


Profiles of UKOTCF Council Members and other Officers

Council Members	
<p>Liz Charter (Chairman, Europe Territories Working Group) Liz Charter is Chief Wildlife & Conservation Officer for the Isle of Man. Her career in nature conservation spans 30 years, working first as a freshwater ecologist with the former Nature Conservancy Council. She established the successful Orkney Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group where she worked for 10 years as an adviser, publishing a handbook for farmers and introducing whole-farm nutrient balances to reduce pollution to lochs.</p> <p>In 1998, she and her family moved to the Isle of Man to set up the statutory nature conservation office within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. She is familiar with the conservation issues of small islands, and with international conservation agreements, working within and outside the EU and for government and an NGO. Liz maintains her wetland involvement and has attended the last two Conferences of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention. Most recently Liz has become chairman of the UKOTCF Europe Territories Working Group. In her spare time she leads botanical tours and plays the flute.</p>	 <p>A photograph of Liz Charter, a woman with short curly hair, wearing a red top and a long white skirt, standing on the deck of a boat. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. Other people are visible in the background on the boat.</p>
<p>Dr John Cortes MBE John Cortes is General Secretary of the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS), a post he has held since the creation of GONHS in 1976. He was last elected to the post in 2007. His employment is as Director of the Gibraltar Botanic Garden, a post he has held since 1991. He is also an environmental consultant with Wildlife (Gibraltar) Ltd. He gained a D.Phil at the Animal Ecology Research Group, Oxford, in 1983.</p> <p>John has extensive experience in ornithology, ecology, natural history and conservation, having authored, edited and lectured on these subjects. He is or has been a member of numerous organisations, including the Gibraltar Development and Planning Commission, the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, the Institute for Campo-Gibraltarian Studies and the Park Authority of the Parque Natural de Los Alcornocales in Spain. Between 2003 and 2008 he directed a European Union Interreg Project in Gibraltar/Morocco. He has wide experience in lobbying and campaigning, having been instrumental in achieving Gibraltar's Nature Protection Act and the creation of an Environment Ministry in Gibraltar. He is experienced also in working within or with both NGOs and Government bodies.</p> <p>Between 1983 and 1991, John was a civil servant, attaining the post of General Manager of the Gibraltar Health Authority where he gained experience in public administration, management and handling large budgets. He is a Justice of the Peace, was awarded an MBE for services to ecology and conservation, and is an accomplished director and actor in amateur theatre. John would like to use his varied abilities in furthering the conservation of nature in other territories.</p>	 <p>A photograph of Dr John Cortes, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark jacket and trousers, standing on a rocky shore. He is pointing towards the right side of the frame. The background shows a rocky coastline with some greenery.</p>

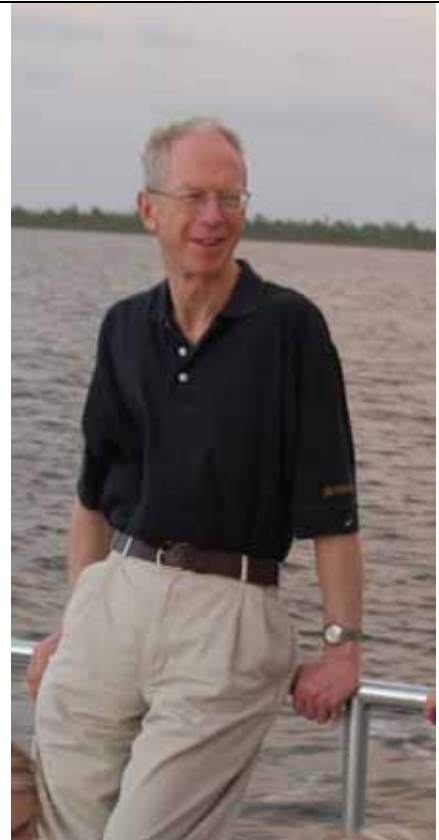
Bruce Dinwiddy CMG (Chairman, Wider Caribbean Working Group)

After being elected to Council in October 2006. Bruce took over from Michael Gore as Chairman of the Wider Caribbean Working Group.

