

Appendix 1. Final published programme for the conference



*Most of the conference organising committee breath several sighs of relief after the closing dinner at the Aquarium:
Mike Pienkowski, Amanda Outerbridge, Andrew Dobson, Annie Glasspool and Jack Ward.*

But where is Frances Marks - surely not still conducting coach transfers?





A Sense of Direction

a conference on conservation in
UK Overseas Territories
and other small island communities

Bermuda 22nd-27th March 2003

Organised by:

**Bermuda Ministry of Environment, Bermuda National Trust, Bermuda Zoological Society,
Bermuda Audubon Society and UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum**

Bermuda hosted an international environment conference from 22nd to 27th March 2003, with a focus on UK Overseas Territories and other small islands.

The conference was organized jointly by the Bermuda National Trust, the Bermuda Zoological Society, the Bermuda Audubon Society, the Bermuda Ministry of the Environment and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. It was the third such conference following those held in London and in Gibraltar. The proceedings of the Gibraltar conference can be seen at www.ukotcf.org

The conference provided a forum for government environmental agencies and NGOs to discuss key conservation issues, to highlight success stories, exchange ideas, and to forge partnerships. It was planned that Overseas Territories and other small island communities that share similar environmental problems should benefit from Bermuda's experiences and history of planning and conservation initiatives. Bermuda planned to learn from the success of environmental programmes tried and tested elsewhere.

The main topics were determined after wide consultations amongst conservationists working in the Overseas Territories. The sessions were:

- Conservation issues of Bermuda and conference initiation by field visit
- Environmental Charters and strategic planning
- Managing conservation organizations
- Implementing management plans
- Climate change
- Dealing with invasive species

The detailed programme is below.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Government of Bermuda

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Capital G

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Sat 22 March	Arrival day
	Set up displays Salons B & C
5pm-8pm	Registration desk open
	Dinner (own arrangements)
Sun 23 March	Topic 1: Conservation issues of Bermuda and conference initiation by field visit
7.30am-8:30am	Continental breakfast / Registration desk open both in Ballroom Foyer

- 8:30am Introduction to Bermuda's environment *Amanda Outerbridge, Executive Director, Bermuda National Trust; Andrew Dobson, Vice-President, Bermuda Audubon Society; Wayne Carey, Vice-President, BNT; and Jack Ward, Director, Dept of Conservation Services - Ocean Suite*
- 9:15am Conference group photograph - **Hotel Front Steps**
- 9:30am Coach tour, with commentary on features of interest. The coaches will visit Gibbs Hill Lighthouse (best view of development across the Island), walks at Spittal Pond and Walsingham, and Nonsuch Island (*Jeremy Madeiros, Terrestrial Conservation Officer, Bermuda Dept. of Conservation Services*). The groups will travel on two buses, meeting at 1pm for buffet picnic lunch.
- 5:15pm Arrive back at hotel
- 6:30pm Reception **Paget Suite**
- 7:15pm Dinner - **Ocean Suite**
Official opening *Premier of Bermuda, The Hon. Jennifer M. Smith, DHumL, J.P., M.P.*
Key note speaker *David Suzuki, David Suzuki Foundation, Canada*
Amanda Outerbridge introduces Premier/ Andrew Dobson introduces Dr Suzuki

Mon 24 March

- 7:30am Continental breakfast / Registration/Information Desk/Displays open
- 8:45am Welcoming address - **Ocean Suite**
The Hon. Dennis Lister, Minister of the Environment
Mike Pienkowski introduces the Minister
- 8:55am **Topic 2: Environmental Charters and strategic planning - Ocean Suite**
Review of progress in different UKOTs in implementing the Environmental Charters and getting biodiversity into other sectoral plans – including obstacles so that we can discuss overcoming these.
Chaired by: Dr Mike Pienkowski, Chairman, UKOTCF; and Avon Carty, Anguilla National Trust
- 9-9:15am + 5 min discussion A Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Bermuda
Dr Annie Glasspool, Bermuda Zoological Society
- 9:20-9:35am +5 min discussion Facilitating the development of a plan in an example UKOT (Turks & Caicos Islands) for strategic action under the Environmental Charter
Michelle Fulford-Gardiner, TCI Dept of Environmental & Coastal Resources; & UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum facilitators, Dace McCoy Ground & Mike Pienkowski
- 9:40-9:55am +5 min discussion Strategic conservation in a non-UKOT
Susan Larson, Deputy Director, Bahamas National Trust
- 10-10:15am + 5 min discussion Implementation of the St Georges Declaration of Principles For Environmental Sustainability in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the UK Overseas Territories Environmental Charter: No Conflict
Gerard Gray, Montserrat Government
- 10:20-10:45am Coffee Break – **Ocean Suite Foyer**
Display Rooms Open

