural assets, including their global relevance and communicating this is key.

Engaging the public

There are several ways in which small organisations can engage the public and increase understanding of their natural assets. These include: appealing to people's sense of identity, bringing people closer to nature, joining international initiatives, using publications, embracing social media and targeting children.

In Gibraltar, the Department of the Environment and Environmental Safety Group also do important work in this regard.

Gibraltarians have a strong sense of identity see photo at bottom of next column).



The public seems to respond best to conservation initiatives when species are seen as ‘Gibraltarian’ and when the public has a sense that Gibraltar punches above its weight internationally in terms of its contribution.

Forming partnerships with other bodies

Plenty of opportunities exist for affiliation with International NGOs (for example, UKOTF, Birdlife etc). These often organise their own regular,



international activities. Participating in these gives small organisations an opportunity to engage with the public. They are ideal opportunities to explain the relevance of global issues to small communities, and the contribution of small places to global issues. Some examples include: Birdlife EuroBirdwatch, International Bat Night, World Ocean Day (see montage above).

Communications

Publishing newsletters is an important part of the



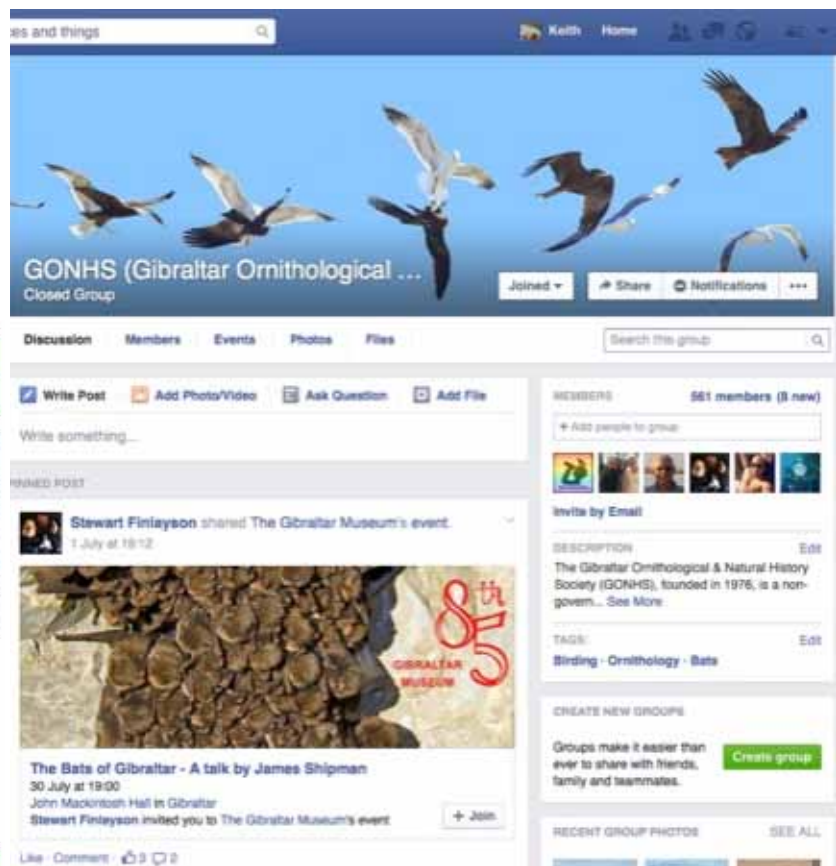


Engage the Little People

Enthusiasm for the natural environment is often strongest among children. Parents and other family members will usually accompany children on outings. It is often children's charm which is enough to convince adults to change their opinions or habits. When this fails, the energy with which they deploy their whining can be an effective substitute! Children can be catalysts of changes in

organisations outreach.

Combined with the use of social media, which is more instant, it allows the public to be part of the discussion by asking questions, posting comments and spreading messages (see below).





attitude, especially towards the environment.

A good example of this has been the Alameda Gardening Club (see montage above). Green space in Gibraltar is very limited. Most children in Gibraltar have no access to gardens. Thus, some have little contact with the natural environment. The Alameda Gardening Club introduces children to themes such as: horticulture, importance of plants in peoples' lives, ecology, including pollinators, conservation and recycling. The initiative is supported by the Department of Education.

- Paul Acolina
- Torberg Berge
- Nicholas Ferrary
- Clive Finlayson
- Christine Gilder
- Gilbert Gonzalez
- Phil Gould
- Rhian Guillem
- Leslie Linares
- Antonio Verdugo
- Albert Yome

In conclusion, education is key to conservation. Most of us live in small, tightly knit communities where word of mouth can be an effective means of disseminating news. Communication can be enhanced via activities. Social media are an extremely useful tool that must be harnessed. Children should be targeted. Effective public engagement shapes conservation policy and makes it inexpensive.

Aerial view from the north, of Gibraltar with the Straits behind; in the distance, Morocco, and to the right, Spain.



Photo credits

- Andrew Abrines

Multi-media apps in environmental education

Stephen Warr (Department of Environment, Government of Gibraltar)



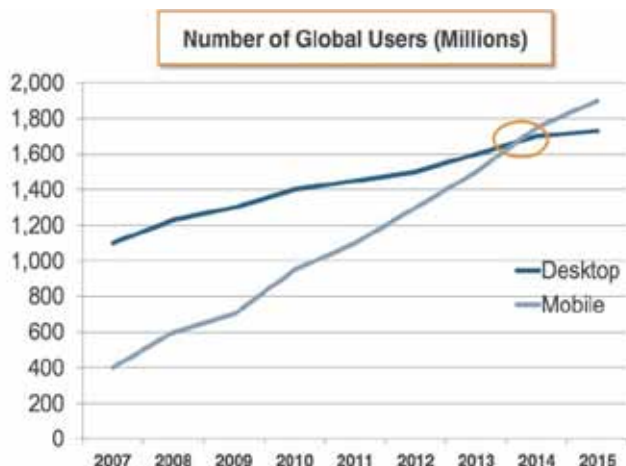
Warr, S. 2015. Multi-media apps in environmental education. pp 380-384 in *Sustaining Partnerships: a conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Gibraltar 11th to 16th July 2015* (ed. by M. Pienkowski & C. Wensink). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

As we have learned to connect through technology, awareness of social and environmental issues continues to grow and evolve. Green applications or 'eco apps' and social media have essentially turned mobile devices into portals for environmental education and sustainable development. From apps that catalogue biodiversity to games that encourage recycling or even live webcams of underwater environments, these platforms are clear examples of how the power of technology can work for students, educators and the environment.

Stephen Warr, Senior Environment Officer, Gibraltar Department of the Environment. stephen.warr@gibraltar.gov.gi



There has been a sharp rise in mobile communications since 2007. Source: Morgan Stanley Research, 2014. <http://www.businessinsider.com/mobile-web-vs-app-usage-statistics-2014-4>.



This involves a wide range of ages:



Environmental themed applications have turned mobile devices into portals for environmental education and sustainable action.



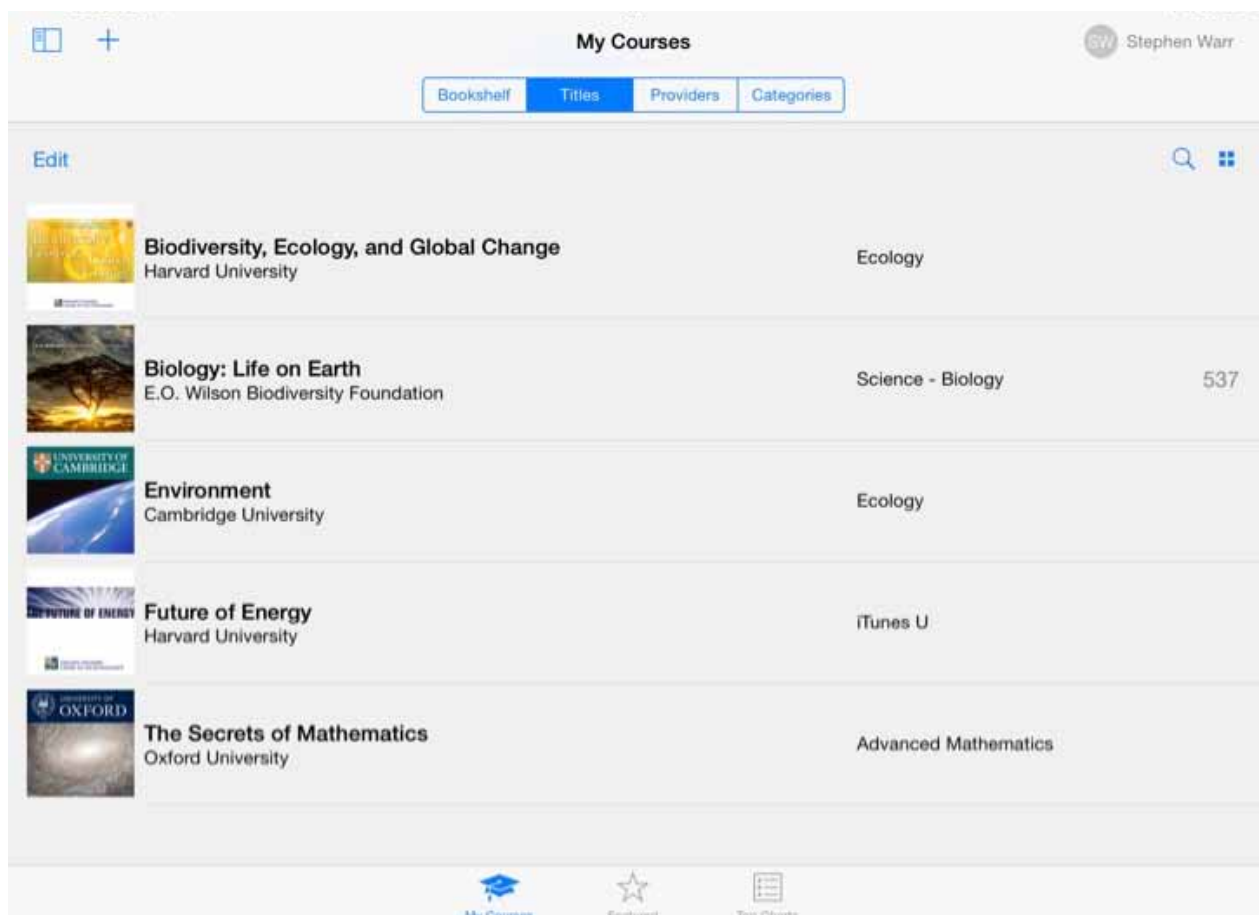
Teaching Tools – Grassroots Environmental Education

In 2013, the Department of Environment launched the *Thinking Green* website (above and right) with a kids zone as well as apps and E games. All of these portray local environmental resources which children not only from Gibraltar but from all over the world can download and learn about as they play.



Teaching tools – Higher Education

Many training courses text and reference books are now available online (below).



Interactive Environmental Guides

GIBRALTAR NATURE RESERVE

Upper Rock

Department of the Environment and Climate Change
HM Government of Gibraltar

Upper Rock Paths

Eric Shaw

Macaca sylvanus

The Barbary Macaque belongs to the old world monkeys, and is mistakenly referred to as Barbary or Rock "Ape". Although it lacks a long tail, it is a true monkey. The males are large, reaching over a metre in length, with strong features including long canine teeth and powerful jaws. Females are slightly smaller and less muscular. Mating occurs during the late autumn and winter with young born in late spring and summer after a gestation period of about five months. These are social animals that usually live in groups of 10-40 individuals and feed on a variety of plant shoots, fruit, roots and small invertebrates.

Barbary Macaque

Author: Charles Perez

Merops apiaster

The European Bee-eater is a slender bird displaying many colours and specialises in hunting flying insects. Their favourite foods include wasps, hornets and bees, as their name suggests. These birds are migratory and like spending their winters in tropical Africa. During the spring, they fly back to Southern Europe in order to raise their young. They are usually seen on passage to the mainland.

Bee-eater

Peregrine Falcon

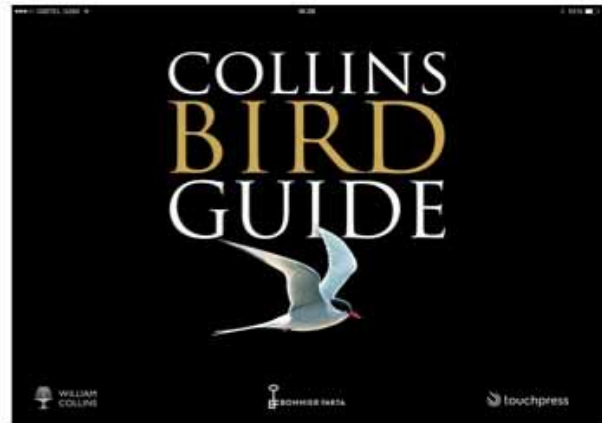
Black Redstart

Eurasian Hoopoe

Bee-eater

Bird Migration

Field Guides



Data entry, Research & Monitoring



Environmental education– Lifestyle changes



Still Linking the Fragments of Paradise: Increasing environmental awareness and public engagement through social media driven activities, TCI Environmental Club & Turks & Caicos National Museum/UKOTCF Wise Water Project

B Naqqi Manco (for Turks & Caicos National Museum; Department of Environment & Maritime Affairs (DEMA))



Manco, B.N. 2015. Still Linking the Fragments of Paradise: Increasing environmental awareness and public engagement through social media driven activities, TCI Environmental Club & Turks & Caicos National Museum/UKOTCF Wise Water Project. pp 385-389 in *Sustaining Partnerships: a conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Gibraltar 11th to 16th July 2015* (ed. by M. Pienkowski & C. Wensink). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

Fifteen years ago, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum held its conference in Gibraltar themed *Linking the Fragments of Paradise*. The Turks & Caicos are a fragmented paradise, comprising ten inhabited islands. In 2010, DEMA formed the TCI Environmental Club as a group meeting on the most populated island. Within one year of opening the Club as a Facebook Group, it had over 700 members and has become an important online (and physical) presence in TCI conservation. Through this new network, other organisations like the Turks & Caicos National Museum have been able to collaborate on projects including the RBC Bank-supported Wise Water Project. The network also encouraged other NGOs and conservation projects to use social media as a way to gain support and raise public awareness on a number of conservation issues.

B Naqqi Manco (for Turks & Caicos National Museum; Department of Environment & Maritime Affairs (DEMA)) bnaqqimanco@gmail.com
Facebook: B Naqqi Manco Twitter: @Bnaqqi

Fragmentation of UKOTs is a recognised problem (map). In a post-presentation discussion at the previous UKOTCF Conference held in Cayman in 2009, social media came up as a potential solution. The UKOTCF Facebook group was created during the discussion (see image next page). However, at the same time, internet accessibility in some Territories was brought up as a challenge.

The Turks & Caicos Islands is itself a fragmented paradise – with a big online population!





UKOTCF Facebook page



TCI - a fragmented paradise

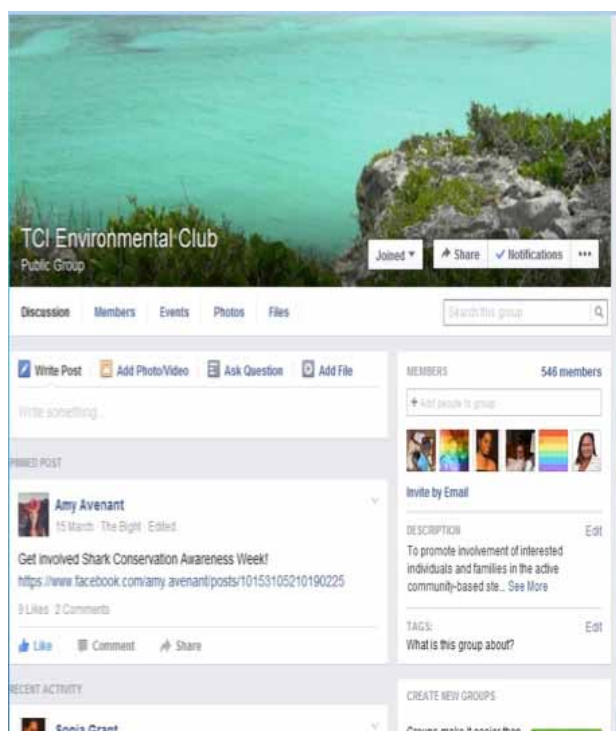
In March 2010, the Turks and Caicos Islands Environmental Club was launched by the Department of Environment & Maritime Affairs to provide a platform for conservation networking.



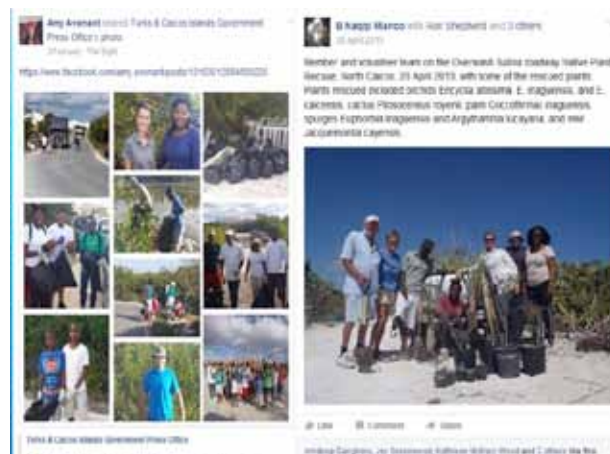
It was founded as an informal club with no designated leadership, dues, legal recognition, or funding.

Monthly meetings were held, featuring speakers and discussions on solutions to environmental challenges. However, the TCI Government staff reduction in 2010 made meeting management difficult.

In 2011, the club was transferred to a Facebook group for organisation and discussion, and regular meetings were stopped. Some feared this would be the end of the club, but activities didn't stop. The Facebook Club group grew to 300 members within first year and increased attendance of events like community clean-ups, plant rescues, environmentally-themed programmes and days.



Some examples of the instance impact of the group were: in 2011, the Environmental Club Native Plant Rescue which was organised with very short





notice. Again in 2012, the Environmental Club Native Plant Rescue continued with rescued plants installed in Turks & Caicos National Museum Botanical & Cultural Garden.



The Club group is also used to share environmental news and ideas as well as a forum for identifying local wildlife and a place to share observations of endemic and invasive species.

With the TCI Environmental Club functioning as a virtual meeting ground to organise actual events and to share information and ideas, the Turks & Caicos National Museum (below) recognised that their social media was not working so well. It is a popular destination for international and in-country tourists and school groups, but museum staff were largely unfamiliar with social media use and benefits, and their social media was in a shambles.





An exciting project was coming to the museum: The Wise Water Project, funded by the RBC Foundation's BlueWater Project and collaboratively managed between the Turks & Caicos National Museum and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. The project was largely based around public engagement on water conservation – a perfect platform from which to launch the Museum's outreach through social media.



The Wise Water Project converted the Turks & Caicos National Museum's Providenciales facility by:

1. Redeveloping the water catchment and grey-



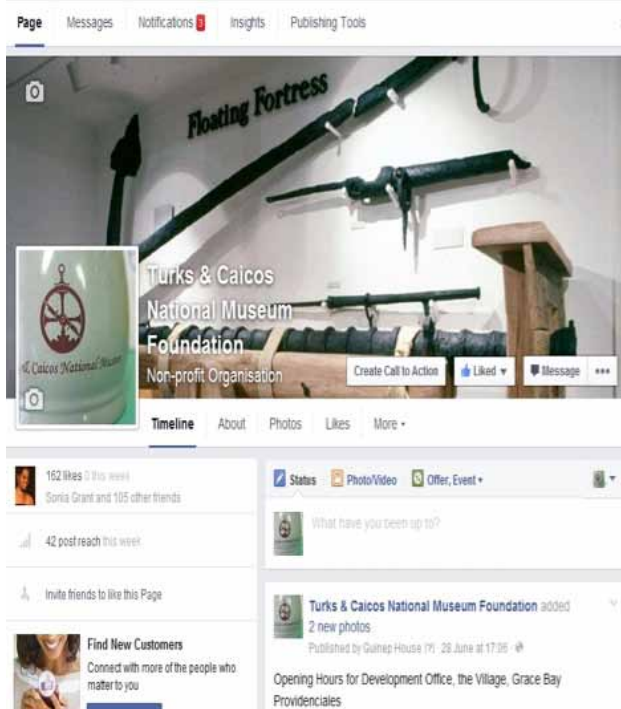
water recycling systems

2. Installing native plant gardens and low water use cultural gardens around the Caicos Heritage House (1800s Caicos homestead replica)
3. Producing display boards on water conservation methods and water-wise agriculture (image of 2 of the set at bottom of page).

Following the 12 June 2014 launch overseen by H.E. Governor Peter Beckingham, where the project and water conservation were explained and tours of the site were given (photos above), the news of the site spread mostly through social



media (the Governor's and Premier's Offices have Facebook and Twitter, Tourist Board has a blog). Following the launch of the project, and seeing the exposure they got from others' social media, the Museum re-launched its Facebook page and took tutorials and volunteer guidance in managing its



social media. The Museum has since been able to manage its own Facebook page (and by extension manage its TripAdvisor site), as well as link back to TCI Environmental Club group by cross-posting.

A number of other social media pages on TCI Conservation have been established and remain active and linked with TCI Environmental Club. These include: the Caicos Pine Recovery Project, TCICS Turks & Caicos Conservation Society, South Caicos Nature Club, Turks & Caicos Reef Fund and the TCI Dolphin Defence Fund.

Caicos Pine Recovery Project began using Twitter (which is much faster than website which have to be updated by a webmaster) to give live updates during controlled burns and other fieldwork.

Social media use demands some caveats including: careful selection of venue (Facebook, Twitter) based on audience and type (page/ group) on use. Not everyone uses social media – so keep traditional media in mind. Administrators should be chosen carefully. Ground rules and a way to moderate posts must be established based on them. Forge links with important social media sites in your territory and worldwide. Be prepared for outright abuse – names without connections are easy targets (and don't feed the trolls!). Be careful what you write. It never goes away!

Using social media as an organisation and discussion forum has worked well for TCI Environmental Club. And is proving increasingly useful for the Turks & Caicos National Museum (below).



If you need help navigating social media, feel free to ask me or any toddler!



Public awareness raising actions: How a small NGO, with limited capacity, can deliver a wide range of activities to promote environmental education and awareness

Andrew Dobson (Bermuda Audubon Society)



Dobson, A. 2015. Public awareness raising actions: How a small NGO, with limited capacity, can deliver a wide range of activities to promote environmental education and awareness. pp 390-394 in *Sustaining Partnerships: a conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Gibraltar 11th to 16th July 2015* (ed. by M. Pienkowski & C. Wensink). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

The Bermuda Audubon Society is an environmental NGO established in 1954. It faces serious challenges with no physical office, no paid staff, a need to maintain 16 nature reserves and attracting dedicated volunteers. Despite the lack of capacity, the Society offers a wide range of educational programmes. Outreach to students includes an annual natural history camp, guided field-trips, school talks, art competitions and bird nest-box construction. A varied programme of events is offered to members and the general public, including lectures, field-trips, and introductory birdwatching courses. Opportunities are offered to volunteer on nature reserves and to participate in citizen-science projects. Creating partnerships has been the key to sustaining the Society in its ability to offer these programmes. Many events are run jointly with other NGOs while local businesses have sponsored costly reserve maintenance and student camps. A close relationship has been established with the Department of Conservation Services (Bermuda Government) in assistance with reserve management. Effective communication with all stakeholders has been a key feature of the Society's success.

Andrew Dobson, P.O. Box HM1328, Hamilton HMFx, Bermuda.
andrewdobs@gmail.com

Introduction

The Bermuda Audubon Society is a membership society run by an executive committee of volunteers. It is a non-profit registered charity with no premises or paid staff, and relies on voluntary assistance from members and the corporate community. The island's oldest environmental organisation, it was established in 1954 to address

two growing environmental concerns. Firstly, the threatened extirpation of the eastern bluebird (below) on Bermuda following the loss of the cedar forest and the removal of the dead trees, which contained the natural cavities in which it nested. Secondly, to restore wetland habitat as the official Government policy of the time was to fill in Bermuda's marshlands and ponds for mosquito





Seymour's Pond was our first nature reserve in 1964, a former dump.



Seymour's Pond nature reserve today: it has recently been enlarged and a bird blind (hide) fitted (see photos below also).



control by using them as dumping grounds for garbage.

Today, the Society owns and maintains 16 nature reserves and offers a wide range of educational programmes throughout the year.

The programmes we offer:

- Nonsuch Natural History Camp – a one-week residential course for teenagers, focusing on Bermuda's terrestrial and marine environment;



- Talks on bluebirds for primary school students;
- An 'Introduction to Birdwatching' course;
- Teacher workshops;
- Lectures;
- Guided fieldtrips to nature reserves and pelagic birding;
- An annual birdwatching camp on Paget Island;
- Special school events and competitions to encourage an interest in birds and the



Outreach to school students



Teachers' workshop on birds



Active in community events

environment, including an annual bluebird nest box competition;

- Fostering citizen science through eBird, as well as participation in annual birding events such as the Christmas Bird Count, Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival and International Migratory Bird Day;
- Educational resources through our website;
- Working parties on nature reserves;
- Construction and installation of bluebird nest boxes and tropicbird 'igloo' domes (below).



The challenges:

- Reliance on dedicated volunteers with no paid staff;
- Maintaining 16 nature reserves covering 60 acres;
- No physical office;
- Finance;
- Finding volunteers with the required skills.

The solutions:

Creating PARTNERSHIPS - the key to sustaining the Society. Examples of recent and current partnerships have included:

- Annual student natural history course run jointly with the Bermuda Zoological Society (which has paid staff and access to boats!) – sponsored by local business.
- Bluebird box construction and education sponsored by PartnerRe for over 5 years.



- Aberfeldy garden centre which hosts the society's bluebird nest box workshops.
- Bird identification cards (below) with Birds Caribbean. Sets will be provided free to schools with additional retail sales to generate income.



- Jointly promoted lectures with the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute – Audubon and BUEI share the proceeds.
- Bird art opportunities with the Bermuda Society of Arts, including student art competitions, bird art exhibitions and a nest box auction (photos at top of next page).
- Production of DVD bird documentaries teaming up with local and international



film crews (below). Sponsored by local business.

- Buy Back Bermuda, a joint initiative with the Bermuda National Trust, which has



created three new nature reserves by public subscription.

- Develop a good working relationship with the Department of Conservation Services (Bermuda Government) who provide assistance with reserve management.
- Fieldtrips held jointly with other NGOs such as the Bermuda National Trust and the Bermuda Zoological Society (including pelagic trips in search of the Cahow – below).



2. Fostering links with local business

- Donations towards reserve purchase and management.



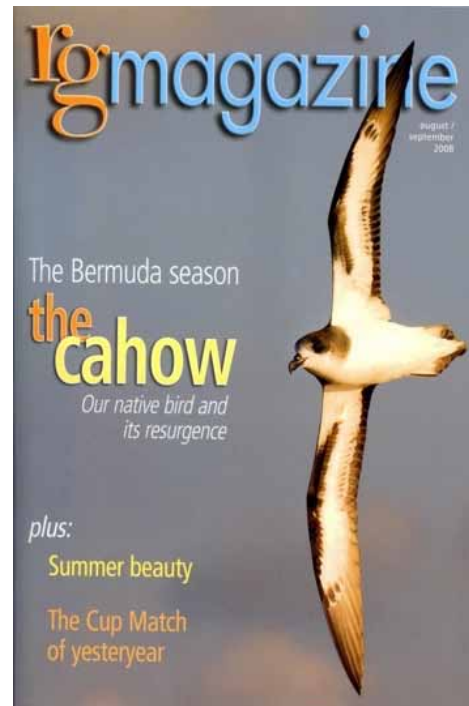
- Corporate volunteer days on nature reserves and tropicbird igloo preparation (above).



- Landscaping companies' volunteer days following Hurricanes Fay and Gonzalo, 2014 (above).

3. Using free promotional opportunities

- Commemorative postage stamps (below) for the society's 60th anniversary.



- Press releases to printed and online media.
- Interviews on local TV and radio.



- Special newspaper features such as those on bird migration.

4. Actively involve members

- Offer a range of activities from working parties to lectures.
- An informative website which engages members.
- Regular newsletters which can also be read online.
- A facebook page providing members with the opportunity to contribute.
- Invite members with the required skills on to the committee!

Discussion

Much of the discussion addressed the conclusions and recommendations. If such items are adequately reported in the Conclusions and Recommendations section later in these proceedings, they are generally not repeated here. Instead, this section draws out some other aspects for which amplification may be useful, on of the discussions and ideas put forward for consideration.

