

Topic 3: Environment Charters and strategic planning

Session Organiser: Dr Mike Pienkowski, Chairman, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

The central purpose of this session was to review, and help, progress by both UK Government (HMG) and the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies in implementing the Environment Charters or their equivalents. This general subject is relevant to all UKOTs and CDs (whether or not they have Environment Charters) because of the shared commitments by HMG and the territories to multilateral environmental agreements.

The Charters provided for UK Government and most of the UKOTs a structure to help implement the joint responsibilities, notably via a set of Commitments each party made. A preliminary assessment of progress in fulfilling these commitments was included in the conference papers and summarised in the presentations. The version included in these Proceedings is the result of further collation undertaken with the help of many of the conference participants and their colleagues.

At the Bermuda conference in early 2003, the Environment Charters were 18 months old. The first commitment of each UKOT in the Charters is to develop a strategy for action to implement the Environment Charter. With support from FCO, and at the invitation of Turks & Caicos Islands Government, the Forum was currently facilitating a pilot project to develop such a strategy for action in TCI, with the additional aim of providing guidelines for use in other UKOTs. A progress report on this was given, and it was intended that an update on progress on implementation would be given at this conference. Unfortunately, TCI Government cancelled Michelle Fulford Gardiner's participation but the abstract of what she was going to say is included. St Helena was the first territory to try to apply the TCI model, and Cathy Hopkins reported on progress. The Falkland Islands had taken a different approach to developing implementation, and this is outlined by Dominique Giudicelli. Karim Hodge described progress in Anguilla, as an example of integrating Environment Charter implementation with that of the equivalent St Georges Declaration of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States. Jennifer Gray described the very full approach via Bermuda's biodiversity strategy implementation, while Simon Glass looked at the approach by a territory with a very small human population. Roland Gauvain looked at strategic planning in a Crown Dependency, which does not have an Environment Charter - but perhaps would like one. Liz Charter took a wide view of multilateral environmental agreements in respect of UKOTs/CDs, identifying needs for further guidance.

The final sub-session was devoted to summaries from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, the Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee of their contributions to conservation in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. This was followed by a final panel discussion with this team. The discussions throughout the session have, in some cases, been incorporated in papers and/or are summarised in the final item in this topic section.

Review of the progress of implementation of the Charters, based on current work to develop a system to monitor this

Dr Mike Pienkowski, UKOTCF



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A review developed from the initial model, published in *Forum News* in late 2005, of progress in implementation of the Environmental Charters or their equivalents, was presented in the conference papers and summarised in the session, with the emphasis on the need to make this more complete. Conference participants agreed on the importance of this, and requested further help to them in supplying information to the review, so that the version published here could be more complete. This was done, so that the tables included give a useful picture of the implementation by the Territories of their Commitments. This helps also identify the gaps of information or implementation by these, as well as by the UK Government of its Commitments under the Charters, where more information is especially needed.

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Background

The Environment Charters signed in September 2001 between the UK Government and the Governments of UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) are important documents which encapsulate the shared responsibility of the UK Government and the Government of each Territory for the conservation of the environment in the UKOTs and international commitments to this. This is particularly important, for example for biodiversity, as most of the global biodiversity for which the UK family of countries is responsible resides in the UKOTs, rather than in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Under Multilateral Environmental Agreements, it is UK which lodges – and is accountable for – international commitments, but the legislature and executive of each territory which are responsible for the local implementing legislation and its enforcement. This latter point applies equally to the relationships between UK and those territories which do not have Environment Charters.

Fundamental elements of the Charters are the sets of Commitments, on the one part by UK Government and on the other part by the Government of the UK Overseas Territories concerned. If these Commitments are to have real meaning, it is necessary to have some means of assessing progress in their implementation. This need has been recognised by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF), which has been putting consid-

erable effort into developing a set of measures to achieve this end.

This need was recognised too by the OTEP management team. One of UK Government's Commitments in the Charters concerns providing some funding to help benefit the environments of the Territories. Initially, this was met by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) Environment Fund for the Overseas Territories (EFOT), and currently by FCO's and the Department for International Development's (DFID) joint Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP). Accordingly, part of the work of assessing progress was supported by funding from OTEP. Some in the UKOTs have expressed concern that this might mean that one party to the Charters (UK Government) might have special access to the assessment process. It is important to emphasise that this is not the case. UKOTCF has retained editorial control over this exercise, and will continue to do so. Whilst it welcomed the part-funding from OTEP, and any input from either party to each Charter, as well as others, UKOTCF will retain its independent position. UKOTCF originally suggested the idea of the Charters (then termed "Checklists") and was delighted when this evolved into the Charters. It has continued to support this process, but it is not a party to the Charters, nor either set of Commitments. This combination puts UKOTCF in an ideal position to provide assessments of progress in implementation.

