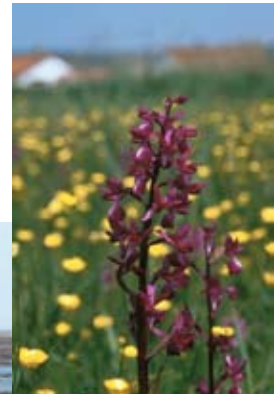


# Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities

Jersey 6th -12th October 2006

Edited by Dr Mike Pienkowski  
UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum  
September 2007

© UKOTCF 2007



Organised by:

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



# Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th-12th October 2006 - Introduction

Organised by:

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



## Background

Jersey hosted an international environment conference from 6th to 12th October 2006, with a focus on UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small islands.

The conference was organized by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, in consultation with the Environmental Department of the States [Government] of Jersey, the Société Jersiaise, the National Trust for Jersey and the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. It was supported by the Overseas Territories Environment Programme of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development. It was the fourth such conference following the first held in London in 1999, and the second in Gibraltar in 2000 and the third in Bermuda in March 2003. The proceedings of both the Gibraltar and Bermuda conferences can be seen at [www.ukotcf.org](http://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 so that Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities which share similar environmental problems would benefit from each other's experiences and history of planning and conservation initiatives, as well as from holding the conference in Jersey.

The main topics had been determined after wide consultations amongst conservationists working in

the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. Main sessions were:

- Environmental education and the UKOTs
- Environmental Charters and strategic planning
- Integration of conservation and sustainable livelihoods
  - Terrestrial
  - Marine, including fisheries
- Obtaining and Using Resources (not just money)
- Species conservation issues:
  - Dealing with alien invasive species
  - Species recovery including captive breeding

To take advantage of the bringing together of persons with these interests, two optional additional workshops were held before and after the main conference:

- Before the main conference, a 2-day workshop on Biodiversity and Impact Assessment in Small Island States, on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th October, organised by the International Association for Impact Assessment.
- After the main conference, a 1-day workshop on bird monitoring, on Thursday 12th October, organised by the RSPB.

The conference was held at Hotel L'Horizon, St Brelade, Jersey. The final published programme is at Appendix 1, but further modifications and refinements to this were made during the conference to meet needs and late constraints.

# Acknowledgements

In closing the conference, the organisers noted how pleased they were that the whole exercise had proven as collaborative as they had hoped. This involved a partnership between the organising bodies, partnership with the supporters, and partnership between all the participants in this working conference. The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum itself is a partnership of many organisations and individuals, and all involved constitute an important part of that Forum in action.

The success of the conference depended on many individuals and organisations working together. Here, we acknowledge them, with apologies to those who may somehow have been omitted.

The organisers are grateful for contributions to the funding and other support of the conference from:  
 The Overseas Territories Environment Programme of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum  
 The Environmental Department of the States of Jersey  
 The Société Jersiaise  
 The National Trust for Jersey

The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust  
 IAIA (International Association for Impact Assessment) 'Capacity Building for Biodiversity and Impact Assessment Project' (CBBIA), funded by the Netherlands Government

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
 The Commonwealth Foundation

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum organised the conference, and would like to thank particularly Mike Pienkowski (Chairman, UKOTCF) and Mike Freeman (Principal Ecologist, States of Jersey) for taking the lead (as well as much of the work) in making the conference happen. These were supported by the stalwart work in taking bookings, organising flights, liaising with participants and organising posters, amongst many other tasks, of the Forum Co-ordinator, Frances Marks. Ann Pienkowski valiantly stepped in to do additional organising work before, during and after the conference, including the preparation of the Conference Handbook and badges.

We are all grateful to the staff of Hotel L'Horizon for doing so much to make things run smoothly, and coping magnificently with our requests which could change at very short notice. The team from Delta dealt with audio-visual needs very professionally. We are grateful to the the States



of Jersey and the team from its Environment Department for the loan, delivery, erection and removal of a large quantity of display boards. The coach drivers and management team from Tantivy made sure that participants reached the venue efficiently, caught their flights home and travelled efficiently to the off-site venues. We are grateful too to the team of volunteers from the Environmental Department of the States of Jersey, the Société Jersiaise and the National Trust for Jersey who helped with the logistics of set-up, registration and conference desk, advice, guidance and the endless small tasks which a conference needs to run smoothly. We thank also Zoe Bouteloup of the Tourist Board for leaflets for the conference packs and Gary Grimshaw for the group photograph.

The conference was grateful for the generous welcomes from the Bailiff of Jersey, Sir Philip Bailhache, and Senator Stuart Syvret, Minister for Health and Social Services. These got the conference off to an excellent start, as did the superb 2-day pre-conference workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment, attended by about half the main conference participants. We are grateful to International Association for Impact Assessment and facilitators Dr Jo Treweek, Dr Bill Phillips and Jeremy Barker for organising this.

The main conference benefitted greatly from the walk on the seabed at extreme low-water of an exceptional spring tide, led (and carefully followed!) so ably by Andrew Syvret and his small team of experienced guides. Not only did this allow visitors to experience the remarkable natural feature of its tidal range of up to 40 feet (13 m), but also had the chance to get to know each other in informal discussions, thereby promoting progress in the following conference sessions.

One of the most thankless jobs in any conference is to try to keep track of the discussions and conclusions, as well as providing notes to help session organisers and authors take account of points made in revising their texts. We are grateful again to Dace Ground for taking the lead in this, and roping in others to take notes and provide advice. These helpers included Joseph Smith Abbott, Ann Pienkowski, Jennifer Gray, Lynda Varlack, Dick Beales, Bryan Naqqi Manco, Mike Freeman and Mike Pienkowski, with apologies to others inadvertently omitted from this list.

We are grateful to the session organisers for

putting their programmes together and running them, and their collaborators and rapporteurs. In this context, we note thanks especially to those session organisers who took on these roles (or greatly expanded them) when others who had originally undertaken to do so had to restrict or end their roles. Those providing extra help in this way were Dr John Cooper, Dr Oliver Cheesman, Nigel Crocker and Ann Pienkowski. The last named took on, at very short notice, the novel idea of organising the involvement of a number of local students in the conference. Participants in the conference were unanimous in commending the success in this, and in thanking the students themselves, Ann, Mike Freeman, and the schools, colleges and teachers, particularly Jo Moss (Jersey College for Girls) and Dr Steve Appleyard (Victoria College).