Like Michael, Bruce is a past Governor of the Cayman Islands (2002-05). His interest in environmental issues dates from his time as Overseas Development Institute Fellow in Swaziland (1967-69) and ODI Research Officer in London (1970-73). After joining the FCO, he spent two years as desk officer for Hong Kong, then Britain's most important remaining Colony. His early foreign postings were in Vienna, Cairo, Bonn and Ottawa. During 1995-98 he was Head of the FCO's African Department (Southern) and non-resident Commissioner of BIOT. He was High Commissioner to Tanzania (1998-2001) before being appointed Governor of the Cayman Islands.

While in Cayman, Bruce was acutely conscious of the delicate balance between development and environment in a fast growing small island economy. He took an active interest in environmental issues, including the Blue Iguana programme and conservation of other endangered species. In September 2004 Grand Cayman was ravaged by Hurricane Ivan, the worst storm to strike the islands in living memory. His last year as Governor was much taken up with various aspects of the recovery.

Now retired from the Diplomatic Service, Bruce is a UK Friend of Cayman and is very pleased to remain involved, through the Forum, with wider Caribbean and other Overseas Territories. Apart from Cayman, he has visited Bermuda, BVI, TCI and Anguilla. Montserrat he has so far seen only from the air.



Mike Freeman

Mike Freeman was Principal Ecologist of the States of Jersey, until retiring in 2010. He started work with the Jersey Government as a Countryside Ranger in 1980, as a member of a team of two people. He is a past Council member of the National Trust for Jersey and a past member of the Executive of the Société Jersiaise. He has organised local volunteer conservation groups and coordinated working holidays in Jersey with the BTCV. In 1989, he obtained an Open University degree; he is a member of the Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Managers (IEEM) and The Society for the Environment.

In his role as Government Ecologist, Mike directed the legal draftsmen responsible for the Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000, wrote the island's Biodiversity Strategy and is responsible for the island's Biodiversity Action Plans. He acted as local coordinator for the 2006 UKOTCF conference in Jersey. Having been involved with environmental issue in Jersey for 28 years, he is very familiar with the relationships between the UK Government and the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, being responsible for the multilateral environmental agreements to which Jersey, through the UK, is a signatory.

Mike believes that the Forum has already made great strides in



encouraging the UK to take more responsibility for preserving the valuable biodiversity of the Overseas Territories, and is keen to help in further developing contacts with the UK, raising the conservation profile of the UKOTs and helping to develop communication between the members of the UKOTCF.

Dace McCoy Ground

Dace McCoy Ground is a Harvard-trained American lawyer. She has been living in the UK Overseas Territories since 1985 when she was hired by the Cayman Islands Government as Marine Parks Coordinator, responsible for establishing a marine parks system for those islands. That being achieved, she then worked to establish the National Trust for the Cayman Islands and became its founding Executive Director.

She moved to Bermuda in 1992, where she was Director for Development, first for the Bermuda Biological Station for Research and later for the Bermuda National Trust. In 1998 her husband was made Chief Justice of the Turks and Caicos Islands, where they spent six years. During that time, Dace worked closely with the Turks and Caicos National Trust as advisor to the Trust Council, and worked on several Forum projects, such as the Environment Charter implementation, an OTEP funded project. The Grounds are back in Bermuda now, and Dace continues to work closely with the Bermuda National Trust and the Forum.



Dr Colin Hindmarch (Secretary, Europe Territories Working Group; Lead on Net-Biome project; joint representative to *Bioverseas*)

Colin is an ecologist with a background in horticulture, environmental design and strategic planning. His work in local government (UK) and consultancy has helped to protect and manage historic landscapes, integrate new development into the wider environment, repair and reinvigorate urban fringe landscapes and restore land damaged by mineral extraction and other industrial processes, including that of unsustainable land management practices. This has involved a long-standing, practical commitment to environmental impact assessment and the development and defence of environmental policy at local, national (UK) and European level.



Increasing concerns about the effects of economic activity on ecosystem stability have prompted Colin to explore ways of putting the value of ecosystem services at the core of economic planning. It has also opened his eyes to the importance of ensuring that environmental policies maintain ecological processes, enhance 'connectivity' and safeguard isolated habitats, not least those of oceanic islands. His involvement in the development of the European Union Biodiversity Strategy, for instance helped to secure a reference to Overseas Territories that now forms the basis of a push to secure a more effective relationship with European institutions.