UKOTCF has been asked by various people in the UK and the UKOTs, including FCO and DFID, to attempt to gather, collate and analyse information on progress being made in implementing the Environment Charters. However, developing a set of measures or indicators is not simple. This was challenging because UKOTCF had not drafted the Charters, which are not structured in a way that made assessment of progress easy. The key was to find measures which related to real progress in meeting the Commitments but would not require too much effort to gather. UKOTCF put a great deal of work into consulting and working on this, and published its draft measures in *Forum News* in early 2006, inviting further comments and contributions to help populate the tables of assessment measures. No adverse comments were received on these measures, and some favourable comments on them were received from JNCC, HMG's statutory advisor on nature conservation. For elements of some Commitments, it is relatively easy to find appropriate and meaningful measures; for others it is very difficult. UKOTCF does not want to generate unnecessary work, and recognises also that some relevant information has already been made available (and is updated regularly) for other purposes. In other cases, cumulative measures, updated every few years, might be more feasible. UKOTCF has tried to allow for both sorts of measures, so as to minimise effort and be cost-effective.

Progress at and after the conference

Recognising that it is much easier to comment on a draft than to start from a blank sheet of paper, UKOTCF presented the version of data collated by then in the papers for this conference. A summary of this information was presented in the session. This underlined 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".

UKOTCF took the opportunity to invite further contributions and enquired whether there were blockages which could be addressed. There was general agreement from UKOTs over the importance of Territories and other parties supplying information to update the initial assessments. There were also requests to UKOTCF to provide forms designed more for the supply of information than for summarising the results, so that the version of the report published in the Proceedings (this paper) could be more complete. This new form was de-

signed and circulated by UKOTCF early in 2007.

The important function of collating this information was made even more urgent by the investigation in early 2007 on *Trade, Development and Environment: the role of the FCO* by the House of Commons Select Committee on Environmental Audit (EAC, Report 23 May 2007). When preparing supplementary evidence to address questions put to their Minister by the Committee, FCO officials asked UKOTCF about progress on its review on implementation of the Charters. Subsequently, the FCO Minister's supplementary memorandum to the House of Commons EAC stated (with a slightly optimistic interpretation of UKOTCF's estimate of the timescale): "Your Committee also asked about an assessment of the Overseas Territories Environment Charters. The UKOTCF is currently gathering information on the progress in implementing the Environment Charter Commitments for each Territory (or the equivalent for those Territories without Charters). The Forum intends to publish a progress report towards the middle of this year. The FCO will use that information, in consultation with Whitehall colleagues and the governments of the Overseas Territories, to carry out a review of the Environment Charters which have now been in place for five years."

In this context, UKOTCF put a great deal of further effort into helping and encouraging UKOTs to provide information, stressing that it was not necessary for each to answer all the questions. However, it was difficult simply to cut out some areas of the form, because of the structure of the Charters and the fact that different territories had made progress at different rates in different areas. For efficiency of collation and reporting, those territories without Charters were also invited to participate in the exercise. The information gathering forms have been designed so that, after the initial hard work in this first cycle of reporting, any subsequent updating report will not require as much effort.

Acknowledgements

UKOTCF is grateful to all those who assisted and commented on the development of the progress assessment measures, and to OTEP for part support for some of the earlier stages of the work. The contributions of those who supplied information on progress was, of course, essential and UKOTCF gratefully acknowledges this. Some of the bodies which had originally asked UKOTCF to undertake this review circulated other questionnaires

to UKOTs as the UKOTCF exercise was moving towards completion. This was confusing to the UKOTs and generated extra work. UKOTCF regrets this, but has to note that it was not consulted about these circulations from other organisations.

UKOTCF is very pleased to note that, of the 21 entities that constitute the UKOTs and Crown Dependencies, responses have been received from or on behalf of 19. In line with the Environment Charters themselves, responses were welcomed from both governmental and non-governmental bodies and, in several cases, the responses were integrated. We are grateful to the governmental departments and/or the statutory bodies of the following for their responses: Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the Turks & Caicos Islands, the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, Ascension Island, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, and the Pitcairn Islands, as well as from the governmental departments from the following Crown Dependencies which do not have Environment Charters: the Isle of Man and Jersey. We are grateful too for contributions from non-governmental bodies in some of these, as well as for: British Indian Ocean Territory, Gibraltar (which has its own Environment Charter, rather than one with HMG), Guernsey, Alderney and Sark.