The core of the conference depends on the work by speakers and poster-presenters, as well as their collaborators, for their work in preparation and presentation. These provide the stimulus for the discussions and exchange of ideas leading to conservation progress. Included in these thanks are all their colleagues in the wide network of UKOTCF member organisations, local administrations, and others, for the work on which these presentations are based.

Sanity was restored mid-conference by a break from the intensive sessions, in the welcome form of a “Vin d’Honneur” hosted by the National Trust for Jersey at their Historic Farm at Hamptonne. This gave participants the chance both to view the farm and its traditional operations as well as have many informal working discussions over fine local food and drink.

Our main conference (not forgetting the smaller number of hard-core bird people staying on for RSPB’s one-day workshop) came to a fine conclusion with the final session at Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. We thank all the staff there for making us so welcome. The afternoon and evening session included a series of presentations on species recovery work, centering on the UK Overseas Territories, a walk around the live exhibits with the opportunity for further informal discussions, and an excellent closing dinner in the Dodo Restaurant.

At the last, we were honoured with the presence of Lee Durrell. In her entertaining and stimulating remarks to close the conference, we were delighted



to learn that she had just noticed while dealing with a publication matter that the event coincided with the 50th anniversary of the publication of her late husband's classic book *My Family and Other Animals*. As UKOTCF's Chairman noted in his thanks, for many of us, this and Gerald Durrell's other books were key in stimulating our initial interest in wildlife and conservation.

## Editor's Preface

In producing these Proceedings, the Editor has tried to stay as closely as possible to the structure of the conference. Efforts have been made to secure texts from all speakers, and thanks are due to those who obliged. Unless authors opted otherwise, the illustrations from their conference presentations have been used to illustrate their papers in these Proceedings. In rather too many cases where texts were not supplied, papers have been constructed from Powerpoint presentations where practicable; the Editor regrets that it has not always been possible to explain some abbreviations and references in these cases, nor to have all the illustrations at the standard that we would have preferred.

In editing the texts, insofar as was practicable in the transition from spoken to written formats, the

original styles have been retained. The degree to which tenses etc have been adjusted in this context has been determined pragmatically in relation to content and clarity. As most UK Overseas Territories opt for UK English, this has been used except for proper names, but some other versions of English may have crept through under the Editor's radar.

In a few cases, speakers were unable to attend the conference at the last minute. In the cases where the authors have been able to supply at least part of their contributions, these have been included.

Versions of poster papers have been included where authors have supplied these. The format used for these has depended on practicability. They have been placed in the most appropriate sections.

Authorship has been attributed as indicated by the authors themselves, rather than relating simply to whoever actually presented the materials at the conference.

We have aimed to make these Proceedings available as rapidly as possible (although, because of the reasons noted above, not as quickly as we would have liked), so that they can serve as aide-memoires for participants as well as to respond to the



*Conference participants*

flow of requests already being received from those unable to attend. This has meant some compromising in that some aspects might have benefited from an alternative approach. Undoubtedly, there will be errors, for which the Editor apologises in advance. He would be grateful if information on any substantive ones could be sent to him (pienkowski@cix.co.uk).

Given the widely dispersed nature of users (as well as economy), we decided again on publication on the internet. Even despite using very efficient software, there are compromises between image quality and file-size. The format used is intended for users to download before keeping on file and/or printing, rather than reading by internet on each occasion of use.

The Editor would like to thank all those who have assisted, by supplying materials, answering queries, finding or providing illustrations, etc, and particularly Ann Pienkowski and Dr Oliver Cheesman for additionally checking and editing of some parts.

## Copyright and photo credits

These Proceedings are the copyright of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. However, the Forum authorises the copying of the electronic version and printing of copies, in both cases for non-commercial use. Use of extracts should acknowledge the source.

Photographs are the copyright of the photographers. The use of them separately from the Proceedings or from articles within these is not authorised. Unless otherwise indicated, photographs within articles were supplied by authors, and photographers should be contacted via those authors. The photographers of other pictures are by: Frances Marks, Dr Mike Pienkowski, Dr Oliver Cheesman, Ann Pienkowski.

Front cover pictures of red starfish, loose-flowered or Jersey orchid, St Ouen's Bay and Les Mielles, and Seymour Tower across the tidal flats from Icho Tower, by Andrew Syvret, Mike Freeman & Mike Pienkowski