School curriculums

The importance of relating school curricula to local examples was noted. On Tristan, they are in the early stages of developing a school curriculum. They are looking at the IGCSE and matching all parts of Tristan studies to that. There is scope to use case studies of Tristan.

Some school curricula are very strict. For example, on Montserrat, there is no room in it to talk about climate change. That is why they are trying to introduce it in to nursery and primary education as there is more scope to include there.

Another example cited was that of a trained teacher who volunteers to look through the whole curriculum including literature and maths, which was then used to report back to the Department of Environment.

On Tristan, they found that involving fieldwork and practical activities keep interest going and will lead to benefits later when they become leaders themselves.

At the end of 2006 and 2009, the conferences discussed needs for schools across territories. As well as pushing with governments, there is a need to get schools getting in contact with other schools. There are no volcanoes or mangroves in Jersey, but there are some great examples from the UKOTs, which should be used. Sand-dune systems might not be there in others but there are many in Jersey. More talking between territories and their Education Department is needed.

Environment must be fully integrated and included in those lessons which take place regularly such as personal, social and health education (PSHE)

Teachers workshops and training days are a useful way to engage with those delivering the school curriculum, and this has worked well in several territories. If templates are created on how to do this, then we can raise a generation of environmentally aware people. It is important to raise the confidence of teachers to deliver and introduce topics.

One suggestion was that, when giving talks in schools making use of pictures and maps, leave a

copy with the class teacher. They appreciate that and can go back. A stockpile of presentations given in BVI are available. This has given opportunities also to talk about use of techniques such as GIS in to schools. Students are keen and have taken GPS equipment, although teachers are more afraid. They the students go away to capture data. They were really quick to learn. Learning about careers in government as GIS across departments.

World wide web

Most thought that the availability of material on the public internet, particularly Wikipedia, was more or less accurate. There was a facility which enables administrators to update/amend data if it is not.

The digital revolution may mean that public use environment in a different way; rather than going out in nature, they may want to experience it from their homes via things like virtual tours, underwater movies etc.

Keeping up with current trends and new innovations is important, e.g. applications, geocache, website improvements which mean they can be viewed on other devices (smart phones, tablets etc.) .

Social media

Sharing information on social media is instant and free.

Field workers can open up their albums to Facebook users to share photos etc. This has led to a lot of interest in TCI on identifying species by location and providing a sort of information service.

Opportunities

It is important to be proactive and involve children from a young age. On Bermuda, children are taken out to do field-work. They collect data and this helps engage them and shows them career options.

On Alderney, they have been developing on-island resource webcams. They use these to link with

schools. The programme depends on birds that are there. There is scope for this to be used elsewhere. Project is called *Living Islands*

In order to share information, the UKOTCF Environmental Education web-database (via www.ukotcf.org) could be populated further. Social media could be used to share learning practices and techniques. Could also be used to store useful weblinks.

General points

Important to raise awareness of the Environment Charters, as one of the commitments was education. It is a legal commitment of some Departments of Education.

Regular briefing to Permanent Secretaries and civil servants generally, as well as politicians, is needed.

The traditional use of radio to engage with the public should be continued. This has been very successful in Montserrat. In addition, in TCI it was used to talk about the planned controlled burns as part of the Caicos pine recovery programme. They used radio which made people supportive of burns etc. 30% of the community is Haitian and so, in order to engage them, radio shows are done in Creole also.

Darwin Plus fund should be encouraged to reinstate education into eligibility of UK funds for UKOTs.

Funding and resources

Missing corporate funding sources. Marks & Spencers (large chain store) is charging for plastic bags but are funding education programmes with proceeds. This ticks so many boxes for them under corporate strategy that it is a no-brainer. Go to corporates and pitch to them as they can be a good source of funding. When tech is involved, branding can be used readily. For NGOs, this is really important for funding. Corporates need environmental ticks next to their names.

Corporate days can be very effective for getting things done.

This would be difficult on very small islands where there are no corporations except one or two businesses that may provide other resources or where there are several organisations bidding to the same company.

There is already a small pot for Education in UK. Education budget £57 billion. There is not really

much scope in UK budget. The Joint Ministerial Council does discuss Education, and so perhaps this is something that could be explored.

The Tristan Council recognise the importance of education in the sustainable development plan. In last few years, they have had a good budget and the fishing company do put some money in there. They are looking for future employees and so are investing in well educated individuals.

Perhaps there is should be an approach to big publishers?

Don't be afraid of looking outside, *e.g.* renewable energy companies.

In Bermuda, there is a 5-year agreement with power supplier to support Nonsuch Island nature reserve solar panel to provide power. This provides so much cannot use it all. Can now stream from a camera; they paid for an additional cahow video. Provided for the holiday camp. It has opened up more doors on how we use island for education.

Students and recent graduates might be able to help with some of the work. Coding is on the curriculum.

Session 14: UKOTCF's Europe Territories Working Group

Chairman: Keith Bensusan

Secretary: Emma Cary

The discussions at the Europe Territories Working Group contributed to the Conclusions and Recommendations, and relevant points are incorporated in that section. Other discussions have been reported in the minutes of the meeting, circulated to participants and other members of ETWG.



From left: Emma Cary and Keith Bensusan



Above and next page: ETWG in session



Session 16: Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) principles and practice

Chairing & facilitating: Jo Treweek (Treweek Environmental Consultants)

Attending

Sarah Barnsley	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
Emma Cary	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
Natasha Bull	Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society
Liz Charter	Isle of Man
Tim Earl	Isle of Man
Gina Ebanks-Petrie	Cayman Government
Sharmer Fleming	Anguilla Government
Janine Galliano	Gibraltar DoE
Roland Gauvain	Alderney Wildlife Trust
Fiona Gell	Isle of Man Government
Stephanie Gillywater	Gibraltar DoE
Jane Gilmour	La Société Guernesiaise
Jeremy Harris	St Helena National Trust
Katharine Hart	Turks and Caicos Government
Lyndon John	RSPB
B Naqqi Manco	Turks and Caicos Islands
Stephen Mendes	Montserrat Government
Farah Mukhida	Anguilla
Iain Orr	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
Isabel Peters	St. Helena Government
Mike Pienkowski	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
Elizabeth Radcliffe	RSPB
Don Stark	Turks and Caicos Reef Fund
Jo Treweek	Treweek Environmental Consulting
Catherine Wensink	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
Kathleen Wood	Turks and Caicos Islands

none at all to those sitting on an environmental advisory board, those conducting EIAs and those doing scoping, screenings and reviews within Government departments.

Ice-breaker (balloon) exercise

Depending on the colour of the balloon received, the participants had to consider beneficial impacts of EIA from a social, development, or environment perspective.

Some points noted from this exercise were that:

- Social/community values often get left without being considered
- The overriding assumption is that development will happen
- Regardless of this, EIA is a useful framework for including environmental considerations within development which tries to go for a win-win solution for everybody.
- It is also important to consider the impact of the environment on development as well.

Overview of EIA purpose, objectives, steps, definitions, new standards.

Jo gave a brief presentation on the EIA process. The Powerpoint slides from this are shown on the following pages, before returning to this report of the workshop.

Introduction

Jo Treweek, of Treweek Consulting, welcomed participants to the workshop and encouraged them to introduce themselves and inform the group of their experience with EIAs. This ranged from

Presentation 1: An overview of the purpose and value of Environmental Impact Assessments

1

Introduction

- What is EIA?
- Why is it important?
- Some examples
- Emerging trends

2

What is EIA?

the process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of development proposals prior to major decisions being taken or commitments being made

Decision support or planning support tool... informs decisions

3

Objectives of impact assessment

- ensure that environmental considerations are explicitly addressed in development decision making;
- anticipate and avoid, minimize or offset significant adverse biophysical, social and other relevant effects;
- protect the productivity and capacity of natural systems and the ecological processes which maintain them; and
- promote development that is sustainable and optimizes resource use and management opportunities.

Originally intended as a means of adding environmental considerations into predominantly financial, technical and political decision-making processes (NEPA 1978).

These objectives are from the IAIA Principles for Best Practice in Impact Assessment (International Association for Impact Assessment)

A means of encouraging some adjustments to the usual objectives in the interests of avoiding serious environmental harm.

4

Now done in > 100 countries..

- As a legal requirement
- To secure finance (new lender requirements)
- Voluntarily, to:
 - identify cost savings and efficiencies,
 - improve design,
 - ensure sustainable operation,
 - secure license to operate, manage reputational risks

The International Finance Corporation requires its clients to do EIA.

Many companies see ESIA because they see it as the best way to identify environmental and social risks to their operations.

5

Why is it important?

- Underpins approvals processes worldwide.
- Underpins international social and environmental safeguards.
- Supports evidence-based decision-making and regulation.
 - framework for imposing conditions and to support adaptive management
- A tool for sustainable development
 - Deals with complex and emotive trade-offs

6

International Finance Corporation Standards

 <p>Performance Standard 1: Social and Environmental Assessment and Management Systems</p>	 <p>Performance Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions</p>	 <p>Performance Standard 3: Pollution Prevention and Abatement</p>	 <p>Performance Standard 4: Community Health, Safety and Security</p>
 <p>Performance Standard 5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement</p>	 <p>Performance Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</p>	 <p>Performance Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples</p>	 <p>Performance Standard 8: Cultural Heritage</p>

Environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) is the cornerstone of the IFC Performance Standards and the focus of Performance Standard 1.

If used correctly, the ESIA helps clients to identify a project's environmental and social risks, and to develop a plan to manage or avoid those risks. It leads to the ESMS.. the basis for adaptive management throughout the lifetime of a Project ("cradle to grave")

PS1 essentially requires clients of the IFC to use ESIA to assess and manage their environmental and social risks and then to carry this through to their operations, using their Environmental Management Systems.

Requirements of other PS need to be incorporated into ESIA/ESMS and mainstreamed throughout operations.

Is all well in the world of EIA?

- In South Africa (Ridl, 2012) *"Officials from KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife openly obstruct the EIA process, refusing to adhere to statutory time frames for responses"*.
- in Nigeria, Yusuf (2008) *"the EIA practice has become a showcase for corruption... there is blithe disregard for EIA regulations"*.
- EIA is used to *"lull government agencies and the public into thinking all's well with a proposed project, while serious environmental impacts are swept under the rug"*

Ridl, J. (2012). "Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife on Its Knees." The Nation. Available from http://www.witness.co.za/index.php?showcontent&global%5B_id%5D=88784

Yusuf, T. A. (2008). "The Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in Nigeria: The Journey So Far." Available from <http://www.nigeriansinamerica.com/articles/3105/1/The-Environmental-Impact-Assessment-Practice-In-Nigeria-The-Journey-So-Far-/Page1.html>

Limited Application



Is EIA required for the full range of developments it should be used for? Application of EIA is often considered un-necessary for land use changes that are quite significant. Often, no EIA is required for the exploration phase. The argument given is that nobody has decided for sure if they want the project to proceed yet? This can mean that the interests of the developer over-ride those of local communities and the environment. Who should bear the cost of this damage?

Poor consideration of need and alternatives



Assessment of alternatives should be an integral part of EIA but investigating feasible site alternatives is often lacking and generally sites are allocated or purchased by project proponents before the EIA commences.

This can mean expensive developments that fly in the face of common sense and environmental sustainability.. Eg potentially stranded ports in Turkmenistan due to dropping sea levels in the Caspian. In this country the interests of a dictator have replaced a communist system. It is challenging to evolve a planning system that can accommodate these ends of the spectrum. In this case, doubts about the environmental sustainability of the project may have been one factor in ongoing reluctance of IFIs to finance a new deep water Port. Lender may not have been convinced that the development was necessary or appropriate.



It is not unusual for development to start before EIA is done, or for EIA to start too late to have any influence on choice of alternatives. Example of Kihansi Spray Toad (Credit to CBBIA project, Southern Africa). The EIA was not a legal requirement and was done in parallel / after decisions had been made to authorize a large hydro scheme in a particular location – that is, it did not inform the decision. Once construction started, it was too late to change the course of development. Had the existence of the Toad been picked up earlier on, the Upper Gorge could have been developed for the hydropower scheme, enabling water to be returned to the river above the Lower Gorge so that the habitat for the toad could have been maintained. This would have been just as effective and also cheaper...

'96 - Kihansi Spray Toad discovered during planning for construction. Occupies unique spray habitat.

'99 - turbines operating. > 95% spray lost, major impact.

2000-'01, emergency spray irrigation to restore spray habitat...partly successful but Toad succumbed to fungus? Pesticide from dam? Extinct in wild.

11

Baselines that start after the development..



Doing a good baseline takes time and needs to cover a big enough area to understand the context of a project.. Typically they are too restricted in space and time. This means that important values and sensitivities can be completely missed. Sometimes they are very costly to fix.

Without a good baseline it may not be possible to show that something isn't an issue. For Projects attempting to comply with international/ lender standards, this may mean highly precautionary assumptions must be used to identify mitigation.

12

Development without EIA



Development without EIA on the expectation of future development, without funding or proposals being fully in place.

13

Quotes

- “We didn’t see any birds
- Species seen on the site included white rhino
- “The removal of the mountain is not a significant landscape impact”
- “Tell me where the bird is and I will shoot it”
- “Can’t the birds use another habitat?”

14

Partial or unrealistic mitigation



The whole ecosystem is important, not just separate components of it.. This mitigation means there are still some mangrove plants present, but these will not develop into a fully functioning mangrove wetland ecosystem

Communicating the results



A good Environmental Impact Report should focus on key issues and present them in a clear, transparent and digestible manner

Examples are legion of poor reporting, including failure to specify the location of the proposed development, when it is planned to happen, the scale of proposed activities..

According to UN/ECA et al. (2007), some EIA reports are of very low quality and may also be excessively long and hard to understand regardless of the reader's level of education or expertise. For instance, the EIA for the Tana Delta Integrated Sugar Project in Kenya is 412 pages long and couched in turgid technical and scientific language, with extensive chemical equations, complex economic graphs and Latin binomial species nomenclature (Mumias, 2007).

It is common for Environmental Impact Reports to present vague and qualitative impact predictions, extrapolation from little or no baseline monitoring or an absence of rigour in describing projects and their impacts

Mumias, S. (2007). "Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report for the Proposed Tana Integrated Sugar Project in Tana River and Lamu Districts, Coast Province, Kenya." Available from http://www.tanariverdelta.org/tana/967DSY/version/default/part/AttachmentData/data/MUMIAS_Tana_EIA_part1.pdf

**DECIDE
ANNOUNCE
DEFEND**



Failure to Follow-up: monitoring and enforcement



IS EIA done as well as it should be? If not, does anyone check?

The 'procedural and stepwise nature' of most EIA systems means that there is a tendency for the final granting or refusal of a development consent to be perceived as the end point in the EIA process.

Too often, the emphasis in EIA is on the pre-decision stages and the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The EIS is used purely as a means of achieving development consent rather than as tool for achieving sound environmental management (Dipper *et al* 1998)

Why feedback is needed

1. To check that mitigation was done (monitoring and enforcement)
2. To check that things turned out as expected.
 - There is not enough emphasis on comparing what was predicted with what really happened and on feeding the results of such exercises back into the EIA process.
 - Feedback is essential to learn from experience

The paradox of EIA is that very little attention is paid to the environmental effects, which actually result from the development.

Follow-up is needed:

- ensure that terms and conditions of approval are met.
- monitor impacts of the development.
- monitor effectiveness of mitigation measures.
- strengthen future EIA applications and mitigation measures.
- undertake environmental audit and process evaluation to optimise environmental management (IAIA 1999)
- Strengthen future EIA applications by establishing limits/ required outcomes

Emerging trends in practice

- Stronger expectations and expanding scope
- Evidence of transparency and participation
- Better links between planning and EIA
- More emphasis on outcome (not process)
- Stronger emphasis on post-EIA management, liability, performance and compensation (offsets, environmental bonds...)

Outcomes, not processes, eg no net loss or a net gain of biodiversity where development might affect “critical” biodiversity; biodiversity offsets
 Genuine engagement with affected communities as part of a transparent approach
 Expanding scope, eg human rights and access to ecosystem services, cumulative affects, health impact assessment..
 Stronger links between planning, EIA and other tools; consideration of real alternatives

What does experience tell us?

- **On its own, EIA is not sufficient to prevent environmental degradation.**
- There also needs to be:
 - A good planning framework
 - “Champions” in government

Abaza (2004), environmental impact management is not solely for future reward; it can also cut current costs dramatically and improve stakeholder relations.

If managed appropriately, EIAs can provide for a healthier environment and sustainable economic growth, benefiting both present and future generations.

What are we aiming for?

- An EIA process that is rigorous, practical, cost effective, efficient, focused, participatory, interdisciplinary and transparent.
- An EIA process that is independent and credible
- An EIA process that "brings people along"
- "Cradle to Grave" stewardship



Public participation based on "Engage, Deliberate Decide", not "Announce, Discuss, Defend" Those familiar with public participation will recognize that there is nothing new in the approach. It:

- Reflects good practice
- Moves away from the decide – announce – defend
- Brings the community with you on the journey.

The following recommendations/comments were noted in the discussions:

- Just because an island is small does not mean that it is not influenced by the global stage.
- Investment risk is connected with EIA
- There is an issue around educating developers as well.
- Jobs provided by EIA/ development- It is important to consider who are the beneficiaries of the job?
- It is not unusual for businesses to create a system within which they function operationally.
- Cumulative impacts must be considered through cumulative case assessments, as these can creep up. You need to have a good understanding of what these might be.
- Must always look in EIA process at decommissioning stage.
- There is an increasing interest in environmental bonds. However, some proponents don't have cash until they start working which can cause problems.
- EIA is not cost-recoverable.
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is carried out for different policy/programs/plans e.g. a transport plan for the country or flood capture management plans. The strategic stage

is often missing.

- The more project level you go, the less movement you have.
- If SEA is done as an objective-led process, it can be very powerful. SEA must be reviewed and updated.
- In many situations, there are no guidelines for strategic environmental and social assessment

Dr Treweek then gave a second presentation, for which the Powerpoint slides are shown on the following pages.

Presentation 2: How does EIA relate to other tools for sustainable development?

1

New Global Sustainable Development Goals to be reached by 2030?

- In 2013, 32,000 people had to abandon their homes each day because of conflict.
- One-third of urban residents in developing regions live in slums.
- People living in slums increased from 760 million in 2000 to 860 million in 2012.
- 13 million hectares of forest lost each year through devastation by natural causes or because land is converted to other uses.

2

What is sustainable development?



3



Many people rely extensively on natural resources for their livelihoods and income. There is a direct correlation between environmental health and human wellbeing.

As long as resources are harvested sustainably, they can continue to provide essential services at low cost. On the other hand, costs of managing environmental collapse can be considerable.



Increasingly decision makers are being expected to make costs that were previously hidden explicit. Environmental goods and services do not come free.

sustainability requires a balanced approach to
management of social, economic and
environmental issues



People may not agree about which values should be sustained or about how values should be quantified... \$ values is one way, but there are also other values that should be captured in decision making, for which \$values are not easily quantified.

Tools for sustainable development

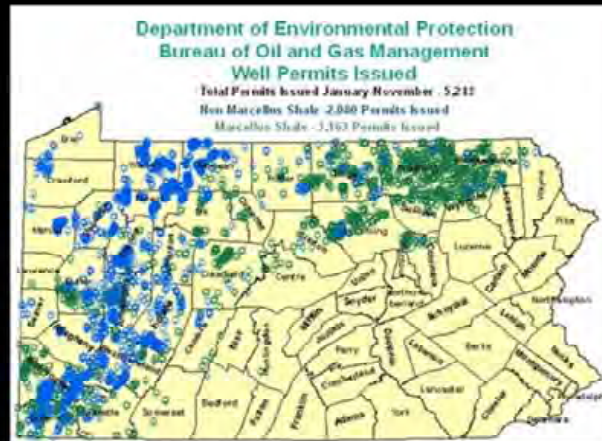
- EIA/SEA
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Ecosystem Services Review
- integrated coastal zone management
- the ecosystem approach
- ...a host of others.....
- Or good planning and enforcement!

Many attempts have been made to develop tools that will ensure sustainable development. These often fail... they are often seen as “all talk” and are highly subjective and dependent on the viewpoints of those who were involved. This makes well designed participation essential.

EIA practitioners and developers are not always good at working outside their comfort zone or core area of business... sustainable development planning requires holistic thinking and a lot of interaction between players.. Eg social specialists, biologists, engineers and economists.

6

Cumulative Impacts best dealt with “bottom up” or inside out?



Impacts of multiple projects or activities in combination with each other tend to create a cumulative impact greater than or different to that of each individual project.

Environmental and social receptors are exposed to incremental impacts over time which mean critical tipping points are reached.

Despite this, Proposals and Permit applications are often reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Even in cases where cumulative effects are considered, they are often identified from the inside out, not the outside in. This means the fact that critical tipping points are approaching is often missed until it is too late.

7

Individual permitting and tipping points



VENUS ARIADNE POWER LINE, KZN

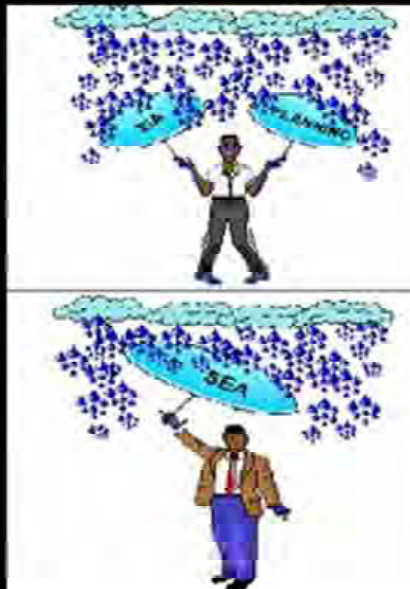
Having to introduce alternatives late in the process resulted in massive escalation of costs



7 different corridors were assessed in great detail and compared. Very controversial, ended up having to use an independent panel to select the best corridor, which was a combination of different corridors! Would have been preferable to use a landscape-level approach, look at opportunities and constraints, and homed in on optimum corridors – at most two, perhaps even one....then assess impacts in greater detail! Sometimes using SEA or a landscape-level approach is more efficient and effective. It can also be more cost-effective. However it can't replace detailed assessment of impacts because the scale of assessment is usually too broad.

Does SEA make a good umbrella?

SEA integrates environmental considerations in higher-level decision making



Eg to understand consequences of dredging and reclamation activities on the integrity of entire coastal and marine ecosystems or to predict effects of multiple development projects within a sectoral programme.. It is one way to anticipate and manage cumulative impacts. This can be difficult to do at project level, through EIA: In reality, most sites are already allocated by government or purchased by the project proponents before EIA commences.

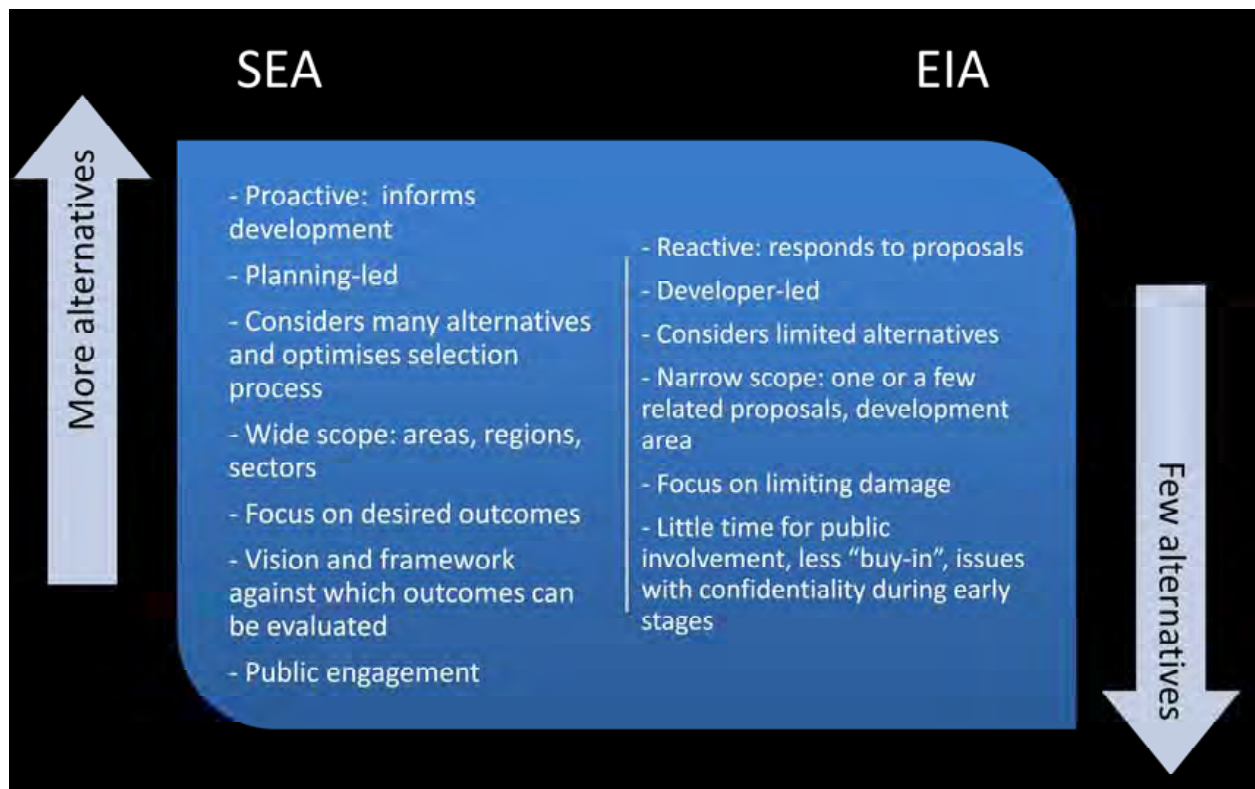
EIA or SEA or both?



- EIA addresses the effect of development on the environment
- SEA addresses the effect of the environment on development

Both are important in sensitive environments, islands, areas prone to natural hazards or disasters

SEA may not be formally done, but a strategic overview of risks to the environment and of the environment to people is needed for safe planning.

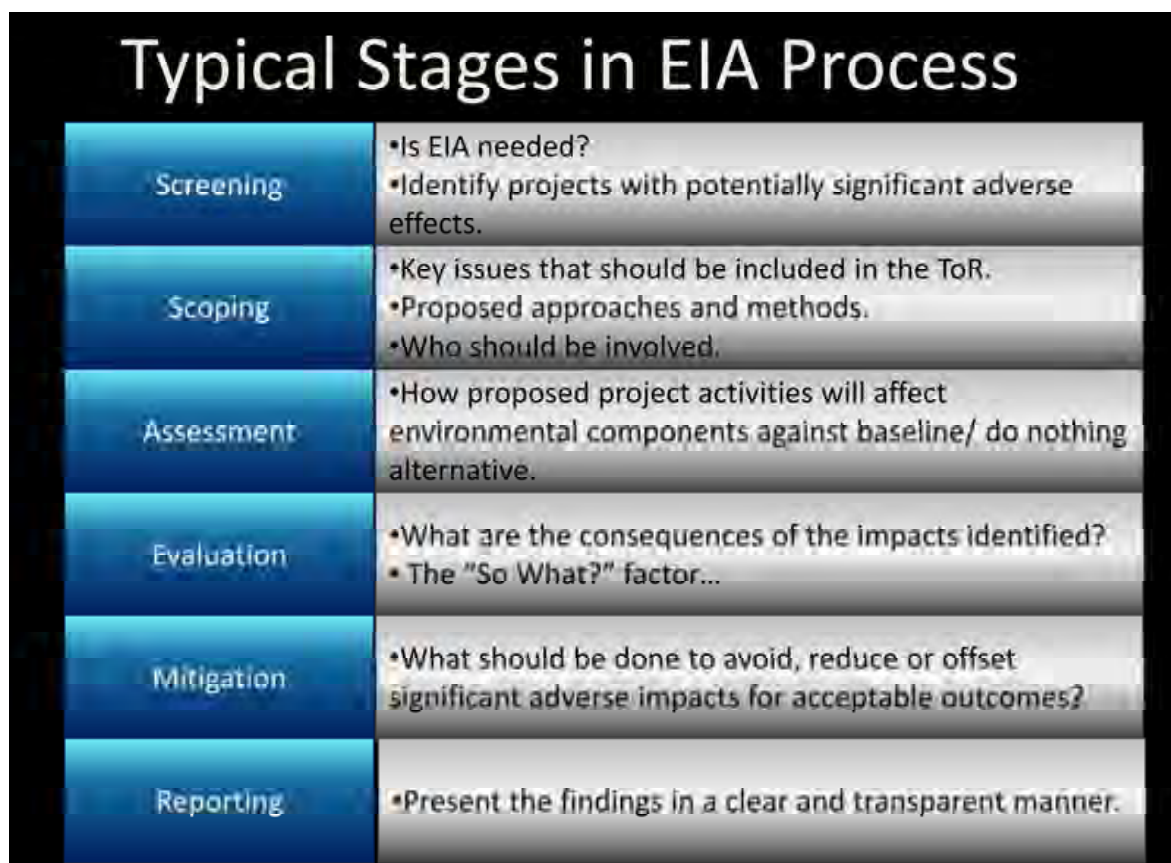




Jo Treweek then gave a presentation on:

Presentation 3: What does a good EIA look like?