- 10:50-11:05am + 5 min discuss Statutory nature conservation: developing a strategy for the Isle of Man
Liz Charter, Isle of Man Government
- Integrating environmental conservation into physical and economic planning: the Sustainable Development Planning Initiative [not presented at conference]
Kathleen Forbes & Delton Jones, TCI Dept of Economic Planning & Statistic; and Arlene Dixon, TCI Director of Planning
- 11:10-11:30am + 30 min discussion The UK Government's commitment to the Environment Charter process in the UK Overseas Territories
Valerie Caton, Head of Environment Policy Dept, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office; with Roy Osborne, Deputy Head, Overseas Territories Dept, FCO; Denise Dudgeon, EPD, FCO; and Joelene Foster, OTD, FCO
- 12noon-12:45pm Discussion focusing on how to help move forward implementation of Environmental Charters
- 12:45pm Lunch – **Ocean Suite Terrace (Paget Room if weather inclement)**
Display Rooms Open
- Topic 3: Managing conservation organisations - Ocean Suite**
Chaired by: Fred Burton, Cayman Islands; & Amanda Outerbridge, Bermuda National Trust
- 2-2:15pm + 5 min discussion Establishing a National Trust in St Helena
Barbara George, Executive Director National Trust; & Isabel Peters, St Helena Govt
- Harnessing volunteers in Gibraltar [not presented at conference]
Dr John Cortes, Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society
- 2:20-2:35pm + 5 min discuss How to evaluate your organisation's effectiveness as a conservation organisation, using the Bermuda Ministry of the Environment as a case study
Charles Brown, Bermuda Government Management Services
- 2:40-2:55pm + 5 min discussion Falklands Conservation – awareness raising in tourists
Becky Ingham & Ann Brown, Falklands Conservation
- 3:00-3:45pm Coffee Break – **Ocean Suite Foyer**
Display Rooms Open
- 3:50-4:05pm + 5 min discuss Nature Conservation in the Netherlands Antilles: Five islands (trying) to work together
Paul Hoetjes, Dept of Environment & Nature Conservation (MINA), Netherlands Antilles
- 4:10-4:25pm + 5 min discuss Collaborating through the Forum's web/database
Frances Marks, Coordinator, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
- 4:30-4:45pm + 5 min discuss BVI National Parks Trust's computerised management system
Joseph Smith Abbot, BVI National Parks Trust
- 4:50-5:15pm Discussion on overcoming challenges in managing conservation organisations to achieve impact, and the advantages of government/NGO collaboration. This session will continue after the break in the form of a discussion on how the Forum can continue to help.
- 5:15-5:40pm Coffee break – **Ocean Suite Foyer**

- 5:45-7:00pm **Open joint meeting of Forum regional working groups** (session open to all participants, to develop the preceding discussion and to glean ideas on priorities for Forum activities in the views of UKOT bodies) *Chaired by: Michael Gore, UKOTCF Wider Caribbean Working Group; and Ann Brown, UKOTCF South Atlantic Working Group* **Ocean Suite**
- 7:00-7:30pm Demonstration and discussion of inputting to Forum web-database **Ocean Suite**
Mike Pienkowski, Chairman UKOTCF
- 7:30pm Session ends/ Conference Desk Open
Dinner (**own arrangements**)

Tues 25 March

- 7:30am Continental breakfast – **Ocean Suite Foyer**
Display Rooms Open/ Hospitality Desk Open
- 8:30am **Topic 4: Implementing management plans - Ocean Suite**
Chaired by: Andrew Dobson, Bermuda Audubon Society; and Joseph Smith-Abbott, British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust
- 8:35-8:50am + 5 min discuss Conserving and managing the built environment
Catherine Leonard, The National Trust (of England, Wales & Northern Ireland)
- 8:55-9:10am + 5 min discussion Conservation challenges in small communities: conservation management in the Tristan islands *James P Glass, Natural Resources Dept, Tristan da Cunha; & Dr Peter G Ryan, Percy FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town*
- 9:15-9:30am + 5 min discuss A species action plan for the Uvea parakeet, New Caledonia
Alison Duncan, Ligue pour la protection des oiseaux
- 9:35-9:50am + 5 min discuss Ascension – focus on dealing with invasive species *Richard White, RSPB Project Officer; and Tara George, Conservation Officer, Ascension*
- 9:55-10:10am + 5 min discuss Cayman blue iguana management plan
Fred Burton, Cayman Islands
- 10:15-10:40am Coffee break – **Ocean Suite Foyer**
Display Rooms Open
- 10:45-11am + 5 min discussion A conservation plan involving sustainable development of local community – North, Middle & East Caicos Ramsar site & surrounds
Ethlyn Gibbs-Williams, Executive Director, Turks & Caicos National Trust
- 11:05-11:20am + 5 min discuss Inter-country plan - marine turtles in the Caribbean
Brendan Godley, Marine Turtle Group
- 11:25-11:40am + 5 min discuss A community based management plan for the ormer (*Haliotis tuberculata*) (L.) in Jersey, Channel Islands
Andrew Syvret, Société Jersiaise
- 11:45am-12:00pm + 5 min discussion Introduction to the forthcoming review of potential new Wetlands of International Importance (under the Ramsar Convention) in the UK and the UK Overseas Territories
Mike Pienkowski, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum; and David Stroud, Joint Nature Conservation Committee