*Conference venue: Hotel L'Horizon, St Brelade's Bay*

# Contents

<b>Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th-12th October 2006 - Introduction</b> .....	2
Background.....	2
Acknowledgements.....	3
Editor's Preface.....	5
Contents .....	7
Conference overview and initial conclusions .....	13
<b>Topic 1: Opening of Conference and Conservation issues of Jersey</b> .....	21
Introduction to the Conference by the Chairman of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum ....	22
Dr Mike Pienkowski	
Opening of the Conference .....	24
Sir Philip Bailhache, Bailiff of Jersey	
Welcoming Address on behalf of the Government of Jersey.....	26
Senator Stuart Syvret, Minister for Health and Social Services	
Jersey: Environmental Challenges and Achievements .....	28
Mike Freeman, Principal Ecologist States of Jersey, Environment Department	
Jersey's Marine Environment .....	38
Andrew Syvret, Société Jersiaise	
<b>Topic 2: Conservation of the Built Heritage in the UK Overseas Territories</b> .....	45
A Future for Historic Buildings in the UK Overseas Territories .....	46
Martin Drury, formerly Director-General of the National Trust, and former UKOTCF Council Member	
Poster: St Helena Historic Houses and Sites: What Future?.....	50
Cathy Hopkins, St Helena National Trust	
<b>Topic 3: Environment Charters and strategic planning</b> .....	53
Session Organiser: Dr Mike Pienkowski, Chairman, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum	
Review of the progress of implementation of the Charters, based on current work to develop a system to monitor this .....	54
Dr Mike Pienkowski, UKOTCF	
Turks & Caicos Islands and the implementation of the model Environment Charter strategy .....	73
Michelle Fulford-Gardiner, Deputy Director, Department of Environment & Coastal Resources, Turks & Caicos Islands	
St Helena and the application of the pilot model for strategy development .....	74
Cathy Hopkins, Director, St Helena National Trust; and formerly Chair of St Helena Environment Advisory Consultative Forum	
The implementation of the Environment Charter in the Falkland Islands .....	77
Dominique Giudicelli, Environmental Planning Officer, Falkland Islands Government	
Collaborating with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Model towards Environment Charter Implementation: Anguilla's Approach .....	82
Karim Hodge, Anguilla Director of Environment	
Bermuda's biodiversity strategy implementation and its Environment Charter.....	86
Jennifer Gray, Bermuda Conservation Service, Bermuda Zoological Society & Bermuda Audubon Society	
Tristan da Cunha Biodiversity Action Plan 2006-2010 .....	91
Simon Glass, Conservation Officer, Tristan da Cunha	
An approach to strategic environmental planning in a Crown Dependency .....	93
Roland Gauvain, Alderney Wildlife Trust	
Multilateral Environmental Agreements and UKOTs/CDs - a need for more guidance? .....	95
Elizabeth Charter, Head of Isle of Man Wildlife & Conservation Division	
Poster: Pitcairn Islands Environmental Management Plan .....	98
Noeleen Smyth, Steve Waldren, Jim Martin, Botanical, Environmental & Conservation Consultants and Naomi Kingston, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Republic of Ireland	

Fulfilling HMG commitments - Foreign and Commonwealth Office .....	100
Helen Nellthorp, Deputy Head of Overseas Territories Department, and Shaun Earl, Overseas Territories Environment Programme Manager, OTD, Foreign & Commonwealth Office	
Fulfilling HMG commitments - Department for International Development.....	101
Phil Mason, Head of Overseas Territories Department, and Dick Beales, Senior Natural Resources & Environment Adviser, Department for International Development	
Fulfilling HMG commitments - Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.....	103
Eric Blencowe, Head Zoos & International Species Conservation, Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	
Fulfilling HMG commitments - JNCC's involvement in supporting implementation of Environment Charters in the Overseas Territories .....	105
Marcus Yeo, Director Resources & External Affairs, and Dr Vin Fleming, Head - International Unit / CITES Scientific Authority (Fauna), Joint Nature Conservation Committee	
Discussion.....	107
<b>Topic 4: Integration of conservation and sustainable livelihoods: Marine, including fisheries .....</b>	<b>109</b>
Session Organiser: Dr John Cooper, Chief Research Officer, Avian Demography Unit, Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town, South Africa, and an Honorary Conservation Officer, Tristan da Cunha	
Introduction by session co-ordinator .....	109
Dr John Cooper, Chief Research Officer, Avian Demography Unit, Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town, South Africa, and an Honorary Conservation Officer, Tristan da Cunha	
Review 1: By-catch issues in fisheries within UK Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic, with special reference to the Falkland Islands .....	112
Grant Munro, Falklands Conservation	
Review 2: Development issues in the inshore marine zones of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.....	122
Dr Annie Glasspool, Bermuda Zoological Society	
Review 3: Marine Protected Areas in territorial and EEZ waters of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies: useful tools in the box? .....	134
Dr Mike Brooke, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, and Chairman UKOTCF Pitcairn WG	
Discussion following the review presentations.....	138
Poster: Assessment & Improved Management of New and Existing Marine Protected Areas in the British Virgin Islands .....	140
Joseph Smith Abbott, British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust	
Poster: The British Virgin Islands Marine Conservation Programme .....	141
Nancy K Woodfield Pascoe, British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust	
Poster: Environmental Impact Assessment and Tidal Power; filling the legislative vacuum: A case study from Alderney (Bailiwick of Guernsey) .....	142
Roland Gauvain, Alderney Wildlife Trust	
Poster: Bermuda Reef Ecosystem Assessment and Mapping (BREAM) Programme 2006 .....	143
Thaddeus J.T. Murdoch, Anne F. Glasspool, Mark Outerbridge, J. Clee, C. Lustic, A. Wanklyn, A. Batson, Mike Colella, G. Toro Farmer and E. Salas, Bermuda Zoological Society	
Poster: Assessing the conservation status of the critically threatened Spectacled Petrel .....	145
Contact: Geoff Hilton, RSPB	
<b>Topic 5: Integration of conservation and sustainable livelihoods: Terrestrial .....</b>	<b>147</b>
Session Organiser: Dr Oliver Cheesman, UKOTCF Council	
Integration of Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods: Terrestrial – Introduction, Overview and Conclusions .....	147
Dr Oliver Cheesman, UKOTCF Council	
Managing the impact of tourism: lessons from South Georgia .....	150
Gordon M. Liddle, Operations Manager, Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	
Building the TCI Biodiversity Management Plan with the local community and putting it into practice:	