1



2

Good EIA

- Follows these steps in an open way
- Has checks and balances to ensure the process follows is in line with international best practice principles
- Is fit for purpose... a good EIA is not necessarily a big expensive one.

3

Discussion around key steps

- Scoping done well promotes good EIA..

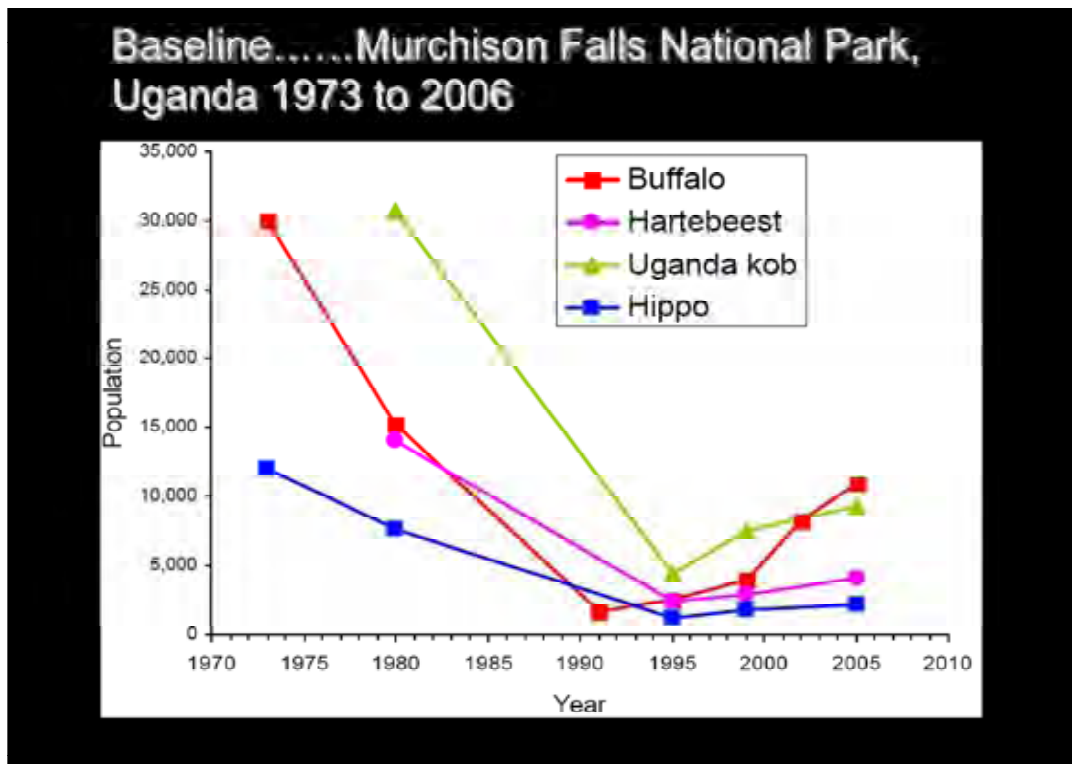
4

Scoping

- Scoping : in cases of uncertainty, results in a decision about the requirement to do an EIA
- Otherwise results in decisions about what issues the EIA should cover, who should be involved, timeframe etc
- Getting the developer to issue a scoping report can improve incorporation of environmental issues in design.

Some systems have an explicit scoping stage, including public participation. Others don't, but scoping workshops can do a lot to ensure that a good EIA is done.

5



Impacts cannot be assessed without a good baseline.. Baselines and impacts are completely inter-related.

For biodiversity, baseline assessments are usually done within a year at most. This can mean that fundamental patterns and time-series are completely missed. There could be 30,000 buffalo in MFNP or 300... how would the surveyor know what constituted the average population size, or more importantly, whether the population was healthy and viable or potentially crashing towards terminal decline?

6

Mitigation hierarchy

- The mitigation hierarchy is really important and underpins good EIA.
- It is included in international performance standards as a keystone.

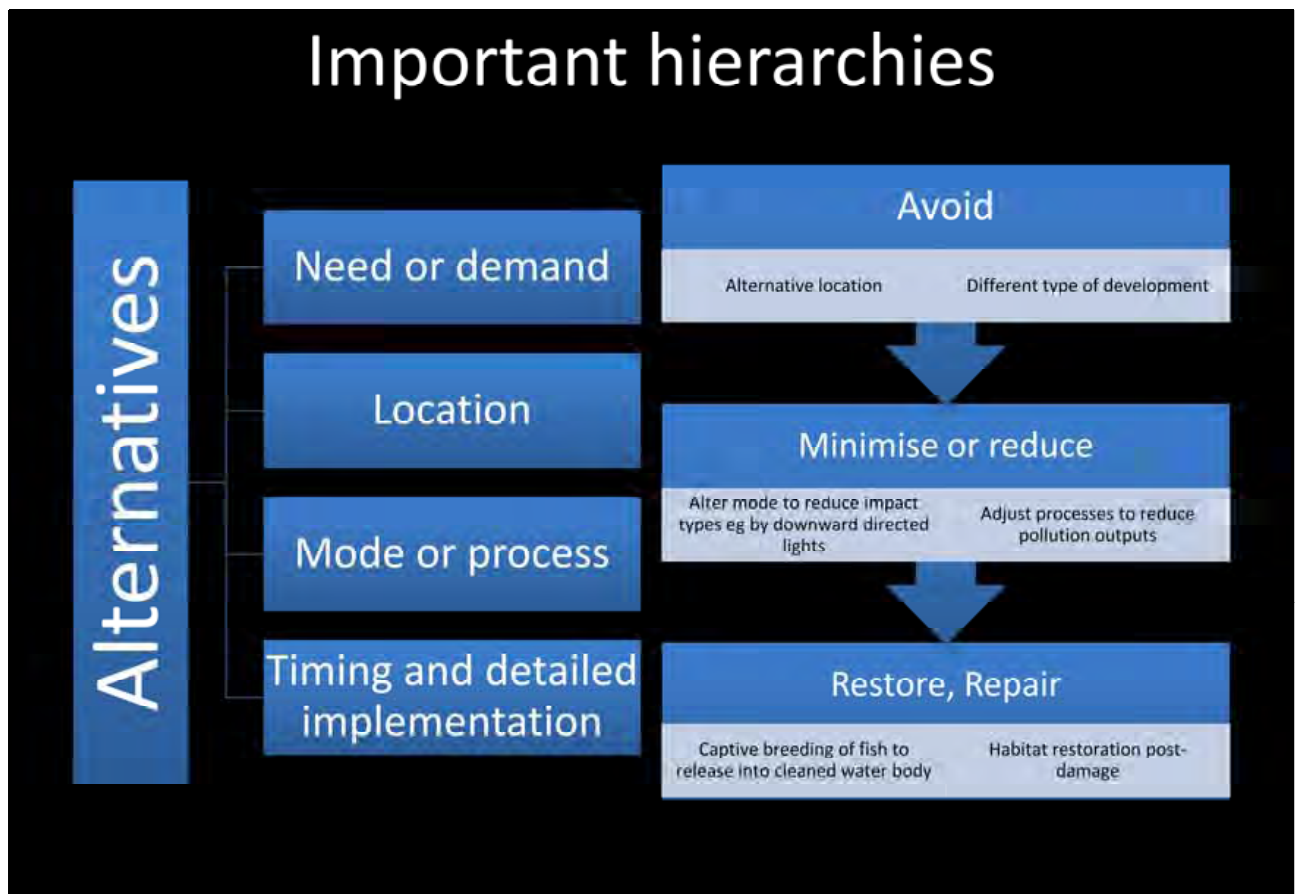
Mitigation hierarchy

- **Avoiding** the impact altogether by not taking certain action or parts of an action.
- **Minimising** impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- **Reducing or eliminating** the impact.
- **Rectifying** the impact by repairing, rehabilitating or restoring the affected environment.
- **Compensating** for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

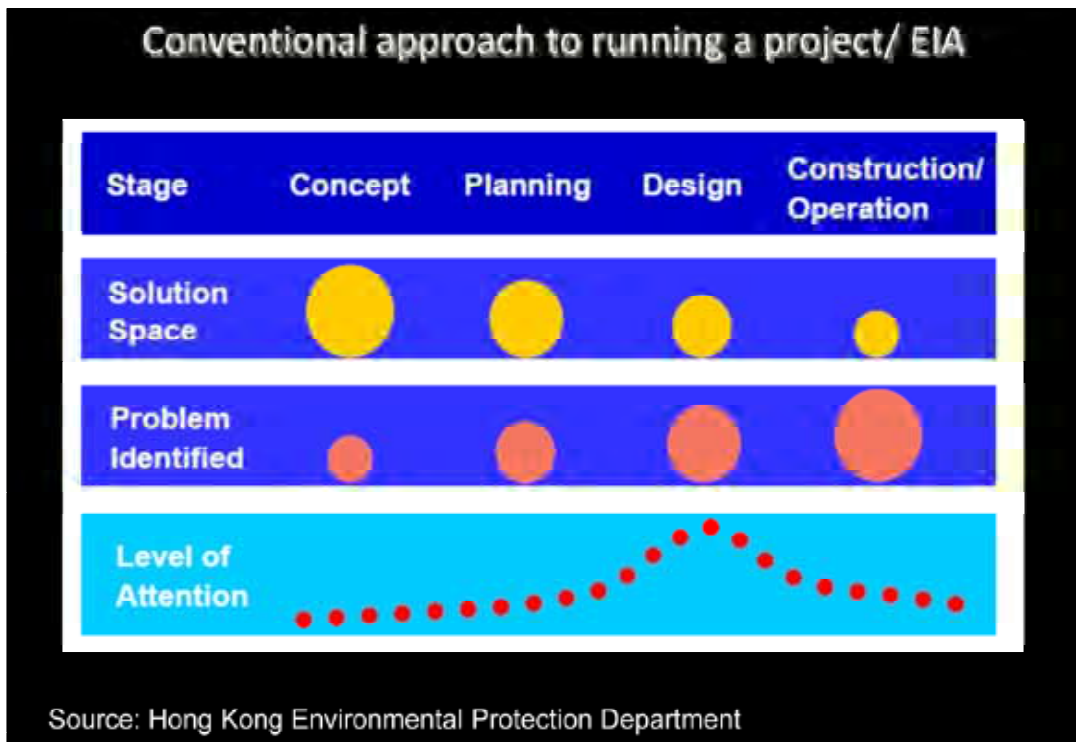
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Mitigation hierarchy is key to good EIA and is now at the forefront of international standards... it governs consideration of alternatives and is intended to ensure that irreversible damage is avoided.

Important hierarchies



Mitigation hierarchy underpins the ESIA process as envisaged by IFIs in their performance standards. It is seen as one way to achieve an appropriate emphasis on avoidance of impacts through design. The mitigation hierarchy depends on appropriate consideration of alternatives, otherwise there will be impacts that it becomes impossible to avoid, even if better alternatives may have been available.



Solution space decreases over time in project planning hence a need for early focus. Usually more attention is devoted to the detailed design stage of a project. It is not unusual to discover environmental or social issues at this stage that have not been detected before. This can delay construction. It is often more cost-effective to front-load the assessment process, so there are no nasty surprises later on.

A change in mindset might be needed, with more focus on alternative solutions and avoidance of damage at an early stage, followed by investment in proactive management. This is a shift in emphasis from traditional approaches which were generally about damage limitation.

International standards relating to EIA

- IFC Performance Standards revised in 2012 with other IFIs following suit.
- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (2004) *Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment*, IEMA, UK
- International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) (1999) *Principles of Environmental Impact Assessment Best Practice*
- BBOP Principles and Standard on Biodiversity Offsets

11

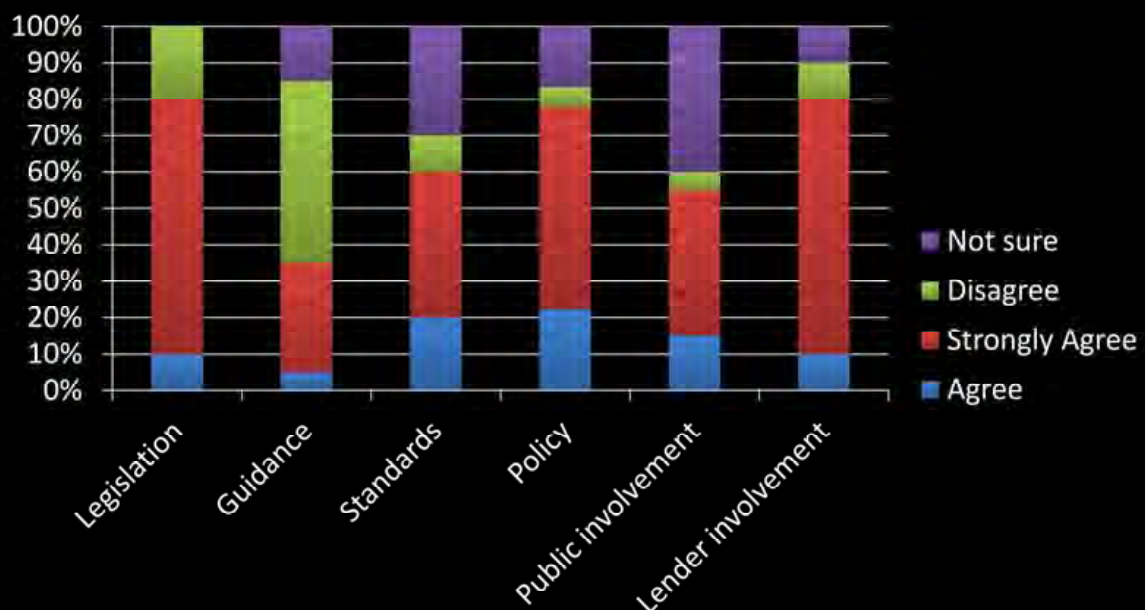
What might block effective EIA?

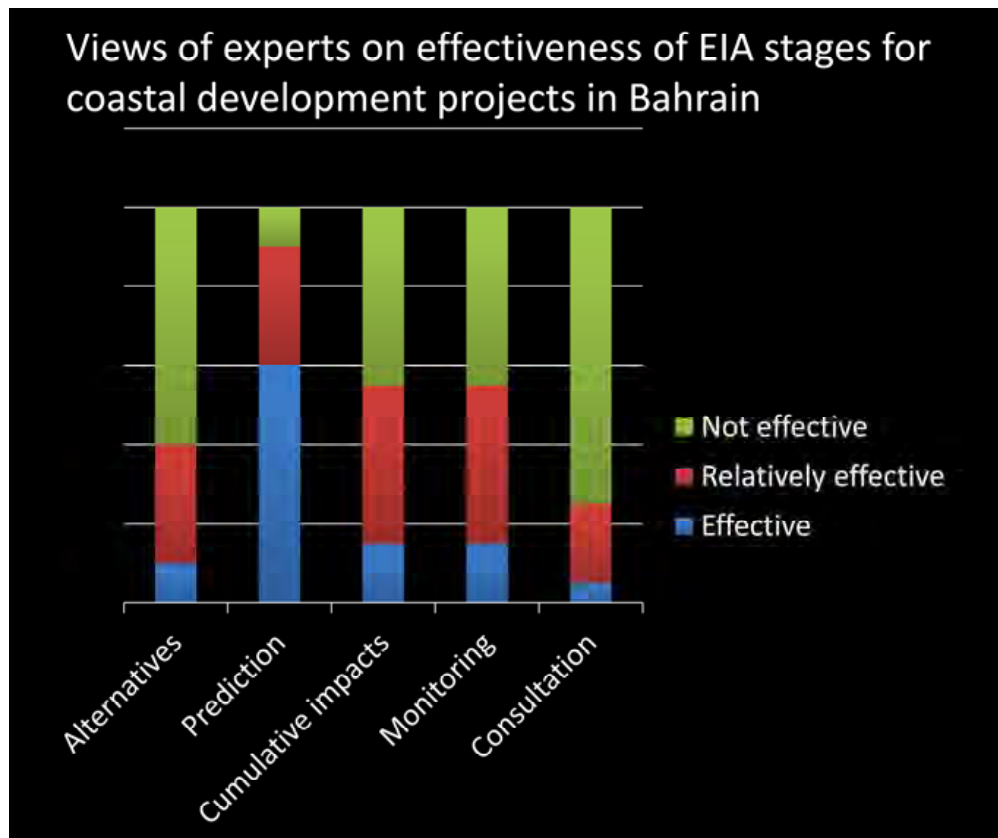
- Poorly framed legislation?
- Compartmentalised governance?
- Bureaucratic processes?
- Lack of standards?
- Lack of guidance for practitioners?
- Lack of capacity?

The scientific and technical aspects of EIA are rarely the issue. They have been extensively researched over decades and there is general agreement about what constitutes a good EIA in theory. The challenge is how to achieve good practice given real world constraints. A rigorous, but practical approach that will satisfy potential financial lenders to a project that environmental and social risks to their investment will be managed or put the minds of affected stakeholders at rest.

12

What drives standards?





The EIA process

Who should lead?

Screening is done in some administrations by the Planning Development Authority which is slightly different from most other set ups. This step considers whether EIA should be done. It would be good to have a list of project types so that you can quickly determine whether projects should have EIA. Some countries do identify permitted development rights.

Generally, if there is a congregation of protected species, regardless of whether these are in a protected site or not, you would hope that this would trigger the EIA process.

Cayman Law states that guidance notes must be produced.

Scoping In general, the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for EIAs are made public. The EIA regulator might not be involved in their drafting.

When you have limited capacity, you can hold a scoping workshop/event which is very cost-effective.

The people involved should be informed at an early stage. However, proponents are often nervous of getting information out at an early stage.

Statutory consultees in the UK have to be consulted at the scoping stage. Note: the Netherlands have an EIA commission.

Assessment Through listing potential impacts, you can get a highly speculative matrix.

Where you put the threshold between minor, moderate and major can have a huge impact on whether work gets done or not. You also want to know why.

Evaluation

Mitigation In some instances, it could be important to do this step first.

Reporting

Mitigation Hierarchy

It is important to have an Environmental Management Plan. Ultimately you are aiming for no net loss of biodiversity. Things should be no worse off from when you started.

You should have performance standards. Note: There are differences between the definitions of natural and critical habitat.

Nobody is required to wait until the EIA process is finished before opposing a project. Plan/System.

The process involves adaptive management as EIA leads directly into the Environment Management Jo Treweek then gave the next presentation:

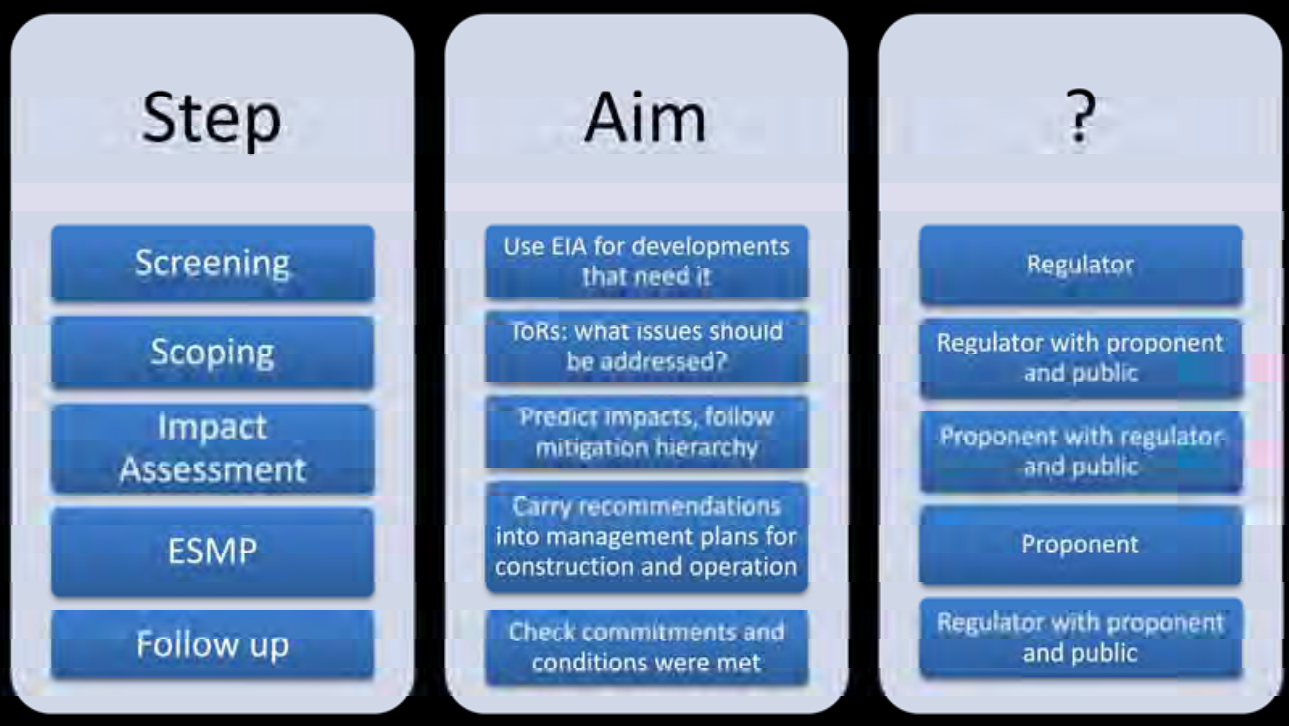
Presentation 4: EIA – Roles, Responsibilities and Participation

1



2

Who should lead?



3

Scoping matrix

Environmental aspect	Construction Phase	Operation Phase
Landscape		
Cultural Heritage		
Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity		
Air quality		

4

More detailed

Receptor	Dredging	Buildings	Road upgrade	
Flora, Fauna				
Corals				
Galliwasp				

5

- Brief description of the project including any timescales (e.g. for construction), ancillary features (such as pipelines or highway improvements), plans/maps/photos to aid description of the site and the proposal;
- Feasible alternatives and others that have been discounted;
- Strategic background, for example, development plans and other related projects;

6

Scoping Checklist

- List of stakeholders and how they might be involved in the EIA process;
- Methodologies to be adopted for the assessment of each issue;
- Extent of the study area considered for each issue;
- The time horizon for which predictions are made;

7

- Key environmental constraints and opportunities;
- Likely key impacts, both positive and negative;
- Gaps in information;
- Proposed further surveys;
- Preliminary mitigation and enhancement measures;
- Proposed EIA programme, including timescales and milestones (e.g. consultation exercises and production of the ES).

8

- Preliminary mitigation and enhancement measures (if we are going to rely on mitigation for a good outcome, is it likely to work?)
- a scoping report can also be used in the subsequent review of an ES to check that the issues considered significant at the outset of the EIA process have, indeed, been addressed. It is good practice for an ES to include a section that sets out where each issue identified in the scoping opinion is dealt with in the ES – this may be summarised in a table

9

Using a risk assessment approach

- When considering the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by a development, a risk- assessment approach can be used. For an impact to occur, all three of the following criteria must be present:
 - **source**, i.e. activity that may be harmful;
 - **pathway**, i.e. the route by which a harmful action or material is able to reach the receptor;
 - **receptor**, i.e. humans, property, ecology, habitat, landscape, atmosphere, water, etc.

Cumulative Impacts dealt with “top down or bottom up” or both?



- Permitting.. Planning-led SEA or sector EIA with conditions on each permit to ensure landscape cumulative effects are managed
- Proponent uses EIA to identify and mitigate its contribution
- Public issues of concern reflected in conditions and reported openly

Impacts of multiple projects or activities in combination with each other tend to create a cumulative impact greater than or different to that of each individual project.

Environmental and social receptors are exposed to incremental impacts over time which mean critical tipping points are reached.

Despite this , Proposals and Permit applications are often reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Even in cases where cumulative effects are considered, they are often identified from the inside out, not the outside in. This means the fact that critical tipping points are approaching is often missed until it is too late.

Communication



Should be adapted to audience

Affected by Terms of Reference and reporting requirements of the client... may not be tailored for public consultation

A good Environmental Impact Report should focus on key issues and present them in a clear, transparent and digestible manner

Examples are legion of poor reporting, including failure to specify the location of the proposed development, when it is planned to happen, the scale of proposed activities..

According to UN/ECA et al. (2007), some EIA reports are of very low quality and may also be excessively long and hard to understand regardless of the reader's level of education or expertise. For instance, the EIA for the Tana Delta Integrated Sugar Project in Kenya is 412 pages long and couched in turgid technical and scientific language, with extensive chemical equations, complex economic graphs and Latin binomial species nomenclature (Mumias, 2007).

It is common for Environmental Impact Reports to present vague and qualitative impact predictions, extrapolation from little or no baseline monitoring or an absence of rigour in describing projects and their impacts

Mumias, S. (2007). "Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report for the Proposed Tana Integrated Sugar Project in Tana River and Lamu Districts, Coast Province, Kenya." Available from http://www.tanariverdelta.org/tana/967DSY/version/default/part/AttachmentData/data/MUMIAS_Tana_EIA_part1.pdf

Community buy-in and involvement

Traditional Approach (DAD):

DECIDE ANNOUNCE DEFEND

Building Trust Approach (EDD):

ENGAGE DELIBERATE DECIDE



Those familiar with public participation will recognize that there is nothing new in the approach.

It:

- Reflects good practice
- Moves away from the decide – announce – defend
- Brings the community with you on the journey.

Martin, T. (2007). "Muting the Voice of the Local in the Age of the Global: How Communication Practices Compromised Public Participation in India's Allain Dunhangan Environmental Impact Assessment." Available from www.bicusa.org/proxy/Document.10857.aspx

Level of consultation needed

- The level of consultation should be proportional to the potential significance of the project's impacts.
- This will be related to the nature, scale, location and perceived importance of the project.
- Those undertaking consultation should identify stakeholders and the most effective means of eliciting responses from them, draw up a communication plan and gauge public concerns.

14

The assessment team will need to resolve:

- who would potentially be affected;
- who perceives themselves to be affected;
- who would promote the project;
- who would be opposed to the project;
- who has been involved previously;
- who has been excluded previously;
- who is influential in the community.

15

Managing expectations

- It is important that actors involved in EIA are made aware that uncertainties and unforeseeable impacts are likely to occur in all EIA situations.
- Furthermore, all actors need to recognise that information about the effects of alternatives and the possibilities of mitigation are often going to be incomplete.

Diamond ranking exercise

The participants were split in to two groups. They were given a number of statements about EIAs, and they were asked rank them according to how strongly they agreed or disagreed with them.

Statements to review in the diamond ranking exercise

- A. EIA is used for all developments likely to have significant effects on the environment
- B. If EIA is done well, development will be sustainable
- C. The EIA process balances economic, social and ecological considerations
- D. The EIA process allows full and appropriate participation of consultees and stakeholders
- E. EIA results are publically available and

transparent

- F. EIA results in better designed projects
- G. EIA adds costs to development
- H. EIAs are the best way to identify mitigation measures and manage project impacts on the environment
- I. The EIA process is independent and unbiased
- J. EIA always starts before development does
- K. EIA results in no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- L. EIA balances alternatives, including the no-development alternative
- M. The EIA process allows time for full consideration of relevant impacts
- N. EIA influences planning decisions

- O. Effective EIA is constrained by lack of capacity and resources.
- P. Good Environmental Impact Statements are more than 100 pages long

Discussion from Group 1:

The group approached the exercise by looking at a best case and a worst case scenario. In the worst case scenario, they agreed strongly with statement O that effect EIAs are constrained by lack of capacity and resources. They agreed slightly with H, although they thought that EIAs are one way to mitigate for impacts, but there are others, for example tight planning.

The group neither agreed nor disagreed with statements B, F, G, L or P. They did comment that a good EIAs is based on quality not how long it is.