Colin has represented several non-government organizations on a number of European Commission committees, including the Advisory Committee on Agriculture and the Environment, the Biodiversity Strategy Working Group and the Biodiversity Expert Group, and his work on 'Bird Corridors' has informed Council of Europe thinking on the Pan-European Ecological Network. He currently Chairs the Environment committee of the Institute of Biology (UK) and is a member of the British Ecological Society's Public Policy Committee. Colin is a Chartered Biologist (UK), a European Professional Biologist (EU), and a Fellow of both the Institute of Biology (UK) and the Institute of Horticulture (UK). He is also privileged to have served the Kew Guild (est.1893) as its President (2004-2005).

Colin and his wife Valerie live in their native Northumbria (UK) and have four grown-up children and seven grandchildren.

Iain Orr

Iain Orr jointly chairs UKOTCF's Southern Oceans Working Group. His long-term interest in islands and their environments came together in his final job at the FCO, towards the end of the 1990s. He joined what soon became the Environment Policy Department, and was responsible for drafting and negotiating the environment chapter of the 1999 White Paper on UK's relationships with the UKOTs. He established the 1999 London conference *A Breath of Fresh Air*, and the multi-media educational package of the same name (which received the Geographical Association's Highly Commended Award in 2002). He negotiated the 2001 Environment Charters between HMG and the Overseas Territories. In all these activities, he worked closely with UKOTCF, leading to several years of very successful collaboration between governmental and NGO bodies – including securing FCO financial support for the seabird restoration project on Ascension Island. In 2000, he set up FCO's Biodiversity Team, and helped UK negotiate protection for the Basking Shark and oppose the resumption of commercial whaling. He managed project funds of £1m pa, including UK support for the Great Apes Survival Project, and was member of the UK World Heritage Committee.

His career in FCO (1968-2002) had a strong China focus, and Iain speaks and reads Chinese. His overseas postings included China (Beijing, Hong Kong and Consul-General Shanghai 1987-1990), Dublin, Wellington and Accra. In UK Embassy Beijing 1971-4 and later in London, he negotiated several zoological exchanges as well as political links. As Deputy Political Adviser in Hong Kong (1978-81, when Hong Kong was still a UK Dependent Territory), he negotiated new air, ferry, train and road services with China; and the



resettlement overseas of boat refugees from Vietnam, as well as helping to launch WWF's Hong Kong branch.

After retiring from the UK Diplomatic Service, in 2002 Ian established BioDiplomacy, a diplomatic/environmental consultancy, whose roles have included arranging visits for environmental TV teams from China. His island interests include being a Director of the Global Islands Network, and a member of the International Small Islands Studies Association, the IUCN islands taskforce, and the advisory council of the World Land Trust.

Iain is keen to continue to contribute his skills to conservation in the UKOTs through political analysis, reporting, negotiating and networking across governmental, commercial, academic, and campaigning contacts. These skills have been deployed effectively on developing and presenting evidence to House of Commons Select Committees, amongst other roles.

Dr Mike Pienkowski (Honorary Executive Director, UKOTCF)
Mike was Chairman of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum from 1995 until 2009, and is delighted to have handed part of his combined role to the new Chairman. He believes that the Forum's main challenges are: to help its territory partners both to secure local understanding of the value of wildlife and heritage and to conserve this; to raise awareness in UK and a proper level of funding from UK Government for conservation in UK territories; and to secure adequate resourcing for the Forum. Tremendous progress has been made in these areas but much remains to be done. He believes that, to achieve this, the Forum needs to remain engaged with its member organisations at all levels from policy to on-the-ground projects. To this end, Mike donates most of his time to running the organisation on a voluntary basis.