12:05-12:20pm	Introduction to field workshops on management planning <i>David Stroud, Joint Nature Conservation Committee</i>
12:20-12:45pm	Discussion (further discussion on management plan implementation following morning)
12:45-1:45pm	Lunch - Paget Suite
2pm	Conference to divide into small, manageable groups, each to visit one of Bermuda's interesting sites to make a structured effort at developing a plan for aspects of management.
5pm	Leave sites
5:30pm	Arrive back at Hotel Conference Desk Open
6pm	Taxis leave for evening - Hotel Front Entrance
6:30pm	Reception at Government House Welcome from H.E. the Governor, Sir John Vereker
8pm	Taxis leave Government House for Hamilton or Elbow Beach Resort Dinner (own arrangements)
Wed 26 March	
7:30am	Continental breakfast – Ocean Suite Foyer Conference Desk and Display Rooms Open
8:30am	Wrap up the previous day's session by summaries and discussion. Ocean Suite
9:30am	Topic 5: Climate change - Ocean Suite <i>Chaired by: Martin Drury, UKOTCF; and Lynda Varlack, BVI Government Conservation & Fisheries Department</i>
9:35-10:05am + 10 min discuss	Scientific overview of climate change implications as it relates to small islands <i>Dr Nick Bates, Bermuda Biological Station for Research</i>
10:15-10:40am	Coffee break – Ocean Suite Foyer Display Rooms Open
10:45-11am + 5 min discussion	British Indian Ocean Territory – island flooding and coral-death related to changes in sea-levels and in temperature <i>Dr Charles Sheppard, Friends of the Chagos & Warwick Univ</i>
11:05-11:20am + 5 min discuss	Implications of global warming and sea level rise for coastal nesting birds on Bermuda <i>David B Wingate & Patrick Talbot, conservationists, Bermuda</i>
11:25am- 12:10pm	General discussion
12:15pm	Lunch – Ocean Suite Terrace (Paget Suite back-up)

- 1:15-3:45pm **Topic 6: Dealing with invasive species: sharing knowledge and experience**
Chaired by: Dr Oliver Cheesman, CABI Bioscience; Dr Colin Clubbe, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Dr Annie Glasspool, Bermuda Zoological Society; and Karen Varnham - Ocean Suite
- Invasive species are now widely regarded as the second most important threat to biodiversity after habitat destruction. The impacts of invasive alien species are particularly severe on small island ecosystems. This session will comprise a panel-guided discussion, drawing on the knowledge and experience of conference delegates. Three particular themes will be addressed: awareness-raising, prevention strategies and control measures.
- 3:45-4:25pm Coffee Break – **Ocean Suite Foyer**
 Display Rooms Open - last chance to see the displays
- 4:30pm **Topic 7: Wind up and conclusions - Ocean Suite**
 Summary based on the work throughout the conference by the conclusions team: *Dace Ground, Turks & Caicos, UKOTCF (coordinator); Denise Dudgeon/ Joelene Foster, FCO; Sarita Francis, Montserrat National Trust and Permanent Secretary Montserrat Chief Minister's Dept; Mike Pienkowski, UKOTCF; Jack Ward, Bermuda Department of Conservation Services* - and discussion
Participants are encouraged to draw the attention of members of the team throughout the conference to points they think particularly important to include in the conclusions.
- 5:15pm Closing Remarks
- 5:30-6:30pm Conference Desk open/ Airport Departure Schedule for Thursday posted
- 6:30pm Taxis leave for Final Dinner – **Hotel Front Entrance**
- 7pm Reception - **Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo** (Sweater or jacket suggested)
- 7:45pm Dinner – **BAMZ**
- 10:30pm The Deep Night Club – **Elbow Beach Resort** (complimentary admission for conference delegates)

Thur 27 March Continental breakfast
Departures
 For those leaving late in the day, there may be optional additional tours or informal meeting opportunities.

9am UKOTCF Executive Committee Meeting (committee members only) **Paget Suite**



Jay Warren, Pitcairn - delegate with the longest journey and with no scheduled means of transport for the first stages (FM). Below: the longboat, the main means of landing at Pitcairn, experiences a roughish day (FCO).