The group disagreed slightly with C, J and N. Noting that EIA is supposed to influence planning decisions but it often does not.

The group disagreed with statements A, E, M, I, D and K adding, that social aspects are overlooked often, they are always under tight deadlines to be completed and are often rushed.

Under a best case scenario, of which Cayman is often a good example, the group agreed strongly with O, J and E, noting that there is are robust consultation mechanisms. Agreed with A and D. Agreed slightly with N and H. The group neither agreed no disagreed with B, F, G, L and P as in the worst case. They disagreed slightly with C, disagreed strongly with K and M.

Discussion from Group 2:

The group decided to look at intermediate ground. They decided that, in all cases, they agreed strongly with O. They agreed with A, N, D, E, F. They neither agreed nor disagreed with B, H, I, J. They disagreed with G, M and L. Disagreed strongly with, C and K and with P that good EIS are defined by their length.

General comments:

It was interesting to note that both groups were aligned in their disagreement of statements P, and in their agreement that lack of resources and capacity limits the effectiveness of an EIA.

The Cayman Islands Government Department of Environment has a substantial amount of information at www.doe.ky.

Group exercise Terms of Reference for a new development

1. Proposal - spatial scope
2. Baseline - spatial scope
3. Current State (What is there? Socially community sense of space, quiet, inventory of noise level, population)
4. Form a matrix to make sure have all components such as receptors and rank these with exposure, sensitivity, and magnitude. Include EU Directives, which require EIAs to include: soil, water, air, flora, fauna, human health, light, legal and policy obligations, national and international obligations, such as MEAs (*e.g.* CBD, CMS, CITES, Ramsar). It is important to show how your proposal complies with these things.

The TORs can be useful public documents and that is what Cayman has done.

This is a full cycle of development, through to decommissioning. For example, in the case of the St Helena airport, what would happen if it were to be closed down in future?

Social factors need to be included. There are issues with gender, schools; who would be impacted if drugs and crime went up?

There are WHO standards on human health, which might be used: for example, noise limits.

There should be requirements to consult. What happens when consultants come from outside a territory without any prior knowledge of the sites and ask for the data for free? There may be only one person with the knowledge and skills to review an EIA. The TOR for the cruise terminal on Cayman was 143 pages long.

When carrying out TORs, as much information as possible about development should be gathered. It may be that this becomes a hybrid with a scoping document.

TORs should specify what you want to know about the proposed development and any resource use that goes with this. For example, how many jobs will it create? What skills will be needed for these jobs? Are they available locally? What materials will be needed? How long will the proposed development take? What are the potential impacts of different receptors? What are the potential impacts of potential lost income as a result of loss of pristine habitat due to development?

Are you potentially displacing people who have no

alternative?

The Cayman document might be a very useful resource for those conducting similar exercises in other UKOTs. It may be that the Cayman document is too general and, ideally, it could be more specific. For example, air quality is mentioned but this could be more specific by saying the air quality affecting who?

Guidance TORs could be developed for the group following the workshop. Participants were encouraged to supply materials to share with the group. These would have to be quite generic as the TORs would depend on the stage in the process with the proponent.

Sea-level rise and hurricanes and the displacing of people if they loose their jobs are important aspects, as you must consider social consequences further down the line.

UKOTCF, Jo and others would look at ways of sharing relevant sources of information , EIA reports, literature, etc. One way of doing this could be within the existing UKOTCF database or immediately on Dropbox.



Above and next page: EIA Workshop in session



Speeches by Ministers or their equivalents in the conference closing sessions

Hon Claude Hogan, Minister of Agriculture & Environment, Government of Montserrat

Dr John Cortes: It's not often that we have Ministers from the UKOTs represented at Forum meetings and I think this is a wonderful thing to have and so relevant. As I said in my presentation a couple of days ago, Ministers shouldn't consider environmentalists a threat, nor should environmentalists, if I can use that term loosely, and organisations consider Ministers a threat. And the more we talk to each other and the more we engage with each other, the better. I believe that, before the break, the Honorable Minister of Montserrat and the Chief Executive of Alderney agreed to say a few words. Therefore, I call on the Honourable Claude Hogan, who is my counterpart from the beautiful island of Montserrat.

Hon. Claude Hogan:

Thank you very much, Mr Chair and thank you for your warm hospitality here in Gibraltar. Indeed it is my first visit and let me salute you and let me also salute you ladies and gentlemen, the Chair of the UKOTCF, also my good friend Dr Mike Pienkowski, who you know encouraged me to be here. I can tell you why, but that would be a long story!

As you know, politicians usually have something to say, but then in my country if you give us a mic, you can't stop us from speaking, so that will be the end of the conference. So bear with me. They're timing me? Really? [Laughter]

So thanks, Ladies and Gentlemen, for bearing with me for a few moments. I usually rely on my technicians to tell me what to say. First of all, and I hope you will be able to discern when I have departed from the text, because I always depart from the text. But I am promising and committing to be a champion for environmental issues in Montserrat, and I'll take back to my cabinet the issues that have been unfolded here, so brilliantly. I refer to it as my University in the environment, but my background was really from High School in sciences. I was planning to be a doctor. My geography teacher was actually Mrs Sarita Francis, and I did chemistry, physics, biology, and everything else, but then you know that was not



my real wish; that was grandparents and parents wanting you to be more than what you wanted to be, if I can put it that way. I really wanted to be a political scientist and a lawyer, and I ended up changing colleges about 3 times until I found my place. So in 2001, I actually ended up in politics. I was a former Radio Antilles and Radio Montserrat reporter, and Stephen Mendes' daddy taught me to operate the console. But, seriously, we need to look and grasp the need to build capacity in our small islands because we experience extreme conditions.

We are the least contributors to the problems that are in the world in relation to carbonisation, sea-level rise and all the other threats. I really applaud the conference for having taken a hands-on approach to dealing with conservation mitigation and the issues of protecting our environment. I

think in fact it is wonderful that we are continuing, as small island territories, to make such a really valuable contribution to global affairs. And I want to borrow the phrase from my Gibraltarian friend that, in fact, all the UKOTs are “punching above their weight.”

We could have been like the other SIDS countries complaining to Britain and all of the first world countries to stop your emissions. We could have been complaining to China and India and all of these countries which are reticent to the damage that their continued use of global resources to promote industrial development is causing. But what we are doing is that we are conserving, protecting and mitigating damage to what God has given us as our natural attributes, and I really want to applaud us and applaud you on leading us in that direction.

In Montserrat, we have basically a mirror of what is going on here. I have come to be able to appreciate it that much more and I see clearly now the light on why we have the Conservation and Environmental Management Act (CEMA) legislation that was passed. We have been a little slow in enacting regulations and to get it into force. But that is also because the CEMA, which is our Environmental Act, requires levels of capacity which we have not yet been able to draw on from any of the funding agencies around us, DFID included. I want to commit, to Mr Mendes and the Environmental Department and the National Trust, that I will now with alacrity seek to get that done. We have begun since I returned to office in September last year when, at that point, I was clearly negatively moved by the fact that the previous Government had demolished a hill that we called Gun Hill, which was a sort of a fortification. (The English were beaten by the French in Montserrat twice, and so we have gun batteries and Gun Hills and so on.) I really loved this hill and then they demolished the hill at the cost of £3 million dollars, and a further \$4 million was used to fill a pond. And I spoke to my friend Mike and I said “Mike, what do you think we should do about this? I mean, you know, can we, you know, excavate it all back out and restore biodiversity there. He said that it might be possible to restore the pond; it would be expensive, so perhaps it might be better not to build on the site so as to keep options for restoration open. And he asked me the other question. What would I think about local attitudes to that spend immediately after the big spend to do the damage? Well, I am looking for the answer, and I said I think the

infilling is a disgrace. I was called in to meet the Governor and to look at the solution to the disgrace. We have not found a solution but we are still intending to build a town in that area, and you can be assured that we will build it taking full account of nature. I want Montserrat to be the way the Caribbean used to be.

We have had the most devastating natural disaster in this century in the Caribbean but I will continue to worship my home town because, in this 21st Century, we have been able to do what our people took 300 years to do, to build a town and to continue a sense of civil society there in north Montserrat. We have been able to do that in 20 years. We are celebrating 20 years since we had our volcano. And when I arrived here, and I saw us approaching this great big rock in the middle of this country I thought, if they can celebrate this in Gibraltar, then I can say celebrate mine in Montserrat, and continue to build our land that was there.

So certainly all of you I consider scientists, and I want to, as a politician, respect the work of scientists. I am a little bit taken aback that the British seem to have a position similar or akin to that of the US where they are not believing the scientists. Something is wrong when we are still debating at this time whether a Charter on the environment is legally binding or not. This, in fact, would be a pre-requisite for the type of commitments we need to make to ensure that we clean up and protect our environment. So certainly, that is a deficit we have.

I have actually researched some texts for you, that I think we should take to the British Government, and we shouldn't be saying just “can you please accept this”? And I was well schooled about this Charter while I was here, in the corridors, so I went back to my room and looked at my texts, and I think we should tell the British Government we need enhanced provisions for supporting the adaptation needs of our vulnerable countries, including provision of adequate, predictable, new and additional finance, technology and capacity building support and the strengthening of the institutional arrangements that we need to do the work that we are doing.

[Interrupted by applause]

Thank you. I also want to encourage you to let us look also at where we have come from. I am sure that you have established baselines in relation to the work that you are doing in the various territories and I want us to do measuring, reporting

and have institutional arrangements in place with the UKOTCF, which I continue to think is going to have an indefinite role to play in this exercise. In verification of the performance of what we are doing against these commitments and against those commitments that we shall agree, our main thrust is that the UK government shall finance this. And we will put in place with them a compliance regime. Not compliance just for us, because we are going to be performing against our targets. We are going to make sure that there is a compliance regime that they respect in regard to the work that we are doing in fulfilling the international obligations of our entire United Kingdom and its Territories.

Now we also in Montserrat, as I said, have been exposed to some very difficult times. Our entire town was destroyed by a volcano, and indeed I think that, if some of these things that are predicted to happen, and some of the things that could happen, if you did not take the steps you are taking now, that you are going to have to look seriously at other issues, such as insurance. I remember that, at the height of the volcano, the insurance companies which were based in London, came in and reduced our insurance coverage and paid us out at 40% of the value of the insurance, and left us with 60%. Now these are matters that you cannot leave hanging, and we have to look at some of those issues.

Recently, I was in Guadeloupe when the French President convened a meeting of all of the Caribbean countries, and I noticed that he did not discriminate between the independent and non-independent countries, so we were all invited. He has now unveiled a number of projects that include the Overseas Territories and they are looking at possibly a window for the French Overseas Territories who will collaborate with the other Overseas Territories to access the Global Climate Fund. We still don't know how that will work, and there will be discussions in Paris in December 2015. I invite member states here to keep an eye out on that, because I honestly believe that we need to work with all our partners in dealing with this environmental issue. It is a really big problem that we are facing. So certainly I will encourage you to join with us, and let us look at something which I heard my good friend Lyndon raised in passing in a meeting which I wanted to underline: that, in addition to the sub-regional efforts that we are making in our own regions, we need to also cross-collaborate and cross-fertilise with the other countries in our regions. This is because

some of these issues are best challenged and best handled when we also work with our neighbours. In Montserrat, we have Antigua, St Kitts, Nevis, as well as other OCTs close by. Some of the issues of climate change we cannot fix at the domestic level, we are going to have to find regional solutions or sub-regional solutions, so I applaud that as an outcome from this conference. I hope that we, as UKOTs, extend it to include also our other neighbouring countries in the areas in which we are resident.

I wanted to comment very briefly on some of the topics that we have discussed here, and I am particularly pleased at the discussion, and not just the discussion. I was able also to realise that some of you have marine assistance, in work in the marine part of your Exclusive Economic Zones. We have been trying to grapple with providing resources for our marine division and our environmental department and fisheries unit to work together, and it just occurred to me that this is the very essence of why I will not say I am here to represent the Government. I am actually here today representing the island of Montserrat. We have several key parts in this room. I am starting to think that the Environmental Department and Fisheries could actually be outsourced to the Montserrat National Trust because they are working so well together and all they need from us is certification and financing. So this is how I want to view it. I have learnt the lesson that I should let them work closely together and pool their resources wherever possible. I am sure the National Trust would love to hear that!

We have had some lessons that we are learning and I have learnt here on the question of the geothermal exploration. All of these things sound very good but, when I heard the discussion on the approaches of countries like Gibraltar, I am thinking in my own country that maybe haste is going to make waste. This is because we are working on two tracks and I can assure you that we certainly do not have the capacity to deliver the policy, the legislation and the operational arrangements that would deal with the environmental consequences from geothermal operations in Montserrat. But everybody is very delighted to hear that there is going to be less carbon used and the electricity is going to be cheaper – and I am not even sure about that because the level of investment that has to be made in the capacity that we need to get it operational – we are going to have to go back to the drawing board with the British Government. It is not just about building a plan, it is going to be a

weighty issue going forward and I have taken note of that.

I want to applaud the BEST project on invasive species. They have been doing a wonderful job in feral animal and invasive species control in Montserrat, a culling programme to be exact. When I first came into office, I was told that the programme included the culling of donkeys. And Montserrat is a Christian society; we have every Christian denomination on Montserrat – Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal and I might have missed half of all these. I told the people from BEST “the donkeys have the cross on their back; don’t you recognise it? That donkey carried Jesus into Bethlehem, is it Bethlehem or Jerusalem? There was a crucifixion again. [Laughter] So we can’t be culling donkeys.” I started over the programme and I cut out the culling of donkeys. And I’m afraid that the situation has gotten so bad that people have been injured, there have been car accidents, people are afraid to come out of their houses at night in certain villages because the donkey population has gotten well out of hand. So I am asking BEST, Elizabeth [Radford], Lyndon [John] and company, to come back and talk to the people, and do what they say. [Laughter]

Thank you for that.

Lastly, let me congratulate you all, and pay tribute to the work on Environmental Impact Assessment. I should tell you that, ahead of this workshop I was very grateful, to have invited UKOTCF at very short notice to help. I mean, I met Mike and, within two days, we had agreed he is coming to Montserrat [in January 2015], and bringing two colleagues with him, including an EIA consultant. We are going to embed EIAs in planning approvals in Montserrat. And all that has happened between September and now. So, Mike, thank you very much for finding Jo Treweek [applause]...Jo is here somewhere, and yes I want her to come and live in Montserrat – everybody knows that [laughter].

So that being said, I just wanted to pay tribute to everyone.

There is one last part of the puzzle which I did not quite get in a question earlier in the conference. But I did some research on the Blue Halo Initiative in Bermuda and I found out that it was not implemented by Waitt, as is the one that I am having such wonderful experiences with in Montserrat, partly facilitated by UKOTCF. The Bermuda initiative of the same name was apparently implemented by Pew.

The situation is with us, as the session reporters highlighted, information sharing, cooperation and an appreciation of the cultures and so on. I think that maybe that subject area is a good subject area on which this Forum should advise on a standing operating procedure for incoming philanthropists who want to do work in the environment. It is very useful that we capture all that we are able to capture. Maybe Stephen Mendes and Mrs Francis, and with a little minor help from me, can start to put something together in terms of standing operating procedures: what did we do?; what are our experiences?; what do we expect?; what do you expect?

Thank you all very much. I really appreciated being here. I really want to reflect also that I heard everything and I have a photographic memory too. I want to really empathise with BVI on their experience. I did have that similar experience when I was dealing with the airport in Montserrat, which is, they say it is a bit short, but we have a modest airport; they use an Islander service and it is extremely capable, and I want you all to feel welcome to come there, we also have a ferry service. I am putting the entire Forum on notice that the next conference shall be held – God willing – in Montserrat in three years’ time, as well as the next Environment Ministers meeting in May or July next year.

Thank you

[Applause]

Victor Brownlees, Chief Executive, States of Alderney

John Cortes: I have now the pleasure and honour of asking the Chief Executive of Alderney, Victor Brownlees, to address us.

Thank you very much indeed, Minister, and very many thanks to Mike and to you for giving me an opportunity to be here.

I'm the guy with the wife with the broken wrist, she didn't break it here, and she didn't want to miss it, so she had her operation on Monday, and she begged the doctors to let her leave, on Friday, from Alderney. Many of you will probably know my son, Alexander, much better than you know me. [laughter] Those of you who haven't seen pictures of Hector, his new puppy, he'd be more than happy to show them to you. [laughter]

Anyway, why am I here? I'm not a directly elected politician. I feel a bit of a fraud, following someone like Claude. I am a mere functionary. A bit like Bill [Samuel], however, I'm a recovering accountant, I haven't touched a set of accounts in 1846 days, and I don't want to start again!

My job in Alderney is to assist, support and give advice to the ten elected members of the States of Alderney, and then to make sure that things happen. I am here because we're a small community, but we have a very big heart, and huge hopes for the future, for the island. And I'm glad to be here with my friend, I'm glad to say, and colleague, Roland [Gauvain], who runs the Alderney Wildlife Trust. Like Claude, I'm quite hopeful that I'll be able to outsource a lot of the activities of the States to Roland and his team.

I suppose for me, what have I learnt from this, are three takeaways which have huge resonance in terms of the things we are trying to do, in Alderney. The first one is that – I can't remember which one of you said it, but it's absolutely wonderful and I'm going to steal it – to avoid the cookie-cutter approach. That's hugely important for those of us who live in small communities that are very very assured of their own identity. Outside pressure does not work. I'm fairly new to Alderney and I have to be sensitive to this every day: "what do I know" is the constant question of me. I'm from the outside; I'm not from Alderney. So I get it. It doesn't work if it's seen to be driven from the outside. And it's important to have local champions, the Blue Halo was something that



I think will stick in my mind. Linked to that, however, there's this sense that there's an immense wealth, knowledge and experience. I looked at the posters and listened to what you've all got to say, and I've had conversations with a number of you. The experience is huge. It's not called "Sustaining Partnerships" I guess by mistake; it's about sharing the knowledge. People talk about knowledge being power. Knowledge is definitely at its most powerful, in my view, when it is shared. What I would like to take away from that for me is how can we do better in Alderney, in learning from the rest of you. Why is that important? We have tried in the past to bring about a marine park, a marine protected area, and it failed diabolically because we didn't use the engagement processes which people like Fiona [Gell] and Peter [Richardson] talk about. So I will take that away so we can do it better in the future. And the other bit that's important to us, that's a reasons why I've had a conversation with Tom [Appleby], in Alderney we do own our territorial waters and the seabed out to 3 miles. We want it out to 12. Again, how we can better sustain that huge resource for the island.

So, no cookie cutters; got to get local champions.

The next thing is, and it's a bit of a creative tension here between the two concepts, one that we are a relatively closed system so we can experiment, we can try things out, but – and I take the point – we cannot be guinea pigs. We shouldn't be somebody else's lab rat; we've got to understand the risks

that go with trying new things out. Why is that important to us? Because renewable are huge. The tidal energy project in Alderney can make us completely free of fossil fuels; it can hugely reduce the cost of living in Alderney. Electricity costs, for instance, and oil costs round to about 15+% of the living wage in Alderney. So it's got huge potential, but, and Roland keeps reminding me of this, what about the environmental impact: "Victor, you have these negotiations with these developers; how can we better protect, if you like, the environmental resource that is ours?" So I'll take that away: it's right to take a risk; it's right to try things; it's right to experiment; but don't be somebody else's lab rat.

be here – and also for putting up with pictures of Hector. Thank you.

[Applause]

The third one is that I was hugely inspired when I heard somebody talk about this the other day, that we need to capitalise – and I'm going to talk like an accountant now, I'm sorry – on balance sheets collectively. The value of our natural and historic heritage: I believe that's hugely important. Why in Alderney?, Because we are special. We talk about being unique. I don't like that word; we're special: there's things about Alderney that will attract people to come there. Hence, our *Living Islands* project, and I think I've spoken to a number of you already about what we're doing there. That's about recognising those things, and then going after tourism. I say that, unashamedly, there's two sides to what we want to do with *Living Islands*. One is to conserve and protect; the other is to achieve sustainable economic growth, and we're going to do that through niche and targeted tourism.

So those are my three take aways, the things that I'll go back and hopefully work on closely with Roland in the future.

One of the things I do want to do. I came here with very little knowledge about the work of UKOTCF, the Forum. I applaud you. I am absolutely astounded by the work that you have been doing, and the work all of you have been doing individually and collectively. I will take that back.

I promise that Alderney will be much more closely engaged in the work of the Forum, and in working with our friends and colleagues right across the CDs and the UKOTs, wherever you may be. I am delighted that Claude has invited us to Montserrat, next year and beyond. I was going to invite you to Alderney, but we'll leave that for the next round. [laughter]. So again, huge thanks to you, Mike, Minister, to all of you for giving us a chance to

Dr Hon Kedrick D. Pickering, Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources & Labour, British Virgin Islands

In the British Virgin Islands, the Environment is not just any old subject; in the British Virgin Islands, the Environment IS the subject – because, despite the fact that we are involved with international events such as financial services, tourism is our main bread-earner and our tourism is largely based on the fact that our environment is so special. We did a study with the University of Amsterdam two years ago. The study showed that about 90% of all the visitors coming to the BVI come because of the environment. In the same study, 90% of visitors said that our beaches are our number one assets and, if we destroyed these, there wouldn't be anything for anyone to come to the BVI for. You extend that discussion; most is based on our marine environment. 75% of visitors come to sail so it is a major part of our industry, as well as snorkeling, scuba-diving and other water-related activities. These are what our tourism is all about.”

Minister Pickering noted that BVI's term as chair of OCTA (the Overseas Countries & Territories Association, representing the Overseas Territories of the UK, the Netherlands, France and Denmark) ended in February this year. As part of this, he had addressed the United Nations meeting in Samoa on behalf of OCTs during the UN Year of the Small Islands Developing States. He noted that he is an environmentalist at heart, and that involvement in the Environment and issues surrounding the environment are more than political. He tried his level best to attend meetings trying to raise the voice of the environment, and was pleased to be here to show the BVI's support of the environment on behalf of BVI as well as all of the Eastern States? He noted that all must be prepared to raise our voices on these issues: people take you seriously if you are present.

He described also the role of the BVI in the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, spearheaded by local businessman, Sir Richard Branson, and the former Prime Minister of Grenada. It was a coming together of businesses and political leaders from the Caribbean region to discuss various environmental issues. He noted that Maya Doolub has been a force working with Carbon War Rooms Initiative.

There were three broad issues that were agreed on. Firstly, that countries of the Caribbean should work desperately to give a commitment to protect 20% of their national marine areas by 2020. Secondly,



all countries should endeavour to work towards renewable energy and should have at least a 50% commitment by 2030, and then the third issue, all countries should work desperately hard to protect sharks and rays.

He noted the importance of governments taking responsibility for ensuring environmental sustainability even when decisions are unpopular; they had taken these necessary actions as fisheries are so important for BVI.

The BVI marine environment and our fisheries are extremely important to us. All the scientific studies have shown that, if you are going to protect coral reefs and ultimately protect and sustain your tourism product and your fisheries, you have to protect the coral reefs. Two things are important in that context, one is the parrot fish and the other is the issue of ghost traps. Former Governor Boyd McCleary worked diligently with me to get the British Ministry of Defence to send a team to the BVI to help us with the removal of ghost traps, because the tradition of fishing in our country is ghost traps and because the material that our fishermen use is non-biodegradable. During storms these fish traps are lost and they remain on the ocean floor and continue to kill fish.

Minister Pickering referred to the studies from Belize, which have shown that parrot fish have an important role to play in coral reef ecosystems. They are natural grazers and prevent the build up of algae on reefs. However, they are being caught in the ghost traps.

We have a commitment [as part of the Caribbean Challenge] to protection of the environment for

generations to come. We understand the value of what we have. In my lifetime I don't want to see the mistake of seeing the environment in the BVI destroyed because we don't recognize the value of it. I have a commitment to do what I can, not only locally and regionally, but internationally to be a champion for the environment and to ensure that my children and my children's children will inherit the environment as we have it, in a better state. We, as a government, have bought back some important real estate and we are going to transfer them to the National Parks Trust.

Minister Pickering acknowledged the level of representation at the meeting, three from NGOs and three representing the government of BVI, showing a high level of commitment to the environment and engaging with other partners.

We believe that overseas countries and territories working together can raise the alarm and can raise their voices to ensure unwanted destruction is something of the past.

[Applause]

Hon Richard Ronan MHK, Minister of the Department for the Environment, Food and Agriculture, Isle of Man Government

We have a complex political system in Isle of Man. I personally got in this job through a desire to see food industry grow. I know that our team at DEFA are incredibly passionate in their work. We value the opportunity to take time out and share perspectives and learn from each other through this honest and very open Forum. We are all from relatively small jurisdictions and can often be seen as insular by others and, of course, no one of us has big teams. So this is a chance rapidly to gain understanding and new ideas, and we will go back to our homes with a new perspective. The exciting part is that we may be small but we are nimble and we can genuinely make a difference, very quickly. So this provides us with an opportunity to make a real difference to climate issues around the world.

One of the special aspects of the event is governments and NGOs working together, and I will work hard to get more Isle of Man NGOs involved as we have seen this week. I know I have already been tasked by the Parliament at home to make this happen more on the Isle of Man.

Environmental Impact Assessment is a very current topic for us. We are currently working with a commercial partner to develop an off-shore wind-farm which will contribute to sustainable energy production, but more importantly to our island economy. EIAs always create tension, as we all work together to consider and identify the very fine balance between our environment and the economy. I feel it is important for you to note that we are a Crown Dependency, not part of UK or EU and therefore not bound by their EIA standards, so the tension and debate is a massive challenge for us politically and financially. For that reason, I note that the RSPB proposed to lobby the UK regarding their role in supporting the UKOTs to achieve these balances and, from that perspective, we are jealous, I suppose, as we are entirely self-funded with no legitimate right to seek UK support. So against that backdrop, I know the Manx team here benefited and enjoyed from the conversations about EIAs and we thank you all for that.

I would like to say a few words about climate change, where I have deliberately worked to change its perspective on-island to climate challenges and here is why. We have made rapid progress recently by focusing on efficiency and policy for future direction. I have just passed two



policy statements on mitigation and adaptation through our parliament, Tynwald (which is the longest continual parliament operating in the world today).

I know the BVI Minister gave a great plug to the islands before; we all cherish where we live and where we are from and we all live in very special places. We have moving away from trying to bring in legislation and moved to the area of trust and common ground with our evolving population. . I note in the summaries today that legislation is important. However, I would like to observe that the use of policies not legislation has allowed us in the IoM to move faster and lower the evidence threshold. We are making quicker progress this way, which surely is good news. I believe this is a win for everybody, both environmental and financially which is critical if we are going to meet our ongoing emission targets and carry the Manx population with us.

If I could now discuss our hosts in Gibraltar, having spoken to our team about what they have heard, I look forward to hearing about the exciting progress in Gibraltar. I hope that this will be a platform and look forward to building strong relationships with not just Gibraltar, but the other UKOTs.

Finally I would like to give a special mention to Liz Charter, who has given so much to this Forum, chairing working groups, and now UKOTCF itself, and of course bringing back all that she has learned

to the Isle of Man. May I say, Liz, thank you very much.

I am also glad that, as part of our team here, Dr Fiona Gell will be our future representative of the Isle of Man.

We are delighted to be here this week and we look forward to having conversations with as many delegates as possible. Can I also extend an invitation to this Forum, that if you wish we will only be too happy to accommodate any future conservation forums because please let me reassure you all that the IoM takes conservation very seriously. In fact, we are hoping to be able to show this to the world, as we hope within the next few weeks to show an application to UNESCO for Biosphere accreditation. If successful, we hope to be the first island nation in the world, to receive recognition for our country.

For 30 plus years, the Isle of Man has enjoyed an excellent economy, driven by the outside financial world, but like anywhere in the world, there are financial pressures and the Isle of Man is suffering as many right now. To carry people with you on the environmental argument is about doing what is right and I will finish on this. I am a passionate Liverpool football supporter. Looking at what they have done since the 90s is remarkable. How they have done this is unlocking their treasures. We have unbelievable treasures in our islands. If we are going to win the climate change argument, we have to bring everyone with us and to do that we have to recognize what is in our lands. We are very keen to do this on the Isle of Man. To achieve anything like that, we have to work closely with our neighbours and we will achieve so much more as small nations and jurisdictions by learning from each other and gaining from experiences, good or bad. Forums like this are critical. Sometimes we can be too insular. Those days are gone forever so it is important we all engage. Thank you again, Minister, Mike, for the opportunity; you have done a wonderful job here and I congratulate you all. “

[Applause]

Closing of the main conference sessions

Hon. Dr John Cortés, Minister for Health, Environment, Energy and Climate Change, H.M. Government of Gibraltar; and

Dr Mike Pienkowski, Honorary Executive Director, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

Dr John Cortés:

It's really wonderful to hear the words that we've heard today from senior executives and politicians. I'm really looking forward to the Ministerial meeting tomorrow, I think that on the back of this meeting that will be extremely productive, in fact, it's already been, and we haven't even started.