surveying biodiversity, designing trails, recruiting guides, encouraging crafts .....	154
Bryan Naqqi Manco, Senior Conservation Officer, Turks & Caicos National Trust	
Environmental considerations in the planning of an airport for St Helena: getting the balance right ....	169
Dick Beales, Senior Natural Resources & Environment Adviser DFID (prepared with Isabel Peters, Environmental Co-ordinator, St Helena Government)	
Terrestrial biodiversity conservation in Mauritius and Rodrigues: the upscaling and mainstreaming challenge .....	178
John Mauremootoo, CAB International, formerly Mauritius Wildlife Foundation	
<b>Topic 6: Dealing with alien invasive species .....</b>	<b>193</b>
Session Organisers: Dr Colin Clubbe (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew & Vice-Chairman UKOTCF) and Dr Oliver Cheesman (UKOTCF Council)	
Dealing with Alien Invasive Species – Introduction, Overview and Conclusions .....	193
Oliver Cheesman, UKOTCF Council, and Colin Clubbe, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew & Vice-Chairman UKOTCF	
Non-native species in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies: outcome of a review .....	201
Karen Varnham, Invasive Species Consultant, and Vin Fleming, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UK	
Non-native species – Current Great Britain Perspectives .....	204
Niall Moore, Non-native species Secretariat, CSL	
Initiative on Invasive Alien Species in the French Overseas Territories .....	206
Jean-Philippe Palasi, IUCN Office for Europe and Yohann Soubeyran, IUCN French Committee	
Turks and Caicos Islands Invasive Pine Scale .....	208
Martin Hamilton, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	
The Repercussions of Hurricane Ivan for Invasive Species in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands .....	214
Dr Mat Cottam, Cayman Islands Department of the Environment	
Intervention strategies in pest control.....	218
John Parkes, Landcare Research	
Poster: Invasive species management on islands; raising awareness, generating support, building capacity. 220	
John Parkes, Landcare Research	
Working for Water (South Africa) – the Biggest Invasive Alien Species Management Programme in the Developing World.....	221
John Mauremootoo, CABI Africa	
Poster: An assessment of the potential for rodent eradication in the Tristan da Cunha Islands Group .....	226
Geoff Hilton, RSPB	
Poster: An experimental assessment of the impact of rats on the biodiversity of the Centre Hills, Montserrat .....	229
Geoff Hilton, RSPB	
Poster: Ascension Island Seabird Restoration Project.....	231
Tara Pelembe, Raymond Benjamin and Anselmo Pelembe, Ascension Island Government Conservation Office	
Poster: Spatial and temporal patterns of seabird recolonisation of mainland Ascension following cat eradication.....	234
Tara Pelembe, Ascension Island Government Conservation Office, Norman Ratcliffe, RSPB, Mike Bell, Wildlife Management International Ltd, Richard White, Ascension Island Government Conservation Office, and Sarah Sanders, RSPB	
Poster: Invasive species and their impact on the Wirebird .....	235
Cathy Hopkins and Gavin Ellick, St Helena National Trust	
Poster: Invasive species control (Roseapple <i>Syzygium jambos</i> ) and restoration of the threatened native flora of Pitcairn Island, South Central Pacific Ocean .....	237
Noeleen Smyth, Steve Waldren, Trinity College, Dublin, Naomi Kingston, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Jay & Carol Warren, Pitcairn Island	
Poster: Invasive Alien Species in Bermuda – The Current Situation .....	238

Anne F. Glasspool, W. Sterrer, Bermuda Zoological Society, and J.A. Ward, Department of Conservation Services, Bermuda	
Poster: Eradicating New Zealand flax <i>Phormium tenax</i> at Tristan da Cunha .....	243
Peter Ryan, Sarah Sanders, James Glass & Simon Glass	
Poster: Alien plant invades Montserrat .....	244
S. Barrios, M. Hamilton and C. Clubbe	
<b>Topic 7: Obtaining and using resources (not just money) .....</b>	<b>245</b>
Session Organiser: Nigel Crocker (UKOTCF Treasurer)	
Resources for conservation and sustainable development in ORs and OCTs : integration in European strategies for Conservation and Research?.....	246
Philippe Feldman, Cirad, and Josiane Irissin-Managata, Réunion Regional Council	
Obtaining resources for conservation: a Dutch Caribbean perspective .....	249
Kalli De Meyer, Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance	
Bioverseas: Initiative for biodiversity and environment in EU ORs and OCTs .....	253
Jean-Philippe Palasi, IUCN, Europe Regional Office	
Discussion .....	258
The Blue Iguana Recovery Programme.....	259
Fred Burton, Blue Iguana Recovery Programme	
Support through volunteers.....	263
John Cortes, Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society	
RSPB's Sabbatical Programme.....	269
Sarah Sanders, RSPB	
Capacity Building at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.....	270
Colin Clubbe, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	
Major Project Needs Requiring Resources both Financial and Non-Financial – a framework.....	272
Nigel Crocker, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum	
<b>Topic 8: Environmental Education and the UKOTs .....</b>	<b>283</b>
Session Organisers: Ann Pienkowski (teacher & conservationist) and Dr Juliet Rose (UKOTCF Council, and the Eden Project)	
Good Practice for environmental education projects in the UK Overseas Territories: a draft paper for consideration by participants .....	284
Ann Pienkowski (teacher & conservationist) and Dr Juliet Rose (UKOTCF Council, and the Eden Project)	
British Virgin Islands Environmental CD Atlas and Teaching Resource.....	289
Nancy K. Woodfield-Pascoe, British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust, Mark Hayward, BVI Conservation and Fisheries Department, and Bob McKay, Dougal Thornton Associates	
High Schools Native Plant Nursery Project in the Turks & Caicos Islands .....	295
Ethlyn Gibbs Williams and Bryan Naqqi Manco, Turks and Caicos National Trust	
Jersey Environment Week.....	297
John McGuinness, Deputy Headteacher, Le Rocquier School and Jersey Ecology Fund Trustee	
Environmental Education Programme (including education packs) for the Falkland Islands and Ascension Island.....	302
Ali Liddle & Grant Munro, Falklands Conservation and Tara Pelembe, Conservation Centre, Ascension Island	
Recommendations from the Environmental Education Session.....	310
Lynda Varlack, Ann Pienkowski and Juliet Rose	
Student impressions of the Conference.....	312
Alain Baudains, Samantha Cropper, Katie Mason, Gemma Parlett, Sophie Pickup, Alex Pinel, Piers Sangan, Aimée Vibert and Emma Voak	
<b>Topic 9: Species recovery including captive breeding .....</b>	<b>317</b>
Session Organiser: Dr John Fa, Director of Conservation Services, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	
Biodiversity assessment of the Centre Hills, Montserrat .....	318
Richard Young, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	
Poster: Captive Breeding for Conservation in Bermuda.....	327