Appendix 2. Participants and their contact details

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Some of the members of the UKOTCF South Atlantic Working Group (above) and Wider Caribbean Working Group (below) get together at the conference



Appendix 3. Feedback

Collated by Frances Marks, UKOTCF

Introduction

Are conferences of this type of any use? By the time of the conference itself, the Forum Chairman was close to saying “never again”, and tried to play devil’s advocate in the discussions. But being a reasonable bloke, to try to secure a wider view, he encouraged a questionnaire - and various semi-formal and formal discussions ran through the conference. A summary of the results follows. It should be noted that the views summarised or quoted are not necessarily shared by the Forum or the other organisers and sponsors of the meeting.

A questionnaire “We need to hear from you!” was included in the conference pack, and participants were encouraged to return it with comments. Twenty-five people did so. This response of greater than 25% to a questionnaire is a good return rate, particularly in the light that the questions were open ended and respondents did not have much time to think about their comments. Respondents were invited to complete some or all sections as they wished, which resulted in a very wide range of comments. Below, the answers are summarised, using the structure of the original questions.

A number of other delegates contributed various comments either verbally or by email about the conference. There were also a number of comments relevant to this made in the Forum open joint session of its Working Groups. Wherever practicable, these comments have been incorporated in the analysis of the questionnaire below.

The preamble of the questionnaire was as follows:

“This conference has depended on a substantial amount of funding from the sponsoring bodies, the time (both paid and very largely volunteer) of organizers, and certainly not least the time and effort of all the participants. We are anxious to assess how useful this was and any lessons that can be learnt. We also want to capture any ideas that you have for future priorities for our joint efforts in relation to conservation in the UK Overseas Territories & Crown Dependencies and related countries. We would be grateful for your views. To help

you in recalling aspects and to help us analyse the results, we have included some questions here, but do not feel the need to answer all of them, and please feel free to add any other points.”

Below, each section of analysis starts with the original question (in bold). Note that, because questions were open-ended, reported percentages relate to the proportion of respondents commenting in a particular direction. Thus, for example, a report that 30% supported some view does not mean that 70% were against it; it simply means that 30% of people thought a point sufficiently important to comment on it. Where significant contrary views are expressed, these are reported too. The absence of contrary views reported implies that, to take the example above, the 30% represents a substantial consensus in favour.

1. Please indicate for any of the following sessions, any aspect that you found useful for your work (especially if you think that they will change how you approach aspects of it). Please indicate also any parts of the sessions that you thought of little value to you.

Topic 1 Conservation issues of Bermuda and conference initiation by field visit

On this topic delegates were unanimous about their praise and enjoyment of the day, finding it to be of great interest. 25% noted that it was an excellent icebreaker and good to have such a tour on the first day. It was felt to be the best way to experience first-hand the conservation issues facing Bermuda and brought home the realisation that many others’ experiences are the same or similar – as are the challenges and issues of each Territory. This gave some hope to delegates. There was one comment: “Very useful for comparison with local issues in my own home. Perhaps a wider socio-cultural background would have enforced the day. It would have been nice to meet a wider range of people: teachers, volunteers etc.” Several people noted the value of holding the field session on the first day, with the chance for participants both to get to know each other and the local issues.

Topic 2 Environment Charters and strategic planning

30% of respondents said that this group of presentations had been very useful and informative, especially how Bermuda had approached the production of its biodiversity plan. There was a comment that the session looked terrifying on the programme, with 14 presentations, but in fact had been interesting and gave some good project ideas.

An overall comment was that the calibre of presentations had been very high. One respondent felt that the 15-minute turn-over had been a little bit hectic, and 20-minute presentations with longer for questions might have been better, but it had kept things moving.

Having Bermuda Environment Minister, Hon Dennis Lester at the conference was considered important. It was mentioned by several that the FCO element was particularly useful, even if some aspects were not encouraging, but very good to have them at the conference. Participants remarked that this FCO commitment sadly contrasted with an absence of participants from Defra and DFID. Some noted that it would have been good to have had more representatives from UKOT governors' offices and also from more small island states, especially in the Caribbean/Pacific.

It was generally felt to be helpful to hear case studies, with several examples of "best practice" and useful to have overviews from UKOTs. There were some comments that it might have been useful to get more experience from implementing agencies in UKOTs on how easy or difficult it was to make progress in the Charter process. Given that there were several presentations on this, the comments may reflect the early stage of implementation in many places. There were comments suggesting more action and less planning, but that implementation of the Charters could help in this, and could be much more highly publicised.

From the Crown Dependencies point of view, the Environment Charters looks like an excellent initiative, and the Lord Chancellor's Department (which then led in HMG on Crown Dependency matters) should be encouraged to sign some sort of MOU with FCO on environmental issues.