It now falls upon me to make some closing remarks. I'm not going to keep you for very long; you've heard rather a lot from me this week and there will be more this evening, as I say a few words at the dinner.

Today is a rather interesting day for me. Not only did I have to interrupt proceedings to talk to the Chief Minister. Also, I had a letter published in the *Chronicle* yesterday about LNG and today the Opposition – and I've kept out of politics today – questioned my environmental credentials. I almost invited the Leader of the Opposition to attend this afternoon's session. [laughter] He said I'm no longer an environmentalist; I'm a politician. Clearly, he can't understand that you can be both! And also today my team, most of my team, is not here, because they are answering parliamentary questions. We sit next week, so we got the opposition's questions today. I used to get 50 or

60, but we got 7 this time; so obviously we've answered most of their questions. That's all the politics you are getting from me today!

I'm not going to summarise everything that's happened in the conference; you heard that earlier today. But I did pick up a few points and before highlighting one or two points from each of the summaries, I'd just like to take ourselves, Mike and I, and our teams, back to the genesis of this conference. This was probably at least 6 years ago in Cayman, when we were all wondering where the next conference would be, and where the funding would come about. As a member, an active member, of the Forum Council then, there were concerns about, not just that, but the whole role of the Forum. It went through a little bit of a critical moment, and we had reviewed – some of you will recall, we sent questionnaires – how we were going to run ourselves. I was always confident that we were doing things right, but I was worried about when and who would fund the next conference. The British Government, about whom a bit more later, didn't respond to numerous requests to different departments to assist, so I decided to stand for election, so I could provide funding. [laughter] So that's the real reason oh that's a bit of a joke, of course, but it did



make a difference, and I committed, on day one, that we needed to use UKOTCF Forum more, to strengthen what we are doing in the Territories and the Crown Dependencies, and I remember, an early meeting in Gibraltar House, with Mike and Liesl and others of the team, we decided to go ahead. I immediately got the heads up, the approval of the Chief Minister. All I had to say is “I want an environmental conference on the OTs” and he said, “John, of course, go ahead with it.” So that was absolutely wonderful, and we were able to run from there. Gibraltar House has almost become the headquarters of the Forum and, as long as I’m in Government they can continue to use it [Mike: thank you] as can anybody else. If anybody ever needs a meeting place in London, please get in touch with Gibraltar House, Mike has all the contacts and then you are all very welcome.

I’m not going to thank people by name, other than Mike and his team and Liesl and her team in the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The only other people I’m going to mention, because they are very easily forgotten. (My son is a theatre technician and, very often at the end of performances, people will actually forget to thank the techies. Have you ever been in a theatre in London, and everybody applauds the cast and have standing ovations and curtain calls and so on, and nobody thanks the techies. So, if I’m on the right level, I go to them and I say thank you very much, I really enjoyed it, you made the show.) So I think I’ve got to thank Ian McClaren and his colleagues. I think they’ve been absolutely wonderful. [applause]

I will go now through some of the main points that I have picked up from the summaries. So this is almost a summary of the summaries. Just one or two points.

The first one on Biodiversity Action Plans: a couple of the points here. The danger of short-term projects resulting in the loss of expertise in the land, and that’s very important; people come and go. We’ve got to do things in a way that things stay, people stay, information stays. Secondly, we’ve really got to make sure of the importance for national accounting systems to give the environment its economic value – a huge challenge, even in Gibraltar, where an environment minister really pushes this agenda, but even here, the financial sector and so on always lag behind. We have to make sure that they actually recognise this.

On the session on Terrestrial Resources, crucially

this: competition within and among territories means that many needs stay unmet. We’ve really got to get our act together. Maybe that’s a role for the Forum, to try to co-ordinate. We really must make sure that we work together and, where different organisations want to bid for something similar, let’s get together and bid together, I think we’ve got to make sure that we don’t fall into a trap. The role of NGOs continues to be critical, regardless of how environmentally minded the government might be.

On the session on Marine Resources, how limited resource sharing must be maximised, similar to the point I’ve just made and, very important, the need to understand the local sensitivities. People who come from abroad to the territories really have to recognise local sensitivities and work with people locally, otherwise we go back to the old colonial way of doing things, and that’s crucially important.

From my own experience, if I may digress a bit, I worked together with Keith [Bensusan] and others on our Interreg project in Morocco. I mentioned this in my talk, the way we tackled working with our Moroccan colleagues. We came there as partners; we were there to work with them. Very often in Morocco they’ve had visits from abroad, from France, and particularly Spain, where the visitors have come almost as colonial overlords again, trying to run projects and tell them what to do. It’s important that people who go to the territories really are aware of local sensitivities, not just with NGOs but also the community as a whole, otherwise you won’t get the acceptance that is needed.

On Renewable Energy, I’m really glad, I hope you are too [turning to Mike, who signifies agreement] that we included this, because I think this is no longer going to be a new thing for the Forum. I think this should now be mainstream Forum policy, that we have to work on renewables, because it links so well with other environmental considerations. The need for energy transition in territories crucial. Each territory will be different but I’ve learnt a lot, a lot, in this week. There is a need to focus on the long-term aims, but grab the quick wins; that’s very very important. And I think forming a working group across the Territories to work on renewables is also a very interesting idea.

Funding. Specific UKOT funding support is needed, and I share the concerns about Darwin Plus. If it had gone to a show of hands yesterday, I would have raised my hand.

On Decision-making and Planning, there is

structured devolution from UK Government on environment, so the UKOTs get the defined powers that they have and they should have, but the UK continues to keep to its commitments and its responsibilities – so structured devolution is very, very important. And again, ring-fenced funds for the UKOTs is something that came up there.

Also the importance of EIAs, including supporting legislation, public participation in decision-making, is absolutely crucial.

And on the question of education and awareness, the importance of involving the whole community from children to the elderly, but also that the environment needs to be part of the curriculum with examples from within territory. I remember, when I was at school in history, I learnt about 1066, the Magna Carta, and the Battle of Bannockburn, but I didn't know anything about the Romans or the Phoenicians in Gibraltar, the Neanderthals or anything like that. So really, we have to have local emphases in running the curriculum. I think that's particularly important because every community in the UKOTs is a very special community and I think that the UKOTCF reflects what is essentially a community of communities, and I think that's a very important message that we need to take back.

Then there were a few comments that I took down from the regional working groups. The more thematic approach, which is necessary across the board, establish closer links with universities, and research institutions, I think that's very important. In the Southern Oceans "there's a lot going on, and we need more of a mechanism to interchange information." And also the need to respond to threats and opportunities and to have the capacity to do so. From the European side, the need to focus more on the Crown Dependencies and again the thematic approach. And if there's 3 main themes that I picked up from all these summaries, these are: a need for dedicated funds, that kept coming up; the need for capacity building; and the need for a thematic approach. I think those are very important things.

Just to round off some more thoughts. I think the words "it's been such a busy conference" are absolutely wonderful and really reflects the reality of what this is, but I think that what's happened here is that UKOTCF has confirmed its role as a Forum, and the word Forum with all its connotations. It doesn't really matter what you do between times, as long as you can get people together every now and then, and if you can get it

more often, all the better. But UKOTCF has to be a Forum, so that people can get together, exchange views, exchange understanding, and progress, so I think this conference has achieved that.

I was very impressed with Stewart McPherson's film yesterday; it really has captured so much in such a short time, and is going to really do a lot for our work when it goes on air on national and international television. We must be ready to hit it while it's still hot. We really must, all of us, prepare to use that for our benefit and I am sure that Stewart will be delighted to hear that.

Just to round up then, my overall conclusions. I think a lot of people here who may not have understood, now understand what UKOTCF, the Forum, is and means to be, and understand what it is to be a UKOT and to live in a UKOT. How important it is for us to keep our identity, to develop our identity and to evolve as communities and small nations, while keeping our links to each other and to the UK, particularly I think to each other.

We've heard a lot about punching above our weight, and I have to take the cue from the Minister from the Isle of Man. I am also a football fan. Unfortunately for him, I support the other red team, but we won't talk about that. To punching above our weight, apart from the fact that we actually scored against Scotland in Hamden Park. You may not be aware, Gibraltar's Champions have to go to the European Champions League through the preliminary qualifying stage. So, two weeks ago, we drew 1-all with the Champions of Andorra, at home, and we defeated them 2-1 away, so we got through. Last night we were in Denmark, playing against the Danish Champions, and we only lost 1-0, so I suspect that next time round, we may well, when we play the home match, we still have a chance of qualifying against the Danish champions. Think of the differences in scale, Gibraltar punching above our weight if not kicking above our weight. If we get through there, we actually go into the qualifiers with the big guns, but it's another red team, I'm sorry, but not Liverpool who we might face there. Sorry, I couldn't resist that one, and I hope we're still talking, Richard!

It's so important that we are able to make our voice heard. And some people may not want to hear what we have to say. Alderney wants a 12-mile limit, So do we. We don't really mind if Spain has something to say about that but some other people, who aren't here, may not want to hear

that either. So I am disappointed: I said it again, I said it the other day, I say it again now and I will also say it again this evening, I am disappointed that Her Majesty's Government did not manage to send a representative because it's important that they should listen to the kind of things that have been said here. In fact, I think that we should call on, and I'll take this up again tomorrow, on Her Majesty's Government, to really do something directly to compensate for not having been here and offer to fund the next Forum conference. It's the very least that they could do! [laughter]

Has the conference been a success? I think you'll all be thinking: yes it has, but why do we think it's been? Well I think it's been a success because it's made a difference, and that's what it's all about. It's made a difference to us as individuals, a difference to our perception of each other, what the Forum is, what the Overseas Territories are, and what we can achieve at our scales and make an impression at a global level. If we all get these things right collectively, we really have such a strong case study to present to the rest of the global community. So yes, I think that we have all consolidated our roles, whatever those roles may be.

The conference has been good for UKOTCF, great for the understanding between the Forum and NGOs and UKOT Governments. So I really look forward to welcoming you to St Michael's Cave this evening – which, if you haven't been to, is really a marvellous cavern, and I'll have a few stories to tell about St Michael's Cave and me, but you'll have to come to the dinner to hear them.

So thank you all very much. you've been absolutely wonderful, a tremendous turnout, tremendous contributions, and it's going to be really really sad to see you all go. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

Dr Mike Pienkowski

There is no way that I am going to try to follow John - and, fortunately, I am not scheduled to do so, apart from making my usual set of organisational announcements. However, I must slip in just a few comments.

I am not going to express UKOTCF's thanks now, as I am pleased to say that our Chairman, Liz Charter, will be doing that this evening. On a personal note, however, I would like to add my thanks to John's for his team, led by Leisl and

Stephen (as well as himself). I must also say a word of thanks to mine, particularly Catherine, Emma, Sarah, Jamie and Ann. Several participants have already kindly said to me how well things have gone, and I thank them for that acknowledgement. It does mean, I am pleased to say, that our acting role also has been well fulfilled! There is no way that an enterprise on this scale can proceed without a number of problems – and, indeed, some crises – arising. The fact that we overcame these, generally, it seems invisibly, is due in large part to the hard work, dedication and skill of my largely unpaid team - who have quietly put up with a string of extreme and unreasonable requests from me, and delivered uncomplainingly. So, I both thank and apologise to them most deeply! I owe them a few drinks.

I wanted to say too how valuable we have found the involvement of the political leaders, making a superbly complementary contribution to that of the specialists. We had hoped to involve such leaders in at least one earlier conference but elements outside our control prevented this. We are so pleased that our joint working with John led to success this time, and hope that this can be maintained in the future.

I dare hope that our political friends found it valuable: they have just said so and, in several cases, backed this up with offers of hosting future conferences - despite my dire warnings to them of the financial implications inherent in hosting such conferences! I look forward to following this up - and, more immediately, to tonight's festivities in St Michael's Cave.

Thank you, everyone, for your participation.

[Applause]

Speeches at the closing Conference Dinner

Vote of thanks on behalf of UKOTCF, by Chairman Liz Charter

Ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

When I sat in this cave enjoying the first Gibraltar UKOTCF conference dinner in 2000, I could never have guessed I would be standing here giving the vote of thanks as chairman of the Forum.

A great many people and organisations have been involved in ensuring this conference has been a success.

First, I must thank Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar for hosting and financing the 2015 conference. In addition to this prime resourcing, we acknowledge and thank:

Defra for support for some of the preparatory work,

JNCC for supporting many of the participating UKOT government officers, and

Jo Treweek of Treweek Environmental Consultants who will be sharing *pro bono* her expertise in the EIA workshop tomorrow.

Our partners, the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society have played a major part in the conference.

We are particularly grateful to all of you for coming and participating so actively, especially in giving papers and posters. Your presence is the reward for we organisers.

And we thank also those back home in the Territories who were involved in working with you all to help prepare talks and posters, helping organise your attendance, or covering work in your absence.

The support and presence at various events of Gibraltar Government's ministers is a great boost to the conference:

The Honourable Fabian Picardo QC, Chief Minister

The Honourable Dr Joseph Garcia, Deputy Chief Minister
and

The Honourable Joe Bossano, Minister for Economic Development & Telecommunications.



We are hugely grateful to have had present The Hon Dr John Cortés MBE, Minister for Health, the Environment, Energy and Climate Change. He has been at many conference sessions, as well as supporting and advising throughout the preparations. Thank you John.

We are very pleased to have with us this evening Alison Macmillan, Deputy Governor of Gibraltar.

We have Ministers or their equivalents from several territories joining us today, including:

my own Minister, the Honourable Richard Ronan, Minister for the Environment, Food and Agriculture from Isle of Man; and

The Honourable Kedrick Pickering, the British Virgin Island's Deputy Premier & Minister for Natural Resources & Labour.

Thank you for joining the conference.

The conference has enjoyed the lively presence throughout of the Honourable Claude Hogan, Monserrat's Minister of Agriculture & Environment, and

Victor Brownlees, Chief Executive, States of Alderney, who is with his son Alex and wife

Jinna., also attended the whole conference. As you heard earlier, Jinna suffered a painful broken wrist shortly before the conference and we wish her a speedy recovery.

The competition for the most remote island is still open. Perhaps we should ask Key Travel to be the judges. Many of us wouldn't be here without their careful arrangements. Parody, the coach company, transported us around the Rock!

All the staff at the Elliot Hotel have been excellent, and I will mention particularly the breakfast team who got up early so that some of us could start our programme at 7.

We say thank you to our excellent voluntary guides, Keith Bensusan and Charlie Perez from GONHS, Liesl Torres, Stephen Warr and colleagues from DoE, and Eric Shaw & Bryan Ritchie at the Ape's Den. Many of us had an excellent trip with Dolphin Safari and their crew, Captain Tony Watkins, Angie Watkins and Rothio Espada with specialist interpretation from Stephen Warr and Keith Bensusan – who, with Rhian Guillem and Natasha Bull, also wrote the restaurant guide. Thanks also to the dolphins for keeping their appointment with us, in the absence of whales!

We thank all those who worked so hard in chairing, facilitating, drafting, editing and recording the conference sessions and regional Working Groups, making a special mention of our volunteers, Emma Cary, Sarah Barnsley, Jamie Woodward and Phoebe Carter. Emma, Sarah and Jamie have played an important role in the preparations and, I hope, the follow up after the conference.

On a personal note I'd like to thank Clare Hamilton of DEFRA and Jen Lee of the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, for their valuable contribution to my workshop on MEAs, and Jo Treweek for the EIA workshop tomorrow.

Ann Pienkowski has made a video of our discussions among many other tasks. Thank you Ann.

Juan Carlos Teuma, from the Gibraltar Government Press Office, made a valuable contribution taking the official photographs. Other photos were taken by Piers Sangan, Jamie Woodward and Mike. We wish to use lots of pictures in the Proceedings, so would welcome any of your snaps. Please send these to Mike or Catherine.

Thank you to our team with the roving microphones, which included Catherine, Sarah,

Emma, Jamie, Natasha, Esme, Bill, Ann, Piers and Daniel.

We have had an excellent audio-visual service from Ian Maclaren and his team, especially Louis, at SRS. They even solved the mystifying screen behaviour!

A big vote of thanks goes to the organising team in Gibraltar, particularly Government officers Jessica Alecio, Lian Camilleri, Sera Fromow, Liesl Torres and Stephen Warr. Thank you to the members the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society, some named already, and my colleagues in the Forum Council.

A very special thank you to Mike Pienkowski and Catherine Wensink who have put in the lion's share of the work.

My last personal thank you is to Tim Earl, my partner, for his help, cups of tea and supportive hugs.

Finally once again, thank you Gibraltar. Your hospitality has touched us all.

This conference has indeed proved the value of sustaining partnerships.

[Applause]



Above: St Michael's Cave plaque. Photo: Mervin Hastings

Below: Pre-dinner gathering in the Cave. Photo: Bryan Naqqi Manco



Hon. Joe Bossano, Minister of Economic Development, HM Government of Gibraltar

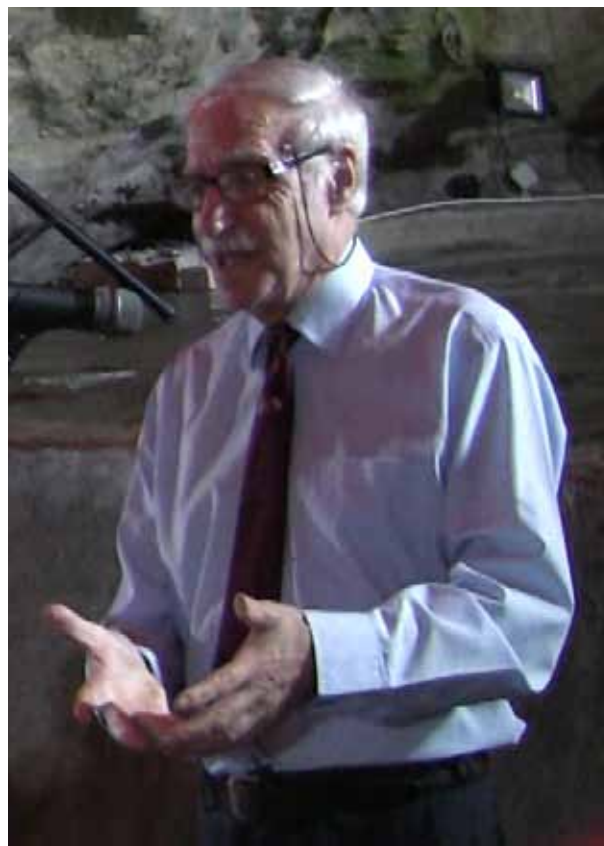
Dr John Cortes: It gives me particular pleasure to introduce the Honourable Minister for Economic Development, Joe Bossano, who, as I mentioned the other day, is a key component of what is happening here today, because it was during his tenure as Chief Minister that our Nature Protection Bills were passed, that GONHS was given premises and credibility, and we had the first Minister for the Environment. A lot of other things happened when he was Chief Minister, like free grants for students which has completely changed the whole way that Gibraltar has developed, we've brought inward investment from other areas, we've reclaimed new land without negatively impacting the environment, all sorts of things happened then, and so he is a key figure in the development of environmental governance in Gibraltar, and I must say, I don't know whether I actually told him this before, and I did work with him in another life, as Manager of St Bernard's Hospital when he was Chief Minister, but I've always seen him as somebody who I love and admire, and as a role model. We work extremely well together. Recently we've had one or two skirmishes, but it won't surprise you because Joe is as resilient and persistent on the economy, as I am on the environment, so I can understand that, and we understand each other. But I want to make a commitment to him now, because the problem is that, as Joe works in bringing in more money, I try and spend it quicker than he brings it in. So I now commit myself to try to spend it more slowly than he brings it in. So the bank roll will increase. I really had to say that, but I certainly I gave you some economic figures the other day, and Joe is our economic guru and a lot of what Gibraltar is doing is thanks to his wisdom and indeed his years of experience. Joe is always a wonderful person to listen to: not easy to follow him, but I give way to that, and I introduce to say a few words my friend and colleague Joe Bossano.

[Applause]

Hon Joe Bossano:

Clearly I have already made some money tonight with the commitment John has just made.

I've been a long time in politics. I started campaigning for the right of self-determination in the defence of our people in 1964, 51 years



ago, at the age of 25, and I've been continuously involved in politics since then. I was first elected to Parliament in 1972. I have fought 13 elections. I have been re-elected every time, and I'm now in my 43rd year in Parliament. The one fundamental thing really that brought me was a threat to our survival as a people, and I think, if you come from a small place and you are very conservationist and a protector of the biodiversity of the planet, then you need to think of it in terms that would be very easy to convince others. Small societies like the ones we've got in the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, the small Caribbean Territories, and different parts of the world, are like special life-forms in danger of extinction, because there are so few of us, and we each have a particular finger-print that distinguishes us from all the rest. And we all fight to keep what we've got alive. When we do that, we have to be consistent and therefore not just protect the Gibraltarian on the Rock that happens to be a representative of the human species, but the Gibraltarian on the Rock that happens to be a representative of the macaques, and the Gibraltarian that is a lizard, and the Gibraltarian that is a plant.

And therefore living in symbiosis with the planet is the only thing that will save our species. I was asked a few years ago to address a conference in the north of China, on sustainable development. And I just said one sentence. I said “Look, if all we do is we talk a lot of things in this conference, and we go away and nothing changes, then the reality of it is that the writing on the wall is very clear, and the fate of mankind is very clear: everything points to the human species becoming extinct. If that happens it will be very bad news for our species, and very good news for our planet.” [laughter]

So I think, as an economist, I believe in economic growth, but I believe in economic growth not at the expense of future generations, not that we consume more than we are producing, and pass the bill on to our grandchildren, and therefore there are clear-cut simple messages that we can make everybody: so that being committed to preserving this planet; so that we pass on to the next generation something better than we had; so that we don't make it worse than it was made by the industrial revolution, but go back to what it was like before we started interfering with natural processes, because we've got the audacity to think of ourselves as advanced, and to think of indigenous peoples as primitive. Well we've got to learn from them, because they lived in harmony with nature, and we have to learn to do that again. And if we don't do that we'll pay a high price.

I'm happy to have you here, and I look forward to your helpful contribution to saving our people and our planet.

[Applause]



*At the closing conference dinner in St Michael's Cave.
Photos: above: Chris Tydeman; right: Mervin Hastings*

Conference Closing, by Hon. Dr John Cortés, Minister for Health, Environment, Energy and Climate Change, H.M. Government of Gibraltar

Thank you, Joe, who never, ever disappoints. So now I have to follow that, I'll do my best. I don't have the wisdom of Joe, but there is something very important, that when he was Chief Minister and I was manager of the hospital, there was quite an age-gap between us. But now I'm catching up, because Joe doesn't age but the rest of us do. [laughter]

St Michael's Cave: some of you have remarked the beauty of this natural asset that Gibraltar has. I have lots of memories of St Michael's Cave. I grew up in Gibraltar and I remember as a very young child. My father was very active in the Scout movement, bringing me here for some camp-fire or something that they did before the stage was built. It really grabbed me and inspired me as a very young child, as you can imagine would be the case.

I have done lots of things in this cave; I won't go through all of them. I've actually played the bugle up on that stage, I haven't brought it today but I could have done a fanfare. My hobby is the stage, amateur dramatics, so I've taken part in the Scottish Play here, where I played the part of Macbeth, and sometime last year I almost thought that Scotland would be joining the Forum quite soon [applause and laughter], but that never quite happened – it might yet! They've certainly turned around the fox hunting issue.

I've also played King Herod, in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, so I've sung and danced; I can do that too. I don't know why I always get the part of the bad guy, but there we are. One memory that I must share is this: this is actually where I met my wife. During rehearsals for Macbeth, I was Macbeth; she was a lady in waiting, and I didn't keep her waiting long! [laughter]

I've got to thank, I'm just going to mention two names, because everybody's thanked everybody and the teams have been wonderful, but this evening has been put together by Sera and Lian and it's wonderful and well done [applause]. I'm sure everybody here tonight would like to thank you for all that you've done.

A special welcome of course to the high-level government representatives who have already been mentioned in the Chairman's address.

And one other thing I'd like to say: at the last



conference here in 2000, the then Minister for the Environment, of another party – although, as Ministers for the Environment of another party go, he was actually not the worse one... In fact, talking about politics, the response that Joe and I have had today, it is tempting to call a general election here and now, Joe, because generally the polls say we've got around 60-70%, but here we got to 99%! But anyway, the Environment Minister at the time cited the successes of GONHS as a key mover in the environmental movement in Gibraltar and I never thought I'd get two Environment Ministers to say the same, but I would like to acknowledge the vital work of GONHS. They have carried on through the last 3 years as if I hadn't left, and that is the most wonderful thing that you can leave behind in an organisation. And more than that, they have stuck to their professionalism and, when they had to criticise any actions that I or others have taken, they have done so (it hasn't been very often) totally professionally. I totally support their freedom of speech, and the professionalism that continues to be at the core of the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society. One of the things that made my going into politics the hardest thing, was to have to leave my active role there.

I would just like to pick on a couple of things

that have come up from the conference. The questions of renewal of what I now think the core of UKOTCF, and of environmental governance in the territories. And we really have to use this and encourage our environmental governance and green initiatives to develop green governance and to introduce new drivers in the economy, making financial services and the private sector embrace the development of a green agenda. And give a value to the environment that recognises an international accounting system.

I have to mention again something I mentioned earlier today in the conference room, and that is the series of programmes by Stewart McPherson. I repeat that, when that series airs on national and international TV stations, it's going to really bring the UKOTs into people's homes. We really have to make use of that. And I think that all the territories must also get that series shown in their national television stations because we all know about each other but a lot of people out on the street don't. So we really have to use that to get the people from here to understand the people out there. As I said earlier, we are a community of communities.

I think this conference has achieved a lot, coming together from NGOs and Overseas Territories Governments, and that theme will develop tomorrow. I would like to take this opportunity to call on those NGOs, some from the UKOTs but particularly some from the UK, who have fallen by the wayside in the UKOTs Conservation Forum movement, to engage with us again, because I think we've proved today that we really have the standing and that we deserve their engagement.

So, a community of communities. Somebody else said that we are small but we are important. Sadly somebody in this hall is lacking. I recognise the presence of Defra and JNCC, and particularly thank them for their financial contribution, in bringing many of you here. This is greatly appreciated, but the absence of DFID, MOD and of the FCO, I think is sad. There's also been an absence at Ministerial level. I believe that there are good reasons for that, but as the adage goes, they don't know what they are missing. The trouble is: that they should. I think that there should have been a bigger effort, at some level in Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom, in bringing somebody to this conference, and I think that they are going to realise that they should have done.

Ladies and Gentlemen, friends and colleagues, Ministers, representatives, members of UKOTs, something is happening in the Overseas Territories.

You can feel it here and, if they are not careful, if they are not ready to respond, the UK Government is going to be left behind. So I ask them to sit up and take notice.

Enjoy the evening, it's been a pleasure having you.

[Applause]





*At the closing conference dinner in St Michael's Cave.
Photos: above: Mike Pienkowski;
roght add upper on previous page: Chris Tydeman;
below and lower on previous page: Mervin Hastings.*



Conference conclusions and recommendations

of Sustaining Partnerships: a conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Gibraltar 11th to 15th July 2015. Organised by: UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and HM Government of Gibraltar Department of Environment, with the support of Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society

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B. Introduction

It has been recognised, not least by the sponsors, that the value of conferences such as this is in open discussion and providing some clear conclusions and recommendations. Here those recommendations and conclusions are presented. They are based on a draft circulated in advance and then modified by subsequent discussion sessions (see Annex 1 for more information on the process).

In order to minimise any constraints, a common structure was not imposed on developing discussion points and draft conclusions and recommendations prior to the workshops. However, subsequent to the drafting, some formatting and numbering were added to aid reference in subsequent discussions. The session coordinators and the conference organisers used the discussions from the conference, written inputs and comments on a final draft circulated to

conference participants to amend and extend the draft conclusions and recommendations.

It is important to note that not all conclusions and recommendations will apply to every territory. They all differ and any kind of “one-size-fits-all” approach would be unlikely to be successful.