Samia Sarkis, Department of Conservation Services, Bermuda	
Poster: Bermuda Protected Species Programme.....	329
Samia Sarkis, Department of Conservation Services, Bermuda	
<b>Topic 10: Posters and other items on other topics.....</b>	<b>331</b>
Poster: BVI National Parks Trust.....	332
Joseph Smith Abbott and Nancy K. Woodfield-Pascoe, British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust	
Poster: Anegada Vegetation Habitat Mapping .....	333
Nancy K. Woodfield-Pascoe and Joseph Smith Abbott, British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust	
Poster: Development and population of a dynamic, map-based, interactive Bermuda biodiversity web portal for island-wide and global information dissemination .....	334
A.F. Glasspool, J.A. Ward, W. Sterrer , M. Outerbridge and T.J. Murdoch, Bermuda Zoological Society and Department of Conservation Services, Bermuda	
Poster: Distribution, population assessments and annual reproductive cycles of Bermuda’s endemic killifishes .....	337
Mark Outerbridge, John Davenport and Anne F. Glasspool, Bermuda Zoological Society, and Department of Zoology, Ecology & Plant Science, University College Cork, Ireland	
Poster: Sustainability and the Ecosystem Approach.....	340
Diana Mortimer, Joint Nature Conservation Committee	
Poster: Valuation and other economic tools for the Overseas Territories .....	341
Emily McKenzie, Joint Nature Conservation Committee	
Poster: Fragments of Paradise: Promoting Biodiversity Conservation in the UKOTs .....	342
UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum	
Poster: UK Overseas Territories Programme: current projects, activities and collaborations.....	343
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	
Book launch: Important Bird Areas in the UK Overseas Territories .....	351
Sarah Sanders and Geoff Hilton, RSPB	
<b>Appendix 1: Workshop on Biodiversity and Impact Assessment in Small Island States .....</b>	<b>353</b>
Facilitators: Dr Jo Treweek (Technical Programme Manager for a ‘Capacity Building for Biodiversity and Impact Assessment’ project), Dr Bill Phillips (Director of MainStream Environmental Consulting and the former Deputy Secretary General of the Ramsar Conv	
Introduction to Workshop .....	354
CBBIA-IAIA: Promoting biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment.....	354
Biodiversity and Impact Assessment in Small Islands .....	356
The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and Impact Assessment .....	361
Environmental Impact Assessment process: general stages .....	366
Valuing biodiversity for impact assessment.....	371
Approaches to mitigation of biodiversity-related impacts.....	373
Environmental Impact assessment in the Marshall Islands .....	377
<b>Appendix 2. Final published programme for the conference .....</b>	<b>379</b>
<b>Appendix 3. Participants and their contact details.....</b>	<b>390</b>
<b>Appendix 4. Feedback from participants .....</b>	<b>399</b>
Based on a collation by Frances Marks, UKOTCF	
<b>Appendix 5. Friends of the UK Overseas Territories .....</b>	<b>404</b>



*The conference venue; above: the pleasant world at low-water outside; below: at work inside*





# Conference overview and initial conclusions

## Preamble

*This conference was designed to be of help in some of the priority issues identified by workers in small territories. The conference was deliberately participatory for all, rather than segregated into speakers and audience, because exchange of experience was a key. For this reason, the organisers wanted to capture rapidly some of the main conclusions arising from discussions. Throughout the meeting, a small team kept track of these. This was led by Dace Ground (Bermuda National Trust and UKOTCF Council), with the help of: Joseph Smith Abbott (BVI National Parks Trust), Mike Freeman (States of Jersey Environment Department), Mike Pienkowski (UKOTCF Council), Dick Beales (Department for International Development), Ann Pienkowski (UKOTCF volunteer), Jennifer Gray (Bermuda Government) and session chairpersons and rapporteurs. Participants were encouraged to draw the attention of members of the team throughout the conference to points they thought important to include in the conclusions.*

*In the final session of the conference, Dace Ground presented the first draft of the conclusions. The version given below incorporates additional points made in the following discussion.*

*The overview and initial conclusions, gathered together here in these Proceedings, were previously published on the UKOTCF website shortly after the conference. Together with these, then and here, are the Statement and recommendations from the workshop "Biodiversity and impact assessment in Small Island States" 6-7 October 2006, Jersey. These were presented to the main conference which incorporated them into its conclusions.*

## Introduction and Jersey

We began our conference, as we always do, with an in depth introduction to our host island.

The Bailiff of Jersey, Sir Philip Bailhache, graciously opened the meeting with a warm welcome and some very helpful words of support for our joint enterprise. He began our introduction to Jersey with a review of the constitutional position of the Crown Dependencies, something many from the Overseas Territories were learning

for the first time. We also had some very thoughtful words from the Minister for Health & Social Services, Stuart Syvret, about the great complexity of the interaction between the needs of human society and of environmental protection.

Mike Freeman, Jersey's Principal Ecologist, briefed us on the history of conservation in recent times, and on the 2005 report into the 'State of Jersey' in which they assessed conservation issues from the global right down to the minutely local and even species-level. They used the pressure, state, response mechanism for developing indicators, and monitor some 40 environmental indicators, chosen through a consultative process and using volunteers to do the actual monitoring in many cases.

Through this process, five key environmental priorities were identified:

- Climate change
- High waste generation
- Sufficient clean water resources - regulating and understanding groundwater consumption
- Transport - reduction of reliance on cars.
- Countryside and natural history

They are working now on a strategic plan for the next five years.

All in all, environmental awareness has grown greatly in Jersey over the last 20 years, helped by MEAs such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. As we learned later in the Education Session, this environmental awareness is also being brought into the schools through a new and very ambitious annual Environment Week.

We then had an introduction to the Jersey marine environment from Andrew Syvret. All of us who were at the Bermuda meeting remember him as the graduate student who kept an ormer in his dormitory room, feeding it spinach, to help with homesickness, so we were all looking forward to more time with Andrew. We learned that Jersey was attached to the mainland of France as recently as 5000 years ago and a great deal about the tides, the marine life and the conservation issues Jersey faces and which they 'don't tell the tourists about', including a nuclear reprocessing plant in the neighbourhood.