Topic 3: Managing conservation organisations

This topic received mixed reaction. 20% reacted

very favourably, with comments of "best plenary session", "excellent speakers", "good papers", "very useful in gaining ideas of successes", "extremely useful and relevant to the work I undertake". "Interesting to see the different challenges and perspective, especially pro's and con's of 'Eco-tourism' on Falklands". It was felt that there was a good cross section of experience from very small to large and complex.

Collaborating through the Forum's web/database and BVI National Parks Trust computerised report system were also considered to be useful by many.

On the other hand, 15% of respondents felt that the session had been less relevant, either because it was not in their line or they had felt the talks had not been focused. There were some comments that presentations were varied, but some rather off-topic, that this and Topic 4 overlapped, and that some presentations had even been a bit dry.

Even within the doubtful respondents, there was a general view that the topic had been useful. Two respondents suggested that perhaps a more informal experience-based discussion would have added to it, and there was a need for more open discussion of such issues. There was also a comment that there had not been enough, or any, input from organisational management specialists [although, as there were some of these present, it is possible that they were simply too restrained in comment!].

Topic 4: Implementing management plans

Two respondents had negative comments. These were: that, although interesting the session was more about management plans than implementation methods in a broader sense: and that the topic did not have relevance to one delegate.

However the remaining respondents who answered this question (75%) found this section of the programme extremely useful as well as being relevant to their work. David Stroud's efforts received several assessments of excellent. He, and one of the facilitators, Liz Charter, have collated some thoughts of possible further improvements and options for consideration in future exercises:

1. More time between workshops and report back is necessary to allow Rapporteurs to develop material and an overall summary pulled together. Although last week the Rapporteurs did magnificently, it was not really possible to do the second stage effec-

tively. Thus, Monday afternoon in the field and Wednesday morning report back would have been better (or even Tuesday am/Wednesday am).

2. We had (and in also Gibraltar) a format of several groups looking at a range of sites. This spreads everyone a bit thinly. Other options (depending on one's objectives of course) are to have groups visiting several sites but focusing on one aspect of management planning at those e.g. just thinking about an Education/Awareness Plan for those sites. This would open subsequent report back to rather more of a compare/contrast between sites highlighting different approaches to the same topic.
3. Alternatively, one could split groups thematically around one site – the thinking here might be to take a 'real' site and use the collective expertise to develop a real management plan - a sort of 'Visiting Group' approach. Thus one might have small groups variously considering invasive management, Education & Public Awareness, hydrological management, pollution issues etc all on the same site. This might take a little more setting up (preparation of background issues papers would be necessary) but would potentially have a more enduring impact on the individual site. Ideally, one would sort folk into groups prior to the field trip dependant on expertise, for example a month in advance. For this to work, one might need to know a little about skills/expertise gathered at the time of registration. Also it might take a little more set-up time initially and to benefit it might need a little post-conference time to ensure that conclusions were taken up locally. By definition the local site managers/government would need to be receptive to such an external review/appraisal of the management of the site chosen.

The plans were generally considered valuable, and could be transferable to other UKOTs. It was noted as especially good to hear success stories and challenges facing even "pristine" locations like Tristan; other useful examples listed were; a species action plan for the Ouveá parakeet; Cayman iguana management plan and Ascension – focus on dealing with invasive species.

It was considered to be an excellent idea to include a genuine case study on the conference programme, although there was a comment that, as visitors, delegates probably had too little local knowledge to help much. [Although the main purpose of using these sites was to provide real sites for delegates to study, Bermuda colleagues have advised since that the results of the workshops are indeed of real value to them, having introduced new ideas, novel viewpoints and fresh analyses.]

There was a request for an example where mismanagement of good plans had occurred, whether financially or logistically, due to unforeseen eventualities, and how they could be dealt with, and the lessons learned.

Topic 5: Climate change

85% of respondents commented on this topic. 3 delegates found the topic less valuable than other sessions, but useful background, obviously a global issue but the three examples were of only tropical origin. [This was actually due to the planned Antarctic speaker, and another who would have addressed the temperate zone, pulling out at a late stage, and planned global overview also failing to materialise.] A further four delegates thought the topic depressing, although fascinating and even frightening. It was felt that there is a need to focus more on possible solutions rather than documentation of environmental degradation although possibly little could be done directly by UKOTs, or any organisation, other than being aware. There was one suggestion that the conference should have considered some action at the end. Two delegates found the topic interesting, even if negative, but that "science" had been diverged from conservation.

The remainder found the topic of interest, new to many participants. Presentations on BIOT and on the implications of global warming and sea level rise for nesting birds of Bermuda were commended particularly. Representatives from individual UKOTs noted that climate change was relevant to Cayman, especially with the heavy dependence on reefs for tourism; TCI had been provoked into more thought on the topic; and Anguilla requested literature to take away.

Points that could have received coverage included: Antarctic UK Territory; ice melt and temperature rises; impact on penguins; more on terrestrial

systems; alien release and DFID's report on climate change and the UKOTs which could have been made available at the conference. [See above: these subjects had been planned, but were withdrawn at a late stage; this is why this was a short session.]