He has been involved in research and conservation for over 40 years, and in UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies for over a decade. He has worked in applied research (e.g. Durham University 1973-1984; Executive Editor of the *Journal of Applied Ecology* 1994-9), governmental conservation (e.g. Head of Ornithology Department and Assistant Chief Scientist of the Nature Conservancy Council 1984-91; Head of the Implementation Team (1990-1) and first Director of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee 1991-5) and the voluntary sector (e.g. Head of International Legislation & Funding Department, RSPB 1995-1997; Director, European Forum on Nature Conservation & Pastoralism 1998-2001; and voluntary roles as Vice-President & Council Member of the British Ornithologists' Union (1991-2003), Council of the British Ecological Society (1993-1999), Council of Wetlands International (1988-1998), member of Environment Committee of the Institute of Petroleum (1994-5), and Vice-President, Advisory Committee on Agriculture & Environment to Directorate-General Agriculture of the European Commission (1999-2001).) Recently, he has managed projects in support of several of the UKOTs as well as cross-territory ones, and undertaken some commissions, for example for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.



Bill Samuel (Treasurer)

Bill Samuel is a chartered accountant, born and brought up in Surrey. He has lived and worked in Copenhagen, Nairobi, Bahrain, Farnham and the Turks & Caicos Islands, initially as an accountant but then as an entrepreneur in tourism development and an investment banker. More recently he has been a consultant in tourism and financial services with assignments including Strategic Reviews in the Turks and Caicos Islands and Anguilla, commercial consultancy for the Government of St Helena and restructuring the Turks and Caicos Tourist Board. He was UK Representative of the Turks & Caicos Islands Government from 1996 to 2004.

He joined the board of his family's company, Foyles Bookshop, in December 1999, where he helped plan and oversee a major renovation programme. He is also a Director and Secretary of the Foyle family's property company Noved Investment Company.

He is divorced with three adult children, an adult foster son and eight grandchildren. His hobbies include sailing, scuba diving, skiing and photography. He is an active supporter of Amnesty International and cares deeply for human rights. He is a Director of The Book Trade Benevolent Society, a Trustee of the Ilois Support Trust and on the Council of Minority Rights Group. He lives in London and Cornwall.



Joseph Smith Abbott

Joseph Smith Abbott joined the British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust in August 1996 as the Deputy Director/Science Coordinator. He was promoted to the directorship in December 1999 and continues to act in this capacity. Mr Smith Abbott is responsible for the overall management and planning of the territorial protected area system. He is a member of the IUCN Iguana Specialist Group and a recent graduate of the Chartered Management Institute. He has collaborated with various UK and US institutions in the identification and implementation of research needs and management approaches in order to improve protected area management in the Territory.



Dr Chris Tydeman (Chairman, UKOTCF)

Chris Tydeman was Chair of Trustees of the Herpetological Conservation Trust until its merger to create Amphibia & Reptile Conservation in 2009. He is an independent consultant dealing with both environment and development issues specialising particularly in recent years in wetlands management, water supply and sanitation, biodiversity strategies and climate change. He left WWF-UK as Chief Scientist, having spent 23 spent years there, with secondments to the WWF European Programme and WWF International, before becoming a consultant in 2001. At WWF he was responsible for the UK Conservation Programme, which included providing financial and staff support to the UKOTCF, as well as Programmes on Freshwater, Marine and Toxic Chemicals.

Chris has extensive policy experience at national, European and international levels with government, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs and has held a number of representative positions. These include being on the UK Secretary of State's Advisory Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity; UK Government advisory groups on otters and coastal management; both the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention); acting as Northern co-chair of the UN Freshwater Caucus and representing NGOs at the World Water Forum in the Hague in 2000, including at the Senior Officials meetings; as head of the WWF delegation at a number of international and intergovernmental meetings including the North Sea Ministerial Conference; on the Standing Committee of European Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats; and as chair of numerous NGO bodies. He is currently a member of the EU Water Initiative Steering Committee and a number of its working groups.



Karen Varnham

Karen jointly chairs UKOTCF's Southern Oceans Working Group. Between 1998 and 2008, Karen Varnham worked as a self-employed invasive species biologist, specialising in eradicating rats from small islands, and producing reports and desk studies on various aspects of invasive species issues. In May 2008, she began a PhD at the University of Bristol, investigating the impacts of rats on island ecosystems. She is a member of the IUCN's Invasive Species Specialist Group and also serves on the committee of Cornwall Mammal Group.