UKOTCF has not received information from HMG in respect of the UK Commitments in the Environment Charters, nor from those UKOTs which are directly administered by UK Government: British Indian Ocean Territory, British Antarctic Territory, and the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas. The first of these has an Environment Charter (and UKOTCF is grateful to the NGO Chagos Conservation Trust for supplying some relevant information), and the other two do not. Officials at the Cyprus SBAs indicated that they hoped to find time to supply information but were not able to treat it as a priority; UKOTCF hopes that they may still be able to undertake this exercise, in which case UKOTCF will add information to the report. The lack of information from HMG on its own Commitments means that the second half of the report (below) is extremely incomplete, relying on information supplied by the territories or otherwise gleaned. Early in 2007, HMG indicated initially that there would be a delay in its response. A few months later, FCO reported that, although it had no problem in principle with the indicators, HMG did not have the resources to report on the implementation of its own Commitments. UKOTCF was surprised by

this, because HMG had drafted the Environment Charters, had been one of those originally asking UKOTCF to develop a report on their implementation, had reported nothing wrong with the draft indicators published in early 2006, and had (around the same time as indicating that it could not find the time to respond) reported to Parliament that it was awaiting UKOTCF's report. UKOTCF hopes that HMG will identify the resources to report on its Commitments in the future. In the interim, UKOTCF (despite its much smaller resources) will continue to try to collate any available information on this.

Report on progress in implementing the Environment Charters or the equivalent activities

The following table is structured according to the numbered Commitments by HMG and by most of the UKOTs in the Environment Charters that these have signed. (There are slight differences in the wording of some Commitments in different Charters; here generalised wording is used.) The inclusion of a territory in this table does not imply that it has signed an Environment Charter with the UK. In particular, the Crown Dependencies, the Cyprus Sovereign Bases Areas, and the British Antarctic Territory do not have Environment Charters, and Gibraltar has one of a different type, being a statement by Gibraltar rather than an agreement with HMG. However, the progress report has wider purposes. UKOTCF, at the request of various UK Government Departments and others, often needs to collate information on the UKOTs and Crown Dependencies (CDs). All UKOTs and CDs are included in the tables, for this reason and for efficiency of data-handling.

Because of the major collation exercise involved, the different ways different territories operate, and the problems noted above, this report will inevitably include some errors. UKOTCF welcomes information to correct errors or fill gaps. This should be sent to the email address below. In addition, especially for those Commitments where indicators are particularly difficult to develop, some measures include an element of interpretation, and there is a risk that these have been interpreted differently in different territories. Wherever possible, it has been attempted to move towards a common standard for all on the basis of more detailed information, but some inconsistencies in individual indicators probably remain.

Notes on the tables:

For those Territories without an Environment Charter, references to the Charter in certain measures are taken as referring to equivalent provisions.

Y = yes; B = yes, for biodiversity aspects only; P = partly; D = apparently in place but some problems identified in practice; Rev = under active review; N = no; ? = unknown; n/a = not applicable
 £k = thousands of GB pounds; £m = millions of GB pounds

UKOTCF recognises that this document is not exactly a “good read”, but the information it contains is important. To try to ease its inspection, a colour code is used for those rows which relate to extent of environmental performance. For example, using the abbreviations indicated above, this might appear as:

Y **B** **P** **D** **Rev** **N** **?**

The colouring is applied similarly for other types of answers. Rows which relate to information not directly reflecting performance (for example, those needed to help calculate or interpret other rows) are not coloured. Also not coloured are rows where the information is inadequate to allow an assessment.

Footnotes are used for further explanation.

Measures of performance of UKOTs in implementing their Commitments in the Environment Charters (or equivalent environmental progress for territories without charters)

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will):	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey (& Sark) ¹	Alderney	Sark ¹
Signed Environment Charter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Rev ³	N
Group assembled to develop and manage strategy for action	2 ¹	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Rev	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a	Y	n/a
Strategy for action developed		B	Y	N	Y	Y	P	Y	B	unk	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Rev	B	B	P	
Named Minister or Councillor responsible for carrying the implementation forward and ensuring reporting on progress	2	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	n/a	N	N	Rev	N	N	n/a	n/a	n/a	Y	n/a
Named officials designated and resourced to coordinate across	2	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	n/a	N	N	N	Y	Y	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

¹ 1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor’s office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.