Topic 6: Dealing with invasive species: sharing knowledge and experience

75% of respondents commented on this topic. The majority of these thought the session very useful, opening up ideas on how to approach this issue, providing a useful checklist and ideas of where to seek assistance. It was felt that most delegates had not realised this was such a big problem, but hearing other UKOTs' experience was very valuable and it provided ideas for projects.

On the negative side two delegates thought the session too long and frustrating, considering the group to be too large. It was suggested that delegates should have been broken up into working groups with a plenary report back

Oliver Cheesman and Annie Glasspool were commended for being able to make a comprehensive list from this proactive session. Individual comments received included: there was a need to study the cause and effect of invasive species; although there had been good discussion, the deeper ethical and philosophical issues were not addressed; and there was a lack of collective actions decided by the delegates.

Any other elements (e.g. displays, informal meetings etc)

50% of respondents said that there had been a good range of poster displays and informative handouts, with new ideas gleaned and others that could be transported. The bird box display with information on the evolution of the various shapes and structures was considered especially interesting. One UKOT noted that it may consider installing a few of the tropicbird nesting boxes.

One delegate requested a formal display session so that people not able to present in a main session could have a chance to interact more effectively. One delegate requested there should be more flexibility in Q & A time.

Networking at this type of conference was considered paramount, informal meetings and discussion being always major benefits using plenty of long

breaks, which are good for exchanging ideas. The stand-up breakfast and close proximity of all meals to the display areas were considered good opportunities to meet and chat.

Q2. The choice of session topics was the result of a wide consultation around those working in conservation in the UKOTs and similar areas as to which topic they would find most useful. We tried to accommodate as many as possible of these topics but could not include all of them. If another conference were organised, what topics would you like to see addressed?

Only two respondents did not answer this question, the majority of the rest had at least one suggestion for topics for future meetings, as well as expressing general contentment with the programme of this conference.

The topic to receive most mentions was fundraising, but the question was also raised as to whether this reflects the lack of funding sources available to UKOTs at least as much as a need to develop skills. It was suggested that a working session might be considered on how to access international donor funds, including a list of relevant donors, the projects they were likely to fund and tips on the kind of application. Also noted was the demystifying of complex major sources like EU (a long-term wish of many in the EU too, but it must be noted that, although several EU environment funds are in theory open to UKOTs, the reality may be different) and assessing the economic value of a good quality environment.

The second most mentioned topic dealt with media, education and awareness raising, either as a workshop or training session, to include more in-depth local issues particularly in respect of the socio-political economic aspects.

There were two suggestions regarding how to deal with Government local legislators, where these are reluctant and unresponsive, and working with government structures.

There were requests for more on marine issues, coastal planning and erosion issues, and terrestrial issues – which seems to cover most possibilities. A number suggested specific topics such as captive breeding and reintroduction programmes, creation of biological corridors, monitoring biodiversity,

sustainable tourism, EIAs, monitoring change, more actual management issues and more on invasive species. Whatever the topic it was felt that sessions should actually achieve something as a group and that the Forum could have a real sway when all together and that it should be developed further to even better effect.

The Forum working group chairpersons also requested that, in any future conference, there should be a dedicated session for members to meet.

One other general comment on Topics 2, 3 and 4 stated that, although of great interest, it was difficult to follow the threads of each topic; these would have been of more use if the topics had been more focused and directed.

Q3. Do you think that a conference of this nature is sufficiently useful so that another might be organised somewhere and, if so, after how many years' interval? Or do you think that the resources would be better deployed in another way (although it cannot be guaranteed, of course, that funds not used for a conference would actually be available for other conservation uses).

This question was answered by all respondents with the majority, 40% saying every 2 years and a further 30% saying between two and three years with a further 12% wanting a conference in three years time. No comments were against future conferences, despite serious - as well as jocular - testing of this!

There was a feeling that the gap between conferences should be long enough for progress to be made, but not to be too long to avoid losing momentum. Typical comments included: nothing can replace meeting intensively, face to face; this is the best way: definitely worthwhile; and good opportunity to network, making contacts, learning about issues and progress in the UKOTs and sharing experiences.

There were a number of requests that there should be more workshop sessions, giving more time to structure thoughts in small groups. Maintaining the impetus between conferences, particularly continuing to lobby governments so that every UKOT is represented, and from government departments as well as NGOs, were also noted by some as important. It was also thought important that contact

should be maintained in between conferences, possibly via the website.

Q4. What do you think should be the most helpful things that the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum should try to do to help its member organisations and other conservation partners (including governments) in the UK Overseas Territories

Responses to the question fell into a number of specific categories the main ones being: funding, the transfer of information, awareness raising and the continuation of liaison between the UKOTs and government.