The Conference was extraordinarily valuable to UKOTCF itself and the Forum will clearly take note of the recommendations addressed to it. The wider value of the Conference is witnessed by the presence of Territories’ Ministers (or their equivalents from territories with non-ministerial systems), their statements and offers of future hosting and resourcing.

The conclusions and recommendations have been grouped into sections, some fairly closely related to the conference sessions, but others cutting across several. The categories of organisations to

which recommendations are directed are indicated in bold italics in the text or after it. The session(s) in which the conclusion or recommendation arose is indicated by the session number(s), as indicated in the programme.

The following document is the full version. At Appendix 4, recommendations for particular categories of stakeholders are extracted separately.

It is clearly not possible for one conference to address all matters, nor to come to perfect conclusions and recommendations. However, it is hoped, indeed anticipated, that that they will be of practical use.

C. Environmental Education and Awareness

C1. Requirements of CBD and other MEAs, and influencing decision makers

Conclusions

001. Environmental Education is one of the most important elements of environmental protection and management. (13)
002. CBD and other MEAs (including the Environment Charters) have very clear statements and targets for environmental education for all aspects of civil society and governments (for example, CBD's Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) programme, which supports CBD article 13 and Aichi Target 1). (13)
003. Key threats to island biodiversity have been identified as:
 - Lack of public awareness of biodiversity concerns
 - Lack of political understanding, interest and support for conservation and wildlife issues; this relates directly to political actions for sustainable development. (13)
004. Some UKOTs/CDs already have Sustainable Development Plans with education as one of the highest priorities (e.g. Tristan da Cunha). (13)

Recommendations

In accordance with the UK Environmental Charters Article no. 8 and CBD Article 13, the following recommendations are being put forward.

005. Sustainable Development Plans (or their equivalents) should include environmental education and public awareness. (To: UKOT/CD Governments) (13)
006. Government Ministers and senior officials throughout the UKOTs/CDs should receive regular briefings from ecologists with local knowledge about issues relating to the Environment Charters and their commitments, the importance of their local biodiversity, and specifically threats to local ecosystems, international and globally important species and populations (e.g. endemic species). (To: UKOT/CD Governments, including Departments of Environment) (13)
007. Government Departments and agencies with responsibility for the environment should be adequately funded by territory governments. (To: UKOT/CD Governments) (13)
008. Actions of NGOs which deliver important conservation work should be supported by governments. Partnerships, either informal or via Memoranda of Understanding or Co-operation are effective, both for cash-strapped NGOs and Government Environment Departments. (To: UKOT/CD Governments and NGOs) (13)
009. UKOT/CD Governments need to arrange for providing training for teachers and developing teachers' education materials (e.g. resource guides on various topics including biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, climate change and renewable energy). (13)

C2. Resources and funding opportunities

Conclusions

010. Despite specific requirements and targets for environmental education and public awareness (e.g. CBD Article 13 and Aichi target 1), there are very limited funding opportunities for this, for example CEPA programmes are specifically not eligible for funding from the Darwin Plus programme. Funding to Education Departments and NGOs promoting Environmental Education and Awareness is critical and should be given priority. (13)
011. Territory government departments with responsibility for the environment often

have an education officer (or support one in an environmental NGO), and undertake school visits. This is a valuable role, but needs adequate resourcing. (13)

012. NGOs play an extremely important role in public awareness raising and environmental education, but have limited and often unpredictable funds for this work. NGOs are normally very effective with their limited resources, frequently relying on a lot of volunteer effort. However, some hard cash is needed to support their CEPA programmes. (13)

Recommendations

013. UK Government should end urgently its 5-year block on grant-funding for environmental education and awareness for the UKOTs. (We recognise that consultants are expensive, but NGOs, like UKOTCF doing this work with local partners, are good value for money.) (To: UK Government) (13)
014. Territory Governments should set up and manage, jointly with local NGOs, a dedicated Conservation Fund (e.g. through tourist landing fees) to which NGOs can apply. (To: UKOT/CD Governments) (13)

C3. Schools Curricula

Conclusions

015. Much good quality and attractive environmental teaching material is produced and available. However, much of this is not used effectively, mainly because the statutory programmes of study need all of the teaching time available. Therefore material needs to be designed to be integrated with the curriculum. Materials in electronic form offer greater flexibility than paper-based materials, are more economic, and can be updated more readily. (13)
016. It is often unclear how territory education departments and people producing environmental education materials liaise. Involvement of local teachers in the development of environmental education materials is effective. (13)
017. Children have a great interest and curiosity in their environment, and are often the most receptive to new or life-changing ideas. Simple children's activities can cover a

surprising range of facets of environmental work. (13)

018. Sustainable development education offers opportunities for locally-based environmental education. (13)

Recommendations

019. Attempts should be made to integrate Environmental Education topics into the National Curricula at all levels. Environmental Education materials need to be curriculum-linked, and included in the assessment process. Consider introducing a certificate of achievement which recognises student achievements and can assist with job applications. (To: UKOT/CD Government Departments of Education and of Environment, NGOs and project designers and managers) (13)
020. Investigate linking a locally assessed environmental certificate of achievement to more widely recognised qualifications. (To: UKOT/CD Government Departments of Education and examination boards) (13)
021. Classroom-based activities need to be supported by hands-on involvement and investigation, including outdoor classrooms and field-trips. (To: UKOT/CD Government Departments of Education and of the Environment, project designers and managers, NGOs) (13)
022. There should be clear methods of communication between education departments, and those people producing environmental education materials for schools and colleges. Local educators and teachers should be involved in the development of environmental education materials. (To: UKOT/CD Government Departments of Education and of the Environment, project designers and managers, NGOs) (13)
023. It is important that environmental education activities are included in schools' programmes from the start. (To: UKOT/CD Government Departments of Education) (13)

C4. Using broadcast media, social networking and multi-media apps (games)

Conclusions

024. TV, radio, and social networks are very

effective at reaching a wide public audience. Multi-media apps (e.g. for smart-phones, tablets) could be a very effective tool for engaging and informing the wider public, especially young people. (13)

025. Social networking is effective at reaching a wide audience, and engaging interest. Effective public engagement and understanding is essential in conservation, especially for small organisations with limited resources. (13)

Recommendations

026. Opportunities for using TV, radio, social networking and the development of Apps should be considered when planning future environmental education and public awareness programmes. (To: NGOs, project designers and managers, UKOT/CD Government departments) (13)
027. Share what is going on in UKOTs/CDs using the Forum Website or Facebook page and other media (as stated in UK's Commitment 6 in the Environment Charter). (To: NGOs, project designers and managers, UKOT/CD Government departments) (13)

C5. Other public awareness raising actions (including field trips, outdoor classrooms, exhibitions and open days)

Conclusions

028. Environmental initiatives are often best tackled at the grass-roots level. (13)
029. Environmental camps, competitions, etc. are a great way to engage young people (and their parents).
030. Outdoor classrooms and exhibitions, with guiding possibilities and interpretive signage, provide an attractive opportunity to engage and inform the wider public. (13)
031. Volunteers can deliver effective and low cost conservation work, and are good for raising public awareness. (13)
032. Creating partnerships is a key way in which under-resourced NGOs can deliver their public awareness and education programmes. This includes establishing NGO/government partnerships.
033. Effective communication with all stakeholders is a key feature of success. (13)

Recommendations

034. Identify opportunities for open days, outdoor classrooms and activities, and timetable these into the work programme. Link where possible with internationally designated days, such as biodiversity day. (To: NGOs, UKOT/CD Government Departments of Environment and of Education) (13)
035. Plan and run a volunteer programme, but identify the human and cash resources available for this to ensure that the programme runs smoothly and effectively – work within your means. (To: NGOs)
036. Reach out to possible partners. (This could / should include developers.) (To: NGOs) (13)
037. Communicate regularly with stakeholders. (To: NGOs, UKOT/CD Government Departments of Environment and Education, Project designers and managers, Governors' Offices) (13)

D. Renewable Energy

As Hon. Claude Hogan, Minister of Environment for Montserrat, noted in the conference closing session, “we are the least contributors to the problems that are in the world in relation to carbonisation, sea-level rise and all the other threats and I greatly applaud the conference for having taken a really hands-on approach to dealing with conservation mitigation and the issues of protecting our environment. I think in fact this is wonderful that we are continuing as small islands in our territories to make such a really valuable contribution to global affairs.”

Dr Hon Kedrick D. Pickering, Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources & Labour, British Virgin Islands, recalled the Caribbean Challenge Initiative spearheaded by Sir Richard Branson and in which BVI had played a leading role. He noted that all countries in the Caribbean region should endeavour to work towards 50% renewable energy.

A key message emerging from the discussions was that there is no shortage of ‘salesmen’ offering technologies and specific technological expertise, but there is a lack of understanding (not just in the territories) as to what offers the best solutions. There is a need to ensure that soundly based and well-rounded advice is provided and that expertise

and support is developed to ensure the options are well evaluated and the best combination taken forward.

The conclusions from this session are expressed as recommendations in respect of areas in which the listed groups of stake-holders (e.g. Territory governments, UK Government, NGO community, private sector and utilities) need to take action.

D1. Territory Governments

Policy

- 038. Political will needs to be bolstered and demonstrated by commitment to address need for policy change, incentives. (10)
- 039. For those territories which have committed to energy transition, ensuring the right legislative framework is in place is key; knowledge sharing and support is critical. (10)

Planning

- 040. When setting the vision for energy transition, UKOTs/CDs should identify and involve partners early on in the process and create a vision in which each person living in a territory can clearly see and define their role. (10)
- 041. Vision setting for energy transition should be followed by assessment of renewable opportunities, including comparing current energy system with the vision, developing a roadmap for renewable penetration and detailed integrated resource planning-technical assistance required. (10)
- 042. There is a need to focus on the long-term energy transition process whilst identifying also the quick win opportunities, e.g. LED street lighting, energy efficiency in government buildings, solar on schools, hospital retrofits. (10)

People

- 043. UKOTs may need:
 - Technical assistance to support fielding and evaluation of technology proposals;
 - Expertise on regulatory framework reform;
 - Assistance on commercial services (understanding the go-to market strategy for projects; developing technical specifications, contracts etc). (10)

- 044. UKOTs should pool resources on a regional basis, if appropriate also with non-UKOTs, e.g. Caribbean to apply for support required. (10)

Pathways

- 045. UKOT Ministers are invited to discuss the support provided by France for its overseas territories to explore whether similar (technical) support can be provided for UKOTs/CDs. (10)
- 046. It would be wise to focus on sustainable growth of all sectors – many territories have 5* star hotels, but far from 5* hospitals and schools. (10)

Partnerships

- 047. Establishing Working Group across UKOTs/CDs (and possibly on regional basis) might aid sharing knowledge/ practice, planning and resource requirements, e.g. similar to working groups established for Eastern Caribbean States. (10)
- 048. There is a need to establish (stronger) relationships with NGOs/research institutions such as IRENA to benefit from current initiatives, knowledge. (10)
- 049. Support is needed to assist governments in working with their utilities to plan future energy systems and identify clearly the value proposition for utilities. (10)
- 050. It would be wise to engage the private sector within territory to drive a more sustainable framework for industry with local operating costs reduced. (10)

D2. UK Government

- 051. Capacity building, including ensuring that soundly based and well-rounded advice is provided and that expertise and support is developed to ensure the options are well evaluated and the best combination taken forward (10)
- 052. Assistance with policy and development of an enabling regulatory framework (10)
- 053. Technical expertise and support – providing feasibility studies, grid integration studies, thereby de-risking projects for the market (10)
- 054. Business advisory services – developing the go-to-market strategy for projects (10)

- 055. Communications and marketing, noting the points at 051 (10)
- 056. A possible role in progressing the economic viability of other technologies such as Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) (10)
- 057. DECC should follow up on the post-JMC Renewable Technologies workshop, with a view to developing renewable roadmaps for all interested UKOTs/CDs. (10)

D3. NGO/Multilateral Community

- 058. Capacity building, including ensuring that soundly based and well-rounded advice is provided and that expertise and support is developed to ensure the options are well evaluated and the best combination taken forward (10)
- 059. Sharing best learning outcomes, e.g. work in the Eastern Caribbean on regulatory reform (10)
- 060. Coordination of regional programmes, e.g. in the Caribbean, Pacific, to enhance the potential for scale across a number of islands (10)
- 061. Development of island-specific templates to support the development of bankable projects, e.g. Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) templates, bankable criteria (10)
- 062. Development of territory-specific guidelines for retro-fitting buildings, e.g. schools, hospitals (10)

D4. The Private Sector

- 063. Development of tailored financing solutions to support project implementation (10)
- 064. Capacity building, ensuring that training is included in the implementation of solutions on island, including ensuring that soundly based and well-rounded advice is provided and that expertise and support is developed to ensure the options are well evaluated and the best combination taken forward (10)
- 065. Programmatic approach to building solutions that enable the development of on territory businesses (10)
- 066. Ensure that investment supports/enhances local infrastructure (10)
- 067. Engage with utilities and governments to define the clear value proposition of renewables beyond cost per kw/h (10)

D5. Utilities

- 068. Working with governments to develop operational plans in line with a low-carbon vision (10)
- 069. Developing a business model that focuses on reducing the level of diesel-generated energy and the amount of energy used on island, taking into account other relevant factors including population size and trends, starting point, etc. (10)
- 070. Supporting governments to develop well informed projects that are ready to move now, with competent grid integration studies – doing what can be done now (10)
- 071. Working inclusively with governments and others partners so that all can understand the needs of utility business models, including ensuring that soundly based and well-rounded advice is provided and that expertise and support is developed to ensure the options are well evaluated and the best combination taken forward. (10)

E. International agreements

Conclusions

- 072. MEAs are an important part of transparent and accountable governance, demonstrating the territories' – and UK Government's – environmental credentials. (4)
- 073. The Environment Charter commitments and the Aichi goals and targets should be linked to actual working examples and successes. Promoting implementation of the Environment Charters, best practice and sign-up to MEAs, and demonstrating value in doing so, will be good things. (4)
- 074. Environmental Charters are an agreement between UKOT Governments and UK Government. Monitoring the progress should be collaborative process, involving also civil society, and using appropriate indicators of progress. (4)
- 075. As Hon. Claude Hogan, Minister of Environment for Montserrat, said in the conference closing session: "I want us to do measuring, reporting and have institutional arrangements in place with the UKOTCF which I continue to think is going to have

an indefinite role to play in this exercise. Verification of the performance that we are doing against these commitments and against those commitments that we shall agree, means that our main trust is that the UK government shall help finance this. And we will put in place with them a compliance regime. Not compliance just for us, because we are going to be performing against our targets. We are going to make sure that there is a compliance regime that they respect in regard to the work that we are doing in fulfilling the international obligations of our entire United Kingdom and its territories.” (15)

076. Biodiversity action plans may fit into more than one commitment/ goal/ target. (4)
077. The language of MEAs can be a bit daunting and even vague, and so specific examples can assist in better understanding them. The more familiar people are with them the better. www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/quick-guides/ provides new quick guides to the Aichi targets. (4)
078. Past and current projects will already be working toward these commitments/ goals/ targets without having planned it. Furthermore, by quoting which targets being met by a project being done, or a bid being made, it should help in securing support. Also as a result, decision-makers tend to see that they are already doing so much that signing up is not too daunting. (4)
079. Within the Aichi Targets, the value of ‘ecosystems services’ are emphasized, which can provide a valuable tool for communicating biodiversity conservation and a sound justification for those less naturally inclined to be enthusiastic about biodiversity conservation. However, this is a double-edged sword and sometimes the intrinsic value, and status, of biodiversity may be undermined because of this. Thus promoting approaches that generate benefits for people alongside real gains for biodiversity (including the weird, wonderful and slightly obscure), for example consideration of ‘favourable status’ for species/ habitats, could be a useful ambition. (4)
080. Wide consultations across all sectors (in this case including: Government; NGO, farmers/ land owners; research community – both local and international; wider society) are important to developing locally-owned priorities. (4)
081. Integrating evidence and outcomes into existing Government planning systems is important. This approach enables better implementation of existing national and international commitments. (4)
082. NGOs can be more effective by quoting the agreement being breached if something is happening which is damaging biodiversity. (4)
083. There are measures for both ‘implementation’ and for the ‘outcomes’ – which reflect a little how the European Commission has been monitoring the Habitats Directive. The initial assessment was ‘Has the Directive been implemented?’, ‘Are measures in place?’ ‘Have sites been designated? (indirect measures)’ The next stages started to look at status of species and habitats, and subsequently aimed to assess trends in these species and habitats (direct measures). Whilst the Directive is hard law and backed by European Court action, softer approaches to assessment are likely to be appropriate where these firm obligations are not as apparent; e.g. measures that looks at presence/ absence of a charter, identifies tangible actions that match the Charter’s aim (or can be linked to progress on Aichi targets). (4)

Recommendations

084. It is recommended that the UK Government promotes the value of the Environmental Charters especially in relation to the MEAs and continues to support monitoring of progress, such as that in progress by UKOTCF, but also links the commitments to CBD monitoring and achievement of the Aichi targets (as the current UKOTCF exercise incorporates). (4)
085. The conference offered encouragement and support to all territories considering having further MEAs extended to them. (4)
086. UKOTCF was asked:
 - i) to compile a list of benefits of association with MEAs and
 - ii) examples of positive outcomes and activities associated with each of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) Aichi targets. (4)
087. It is not always easy to get the word out on

progress in monitoring the implementation of the Charters and CBD, if, for example, (1) the progress is published in scientific journals to which not all other UKOT stake-holders subscribe and (2) because it is very easy for there to be impediments to progress in those UKOTs where a change in staff of one person can mean the end of a biodiversity programme actually functioning (and thus there being nothing more to report or monitor). The first point is often satisfied through the Working Groups and Forum News, but perhaps this can be expanded. As for the second point, again a more programme-based, rather than project-based, method may result in a better way to report and monitor progress. (Part to UKOTCF; part to UKOT Governments and programme & project managers) (4)

088. Everyone in the Territories (UKOT Governments, NGOs) is encouraged to identify how their existing and proposed activities meet CBD's Aichi targets (including via UKOTCF's current exercise). This will
- i) assist in the completion of National Reports for those territories that have had the CBD extended and assist in preparing encouraging evidence for those territories still considering extension,
 - ii) support and demonstrate relevance in funding applications, and
 - iii) identify gaps in delivery. (4)

F. Using informed decision making to manage development sustainably, including Environmental Impact Assessments

F1. Legal Status of Environmental Impact Assessments, and of Environment Charters

This section lays some emphasis on EIAs because of the content of the contributions. It is important to note that EIAs are very useful but only one part of the picture in planning considerations. Some aspects of the conclusions and recommendations may be relevant to other elements of the planning process. The effectiveness of EIAs is, of course, tied to where something requires a development consent (i.e. if it does not require a consent then there is no

opportunity to ask for EIA). Therefore, the question of the scope of such a requirement is a relevant consideration in the planning process. Also, EIA is about understanding the impact and so is separate from then determining whether that impact is acceptable when weighed against other considerations (which is presumably a decision based on a policy position, which itself is another factor in the planning process). In terms of implementation, it is helpful to think about what each statutory regime is for, what the impact is and what the best mechanism is to control it (e.g. a landfill in the UK would probably require an EIA through the planning process, but the management of operation of the site would be largely through the EA and IPPC permit). It is important to note that there is not necessary regulatory control over some actions; dependant on the potential impact of any unregulated actions, it may be that new legislation is needed.

Conclusions

089. The two Courts (Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal and Bermuda Supreme Court) that have considered the Environmental Charters have determined that they establish clear and binding international treaty obligations (unless signatory governments expressly disavow the commitments therein). (12)
090. In some territories, EIA is not mandated under law for any projects big or small. In others, there is a requirement in law but no regulations to implement. In some cases in which EIAs are undertaken, they can end up being quite biased e.g. the EIA for one project was done by the engineer who had also done the project. An example of a perverse recommendation from an EIA process was that no mitigation was needed for the removal of coral reefs. Also, whilst usually a government official would make a recommendation based on EIA outcomes, in some instances the recommendations were overridden and the project was allowed to go ahead. There are some issues with the scale of developments for which EIAs are done. Technical Officers may look at every single development application and decide e.g. which one requires EIA. They may stumble when numerous EIAs come in but they do not have a huge number of scientists and

technicians to review all of these. There is a need for more people who are qualified and who can watch what the developers are doing. Some of the capacity issues need to be addressed e.g. more people trained to deal with the large volume of developments that are coming in. (12)

Recommendations

- 091. Fulfil UK's Environment Charter Commitments 2, 5 and 11, under which the UK Government must assist the UKOTs to review and update their environmental legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms (including regulations and policies) to reflect the mandatory components of the Charters, including EIA as well as the Principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. (12)
- 092. Fulfil UK's Environment Charter Commitment 7, under which the UK Government must give technical assistance to enable (amongst other things) the UKOT governments to (a) establish best practice EIA protocols and (b) assess EIAs submitted by proposed developers. (12)
- 093. Fulfil UKOTs' Environment Charter Commitments 4 and 11, under which UKOT governments must require EIA for all major development proposals and for those proposals likely to have significant environmental impact. (12)
- 094. Fulfil UKOTs' Environment Charter Commitment 5, under which UKOT governments must require consultation with stakeholders as a component of EIAs (and other plans and developments). It would be worth thinking also about the concept of FPIC (free, prior and informed consent). (12)

Conclusions

- 095. We have heard a great deal about the fact that responsibility for the environment has been devolved to the Territories. But we tend to overlook the basis on which this devolution is founded. In 1999, the White Paper recognised that, under the CBD and other MEAs, Britain has responsibility for the UKOTs meeting standards for caring for their environments, and therefore developed the Environment Charters which

lay out what each territory must do, and also specifying what the UK would commit to do in support. The Charters were signed by UK and UKOTs in 2001. (12)

- 096. The Ombudsman for Bermuda had occasion to review the question of whether the Environment Charter commitments to carrying out environmental review and public consultation in approving a development proposal which would have significant environmental impacts applied in Bermuda, where they were not required by legislation. She determined that they did, and was supported subsequently by the Bermuda Supreme Court. She referenced also a number of other sources to support the conclusion that the Charters are binding international agreements, and not "aspirational" as the government asserted. The Charters have thus been validated by courts. They are valid, applicable and enforceable agreements between the UK and the UKOTs, so if UK is not living up to its obligations or the Overseas Territories are not living up to theirs, there is a mutually enforceable treaty. (12)
- 097. The Bermuda Supreme Court held also that (independently of the Charters) the obligation to require EIA derives from general international law. Domestic statutes, regulations, policies and guidelines ought not be inconsistent with general international law. Further, the Court held that, given that Bermuda's Development Plans are mandated by the Development and Planning Act, they have legal effect. Therefore, such UKOT Development Plans cannot countenance or retain the current discretionary language that would permit the Development Applications Board to dispense with EIA for major development proposals and for those proposals likely to have significant environmental impact. (It is important to note that the bilateral Environment Charters for the various UKOTs are similar.) (12)
- 098. The UKOT and UK Ministers actually identified implementation of the Charters as a priority in 2012 – see p.3 of the linked communiqué: "We have agreed to work together on the following priority actions... To continue to implement Environmental Charters, and to work towards the full implementation Of Multinational Environmental Agreements where these

have been extended to the Territories...”
(12)

099. As Hon. Claude Hogan, Minister for Environment for Montserrat, said in the final session of the conference, “Something is wrong when we are still debating at this time whether a Charter on the environment is legally binding or not. This, in fact, would be a pre-requisite for the type of commitments we need to make to ensure that we clean up and protect our environment.”
(15)

So the conference decided to urge the Ministers of the UKOTs to rely on the Charters when seeking the support they need for environmental work, as follows:

Recommendations

100. UKOT Ministers, while recognising the commitments of their own governments under the Environment Charters (agreed with the UK Government in 2001), should continue to press the UK Government to fulfil its commitments under the Charters, including in relation to:
- Technical assistance, especially regarding technical and scientific issues like renewable energy, fulfilling commitments numbers 1, 5 and especially 7;
 - Use UK, regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes regular consultation with interested non-governmental organisations and networks.
 - Assistance with updating environmental legislation, fulfilling commitments 2 and 5
 - A ring-fenced fund to support ‘projects of lasting benefit to the Territories’ environments’ (commitment 8). (This is worth a note. When the Charters were written in 1999, environmental projects in the UKOTs were funded by the FCO Environment Fund for the Overseas Territories, so the treaty referred to that fund. By the time we met in Bermuda in 2003 that fund had been cancelled, to universal consternation. So, as a result of the Forum conference in 2003 in Bermuda, the Overseas Territories Environment Programme was started, with funds from FCO and DFID. This fund provided an accessible, ring-fenced fund for projects in the UKOTs, was managed initially through an open process through in which experienced NGOs and local Governors’ offices played an important role, involved a level of bureaucracy that was suited to the UKOTs and provided funding for small-scale projects which were manageable by individual UKOTs. This was cancelled unilaterally by FCO in 2011 and replaced, after a year without a fund, by Darwin Plus (Defra/FCO/DFID), whose decision-making process is less open.)
- Facilitating Territories’ inclusion and compliance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (commitments (3 and 4).
 - Promoting cooperation and sharing of experience/expertise among the Territories (including by helping to fund regular UKOTCF conferences like that hosted by Gibraltar in July 2015) (commitment 6: to ‘Promote better cooperation and the sharing of experience between and among the Overseas Territories and with other states and communities which face similar environmental problems.’) This is why UK Government should continue to fund conferences of this sort. (12)
101. UKOT governments should implement their commitment to ensure that future development plans must provide for mandatory EIA as required by the Environment Charters and general international law. In accordance with Environment Charter Commitment 2, the UK government must assist the UKOTs to review and update environmental legislation to be consistent with general international law. (12)
102. With respect to the particular challenges of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the UK and UKOT governments should draw upon, second or otherwise leverage the technical and broad SIDS expertise of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the UNEP and other multi-lateral institutions in accordance with Environment Charter Commitments 4, 5, 6 and 7. (12)

F2. Requiring EIAs and standards of best practice

Conclusions

103. Recognising poor integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in decision-making, together with ongoing damage and loss of ecosystem resilience throughout the UKOTs/CDs, UKOT Ministers should take action to ensure that EIA-related commitments in the Equator Principles, the Rio Declaration and the Environment Charters are met. These promote use of EIA as a tool for sustainable development as part of strategic planning processes that mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services. Some of the features to address are:

- carefully checking the company being used to carry out EIA to guarantee that they will carry out a good EIA in the first place;
- looking at the impact as the development is happening but noting that the long-term effects also need to be considered;
- wide public consultation which is to make the project better; (“Interested and Affected Parties” (IAP), could be a good alternative term to use instead of ‘stakeholder’; this is often used in St Helena.)
- emerging standards on human rights (including FPIC, Free Prior and Informed Consent) and how these have to be respected when EIAs are done;
- whether there are any transparent grievance mechanisms in place in territories; (Montserrat Physical Planning Act has an appeals tribunal and complaints tribunal. This is worth considering elsewhere.)
- distinguishing between the complaints process and “please unmake decision and completely remake it and you can appeal to council” processes; (The public sometimes get confused between the two things.)
- whether there is a vetting process; (The Environmental Assessment Board in the Cayman Islands has to review applications to the developer. They review and say whether people can meet terms and reference and have ability to

carry out EIA or not and then developers can choose. This is a process that could be used in other territories as well.)

- to be wary of paper processes which are not actually implemented;
 - that EIA needs an Environmental Management Plan or system for independent audit against procedures.
- (12)

104. Material in terms of many EIAs can be very long and terms can be very technical. Information should be understandable for different audiences. It is also useful for local people to know the issues very early on. What is now the UK Supreme Court (i.e. House of Lords + Privy Council), the highest UK court and binding on the UKOTs, decided (*Berkeley v. Secretary of State for the Environment* (2001) 2 AC 603 H.L.) that EIA documents must be “comprehensive, accessible, non-technical.” The scope of the consultation needs to be understood by all participants. There needs to be a structure in place so that participants understand what their role is and that their contributions are considered.