Then Andrew took us on a walk unlike anything most of us have ever done. Walking on Jersey's seabed with the underwater landscape exposed was an amazing and a fantastic introduction to our host country.

So thus welcomed, introduced and then (nearly literally) immersed into the amazing Jersey landscape, we turn to the conference itself.

I loved the question from the journalist at the end of the first Environment Charter session. He asked if all our effort -- and all this bureaucracy -- actually result in our actually saving anything. Got right to the point, I thought, so I thought I might start this review with just a few examples of what the people in this room have actually been working to save:

- Blue iguanas in Grand Cayman; the most important seabird colonies in the mid-Atlantic, the Mauritius Kestrel, the Montserrat Oriole
- Critical habitat for the wirebird, penguin colonies and some of the most remarkable wetlands in the world
- Albatross, sea-turtles and dolphins which would otherwise become bycatch
- And all the less charismatic species who take refuge in the protection we create for their flagship brothers

The other thing I think we all love in these meetings is getting detailed descriptions of projects other people have done – the degree of creativity, ingenuity, perseverance and passion the people in this room bring to our joint enterprise is inspiring for all of us, and serves as a pretty convincing response to questioning journalists.

We learned about:

- An amazing programme to preserve historic structures that would be slated for destruction without a creative business model that saves the buildings, restores them with great sensitivity and creates jobs for the people who live near them.
- The development of a sustainable low-impact ecotourism programme that both preserves a traditional community and protects one of the most important wetlands in the Caribbean
- The conversion of a hillside in Gibraltar from post-industrial wreck to beautifully re-established native habitat, all done with no money, just influence
- A programme to control invasive plant species in South Africa which has been 'mainstreamed'

as a water resources protection programme, and which has total financial and political commitment behind it.

- Projects to control invasions by animals ranging from rats to reindeer, including pigs, rabbits, goats, green iguanas and the specially horrible pine scale insect, and plants from casuarinas to giant escaped office plants.

But questioning journalists notwithstanding, we all know that it takes an incredible amount of work in the background to make these on-the-ground projects happen. And that's the real work of meetings like these. We worked on:

- environmental impact assessment techniques
- the complex subject of biosecurity and invasive species
- Environment Charter implementation
- balancing development with sustainability
- environmental education (without which all the rest of this is pointless) and
- we returned over and over again to the constant issue of finding the resources needed to carry out all of this vital work.

## **Environmental Impact Assessments**

The workshop on biodiversity and impact assessment was, by all accounts, a great success and a memorable experience for those who participated. They worked through a daunting list of challenges and came up with a set of recommendations (appended) to improve capacity and develop the tools needed to produce effective environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in the UKOTs and the CDs.

Listening to the report from the workshop made some of us feel wistful hearing about these fantastic techniques when some of our governments routinely refuse to do meaningful – or in many cases ANY – environmental review before huge projects are approved. It was recognised that this may be an issue for HMG to consider with regard to their good governance reviews, and we hope this will be followed up in future.

## **Invasive species**

This was an issue which really came out in the Bermuda conference and since then has become one of the most important issues we all deal with. We know it is responsible for a huge amount of biodiversity loss and that on islands invasives are

both especially destructive but also, actually, more possible to deal with than on larger land masses.

The first part of the session dealt with network-based solutions.

- Karen Varnham brought us up to date on the JNCC invasives database for the UKOTs and we learned how to both use this new tool and, by supplying information on our own situations, make the tool even more useful.
- Niall Moore told us about the new secretariat dealing with non-natives in Great Britain – real alphabet soup for the non-initiate – but which will mean a coordinated response to invasives and the possibility of rapid reaction when the circumstances require.
- Jean-Philippe Palasi told us about the French remote territories and the work they are doing, and confessed to us about the French predilection for studies and experts, rather than rapid reaction... Niall may have already started to help him convert his countrymen to the rapid reaction school.
- Claire Miller continued the RSPB tradition of appointing new staff to start work the week of our conference, and told us about the new South Atlantic network project which is also one week old. Especially as this EU-funded project evolved both from our last conference and meetings of our South Atlantic Working Group, we look forward to a good report on this at our next meeting, just as Sarah has been able to present the Important Bird Areas book for this one.

In the second half of the session we learned about the scale insect invasion of the pine yards of the Caicos Islands, where rapid reaction may no longer be an option for prevention – although it is essential to allow seed collection and propagation in the hope of future long-term recovery.

- We heard about dealing with the massive disruption of ecosystems after Hurricane Ivan submerged most of Grand Cayman Island.
- And we got some advice from New Zealand on techniques for deciding whether a pro-active or reactive approach to a problem is the better strategy.

One key theme for this session was the question of how to set priorities in dealing with invasives, and several ideas for this emerged to back up the discussion paper:

- An audit of measures that are already in place in each UKOT for invasive species management

(the Falkland's Biosecurity report has done this to some extent, and the RSPB S. Atlantic project will probably cover the other S. Atlantic Territories)

- Enhanced information gathering (Karen's review is just the start) and information sharing
- Better co-ordination of activities, within and between countries
- Rapid response mechanisms

## Environment Charters

Measuring progress in implementing the Environment Charters is important but not easy. The Forum published its draft measures nearly a year ago. Mike Pienkowski started us off by attempting to summarise progress on filling in information on these measures – putting flesh on the bones. The measures aimed to cover the commitments – or the equivalents by those without charters – by both the UKOTs /CDs and the UK Government. Mike stressed the need for more information from all parties to allow the completion of these measures, to avoid the otherwise inevitable confusion between “no information” and “nothing achieved”. So, everyone, please send Mike your information to help complete these tables in the conference papers.

- Cathy Hopkins outlined the benefits of using UKOTCF facilitators, based on the pilot work by them with TCI, in developing St Helena's strategy for action to implement their Environment Charter.
- Dominique Giudicelli filled us in on the ways the Falkland Islands was trying to integrate the Environment Charter and Biodiversity Strategy into planning across the sectors.
- Karim Hodge explained how Anguilla and some other territories benefited from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States approach via National Environment Management Strategies as well as the Environment Charters. There were great benefits in following one process but cross-tabulating to the other, for efficient working.
- Jennifer Gray demonstrated the remarkable progress that had been made in implementing Bermuda's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan since its launch at the time of our Bermuda conference three years ago.
- Simon Glass clearly and succinctly explained the amazingly rapid establishment of a system for Tristan whereby he, as Conservation Officer,

reports annually to the Territory's Council on progress on the Biodiversity Strategy and Environment Charter, and plans for the future.