Identification of funding sources was requested by 25% of respondents, including help in the bidding process and assistance in improving the ability of agencies to produce quality projects and help write proposals. A workshop or training on writing and preparing project proposals, as mentioned by several delegates, was also considered to be useful. Making more use by all of the interactive aspects of the website and increase the funding-relevant material on it was recommended. A thought was made that more members would increase Forum funding.

The Forum was seen to be already informing UKOTs of events, news and giving advice when requested. This should continue with a regular exchange of information between territories. Greater use should be made of information on the Forum's website, with a request on information on how to achieve compliance with international treaties.

There were many comments that information exchange could be developed even more through the website and database; members and other Forum collaborators were encouraged to use the database as a tool and to add it. Greater use should be made of information on the Forum's website. The website should be constantly updated; this could be done by the secretariat (if resourced a little more) as well as individuals in the UKOTs and member organisations. As at present, any comment should be attributed, or the source of the information should be recorded.

The discussion group facility could be an asset. Moderators for various subjects were needed, some volunteers had already been found. All the software

was in place; it just needs to be used.

This would help with the constant effort to raise UKOTs' profile in the UK, both with other NGOs and with Government, and could help bridge the gap between local and global aspects. It was also suggested that the Forum could help to coordinate universities, volunteers and science research with management needs in the UKOTs. Giving moral support and greater use of the Working Groups was seen as a useful activity for the Forum.

The UKOTCF Working Groups could help in a number of ways, the main areas discussed were: funding, information exchange including the website, raising awareness, capacity building and relationships with government.

The Forum was requested to continue the good work of representation and mediation between UKOTs and UK Government, liaising with the FCO and the relevant departments on environmental matters. Briefing of incoming Governors was seen to be useful as was the provision of advice to UKOT governments on environmental issues.

A better understanding and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements [MEAs – the term the government lawyers use for international environmental conventions] was requested. It was suggested that lobbying collectively would be more effective. Some thought that certain conference issues should have had signed resolutions, but there would be major technical difficulties with this. Other issues, including how to meet charter requirements and obtaining legislation for certain Territories, were also mentioned.

Forum News could be more widely distributed. A supply of *Forum News* and *Annual Reports* could be sent to the local NGO for distribution to the local councils.

One delegate wanted the Forum to “nag us to do more!”

Q5. What do you think should be the most helpful things that the British Government should try to do to help its member organisations and other conservation partners (including governments) in the UK Overseas Territories?

As in the previous question, funding mentioned by 60% of respondents was the top priority, particu-

larly in the light of the Environment Fund for Overseas Territories being consolidated with global funds at FCO. It was felt that this could prove disastrous for the UKOTs, because it both appeared to signal an early lack of interest by HMG in the Environment Charters it had promoted, and because it abandoned the recognition that environmental conservation in the UKOTs is a shared responsibility fundamentally different from UK's help to foreign countries, with which the fund had now been combined. There were also practical difficulties when project proposals relating to the UKOTs and the Environment Charters are assessed by external advisers with little knowledge of these. There was a request that funds should be earmarked for the UKOTs, and also that the DFID fund for UKOTs promised in the 1999 White Paper should be initiated and well spent. Small communities had limited experience of the grant proposal process and help was needed. Government could provide help by resourcing suitable bodies and individuals from the UK to help the UKOTs alleviate the problems occurring from lack of manpower and resources. There was a request for a small grant programme for environmental emergencies and opportunities with minimal input and reporting needs as well as small easily accessed travel grants.

The FCO were commended on their delegation at the conference. However DFID was noticeable by its absence; also more support was needed from Defra. Government should be involved in the UKOTs in a joined up way. It was hoped also that FCO would influence by all practical means possible positive environmental policies within UKOT governments. There was a need for information sharing and better communication between government and the UKOTs with reassurance that UKOTs are part of UK.

Concern was expressed regarding the Environment Charters. Government was asked to act as a conduit, and/or to use the Forum as such a conduit, to collate the expressed needs of the Territories in terms of what they need to assist them to meet the Charter obligations (e.g. expertise, training, secondment as well as funds), and for the UK to assess how the Government and its agencies, as well as NGOs, might best provide assistance.

Greater influence was requested, through the Governors, to persuade UKOT Governments to take action as necessary on environmental issues, particularly to encourage local Governments to put

protected areas legislation in place.

Delegates from the Crown Dependencies requested similar help, for the Crown Dependencies.

Q6. What do you think that you will do differently as a result of attending this conference?

100% of those responding replied to this question, with respondents making at least one comment of what they would do and very few of the ideas were duplicated. Some were of a practical nature; such as: build bird-boxes or investigate the tropicbirds igloos for application in other UKOTs; actively promote the use of indigenous plants species instead of exotics; or progress Ramsar sites.