Karen has extensive experience with invasive species issues, especially in small island nations such as Mauritius, Antigua, St Lucia and Malta, as well as in many UKOTs. This has given her an understanding of the challenges facing conservation work in small and often remote countries, much of which is relevant to the UKOTs. More specifically, Karen carried out an in-depth review of non-native species in the UKOTs and Crown Dependencies for the JNCC, producing a report and a database published in 2005. This involved sourcing and reading a great deal of grey literature, as well as contacting and communicating with key people living and working in the OTs and CDs. Karen has also worked with many of the Forum's current and former member organisations, including the RSPB, Fauna & Flora International and the Bermuda Zoological Society.



<p>Karen has visited many of the UKOTs, particularly in the wider Caribbean, including running workshops on invasive species issues in Bermuda and Anguilla, and carrying out fieldwork in Montserrat, Anguilla and BVI. Outside the Caribbean, she has also worked on proposed rat eradication projects in two of the remoter territories, Tristan da Cunha and BIOT. During this time she has met and worked with many people and organisations with a role in conservation in the UKOTs, forming many good working relationships. She has attended the last two UKOTCF conferences, presenting her work on the non-native species database at the Jersey conference. Karen attended the Cayman Islands conference in May 2009, where she co-chaired the session on invasive species.</p>	
<p>Other Officers</p> <p>Dr Oliver Cheesman (Company Secretary; Development Director; Secretary, Wider Caribbean Working Group) Oliver has undertaken many roles for UKOTCF, including as a Member organisation representative (1999-2006), Council member (2005-2008), and as Secretary of the Wider Caribbean Working Group since 2002. He has also been involved in aspects of the organisation of the Bermuda, Jersey and Cayman conferences.</p> <p>Oliver holds a BSc in Biology from Southampton University and a PhD in insect ecology from Cambridge University. He worked for nearly ten years for CAB International (CABI), on a range of research, training, information management and capacity building projects that took him to exotic locations such as Borneo, Guyana, Trinidad and The Bahamas. His work included studies of invasive species, biodiversity assessment and management, the environmental impacts of sugar production and insect conservation. Since leaving CABI, Oliver has undertaken voluntary and contract work for various organisations, including the Natural History Museum in London.</p> <p>Oliver teaches aspects of Ecology and Conservation as a Sessional Lecturer for Birkbeck College, University of London. He also chairs Invertebrate Link (JCCBI), an umbrella body for UK organisations involved with the study and conservation of invertebrates. His current concerns include measures to address the decline in Britain's long-standing tradition of natural history study and biological recording.</p>	
<p>Ann Pienkowski (Honorary Environmental Education Co-ordinator)</p> <p>Ann holds a BSc in Biological Sciences from the University of East Anglia, and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education from the University of Durham. She has participated in research on shorebird migration at Durham University, on a project led by the late Professor Peter Evans, and research on curriculum development at Moray House College of Education, Edinburgh. Since 1986 Ann has been a primary school teacher in Peterborough, UK. Combining her interests in ecology and education, she voluntarily took on the role of Environmental Education Co-ordinator for UKOTCF, and has worked particularly with partners in the Turks and Caicos Islands but also elsewhere in the UKOTs/CDs and elsewhere to develop</p>	

environmental education resources. She co-ordinated the student programmes for both of the last two UKOTCF conferences, in Jersey in 2006 and Cayman in 2009. An initiative which developed out of the Jersey Conference was the OTEP-supported *Environmental Education Linked Across Territories* project, which Ann manages. Ann's other interests include ski-ing, walking and video photography.

Catherine Quick (Co-ordinator, UKOTCF)

Catherine holds a BSc in Zoology from Queen Mary College University of London and an MSc in Conservation Biology from Manchester Metropolitan University. She has studied marine invertebrates, herbivores in Kenya and the management of protected areas in Tanzania. She has worked for the Environment Agency in the UK and for the World Conservation Union IUCN Office for Europe in Brussels, where she was involved in the organisation of the important conference in Paris in 2006 on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation-which involved a strong element on Overseas Countries and Territories. Catherine's interests include diving, travelling, walking, and volunteering in wetland restoration at a local nature reserve.