- Like other Crown Dependencies, Alderney lacks an Environment Charter relationship with UK. However, Roland Gauvain explained how the Island was developing for itself a strategy based closely on the Environment Charters of the UKOTs.
- From her experience as Head of Conservation in the Isle of Man as well as part of UK's delegation to some Conferences to the Parties to Conventions, Liz Charter explored the differing international conventions to which territories were party and wondered whether further help, perhaps from UK Government and the Forum, might be valuable.

We then heard from the officials from HMG who have been such strong supporters of our work, and whose presence at this meeting we greatly appreciate.

The Overseas Territories Environment Programme, established by the FCO and DFID since the Bermuda meeting, has been a tremendous resource for all of us. We were pleased to hear Phil Mason of DFID praise the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme and thrilled to learn that DFID is committed to continued funding for the programme with £1.5 million over the next three years carrying on when the existing one expires at the end of this financial year.

We also learned from Helen Nellthorpe of the FCO that OTEP will be focusing on four programme areas for funding in the current round:

- Environmental governance
- Capacity building
- Invasive species
- Climate Change

Several of us were concerned about the two-year limit on project funding when the long-term nature of some biological and social processes would benefit greatly from longer-term funding. Phil Mason told us that there was both some consideration being given now to terms as long as ten years and that, as the DFID budget increases over the next years, we should see a commensurate increase in UKOT funding.

Eric Blencowe gave us a good overview of Defra and how the UKOTs fit into their funding programmes. Many of us have benefited from the

Darwin Programme over the years in its focus on capacity building and on projects which have real impact and legacy for biodiversity conservation.

Defra's more recent initiative is the World Summit on Sustainable Development Implementation Fund. This is meant to implement the UK's commitment to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and it has funded an important initiative in Montserrat with Kew and the JNCC.

Defra also has a flagship species fund which focuses on primates, trees and marine turtles, and a small grants fund where very small start-up projects can apply for funding through open competition.

We heard about the JNCC's role in advising on nature conservation in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and were glad to learn that JNCC will be devoting more resources to this area of work in the future. The priority will be to work in partnership with UK Government, Overseas Territory administrations and NGOs to address issues of common interest. Subjects that JNCC may get involved with include invasive non-native species, adaptation to climate change, implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, and application of the Ecosystem Approach.

We discussed the fact that these programmes are wonderful, but we will need more funding than they provide for some of the larger-scale programmes we need to carry out. HMG's officials were clear that greater magnitudes of funding is a decision for Ministers, not officials, but Dick Beales told us that DFID was going to commission a study on additional funding sources, as part of HMG's commitment under the Charters to help UKOTs find funding beyond what is provided by HMG.

## **Integration of Conservation & Sustainable Livelihoods – parallel sessions**

### **Terrestrial Session**

We were working with the following definition of sustainability: where enhancement of environment, economy and society meet - it recognises the human dimension.

- In the terrestrial session, we learned from



Gordon Liddle about managing a tourism industry in South Georgia with zero local population to take into account, but a glut of fur seals that is becoming a population problem in itself. Gordon thinks they have a shot at becoming the largest rat-free island in the world, which is a population solution that we can all envy.

- Naqqi Manco described the development of a low impact ecotourism industry in the Caicos Islands based on the management plan for the TCI's largest Ramsar site, and designed with full cooperation of the local people who are vitally concerned to preserve their way of life. This is a project which the Forum and its UK member organisations have partnered from the very beginning, and of which we can all be truly proud.
- Dick Beales described a few of the many issues involved in developing an airport with the minimum possible environmental impacts in St Helena.
- John Maurimootoo first depressed us all with the tale of mass extinctions throughout the span of human occupation on Mauritius and Rodrigues and then inspired us with his ideas on mainstreaming conservation issues by integrating them into the broader social context.

Among the many lessons from this session were five key points:

- Biodiversity is part of the system when it comes to project design in relation to biodiversity considerations.
- Importance of engaging with all stakeholders when undertaking major activities (Govt., NGO and the public).
- Creative solutions adapted to local needs should be adopted as a practice.
- Upscaling and mainstreaming – small scale experimental work should serve as a model to apply to larger projects. Mainstreaming is the adoption of biodiversity issues into broader societal issues.
- Invasive species is an issue of concern which is impacting a number of Territories affecting sustainable livelihoods.

## Marine Session

John Cooper introduced the session by highlighting the fact that small islands nearly always have a large area of marine responsibility. The problem was how could these be managed and effectively looked after.

Grant Munro described the huge mortality, both for seabirds and marine animals, e.g. turtles, from by-catch during different types of fishing operations. The good news story was that research into mitigation effects had shown that relatively simple and inexpensive mitigation techniques could dramatically reduce by-catch mortality. One example from South Georgia illustrates this. By-catch mortality in the tuna long line fisheries was 6000 birds per annum before mitigation measures were put in place, but at the end of the first year of implementing mitigation the by-catch mortality had dropped to 640 per annum.

Annie Glasspool spoke about development issues in the inshore marine zones of UKOTs/CDs. Her review had collected information across the UKOTs on the impacts of resource exploitation, trade and farming and service-based industries. One major issue was that although land planning was in place, there was little planning/ zoning of marine environment.

It emerged that the areas of major concern were focussed in Caribbean and Crown dependencies, which ranged from lack of capacity to inadequate laws and taking in huge issues of public awareness, poor communication between scientists and policy makers and a general lack of political will along the way.

Mike Brooke's paper (presented by John Cooper as Mike, sadly, had to leave early) was on the role of Marine Protected Areas in improving the conservation status of UKOT/CD territorial and EEZ waters. After presenting detailed information on where MPAs and Ramsar sites had already been established or proposed, he considered the many reasons reserves are established or proposed including the need to protect coral reefs, the need to protect representative ecosystems and important habitats and protection for areas potentially vulnerable to impacts by human activities and protection of species adversely impacted by fisheries.