Several delegates mentioned that they intended adding data to the Forum's website as well as looking into the idea of a BVI-type database for tracking strategic planning objectives and progress. Other references to planning included the organisation of a management planning workshop and looking at ways to implement plans.

Using contacts that had been made at the conference was a frequent mention, with a view to increasing or developing informal networks and raising awareness of the UKOTs. Keeping a dialogue flowing with other UKOTs, tapping into various available resources and sharing expertise was also considered important.

There were a number of different references to funding, either exploring new ideas for funding and support or pursuing ideas for projects involving resources in all the UKOTs. There was a note of despair from Anguilla for more help.

There were several requests for assistance, for instance in finding information on how to produce a stamp issue for the UKOTs.

JNCC wished to understand how it could best support UKOT conservation and increase JNCC's involvement in supporting Government work with UKOTs and CDs.

The Bahamas representative asked whether the idea of promoting a Commonwealth-wide version of the UKOTCF was possible. Having left the UKOT fold, Bahamas felt they could still benefit from an organisation like the Forum at the Com-

monwealth level.

Q7. Any other comments

Under this section a number of delegates congratulated the conference organisers for a superbly well organised and thoughtfully administered conference and thanked Bermuda for acting as hosts.

Comments of a negative nature included a reference to the consideration of serving shrimp as its production was considered to be unsustainable. [This is disputed by some.] Also there was a reference to the use of plastic water bottles and lack of vegetarian options. There were requests that the keynote speaker should be from the UKOTs, and that the keynote speaker at the next conference does not just preach to the converted.

Suggestions for improvement included: a request for small workshops; increasing discussion time; involving more people and giving the speakers more detailed instructions to help focus their talks on topics a bit more [although it has to be noted that some of these ideas were mutually exclusive]. Some noted that, at future meetings, a 2-hour slot should be allocated in the early afternoon for Working Groups to get together for a more or less formal meeting. Their meetings provide the only real opportunity for the Group's UK-based members to meet and discuss matters of mutual interest and concern with members and others in the UKOTs

A request of a practical nature was to publish a list of email addresses and contact details of all attendees on website [this was done for the previous conference, and is included for this one in these Proceedings]. A list of names in relation to the conference photo so that delegates could remember who was who was also requested. [The organisers are not averse to this idea, but could not achieve it for these proceedings without serious delay to their publication.]

Questions asked by several delegates was how far have UKOTCF and environment matters in UKOTs come since Gibraltar – were the same issues being raised or had tangible progress been made?

Appendix 4. Friends of the UK Overseas Territories

Friends of the UK Overseas Territories



How does the Forum work to conserve the treasure trove of biodiversity found in the Overseas Territories?

- ü By supporting local people in their efforts to conserve their own environmental resources
- ü By helping non-governmental organisations (NGOs) find international funding for their work
- ü By providing strategic assistance to the Overseas Territories, both governments and NGOs
- ü By coordinating the support of UK member bodies in providing specialised technical assistance to enable local people to carry out conservation projects
- ü By raising awareness in the UK about the Overseas Territories and our responsibility to them
- ü By providing regional support by expert Working Groups
- ü By representing NGOs on international bodies such as the Ramsar Committee

The Forum supports local organisations because they create a sense of ownership of the resources to be protected and they create pride in the local people in their own national treasures. They are the most effective environmental educators, and unlike international bodies, they will always be there. That's why the Forum concentrates on empowering local people and giving them the tools and information they need to do the work themselves.

Four good reasons to become a Friend



1. You know how valuable and vulnerable are the environmental treasures held in the Overseas Territories.
2. You understand that the only way to guarantee their protection is to build local institutions and create environmental awareness in the countries where they are found.
3. You care about what is happening in the Overseas Territories and want to be kept up to date by regular copies of *Forum News* and the Forum's *Annual Report*.
4. You understand that the Overseas Territories are part of Britain, and therefore are not eligible for most international grant sources - but neither are they eligible for most domestic British ones, so help with fundraising is essential.

I wish to become a Friend of the Overseas Territories at the following support level: £15 £50 £100 £500

I wish my company to become a Corporate Friend at the following support level: £150 £500 £1,000 £5,000

Name of individual Friend or contact person for Corporate Friend _____

Company name for Corporate Friend _____

Address _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Friends subscriptions can now be paid by credit/debit card as well as by UK cheque.

This means that payments from various countries can be made easily; your card company will handle the exchange and include the equivalent in your own currency in your regular statement.

Either: I enclose my cheque made out to UKOTCF for the amount indicated above

Or: Please charge the amount indicated above to my card:

American Express Delta JCB
 MasterCard Solo Switch Visa

Card Number

Expiry date: / (month/year)

If used: Valid from / Issue number _____

Send to: UKOTCF, 15 Insall Road, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 5LF, UK