² 2. Signed Environment Charter
 Group assembled to develop and manage strategy for action
 Strategy for action developed

³ 3. Named Minister or Councillor responsible for carrying the implementation forward and ensuring reporting on progress

⁴ 4. Named officials designated and resourced to coordinate across

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will):	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey (& Sark) 1	Alderney	Sark 1
Measures																					
departments and other partners, draft annual reports. NGOs resourced by Government to provide an independent monitoring and reporting mechanism	N	N	N	N	Y	N	n/a	N	n/a	Y	N	N	N	Rev	N	N	Y	Y	P	n/a	
Strategy implemented and monitored as ongoing process	P	N	Y	N	Y	P	Y	Y	P	N	Y	N	N	Not yet	N	N	Y	Y	Y	n/a	
Annual reports produced on progress achieved and plans for the forthcoming year	2	N	Y	N	Y	Rev	N	N	N	P	N	N	N	Not yet	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	n/a	
Funding for recurrent expenditure and projects to implement the Charter ³ strategy included in annual departmental budgets	P	N	P	N	P	P	Y	P	P	Y	Y	N	N	Not yet	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Amount expended in year on Environment Charter implementation from Territory resources (£k)	\$15 m pa on incident		?							164				0			Y		n/a	n/a	
2002-3								4	98	232				0			Y				
2003-4								10	84	190				0			Y				
2004-5					>60			13	107	177				0			Y				
2005-6					>40				125					0			Y				
2006-7																	567				
Local funding mechanism in place in support of non-governmental projects implementing the Charter (e.g. earmarked visitor tax)	Y	P	Y	N	P rev ⁴	Rev	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	n/a	
Grant funding system in place for any such local funding mechanism, involving open processes and NGO involvement in decision process	N	N	D	N	N	Rev	N	N	P	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	n/a	
Amount collected in such fund	n/a	n/a	?	n/a	0	0	0	0	Curr hold £6k	134	n/a			n/a	0	0	0			n/a	
2002-3										117											
2003-4										90											
2004-5										87											
2005-6																					
2006-7																					
Amount expended on Environment Charter objectives by such fund	n/a	n/a	?	n/a	0	0	0	0	n/ avail	134	n/a			n/a	0	0	0			n/a	
2002-3										117											
2003-4										90											
2004-5										87											
2005-6																					
2006-7																					

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will):	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey (& Sark) ¹	Alderney	Sark ¹
Measures																					
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.																					
Number of nature protected areas designated	?	4	24	20	6 ⁵	4	1	(15) ⁷	3	?	1		6	0	2	1	12	10	?	?	?
Area (km ²) identified as nationally or internationally important for nature	95	97	870	318	81	63	108	36.0	179	1726	4033		4050	87	?	24	36	204	11.1	157	1
Area (km ²) of nature protected areas designated	5.07	1.32	773	7.48	0	12	9	0	93	180	3755		ca 400	37	?	22	9.43	191	11.1	157	0.01
Area of nature protected areas as % of area identified as nationally or internationally important for nature	5.3	1.4	88	2.4	0	17	8.3	0	52	10	93 ⁸		1	43	?	90	26	94	100	100	100
Land area of territory (km ²)	53	260	430	153	90	102	90	122	181	1217	4033	170		44	6.5	254	872	117	62	8	5
Area (km ²) of terrestrial nature protected areas	5.07	1.32	35	4.38	0	12	9	0	93	180	3755		?	37	22	22	9.4	4	ca	?	0.01
Area of terrestrial nature protected areas as % of land area	9.6	0.5	8.1	2.9	0	11.8	10	0	51	1.5	93 ³		?	84	8.7	8.7	1.1	3.4	16	?	0.2
Land and sea area of territory (km ²)													5440								
Area of all nature protected areas as % of land and sea area													0.08								
Area (km ²) of designated nature protected areas subject to operating management plan ⁹	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	79	27	3755		?	37	0	0			191	11	157
Change in area (km ²) of nature protected areas since Environment Charter signed (Sept 2001) (Positive except as indicated)	0.5 ¹⁰	0	-0.3	0.14	0.5	0	9	0	14	0	0		0	0	?	22	3.61	157	3.9	157	0.01
Number of nature protected areas improving in nature quality since Sept 2001				1				1	3	18 ¹²				n/a							
Number of nature protected areas maintaining nature quality since Sept 2001				18		2	All							n/a							
Number of nature protected areas with declining nature quality since Sept 2001		all	5	1		2 ¹³			0	0				n/a							
Number of nature protected areas with no information on changes in quality since Sept 2001														n/a							
Government bodies (G) and/o NGOs (O) involved in managing protected areas	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	GO	G	GO	GO	GO	G	G	G	n/a	GO	G	GO	G	GO	GO	GO
Number of key species with conservation action plans developed and completed or being implemented	68	39	5	1	?	1	1	6	?	12	?		0	3	0	?	3	50	0	Rev	
Number of species with reduction in threatened status	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	?	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of species with increase in threatened status																					
Review completed identifying gaps in legislation and needs to fulfil them to meet nature commitments	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	P	P	N	N	Y	?	?	N	Y	N	?	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Legislation updated to fill gaps in nature protection	P	N	Rev	Y	N	Rev	Y	N	Y	Y	?	?	?	N	Y	?	Y	n/a	N	N	N