Messages to come out of the review so far:

- Varying levels of designation across UKOTs
- Higher levels in more prosperous UKOTs (eg Bermuda) or uninhabited ones (e.g, BIOT, BAT) where few vested local interests
- Clear need to tailor protection level to what can be protected "on the ground": avoid paper parks
- Ramsar a useful tool for inshore areas.

In the final discussion it was stressed that we need to ensure existing and new marine fisheries are managed in a sustainable manner. There was particular frustration from representatives in Ascension that even when illegal fisheries were located, it seemed that nothing could be done.

## Education

This session was the last in a long day, but the enthusiasm and expertise on display kept us all on our toes. Ann Pienkowski walked us through the preparatory documents, reminding us of the key issues which need addressing. Nancy Woodfield Pascoe dazzled us with her BVI Interactive Environmental Atlas, making us all want an atlas for our countries and a dynamo like Nancy to run our programmes. Naqqi Manco told us about a new project for High Schoolers in the TCI – running a native plants nursery and John McGuinness told us how he got most of Jersey mobilised for an environment week in Jersey schools. Grant Munro told us about a collaborative project to produce education packs for schools in both the Falklands and Ascension.

The discussion was detailed and resulted in four recommendations:

1. We need to develop a mechanism for being able to share resources and exchange ideas and approaches more easily. An education section on the Forum's the website will provide reciprocal links with territories and other global resources and education sites. This will grow over time.
2. Continue to develop environmentally-focused academic programmes at all levels for students and teachers that apply emerging technologies, use local environments within a global context, and foster world-wide networking and professional development.
3. Raise political awareness and commitment towards solving environmental issues through good governance and accountability and transparency in the decision making process.
4. Through environmental education, raise public awareness, thus empowering communities and stakeholders to influence the decision making processes.

## Resources

On Tuesday afternoon, the Forum's Treasurer, Nigel Crocker, chaired a session on resources which opened a lot of eyes about new possibilities for funding and strategies for achieving goals with resources other than money.

We heard about a new approach to EU funding for biodiversity conservation from Philippe Feldmann and about an exciting new alliance involving the Forum, IUCN and other bodies as well as the European Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories from Jean-Philippe Palasi, both of which the Forum is pursuing on our behalf and which offer the possibility of accessing serious amounts of money for very serious projects. The fact that the EU has now recognised that biodiversity in all their various overseas territories is their responsibility and that responsibility for funding this work has now been accepted as a formal Challenge of the EU is heartening news indeed.

We are all aware of the conundrum we face in funding – no international funding because we're part of the UK, but no UK funding because we're not actually IN the UK. We heard that the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance have the same problem, but that they have solved it by accessing Dutch Postcode Lottery funding using a partnership with IUCN and have gotten a commitment for endowment funds from the Dutch government. While endowment funds from the UK government seem to be considered possible only in rare hypothetical cases, we do hope to explore the possibility of the British lottery funds being made accessible to us.

Fred Burton discussed the funding of an important local species recovery project, reviewing the constraints on local fundraising and the need to find permanent funding sources for projects which will need financial support virtually forever. In better-off territories like Cayman, there are both substantial business interests which provide significant grant money and a fund collected by Government from tourists to support environmental projects – if this fund worked as it should (and Gina Ebanks-Petrie seems to be optimistic that it will) substantial support could be relied on into the indefinite future. Of course, it is recognised that in many territories this kind of local funding is not possible and international help

is the only way to fund biodiversity conservation programmes.

For countries and NGOs with very limited financial resources, John Cortes gave us a ten minute lesson in how to make something out of nothing that resulted largely in a general desire to clone John himself and have him run all our organisations. Seriously, he had excellent advice about using volunteers and various means to use pressure and influence to get people and agencies to do things that in fact benefit everyone. UKOTCF is currently experimenting with volunteering in other situations and is investigating the possibility of developing more systematic coordination of volunteers and donated secondments.

## **Posters**

And finally, a word about the silent contributions to the conference. The 40+ presentations dotted around the walls of our conference rooms filled out the content in a very content-heavy few days. Overall they were impressive and expressed a deep sense of national pride by the authors. This especially pertained to those which spoke of native and endemic biodiversity. It also is evident that we have amongst us an extraordinary gathering of photographers; the quality of the images is suggestive of National Geographic quality in many cases. Many of these presentations were a welcome window into the culture of our special territories where we saw community participation and homeland names entwined in progressive monitoring, research, and educational programmes.

We can see from these presentations that OTEP has a supporting presence throughout the region and the Darwin Initiative continues to do good work. It is somewhat concerning that these sources for funding are so limited but at the same time refreshing to see JNCC offering so much future

assistance.

Posters revealed that throughout the region we are all working hard and going in the right direction. If the Ascension islands were successful at eradicating the entire island of feral cats and then successfully reintroduced a sea bird colony and Falklands can succeed at reducing mortality in sea bird populations by 90% then we can safely say that all our efforts are worthwhile and that there is hope for the biodiversity in our territories in the hands of this group of passionate environmentalists.

## **Working Groups**

Some of the first key points coming out of the reports from the Forum's regional Working Groups were noted. The Wider Caribbean Working Group considered that UK Government should write to all the governments of the UKOTs to remind them of their obligations under the Environment Charters, as well as UK's own commitments. The South Atlantic Working Group had some ideas for improving their own communications, and Pitcairn had some good ideas for joining in. There was an enthusiastic exploratory meeting about a possible Europe Working Group (that is a group focussing on the Crown Dependencies and UKOTs in Europe, as opposed to one dealing with the Forum's links to European Union institutions). This last group meeting and the actions it proposed benefited greatly from the enthusiasm of our Jersey senior student participants, and they and their fellows also gave the conference an excellent summing-up of their reactions to the conference.

All these ideas will give the Forum's Council food for thought on how the Forum works, and some early actions are expected.