105. The conference appreciated the recognition of UKOTCF’s contribution by Hon. Claude Hogan, Minister of Environment for Montserrat, who said in the conference closing session: “Since I returned to office in September last year, I was negatively moved by the fact that the previous Government had demolished a hill that we call Gun Hill, which was a sort of a fortification. I really loved this hill and then they demolished the hill at the cost of £3 million dollars and then a further \$4 million was used to fill a pond [Montserrat’s last mangrove wetland]. We have not found a solution yet but we are still intending to build a town in that area, and you can be assured that we will build it taking full account of nature. I want Montserrat to be the way the Caribbean used to be.” “Let me congratulate you all, and pay tribute to the work on Environmental Impact Assessment. I should tell you that ahead of this workshop ... I met Mike [Pienkowski, UKOTCF], and within 2 days we had agreed he would be coming to Montserrat, bringing two colleagues with him, including an EIA consultant, all on a pro bono basis. We are now going to embed EIAs in planning approvals in Montserrat. And all that has

happened between September and now. And thank you very much, Mike, for finding Jo Treweek.” (12)

Recommendations

106. UKOT governments should require EIAs for all (including both governmental and private) major development proposals and for those proposals likely to have significant environmental impact, and make them transparent and open (with copies readily available on-line) to local persons and outside experts to comment on, and allow reasonable time for this. (12)
107. UKOT governments should make provision for open and independent scrutiny and review, and should write into the terms of reference for EIA, that anyone can call for a review of EIA, as established by the Privy Council in *Belize Alliance of Conservation NGOs v. Department of the Environment* (2004) UK PC 4. If contractors know that their work could be open to scrutiny by other consultants, this could have an important impact. Mindful that participation in decision making is embedded in the Environment Charter commitments, this should be happening anyway. During the sessions there were some excellent examples of the use of public participation to aid decision-making – but also some examples of disastrous decision making when the public were not consulted. So the Conference recommended that informed public participation by interested and affected parties be central to decision making in the territories. (12)
108. UKOT governments should put in place appropriate and effective legislation requiring EIAs that meet accepted best practice standards and make them available to guide practitioners undertaking EIAs and regulators who need to review them and act on their findings when determining development consent. (12)
109. UKOT governments develop follow-up and enforcement mechanisms and allocate the resources needed. (12)
110. UKOT governments should approach this strategically, so that environmental planning, monitoring and mitigation measures etc are in place well in advance of development proposals. (In this context, it would be useful to make a distinction between EIAs and SEAs (strategic environmental assessments and what the role of each might be.) (12)
111. UKOT governments should ensure that the EIA process is embedded in, and forms part of, the planning/ development consent process. This ensures that it is considered as part of the decision-making process, in accordance with the Privy Council decision in *Save Guana Cay Reef Association v. R* (2009) UK PC 44. Any recommendations/ mitigation measures from the EIA can then form planning conditions. (Here and elsewhere, there are references or implications indicating EIAs considering socio-economic impacts. It might be helpful to think about what is the expected scope of an EIA and whether there are other complementary assessments that could pick up socio-economic issues.) (12)
112. To enable this, UKOT Governments should have:
 - appropriate supporting policy and legislation in place regarding required outcomes for ecosystems, habitats and species
 - State of the environment reporting or strategic baseline data in place so developers, planners and EIA practitioners are aware of issues they will have to address to comply with this.
 - Assistance and capacity-building from (or resourced by) UK Government in line with Charter commitments to develop strategic sustainable development plans and devise effective impact assessment processes commensurate with significant threats and pressures. (12)
113. UKOTCF should investigate putting together a list of all the regulations and derive a set of best practices that we could all ultimately aspire to. It would be good to have statements from across the territories to see what issues come up in common, and to identify where the most serious revision of their EIA guidelines are needed so that this can act as an effective tool in terms of environmental impacts and better planning. (12)

F3. Importance of appropriate and effective legislation, and that EIAs are supported by policy and appropriate established standards

Recommendations

114. UKOT governments should put in place appropriate and effective legislation requiring EIAs that meet best practice standards, and proper enforcement mechanisms, and allocate the resources needed to do this. Such legislation should make provision for the role of NGOs in the assessment process. It would be worth considering “fit-for-purpose” approaches, that are robust, but not necessarily so resource-hungry that the system is set up to fail due to lack of resources. (12)
115. UKOT governments should have clear policy on biodiversity and ecosystem services in place, to underpin standards and requirements. (12)
116. UKOT governments should have appropriate supporting legislation in place (e.g. protection of species and habitats) in order to create enforcement mechanisms during the development process. (12)
117. UKOT governments should ensure good baseline data exists, so that developers, planners and EIA practitioners are aware of what is present on site and the species/habitat issues they will have to address, as well as wider environmental effects on humans. (12)
120. It is worth NGOs, UKOT Governments and others investing valuable time and resources in informing and engaging stakeholders to assist in decision-making. Their input can really influence the outcome of a project. A good way to ensure a high level of stakeholder engagement in decision-making is to offer a variety of ways to get involved. If stakeholders can be given more responsibility, e.g. fishermen given a role in managing a particular fishery or site, they are more likely to become actively involved. Sometimes small jurisdictions are able to be more flexible in their approach to accommodate stakeholder input and achieve good conservation outcomes. (12)
121. Managers must develop creative ways to engage the public, and to make complex technical information accessible to both the public and decision makers. (12)
122. UKOT governments should ensure that civil society feels that their input will be taken seriously and considered carefully in the decision process. (12)
123. Small jurisdictions can sometimes face particular challenges in making the best use of science and other information for decision-making. Staff in government and NGOs are often particularly stretched, with very diverse roles and may lack technical expertise across the whole range of issues. Help is needed from umbrella and linking NGOs to facilitate exchange of experience on how to rise to these challenges. (12)

F4. Importance of a model for sustainable development planning

Recommendation

118. UK Government should fund the development of a model that addresses the needs of UKOTs for sustainable development planning. This is urgently needed if biodiversity and ecosystem losses are to be slowed. Such a model should be inexpensive, easy to implement and readily accessible to decision makers of all technical capacities. (12)

F5. Role of Civil Society

119. UKOT Governments should ensure, by appropriate support and encouragement to civil society organisations, that decisions are informed by a wide range of information – scientific information, local knowledge, resource use information etc. – using just

- one of these sources in isolation can be counterproductive. (12)
124. Organisations that bring together UKOT and CD representatives and member organisations and individuals could help with informed decision making by sharing case studies of good and bad practice, and UK & UKOT Governments and other funding bodies should resource this. (12)

F6. UK Government should address its priorities:

125. The key to sustainability is in ensuring that development in UKOTs is appropriate to a country’s needs, while maintaining the ecosystem services on which economic growth depends. This cannot be accomplished without adequate development

planning, based on environmental variables and followed up with a rigorous environmental impact process. Given this reality, the UK Government should prioritise assisting UKOTs with developing strategic sustainable development plans and devising effective environmental impact assessment and other planning processes. An audit of existing policies for all UKOTs would provide a starting point for this, which could be followed up with assistance for filling gaps. This would lead to a much more effective use for Darwin Plus funds than the current basis on which funds are currently allocated, which has been described by reasonable people as piecemeal and unintelligible. (12)

G. Stakeholder and User Stewardship

Conclusions

126. Government has assumed (by default) the role of environmental steward in almost every situation; however, stakeholders and users also have an interest (in some situations, a greater one in practice) in ensuring that environmental values are maintained. The onus of stewardship could therefore fall on those who benefit the most from resource use. (7)
127. As Mr Victor Brownlees, Chief Executive of Alderney, noted in the closing conference session: we have “got to get local champions.” (15)
128. Government must also be accountable and transparent. A proposed Natural Resource Management Bill, being drafted in the BVI, allows for the public to sue the Government or a landowner if the environment is damaged in a way that has not been permitted. The emphasis on making Ministers accountable for their actions is key if public/private partnerships are to function optimally. (7)
129. Public registries of decisions made in Government that impact the environment are needed (e.g. in the BVI, the draft Natural Resource Management Bill requires a Certificate of Environmental Clearance before certain types of development can occur or for developments in environmentally sensitive areas). (7)
130. Stewardship roles can be shifted from the public to the private sector by incentivising good behaviour with green certifications, competitions and publicity. (7)
131. The transference of stewardship roles is one means to mitigate the economic and resource constraints often faced by Territories, and also ensures on-going stakeholder buy-in to long-term projects. (7)
132. Through project development and implementation within the UKOTs, UKOT-based organisations and linking bodies have developed their capacity in environmental/natural resource management. UKOTs are in a position to export this knowledge to and share their experiences with others who are engaged in similar work. Examples were given from both terrestrial and marine situations. (7 & 8)
133. The profile of citizen science should be raised and more widely accepted and used within natural resource management. Such integration of citizen science could increase community buy-in in conservation management because of their direct involvement in the management process. (7)
134. Citizen science must also be used with a precautionary approach. In some cases, data obtained through this means is reliable, but other times, it is not. It can be a useful tool when used to augment an existing knowledge base but should not be relied on to be the exclusive source of information. (7)
135. On this occasion, the conference had little content on cultural heritage, although it is noted that this forms an important part of the work of many organisations in the UKOTCF network. It was pleasing to have the opportunity to link with Heritage People. As Mr Victor Brownlees, Chief Executive of Alderney, stressed in the closing session “How can we balance the value of our natural and historical resources?” (15)

Recommendations

136. A model of a systematic approach for engaging the community in stakeholder stewardship is being devised, e.g. with TCI’s Community Conservation Partner Program and UKOTCF; however, initial funding is needed to establish project protocols, procedures, legislative framework and

- training for all participants. Once developed, this model can be applied across territories. Funding could be provided by UK or UKOT governments or other funding agencies. (7)
137. NGOs working in and for the UKOTs should come together to develop cross-territory sustainable tourism guidelines/certification programme for tourism operators (for example, dive operators, tour guides, etc.), and take advantage of the IUCN publication Guidelines on development in sensitive areas. Such a certification program will have wide recognition and could prove to be more successful than single-territory certification schemes. NGOs can play a key role in building capacity and training. (To: NGOs and Funding Agencies) (7)
 138. Anguilla's Constitution gives significant rights to land-use, which brings frequent legal challenges by stakeholders in relation to what and how they can use their registered land. This can be detrimental, economically and socially, but on the other hand it can be beneficial. UKOTs' Constitutions should be amended to ensure that environmental management and conservation of ecosystems and their services are enshrined in their Constitution. Furthermore, it should be the Constitutional Right of Nationals to ensure that this happens. Hence, the Nationals will be held accountable for their practices on each parcel of land. (To: UKOT and UK Governments) (7)
 139. Management roles should be enshrined in law for accountability. (7)
142. Implementation and enforcement of existing legislation and policies play a critical role in ensuring that natural resources are used in a sustainable manner. However, this can be done only once there is a strong sense of political will and support for the assigned officers to carry out their duty without fear or favour. (7)
 143. In the BVI, the National Parks Trust Act was updated in 2006, and a Natural Resource Management and Climate Change Bill is now being redrafted. During this process, advice was sought from throughout the Caribbean region, with resultant overwhelming feedback. Legislation from all over the region was shared, and the interaction with Conservation Departments in these countries on what worked and what did not was fed into the process – why re-invent the wheel? (7)
 144. Conservation and planning/development legislation need to work hand-in-hand. (7)
 145. People and organisations need to be engaged in the development conversation in ways that are meaningful and effective. This may mean that stakeholders and resource users may need to become more familiar with legislation and policy frameworks that guide planning and development decisions. (7)
 146. Effective enforcement of conservation legislation is often hindered by a lack of economic and human resources. (7)

H. Legislative Framework

Conclusions

140. The Cayman Islands model for National Conservation Law provides a framework from which other UKOTs can adapt conservation legislation. An emphasis on stakeholder and public consultation in the development of legislation is critical for long-term success. (7)
 141. Greater judicial awareness is sometimes needed – as criminal cases may take precedence over the environment (e.g. it has been suggested that some judges do not take environmental cases as seriously as would be appropriate, and may not be as familiar with the issues at stake). (7)
147. NGOs, such as UKOTCF, can assist (as above) in the development of legislative frameworks by bringing UKOTs together (e.g. in the WCWG) to discuss what has worked and what has not worked. (7)
 148. It is important that amendments are made to the building codes and Physical Planning Acts to factor in climate change as a means to build resiliency in the Small Island Developing States. Some countries have outdated pieces of legislation, which have not taken into account this growing issue. These necessary alterations are vital if we are appropriately to build resiliency and alleviate loss and damage. (To: UKOT Governments) (7)
 149. Stakeholder participation and transparency should be mandated in legislation. (7)

Recommendations

150. Cross-territory experiences with Environmental Funds should be mapped, shared, and used as examples of frameworks for environmental conservation revenue generation. (?UKOTCF) (7)

I. Economic and Intrinsic Value of Sustainable Use

Conclusions

151. Environmental assets have economic values, and sustainable management of ecological and historic features represents economic opportunities that are often overlooked in the decision-making process. Non-monetary values are rarely considered. We need to move beyond solely economics when we value our natural environments; cultural and intrinsic values of natural environments need to be integrated into ecosystem valuation discussions. Greater emphasis should be placed on identifying non-monetary values and cultural services of the natural environment. Understanding non-monetary values and services helps to promote environmental conservation amongst decision-makers, resource users, and communities. An understanding of ecosystem values, both monetary and non-monetary, would inspire conservation ethics amongst resource users, decision-makers and communities. By strengthening ties between organizational structures, including NGOs, government and community stakeholders, such values can be brought to light with resultant multiplier effects across economic and social gradients. (7)
152. As Dr Hon. Kedrick D. Pickering, Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources & Labour, British Virgin Islands, said in the closing conference session: “The environment in BVI not just any old subject, it is the subject. Tourism is the main bread earner and largely based on the fact that the environment is so special. Study that showed 90% visitors to BVI come because of the environment. ... We have a commitment to protect the environment for future generations, and understand the value of what we have. We don’t want to make the mistake of seeing environment in Virgin Islands destroyed. We want to be locally and internationally a champion for the environment.” (15)
153. For effective results, UKOTs and CDs (in common with Small Island Developing States - SIDS) must integrate development and wise use of natural resources; however, they are often hobbled by economic constraints. To ensure sustainable use, environmental considerations must be mainstreamed into the decision-making process, with valuation of economic and non-economic ecosystem services serving as a foundation upon which development decisions are made. (7)
154. Stakeholders should be involved in the decision-making process, with regard to ensuring public awareness of ecosystem values and services and the trade-offs that occur with development. In this regard, banking and insurance institutions can have a very influential impact on Governments. (7)
155. Unfortunately, economic valuation of ecosystem services is usually costly and some results have been criticised for subjectivity. Alternative, objective, easy-to-implement, cost-effective options are needed. (7)
156. Creating integrated land-management systems using GIS is a good way of getting the environment into the sustainable development discussion and planning process. GIS is very visible and projects can be phased in to gather the necessary base-map information (e.g. critical habitats, location of endangered species, lands prone to natural hazards, etc.). (7)
157. As in the BVI (and other localities), GIS can be used for the further development of integrated land management as a “joined-up” approach that includes cooperative efforts by Town Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and other government agencies. Cooperative effort ensures ownership of results by disparate interests and reduces cost factors. (7)
158. Different methods are available for economic valuations. It is the country’s decision to determine the methodology that is most suitable for their circumstances: that is, the methods which will enable them to collect the appropriate information needed. Frequently, monetary values cannot be attached to each service and the services are of a large scope. This is one of the

factors that limits effective use of ecosystem economic valuation. (7)

159. Small island states should keep an open mind regarding the hard science and methodologies used in the developed countries. Due to small economies and resource bases, territories need to become more resourceful with determining methods that will work best for us. (7)
160. The ANEA approach in Anguilla focuses on specific ecosystem type values as well as the key services they provide to the Anguillian economy. As a part of Anguilla's process, the National GIS Unit hosts the various maps that have been produced as a part of the economic valuation studies. In addition to this, the National Ecosystem Assessment project aims to produce a protocol for the sharing of GIS data in the Government system. This will further enable the incorporation of environment into the decision making process, even when environmental bodies are not represented at any particular development meeting. (7)
161. The capacity within UKOTs should be developed to enable them to continue analyses on their own. This will alleviate the need to import consultants who may lack detailed and intimate knowledge of the issues facing the country of concern. Many of the social and cultural issues are hidden below the surface and can be addressed only within the respective system. (7)
162. In the Anguillian scenario, a comprehensive environmental legislative package ("green", "brown" and "blue") has been drafted in a way that allows the Executive Council body to designate appropriately to relevant agencies. Although the legislation is under the Department of Environment, the skillsets to enforce the law already exist in respective departments. This is done to enable environmental management in Anguilla to be done in a holistic manner. (7)

Recommendations

163. Economic and intrinsic valuation can and should inform the development of what some territories term National Sustainable Development Plans (but note that such terms may have different meanings in different places); however, such valuation is costly. A gap analysis of where such information is needed in UKOTs would be a good

subject for Darwin Plus funding. (To: UK Government) (7)

164. Gap analyses, economic valuation and sustainable national physical development planning (noting again that precise terminology may vary between different territories) are primary components of sustainability and should be prioritised by the UK Government for funding purposes. (To: UK Government) (7)
165. One way to get Governments to address actively issues of environmental degradation is by having stakeholders being the advocates for the change in commonly used practices. For example, the loaning regime now being implemented by the World Bank, through its lending agencies such as the Caribbean Development Bank, requires the governments/countries to have in place key policies/legislation focused on the environment and factoring in some element of climate change. This is a condition under which a loan is given. The UK Government could institute similar conditions, but such conditions should be coupled with economic and technical assistance where needed. (7)
166. In the Eastern Caribbean Region in particular, there is much concern about the sharing of information in the Government agencies. The UKOTCF has played a leading role in information sharing. It will be beneficial if this Forum designates some time to discussing establishing protocols for data-sharing. (7)
167. NGOs, such as UKOTCF should be resourced so as to be able to continue to play the role of sharing positive outcomes, new methods and lessons learned among territories. (To: UK Government and other funding bodies) (7)

J. Invasive species

Conclusions

168. The conference emphasized that Invasive Alien Species (IAS) have been identified as one of the leading threats to global biodiversity recognized under the Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 8(h)), and this is especially so to highly vulnerable endemic species on these small islands. Also, invasive marine species are

- threatening local and regional ecosystems. (4 & 8)
169. IAS have had significant negative impact on “human health, the economy (i.e. tourism, agriculture), and native ecosystems. These impacts may disrupt the ecosystem processes, introduce diseases to humans or flora and fauna, and reduce biodiversity.” In recognition of this and that IAS can also be vectors of diseases or directly cause health problems (e.g. asthma, dermatitis and allergies) and can damage infrastructure and recreational facilities, hamper forestry or cause agricultural losses, as well as their cost to the European Union of at least € 12 billion per year, continuing to rise, the European Parliament adopted legislation to tackle invasive alien species at EU level on 16 April 2014. Some key points are:
 - 67% of threatened birds on oceanic islands are affected by invasive species.
 - Feral cats have contributed to at least 14% of all known bird, mammal and reptile extinctions.
 - IAS are identified as one of the major threats to biodiversity in the UKOTs. (4)
 170. Whilst some previous and current eradication projects have provided superb examples, some other previous ones have been ad hoc, with no analysis of benefits, feasibility or sustainability. Controlling and eradicating invasive species populations can have unforeseen consequences, as invasive species, such as cats and reindeer, often function as control mechanisms themselves. Control must therefore take an ecosystem approach to management. (4 & 7)
 171. An RSPB study has proposed a top 25 priority islands (in the UKOTs) for invasive species eradication that together would benefit extant populations of 155 native species including 45 globally threatened species. (4)
 172. Many projects are currently being undertaken in the UKOTs on many different scales. (4)
 173. Prevention is the most cost-efficient and effective method against invasive alien species. Halting the establishment of potentially invasive species in the first place is the first line of defence. (4)
 174. NGOs can play an important and efficient role in the control of invasive species, which is resource intensive. Partnerships are essential in many situations but governments need to take a lead role in biosecurity, especially in preventing the arrival of new invasive species, by development and implementation of IAS policy and management frameworks (e.g. conduct customs checks, inspect shipments, conduct risk assessments and set quarantine regulations to try to limit the entry of invasive species), (4)
 175. Eradicating damaging invasive species is not the sole preserve of Governments, although their collaboration and consent are essential if others are taking the lead. NGOs can and should think big about what can be achieved to increase biodiversity in the UKOTs, especially where Government is unable and/or unwilling to take the necessary steps. Conservation NGOs have a role also in conducting independent scientific field-based and policy research and collaborative partnerships with governmental environmental departments, and facilitate capacity building. A key lesson is that the most effective eradication projects need to be taken in context and be part of an island (or territory) plan which accounts for the interactions between species and eradication methodologies. (4)
 176. Partnerships with other sectors and stakeholders are also critical, (e.g. the private sector be proactive in supporting and enforcing policies and measures that support Government efforts to combat the spread of IAS). Such partnerships can work in monitoring of vulnerable pathways and implement measures where possible (e.g. horticultural trade, pet trade, agricultural produce, maritime industry etc.). (4)
 177. Stakeholder involvement is vital for the success of alien invasive species management, not only preventing invasive organisms from reaching territorial borders, but also mitigating the risk of alien invasive species already within its domain. (7)
 178. Cultural implications of invasive species eradication projects also need to be considered. For example, in the BVI a lot of negative feedback from the local community resulted from killing goats, as they are culturally a food source. This needed to be balanced with huge environmental damage resulting from destruction of vegetation

- and resultant erosion. Involving the local community to some extent can help (e.g. hire local goat-herders first to reduce the population before bringing in the shotguns and FERA/AHVLA). (7)
179. Similarly, as Hon. Claude Hogan, Minister of Environment for Montserrat noted in the closing section, the BEST-supported work is “doing a wonderful job in feral animal and invasive species control in Montserrat, a culling programme to be exact.” He noted that there are cultural problems in the culling of donkeys. He continued, however, “that the situation has gotten so bad that people have been injured, car accidents caused, and people are afraid to come out of their houses at night in certain villages because the donkey population has gotten well out of hand”, so that he is asking the team to talk to the people further and agree actions. (15)
 180. Dog Island Rat Eradication project (Anguilla), though technically challenging, can be used as a model to highlight that rodent eradications can be used as a mechanism for conserving biodiversity on larger remote islands. (7)
 181. More capacity-building in-country on how to conduct invasive species removal is needed. Bringing in overseas volunteers and consultants is very costly and can be sporadic, so species can get reintroduced and are not quickly addressed as the local capacity does not exist to remove them. However, by their very nature, eradication projects are finite and, depending on the nature of the territory, the project and the methodology, bringing in external experts may actually be a cost-effective solution. (7)
 182. Such complex management approaches are often costly and highly technical, making them beyond the economic and human resource capacity of UKOTs. Where significant biodiversity threats are at risk, such as with Critically Endangered Turks and Caicos rock iguanas that are being consumed by cats, international funding agencies and NGOs have been playing a leading role. (7)
 183. Ideally, multi-year baseline data should be collected prior to an eradication programme. If this is not possible, data collected during one field season is better than no baseline data. (7)
 184. When establishing monitoring programmes (pre- and post-eradication), ease of replication should also be considered. (7)
 185. Promotion of inter-island collaboration between UKOTs and independent states (e.g. within insular Caribbean) and inter regional capacity building for IAS eradication or control (e.g. Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII)) would be valuable. (4)
 186. Results of eradications and monitoring should be disseminated to the public – and also through UK resources (for example, DEFRA and other UK-based organisations that have larger media teams that have access to large audiences). Public consultation is critical. (7)
 187. Project implementers should take advantage of technology that is currently available, relatively affordable, and provides useful information (for example, remote sensing and camera traps). (7)

Recommendations

188. Develop/implement suitable IAS policy and regulatory framework to prevent, control and manage IAS, as well as IAS strategies at the local and regional level, including the elaboration of IAS alert-lists, control methods (including “eradication”, promoting of assessment and feasibility studies for eradication or control of IAS, communication and outreach...). Where an NGO shows interest in eradicating an invasive species, the territory Government should generally support and encourage that initiative, and employ expert advisors to monitor and assess the proposed work on its behalf throughout its duration. Governments should ensure that eradication operations are carried out professionally, safely and effectively, but UKOT Governments may need to seek external advice to ensure that international best practice is followed in both the planning and implementation. (UKOT Governments) (4)
189. Greater public awareness and increasing the community’s role in controlling invasive species can be effective. UKOT Governments can also improve conditions by strengthening development agreements and legislation to prohibit importation of soil, landscaping materials and other biosecurity threats. (7)

190. UKOTs governments should acknowledge that invasive species are a global threat, and therefore should be encouraged to prioritise a list of the top ten alien invasions and develop invasive species strategies to manage their impacts. (7)
191. Develop early warning and rapid response systems at the local and regional levels to prevent introduction and spread (i.e. biosecurity). Expert advice must be sought, considerable thought given, and action taken in regard to preventing the re-introduction of an eradicated invasive species before the eradication has taken place. (UKOT Governments) (4)
192. It is essential to prioritise within each territory the most vulnerable places and threatened species as control of invasives is resource intensive. There are tools and examples of ways to do this. (UKOT Governments and NGOs) (4)
193. Promote prioritising system(s) to determine which islands or areas across territories have the highest priority for eradication as this is of strategic importance to determining the allocation of limited resources to achieve maximum conservation benefit. (NGOs, UK Government & other funding bodies) (4)
194. UKOT/CD Governments should strengthen protection against invasive species introductions, and implement invasive species culling of established invasive species (e.g. lion-fish), recognising that in some cases a regional effort (at both the preventative and culling levels) will be needed for such action to be effective locally. UKOTs should establish lists of species of regional concern and current status. (8)
195. Secure funding to conduct eradication/control of invasive species that are impacting on key biodiversity sites and endangered species, and to develop/enhance capacity in the UKOTs to manage such invasive species. (UK Government and other funding bodies). (4)
196. UKOTCF was recommended as a focal point for sharing ideas, information and experiences of invasives management. (4)

K. Biodiversity data

Conclusions

197. There is a dearth of scientific data in many of the UKOTs, and that which exists is often highly fragmented, resulting in ineffective management. (8)
 198. The need for good quality biodiversity data for decision-making and monitoring progress emphasise the need for survey and on-going monitoring (this has implications for capacity building). (4)
 199. Many and various sources of biodiversity data are available, remembering that:
 - i) specialists may be willing to offer expertise for free or at very low rates, usually plus costs,
 - ii) all existing sources may not have been tapped into, and
 - iii) organising these data in an easily useable and accessible form is essential for all partners.
- More could be made of the increasing opportunities through remote sensing, technology and partnership collaborations to develop more effective data-collection and analysis. Many of these data need to be collected for other socio-economic reasons too. Data-collection through academic research, citizen-science and developing expertise through specialist organisations (including ecotourism opportunities), ensuing data-availability from EIAs, and other survey related to development/ private sector investment could play a significant role. The key argument against this is cost – and traditionally people have argued that money spent on monitoring is money not spent on conservation action; we need to demonstrate that well-planned monitoring can help reduce overall costs, and use other opportunities to source funds and resources (e.g. education, tourism). (4)
200. There are benefits to Red-listing species for particularly vulnerable flora and fauna. (4)

Recommendations

201. Development of biological indicators to measure progress. The UK indicators tend to focus on certain groups (farmland and woodland birds, bats and butterflies) where there are well defined monitoring schemes, but historically ‘BAP reporting’ used a slightly more subjective ‘expert view’ approach to assess the priority species. A

basket of key species and/ or habitats could be selected and trends measured using various surveillance approaches. An example of such surveillance is remote sensing. Assessment of whether trend analysis would be useful and, being really ambitious, 'target statuses' could be set for a range of species against which progress could be assessed. UK and UKOT Governments and NGOs need to discuss and research what could be considered achievable short term, and what might be needed to develop more ambitious approaches could be instructive. (4)

202. It is recommended that territories' data are shared with UK, regional and global databases, particularly in relation to the highest priority species such as endemics. (UKOT and other Governments, NGOs, other researchers) (4)
203. There is a need for partnerships, collaboration and information-sharing to progress priorities for action. UKOTCF may be able to play a role in this. (4)
204. UKOT/CD and regional scientific capacity should be strengthened through the establishment of, or support for, existing scientific centres, which can also help promote/coordinate regional data sharing; existing centres/institutions should be approached to assess interest/capacity. There is a need for quality assurance of data and standardised metadata, and it is recommended that UKOT governments adopt ISO 19115 as the framework for their metadata standards. UKOT governments need to strengthen requirements for sharing of scientific data by visiting scientists (perhaps tying this as a condition of research permit). (8)
205. Under the UN Law of the Sea, UKOTs/CDs are entitled to access data collected within their EEZs and UKOT governments should establish the necessary mechanisms for accessing this data with the UK Government. UK Government should provide guidance/advice as to how international legislation (e.g. UNCLOS) may provide UKOTs with access to scientific data within their EEZs. (8)