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will:)	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Ile of Man	Jersey	Guernsey (& Sark)	Sark
Measures																				
Review completed of invasive species problems	Y	P	N	P	Rev	N	Y	P	P	Pending	?	?	N	N	Y	?	N	N	N	Rev
Action plans completed or operating to deal with invasive species	P	S	?	N	?	N	+	Rev	?	Y	?	?	?	1	N	?	Rev	N	N	n/a
Review completed of threats posed by potentially invasive species	P	P	?	N	?	N	Y	N	P	Y	?	?	N	Y	?	?	N	N	N	N
Effective measures in place to prevent arrival of further invasives	P	N	D	N	Rev	D	N	P	Rev	Y	?	?	N	Rev	N	?	P	N	P	?
3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.																				
All Country Plans and strategic plans refer to the Environment Charter and its Commitments	P	N	P	P	Rev	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y		N	Rev	N		n/a	n/a	n/a	Rev
Have environmental considerations been integrated into social and economic planning processes, and are activities undertaken in a sustainable manner in the following sectors:	P	N	D	P	N	Rev	N		P	Y	Y		P	Rev	Y ¹³					
Waste management	P	N	Rev	P	N	D	?	Rev	?	Y	?		Y	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
Water resources management	Y	P	D	P	N	P	?	Rev	?	Y	?		Y	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
Tourism	N	N	D	N	N	P	?	Rev	?	Y	?		Y	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
Transport	N	N	D	N	N	P	?	Rev	?	Y	n/a		Y	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
Public and private land use	N	N	D	N	N	P	?	Rev	?	Y	n/a		Y	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
Taxation & Economic	Y	P	D	?	N	P	?	Rev	?	Y	n/a		Y	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
Fishing	N	P	D	?	N	P	?	Rev	?	Y	n/a		Y	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
Farming & Forestry	Y	Y	P	P	N	Rev	?	P	Y	Y	?		P	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
Mineral Extraction	Y	N	D	?	N	P	?	Rev	?	Y	n/a		n/a	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
Power Generation	Y	Y	D	N	D	D	?	?	?	Y	note		n/a	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
Traditional Crafts	P	P	N	?	Rev	Rev	?	?	?	Y	Y		Y	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
others	N	rev	P	?	N	?	?	?	?	Y	note		n/a	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	N
4. Ensure that environmental and environmental health impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.																				
EIAs required on development projects	D ¹⁴	N	D ¹¹	Y	N ¹⁵	D	N	P	Y	Y	Y		D ¹¹	Y	Y	?	N	Y	Rev	infor
Number of proposed or active development projects	4	man	Man	6	10+	6	7	11	3	3	2		?	1	4	?	3	?	?	2
Number of these with publicly available EIAs	6	0	D ¹⁷	5	2	0	?	3	0	3	2		?	3	1	?	0	?	?	0
Has a list of major potential and actual threats to the environment, detailing threatened species, ecosystems and landscapes been developed (prior to proposed schemes, so that these can be considered in context)?	N	N	D	N	D	P	N	P	N	Y	N		?	Y	P	?	?	N	N	Rev