L. Other aspects of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources

Conclusions

206. The diversity of the UKOTs and CDs (resources available, socio-economic circumstances, level of self-governance etc) should be considered by the UK and overseas entities when planning research and conservation initiatives; a standard approach is rarely appropriate and, to be effective in most UKOTs, solutions need to be developed from within the UKOT with local buy-in. Quantifying the monetary and non-monetary value of marine ecosystem services (e.g. fisheries, marine habitats) and integrating these into policy making is important. (8)
207. Whilst some UKOTs/CDs have scientifically based marine resource management resulting in MSC-certified fisheries, there is a history in some others of failed management action or attempted action being made in the absence of sound scientific data and without clearly defined objectives. (8)
208. Management action proposed in the absence of clearly defined objectives undermines community confidence. (8)
209. There is a general lack of resources necessary for undertaking scientific research and monitoring, and a need for capacity building within the UKOTs and improved information sharing amongst UKOTs/CDs. However, there are established regional institutions, which are starting to address this and can serve as coordination centres for better information sharing (e.g. SAERI). (8)
210. Threats to marine mammals, which are multiple in nature, are on the rise in certain regions. New approaches are required to address these, as existing measures are insufficient (e.g. marine mammal sister sanctuaries are being established employing marine spatial planning methods). (8)
211. Some UKOTs/CDs have achieved effective management; in some others overfishing, particularly of predator species, continues to be a problem, and is creating ecosystem imbalance. Illegal fishing remains a major issue, and monitoring capacity/surveillance is limited in some UKOTs. Highlighting cases where additional support is required could be useful, as well as those where these problems have been overcome. (8)
212. Climate change, particularly ocean

- acidification, is an increasing concern. (8)
213. There are many management/conservation success/recognised best practice stories and valuable lessons have been learned which should be shared, and can in some cases be applied to other UKOTs/CDs. (8)
 214. Both the Chagos MPA and Bermuda Blue Halo initiative demonstrate, in different ways, the importance of identifying and consulting all stakeholders in the process of MPA planning, as well as the need to manage information dissemination. Both examples provided lessons to overseas agencies of the need for understanding local sensitivities within the UKOTs, over and above outside political influences. Projects need to be 'owned' by the territories themselves. The negative ramifications of poor MPA process to longer term marine management initiatives in the UKOTs was sobering. (8)
 215. As Dr Hon. Kedrick D. Pickering, Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources & Labour, British Virgin Islands, noted, "all countries in the Caribbean region should work towards the protection of sharks and rays." He recalled that, to do this, the BVI Government took charge and took responsibility, generating some unpopularity because of this decision but he is happy that they took it, as fisheries are so important for BVI. He noted also that we have to protect the coral reefs, and to think ahead to achieve this. (15)
- Recommendations**
216. UKOT/CD governments should manage their marine resources on the basis of sound scientific data, i.e. evidence-based decision-making. Management objectives, based on sound science, should be clearly defined and articulated by UKOT/CD governments, so that management tools (e.g. minimum size, seasonal closures, MPAs, gear-restrictions, catch-quotas, rights-based management, etc), tailored to address the specific, often unique, local or regional marine environment, can be applied. As a safeguard, it was agreed that the precautionary principle should be applied to resource management where there is insufficient data. (8)
 217. Recognition by international bodies of often limited resources in the UKOTs/CDs is critical, and the need for the UK Government and international institutions to engage in full dialogue with UKOT governments and NGOs to understand priority issues and align research with the specific environmental needs of the territories is essential. UKOTs/CDs to develop catalogue of data needs and disseminate (through UKOTCF). (8)
 218. The socio-economic vulnerabilities of small island communities need to be understood, and responsibility for ensuring full stakeholder consultation in the management of the shared marine resources must be taken by UK and UKOT Governments (i.e. a transparent 'EIA' approach should be adopted when seeking to implement significant conservation measures to ensure environmental and socio-economic impacts are widely understood and assessed). (8)
 219. UKOTs/UKOTCF should explore opportunities for establishing/strengthening existing regional/international collaboration (e.g. 'sister' sanctuaries being established by French MPA Agency), particularly where migratory species are concerned, and the possibility of whale sanctuaries linked to those of neighbouring territories and countries should be given some priority. (8)
 220. UKOTs should consider establishment of coral nurseries as species banks and development of artificial reefs. (8)
 221. UKOT/CD Governments should strengthen/share with other UKOTs contingency planning (with support from the UK Government where relevant with regards to international relations) for major marine incidents. (8)
 222. UK and UKOT Governments, supported by NGOs and others, should continue to explore ways of strengthening surveillance of illegal fishing activities for resource-poor UKOTs, investigating a range of methods, such as satellite-tracking, use of UK Government naval or other resources etc. (8)
 223. Mechanisms should be developed or established and resourced for easy, effective sharing of examples of value/success of multiple management tools (e.g. UKOTCF conferences and website). (8)
 224. Prompted in part by concern about human rights abuses on certain fishing vessels, it was recommended that UKOT governments should strive to ensure sustainable fisheries at the technical, social and governance level,

achieving certification of their fisheries through a recognised international standard such as the Marine Stewardship Council. (8)

M. Capacity and resource issues

See also the section on Environmental Education and Awareness for further points in this area.

Conclusions

225. The scarcity of capacity and resources is a continuing handicap to implementing biodiversity conservation in UKOTs and CDs. (4)
226. UKOTs are severely limited in the funding sources available, and heritage preservation and restoration is rarely allowed in project applications. Those few bodies who have advised the conference that they have managed to find other sources are invited to share this information with others via UKOTCF. (7)
227. The Forum exists to assist in collaboration, communication and experience-sharing in order to maximize the value of conservation activities throughout the UKOTs and CDs. (4)
228. UKOTCF and other NGOs can best assist by continuing to serve as a network amongst UKOTs and between Britain and the UKOTs, and also by continuing to lobby strongly in Britain for access to funding not yet available to UKOTs - and perhaps to the creation of alternatives to Darwin Plus (which many have indicated that they consider too big and/or otherwise unsuited for some initiatives). (4)
229. UKOTCF and other NGOs could help by collating best practice examples – and mapping these across to specific Aichi targets and/or Environment Charter Commitments. This could also provide a point for collating ‘concerns’ that in turn could be followed through by the UKOTCF partnership, developed into ‘policy asks’ for HMG, or developed into collaborative funding bids. (4)
230. UKOTCF and other NGOs could continue to assist in brokering relationships between the different members for specific issues/ actions (including via organising conferences like

this event and the write-up which in turn will help take things forward). (4)

231. The loss of a number of skilled and interested people because projects ended or funding cycles finished is a major concern. Two to three years is not sufficient to manage biodiversity – it needs to be a continuing process after individual project implementation. The best way to overcome the obstacle of capacity is to assist in building biodiversity management as a permanent cycle, even if it begins as projects. There needs to be a shift in the concept from a project-based biodiversity management to a programme-based one. (4)
232. As Hon Claude Hogan, Minister of the Environment for Montserrat noted in the final conference session, “We need to look and grasp the need to build capacity in our small islands because we experience extreme conditions.” (15)
233. It would be valuable to identify some specific issues that UKOTs could seek funding for the Forum to address or though developing joint projects with UKOTCF. For example, one area some UKOT organisations are interested in developing further is looking at what is, in effect, ‘scientific ecotourism’ (or pairing up of volunteer expertise with local needs) which could generate some extra man-power and other resources into projects. (4)
234. The Conference appreciated the recognition that Ministers gave to the value of UKOTCF, its conference and its network, for example: Hon. Richard Ronan MHK, Minister of the Department for the Environment, Food and Agriculture, Isle of Man Government, noted in the final session: “A special aspect of UKOTCF and the conference is Government and NGOs working together.” Both Hon. Claude Hogan, Montserrat’s Minister of Environment, and Mr Victor Brownlees, Alderney’s Chief Executive, indicated their wish to contract out more work to NGOs, Minister Hogan noting also the help UKOTCF had provided recently in bringing a major third party in to help resource Montserrat’s sustainable fisheries work. (15)
235. Funding mechanisms can be heavily bureaucratic to such an extent that laborious and technical application and fulfilment rules are unattainable by UKOTs (and SIDS), which are already struggling with economic

- and human resource constraints. A common resultant trend is that funding is often not available or accessible to the countries where funding is most needed. Heavily bureaucratic funding mechanisms are also economically wasteful. They require copious oversight during implementation, rigorous review and cost UKOTs considerable labour resources. (4)
236. Competition, even among and within UKOTs, for the same small pot of money results in many losing out, particularly those who lack the technical capacity adequately to seek funding, and many needs going unmet. NGOs, such as UKOTCF, can provide a critical role providing technical assistance to territories to help access funds. (4)
 237. UK Government needs to be more aware of the importance of Darwin Plus, while at the same time recognising the ambiguities of the process and an increased need for equitable and fair distribution of funds. (4)
 238. Participants need to recognize that the European Union (EU) as a funding body operates very differently to all others and there is very little room for negotiation once the contract is signed:
 - When applying for EU-funding, applicants should understand the funding framework and requirements before beginning the project proposal development process.
 - Partners should recognize that the EU tends to prefer cross-territory and multi-partner projects with larger budgets.
 - Organisations interested in applying for EU funding should link/partner with a UK or EU partner that may be in a better administrative position to address reporting and financial requirements of EU funding.
 - Organisations interested in applying for EU funding should keep project activities realistic and flexible to accommodate potential changes (to the project and/or its budget) that may be required by the EU prior to project approval as well as during project implementation.
 - It is important for organisations that have benefited from Darwin Plus funding as well as Ministers of the Environment to highlight the importance of the funds and the funding mechanism to UKOT environmental conservation to the UK Government. (4)
 239. Technical assistance to navigate the funding quagmire has been provided by NGOs, such as the UKOTCF participation in the MPASSE project. (4)
 240. A video explaining complex structure of the European Union was shown. It is available on Youtube – ‘the European Union Explained’, and a link will be provided from www.ukotcf.org. (11)
 241. Personnel from BEST hubs gave a welcome presentation on the forthcoming EU BEST funding which will unlock Euro 6 million for environmental initiatives in the Territories. (11)
 242. Some funding mechanisms are more bureaucratic than others, so applicants should be realistic in what activities and how many are being proposed. Capital infrastructure is extremely time- and rule-intensive for EU funding, and tenders must be conducted for anything over a certain value. That is where UKOTs suffer greatly as the pool of qualified people is very small. (4)
 243. Regional institutions are beneficial, but in some circumstances, they may not have built national and technical capacity. Regional institutions may focus on building their own institutional capacity and CVs while ignoring the island nations which they support. (4)
 244. The conditions given by funding bodies place too much strain on UKOTs and CDs, which makes the work too project-focused, versus being programme-based, to allow for long-term continuity and success. These conditions come also with expectations that the territory will already have studies or works completed and ready for further advancement. At times, the cost to perform some of those vital studies beforehand is just not achievable with small islands’ fiscal resources, and this automatically eliminates them from being able to apply for the funds. (4)
 245. The importance of getting to know your funder was highlighted. (11)
 246. In reference to external NGOs with their own funds, pressure is generally placed on what they (these funding NGOs) want to achieve rather than what the country needs to have accomplished for their advancement. Such restrictions should be revisited to allow monies to be used more adequately

and derive bigger rewards needed within country. (4)

247. Opportunities were recognised for the potential for high impact research outputs from universities and other research institutions which were part of the new requirements of the UK's Research Excellence Framework.(11)
248. Collaboration between territories and between governments and NGOs boosts effectiveness. Hon. Claude Hogan, Montserrat's Minister of Environment, noted "I want to borrow the phrase from my Gibraltar friend, Hon Dr John Cortés [Minister of Environment] that, in fact, all the UKOTs are punching above their weight." Dr Hon. Kedrick D. Pickering, Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources & Labour, British Virgin Islands, reinforced this: "We don't have to be big to have our voice heard." (15)

Recommendations

249. A greater understanding of the role of organisations like UKOTCF should be shared. Funding bodies need a better understanding of UKOTs and conservation challenges there, and the facilitation and assistance roles that some governmental and NGO bodies in the UKOTs look to in locally experienced umbrella conservation bodies. (4)
250. A particular problem is the short-term nature of projects that build up experience and capacity which is then lost from territories at its completion. In line with the views expressed at the conference, UKOTCF should promote the benefits of programmes, rather than short-term projects, to maintain and build skills, knowledge and experience. (4)
251. The scarcity of capacity and resources is a continuing handicap to implementing biodiversity conservation in UKOTs and CDs. UKOTCF should continue to address this constraint through developing partnerships in the metropolitan UK and the territories. (4)
252. The Conference acknowledged the importance of continued funding for research, education and implementation of conservation measures for the environment of the UK Overseas Territories. Difficulties
- of access to UK and EU funding streams were highlighted as there are restrictions because of the constitutional position of both funders and the Territories. Specific Overseas Territory funding was therefore particularly supported by the Conference. (To UK Government, EU, other funding bodies) (11)
253. Concern was expressed widely at the conference that the recent June 2015 launch of the 22nd Round of the Darwin Initiative for developing countries had not been complemented by the launch of the next round of the UK Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund (Darwin Plus). The persons expressing this concern asked that letters be sent to Ministers of Defra, DFID and FCO on this point, noting that the £2m fund enables Overseas Territories Governments, local NGOs and UK Institutions to work together and deliver concrete results for the internationally important environments of the Territories, which hold 94% of the globally threatened species for which the UK is responsible; and that the constitutional position of the UK Overseas Territories makes funding in these areas exceptionally hard to obtain. If this fund is not available, crucial environmental projects will have no obvious funding stream. Funding from UK Government in this way is a commitment by UK Government to meet international requirements. (UK Government) (11)
254. It is recommended that biodiversity and its ecosystem services are included in national accounting systems to ensure biodiversity is fully valued for the long term benefit of the territories. (UKOT/CD Governments, with support from UK Government) (4)
255. A checklist of environmental infrastructure (e.g. sustainable physical development plan, habitat and ecosystem services mapping, legislative framework, etc.) should be developed for each UKOT. Rather than allocating scarce funding resources on a "winner takes all" basis, UKOTs can advocate allocation of funding where it is most needed. In some cases, this will be UKOT governments (which will anyway be involved re permits etc.), but in other places, funding will be better allocated to NGOs that can work among and between governments effectively. (To: UK and

- UKOT Governments and other Funding Bodies) (7)
256. A comprehensive checklist of environmental needs should be developed for all territories, with funding targeted preferentially to fill gaps. This need not be a whole new exercise. Existing initiatives such as the UKOTCF review of progress against Environment Charter Commitments and Aichi Targets, reviews of legislation and local reviews can provide much of the analysis. (UKOTs/CDs; UKOTCF) (7)
 257. National perspectives and support from the UKOT governments (ministries/politicians / Cabinet) should be built-in. (7)
 258. The Sustaining Partnerships Conference itself provides an important format for the exchange of ideas and the development of future collaborations, Mr Victor Brownlee, Alderney's Chief Executive, noting "Knowledge is at its most powerful when shared." All conference delegates were encouraged to focus on the development of future projects during and following the event. (Conference participants) (11 & 15)

N. UKOTCF and its Regional Working Groups

Most of the topic sessions concerned themselves with the substantive conservation issues that were their subjects. The meetings of UKOTCF's regional Working Groups (Wider Caribbean, Southern Oceans and Europe Territories) also addressed such issues. However, these deliberately gave some emphasis also to the way in which UKOTCF operates. After the conclusions and recommendations from these Working Groups, the requests and suggestions for UKOTCF actions arising in the main topic sessions are summarised.

Conclusions

259. UKOTCF provides an invaluable forum. There is a lot going on; UKOTs and CDs are often surprised to hear what is going on elsewhere. UKOTCF facilitates valuable information exchange, and enables cooperation, thereby also preventing wasting of scarce resources reinventing the wheel. (6)

260. For some aspects in some regions other linking fora exist (notably SAERI for research in the South Atlantic). However, for other aspects (e.g. other regions, conservation in the South Atlantic, etc.), UKOTCF provides regional networks in addition to its role across all UKOTs and CDs. It provides the potential for yet more close working relationships. (6)
261. There are many excellent projects under way in the UKOTs and CDs, as well as new challenges and opportunities. The situation was noted of "lots of demands, few resources", and the strong impact of small, well targeted projects. (6)
262. Widespread concerns were expressed over the low and reducing level of engagement of UK government and limited engagement of some territory governments in environmental work. (6)
263. Whatever the situation, information flow, cooperation, shared expertise, collating examples of best practice, etc. are all more important than ever. UKOTCF is a major facilitator here. All were encouraged to engage with and support UKOTCF and its Regional Working Groups. (6)
264. Hon. Richard Ronan MHK, Minister of the Department for the Environment, Food and Agriculture, Isle of Man Government, noted that, to achieve preservation of natural treasures, we have to work closely with our neighbours, learning from each other and gaining from experiences whether they be good or bad. This demonstrates the value of taking time out and sharing opportunities with each other at the conference. He hoped that the conference and the Forum will be a platform, and looked forward to building strong relationships in the future. (15)

Recommendations

265. UKOTCF should, alongside its existing approaches, develop further the more thematic approach it has been developing across UKOTs/CDs, e.g. looking at invasive species, use of GIS, coral reef issues. (2)
266. UKOTCF should map the engagement of universities and other research bodies with the UKOTs and CDs, with a view to establishing closer links/partnerships. UKOTCF and partners should then consider how to exploit this engagement

for mutual benefit, including through extending UKOTCF's current work student attachments/ secondments/ sabbaticals. (2)

267. UKOTCF should also (re-)engage stakeholders more effectively, aiming to build closer sustainable partnerships with other bodies with cross-cutting interests. (2)
268. UKOTCF should do more to raise its profile and that of the UKOTs/CDs, not least with a view to fund-raising. (2)
269. UKOTCF should aim to secure funding, not just for projects, but for feasibility and follow-up work. (2)
270. UKOTCF should consider holding more smaller conferences and workshops, on a regional basis, and/or with thematic focus in between the full UKOTCF conferences, ideally in concert with partners and perhaps in the UK as well as in territories. (2)

O. UKOTCF role

UKOTCF continually checks what the territories want it to do, and tries to learn all the time. This includes too improving each conference.

UKOTCF works only for the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies – it does not have another agenda. It is involved long-term working with the territories, and understands well the differences between UKOTs/CDs and with UK. It has built up a position of mutual confidence with many partners in territory and elsewhere. Unlike other UK-based bodies, territories are not a small part of its business; they are its business. But that makes it vulnerable because it does not have other activities or income streams to buffer hard times.

The conference made valuable suggestions about what else it would like UKOTCF to do (see below). These ideas will be taken forward where possible on a priority basis following UKOTCF Council discussions and taking into account resources, as noted below the listing. During the conference, UKOTCF (the Forum) was asked to:

- Maintain that long-term continuity of relationships with the territories, and provide an effective network
- Compile a list of benefits of association with

MEAs and examples of positive outcomes and activities associated with each Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi targets.

- Be a focal point for sharing ideas, information and experiences of invasives management
- Coordinate collaboration and information-sharing to progress priorities for action on dealing with invasive species
- Coordinate and improve access to data on UKOTs held by other institutions in various countries
- Facilitate exchange of experience and access to scientific and other information for decision-making
- Continue to coordinate availability of specialists, pro bono or well below consultant rates.
- Continue to address this constraint through developing partnerships in the metropolitan UK and the territories
- Map and share between territories legislation and regulations, e.g. for EIA, and derive a set of best practices that we could all ultimately aspire to
- Help develop cross-territory sustainable tourism guidelines, and play a key role in building capacity and training
- Build up links with cultural heritage conservation expertise
- Competition among and within territories for limited funding means many needs go unmet; UKOTCF can provide a critical role providing technical assistance to territories to access funds
- A comprehensive checklist of environmental needs should be developed for all territories, with funding targeted preferentially to fill gaps
- Develop collaborative funding bids with UKOTs to address points in these conclusions and others identified by the processes recommended here
- Be prepared to accept contracts from UKOT governments to address particular issues, as well as continuing to seek other sources of funding for agreed work
- Work with UKOT Governments and NGOs to press for better access to UK funding
- Help develop partnerships, collaboration and information-sharing to agree and progress

priorities for action

- Collating measuring, reporting and institutional arrangements for verification of the performance Environment Charter Commitments, Aichi Targets and any further commitments agreed by the territories
- Explore opportunities for strengthening international and regional collaboration, particularly related to migratory species including whale sanctuaries
- Transference of stewardship roles requires some initial funding for training and establishing protocols and procedures. Such funding could be provided by governments or other funding agencies. UKOTCF can play a key role in building capacity and training.
- The Sustaining Partnerships Conference itself, and its follow-up and successors, provide an important format for the exchange of ideas and the development of future collaborations.
- Sharing what is going on in UKOTs/CDs, including progress in monitoring the implementation of the Charters and conventions, using the UKOTCF regional Working Groups, Newsletter, Website or Facebook page
- Providing Training for Teachers and developing Teachers' Education Materials (Curricula, courses, Resource Guides on various topics etc)
- Take a more thematic approach, e.g. looking at invasive species, use of GIS, coral reef issues across territories/CDs, as well as maintaining both all-territory and regional approaches
- The Forum should map the engagement of universities and other research bodies with the UKOTs and CDs, with a view to establishing closer links/partnerships. Then consider how to exploit this and other links for mutual benefit, including through student attachments/secondments/sabbaticals and extending UKOTCF's volunteer programme.
- Continue to play the role of sharing positive outcomes, new methods and lessons learned among territories, and collating best-practice examples
- Consider holding smaller conferences, on a regional basis, and/or with thematic focus in between the full UKOTCF Conference
- Continue to help and guide Stuart McPherson

with his video/book programme

- Continue to help flow, cooperation, shared expertise, examples of best practice, all more important than ever
- Continue to be major facilitator
- Continue to provide technical and managerial assistance and advice
- Continue to develop and evolve, including in respect of the conferences
- There is a lot going on; UKOTs and CDs are often surprised to hear what is going on elsewhere. UKOTCF should continue to facilitate valuable information exchange, and enable cooperation, thereby also preventing wasting of scarce resources reinventing the wheel
- Aim to secure funding, not just for projects, but for feasibility and follow-up work.
- UKOTCF should do more to raise its profile and that of the UKOTs/CDs, not least with a view to fund-raising.

Here is the challenge. UKOTCF needs help to provide the help territories say they want from it. The Forum is therefore grateful to territories for offering to host and fund future conferences – this is a major boost. Hon. Claude Hogan, Montserrat's Minister of Environment said: "I am putting the entire Forum on notice that the next conference shall be held – God willing – in Montserrat [probably in 2018]." Mr Victor Brownlees, Alderney's Chief Executive, offered to work to fund and host the following conference, probably in 2021, and Hon. Richard Ronan MHK, Minister of the Department for the Environment, Food and Agriculture, Isle of Man Government, offered to host another UKOTCF meeting, either a full conference or a smaller meeting at an earlier date. Dr Mike Pienkowski, UKOTCF, thanked all and indicated that he would follow up with them.

But UKOTCF needs help also in keeping the show on the road – because the very nature of the service that it provides in the ongoing services to help territories look after their environments it is difficult to fund-raise for.

UK Government used to help by funding projects, which UKOTCF experts did free or at low cost, so what would have been their payments for work were donated to UKOTCF's low but unavoidable running costs.

Also UKOTCF needs territory partners to adjust

the erroneous perceptions of other funding bodies, used to dealing with bigger countries. It needs to be made clear by the territories that they want and need UKOTCF to help – and that it is not some sort of parasitic consultant diverting resources from conservation. Our host, Hon. Dr John Cortés, Gibraltar's Minister of Environment, has repeatedly made that clear, as have Ministerial and other colleagues here, notably Hon. Claude Hogan, Montserrat's Minister of Environment: "I want us to ... have institutional arrangements in place with the UKOTCF which I continue to think is going to have an indefinite role to play." UKOTCF would appreciate and value these messages being repeated continually to funding bodies.

Annex 1: developing the conclusions and recommendations

There was a widespread view amongst potential conference participants that the conference should strive to reach some clear conclusions and recommendations on the topics addressed (these topics resulting from wide consultations). Of course, time at the conference was limited, especially as territory participants had made clear that they did not want parallel sessions, which have been tried in some previous conferences.

To allow a good discussion time for each topic, talks (aimed to stimulate discussions) were all restricted to tight slots, and participants were encouraged to supply other stimulating material as posters (as well as in the proceedings). However, even an hour of discussion time per session is tight for developing clear conclusions and recommendations. Therefore, UKOTCF tried to help this process.

UKOTCF expected that whichever way this was done would give rise to some criticisms, but the only way to avoid these would be not to do it – which seemed undesirable. Participants were asked to take this in the positive spirit in which it was intended.

In previous experience of conferences, both UKOTCF-organised and others, the first stages of developing recommendations emerged from the talks and posters. UKOTCF tried to emulate this process by getting a small team together for each session to gather their ideas for conclusions and recommendations. The Forum was anxious that these teams should be widely drawn, rather than be composed of core Forum personnel. Accordingly,

the teams were made up of those based in the UKOTs or with an extensive background working there, including the speakers (except in a few cases where communications difficulties sabotaged this). Where received in time, the abstracts of talks and posters were also consulted by the teams. There were then discussions to attempt to generate a draft set of conclusions and recommendations for each session. These were drafts. As explained above, their purpose was to get done the ground-work which would otherwise take up valuable conference time, so that discussion time could be devoted to exchange of ideas, rather than drafting. The drafts were inputs into these discussions, so that the outputs could take account of the consensus of views in the sessions' discussions.

Collating such varied information put a heavy load on the coordinator(s) of each session team and UKOTCF is grateful to them.

Approaching matters in this way had an extra advantage: the drafts were circulated in advance so that participants could think about these before the discussion and, indeed, consult colleagues in advance if they wished. It was pointed out that the conclusions and recommendations do not commit anyone to anything. Participants in the conference were not formal delegates of their territories or organisations. The conclusions and recommendations (and the drafts of these) are reasonably concise summaries of best advice on the basis of the experience of the territory and subject experts brought together by the conference. Decision-makers from all the inhabited territories were invited by HM Government of Gibraltar to a closed session the day after the conference, and a majority participated or sent representatives. That sort of forum is the sort which might agree policy positions. It is the role of such others (and not the conference) to decide the territories' or the organisations' reactions to the conclusions and recommendations, and whether and how they intend to use them. The fact that an individual participated in the conference does not mean that they supported each conclusion and recommendation, and this should not be assumed. As Hon. Claude Hogan, Montserrat's Minister of Environment, said in the final conference session: "I really applaud the conference for having taken a really hands-on approach to dealing with conservation mitigation and the issues of protecting our environment." "I am promising and committing to be a champion for environmental issues in Montserrat and I'll take back to my cabinet the issues that have been unfolded here so

brilliantly.”

In order to minimise any constraints on each session team, a common structure was not imposed on the developing draft conclusions and recommendations. This was reflected in different approaches and lengths in the drafts for different sessions. Subsequent to the drafting, some formatting and numbering were added, primarily to aid reference in subsequent discussions. Whilst there might have been a preference for some of these drafts to be more concise, it was important not to impose a central control. It was indicated that the outputted conclusions and recommendations would be sub-edited both to shorter lengths and, in a few cases, appropriate adjustments to wording. However, this was deferred until after incorporating the results of the discussions, to avoid constraining the latter.

It was made clear that some draft wording provided by the various teams might need some polishing after the conference. Participants were invited to offer wording suggestions by email to the organisers rather than in discussion sessions, which were best devoted to the issues themselves, rather than wording details, and the organisers thank those who did. UKOTCF stressed that the draft was intended to open up discussion, rather than constrain it.

The session coordinators and the conference organisers then used the discussions from the conference and written inputs to amend and extend the draft conclusions and recommendations. There was some overlap in subjects for different sessions. The drafts were not consolidated prior to the sessions, again to avoid constraining the discussions. However, it was noted that some sub-editing and sorting would be done on the session outputs, to make these as manageable as possible, and to bring together sections on the same topic from different sessions. Once the drafts had been amended and supplemented by the discussions in the conference, this was done, except where doing so would have made other material from a session difficult to follow. Similarly, it was envisaged and indicated that the final outputs might be presented in various forms, including sub-sets for the different target audiences for the recommendations, and relating them to Environment Charters, Aichi Targets, MEAs etc. This has yet to be done.

Pre-conference press conference at the Ministry. Photos: Juan Carlos Teuma, Gibraltar Government Press Office