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will): Measures	5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.																				
	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey (& Sark) ¹	Alderney	Sark ¹
EIAs publicly available to community and peer review with time for comment before decision.	Occasionally	N	D ¹⁴	P	N	Usually	N	N	P	Y	Y	N	N	Rev	Y	?	?	Y	P	?	
Public enquiry system and decision independent of parties and government available and used	Mostly	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Rev	N	?	?	Y	Y	Y	
Decision process open with reasons given.	Mostly	N	D ¹⁴	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Rev	N	?	?	Y	P	Y	
Policy development open to public consultation	Y	N	D	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Rev	Y	?	?	Y	P	P	
6. Implement effectively Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.																					
Ramsar Convention on Wetland extended to Territory	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Number of sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	1	1	1
Area (km ²) designated as Wetlands of International Importance	0.36	0.82	586	10.7	0	0	0	0	0	47.5	0	0	354	0	0	21.7	1.93	187	3.9	156.3	0.01
Area (km ²) of sites identified as qualifying as Wetlands of International Importance but not yet designated	90	97	82	300	50+	50	100	20	179	1315	4033	-	ca 40000	63	?	0	34.4	12.8	6.9	?	0
Area (km ²) designated as Wetlands of International Importance but suffering damage	5	?	?							0											
Area (km ²) of wetland outside protected areas being managed sustainably	0																				
Area (km ²) of wetland outside protected areas for which there is no information on management	All																				
Area (km ²) of wetland outside protected areas which has suffered damage	much	h	1+	1+	1+					?											
CITES extended to Territory	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Convention on Biological Diversity extended to Territory	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Convention on Migratory Species extended to Territory	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Agreements under CMS extended to Territory:																					
Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels (ACAP)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	N	-	-	-	-	-
Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Sea (ASCOBANS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As soon as exte	N	N	N	N

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will):	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey (& Sark) ¹	Alderney	Sark ¹
Measures																					
Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Eurobats)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	N	nded	N	N	N	N
Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - Indian Ocean Turtle MOU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
World Heritage Convention extended to Territory	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Number of World Heritage sites (natural and cultural) designated	1	0	0	0	0 ¹⁸	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
Area (km ²) of World Heritage sites (natural and cultural) designated	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	0	0	0	0	37	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of domestically protected cultural heritage sites		7			2					55 ¹⁹		0	0								
Area (km ²) of domestically protected cultural heritage sites		2			?					?		0	0								
Other Conventions extended to Territory																					
Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific (SPREP) and Final Act of the High Level Conference on the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (Noumea, New Caladonia, 17-25 November 1986)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic OSPAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	Y	N	N	N	N
Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena)	-	Y	Y	Y	N	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protocol concerning specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena)	-	N	N	N	N	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (London Convention)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
[Other indicators to be investigated, possibly related to the compliance reports that are sent to the Convention Conferences/Meetings of the Parties]																					
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.																					
Taxa and natural resources for which base-line data have been collected and made available, with extents of coverage for each. ²⁰	Man y	Seve ral	Som e	Seve ral	Som e	Seve ral	Som e	Seve ral	?	?	?	?	?	Som e	Man y	?	Man y	?	?	?	Man y
Taxa and natural resources for which there are monitoring programmes, with extents of coverage for each. ²¹	Man y	Seve ral	0	0	Som e	Som e	Som e	Seve ral	?	?	?	?	?	N	Man y	?	Man y	?	?	?	Man y

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will:)	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Iste of Man	Jersey	Guernsey (& Sark) 1	Alderney	Sark 1
Measures	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	See note 22	?	?	?	?	See note 22	?
Topics which are priorities for further information gathering.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.																					
Are effective Ordinances in place to implement polluter-pays principle?	Y	P	P	N	N	N	P	N	N	N	Rev	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Number of cases of polluter paying, and amounts involved.	24	?	AV 2-3 pa	n/a	0	0	0	0	P	0	2	?	n/a	0	?	?	?	?	N	n/a	n/a
Monitoring of pollution and adherence to planning conditions in place	P	Y	Y	N	N	D	N	P	P	Y	n/a	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Enforcement measures in place	Y	Y	Y	N	D	Y	N	N	N	Y	n/a	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Number of enforcement cases brought.	Man y	?	av 1-3 pa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	?	0 (ca 7 fish pa)	0	?	?	?	?	?	n/a	n/a
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.																					
Environment Charter, strategy for implementation in schools curriculum	N	N	N	N	N	Rev	N	Y	P	Y	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	N	n/a	n/a?	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local environment, global context in schools curriculum	Y	Y	Y	Y	Rev	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Number of visits at all levels to local environmental sites	3 for all 1400 children	?	2-3	variable	AV 3	regu lar	4 (6-11)	6-10 +	?	200	n/a	n/a	n/a	Y	2-3 inf & mid. com P	?	Y	Ca 200	?	?	?
Number of field classroom facilities	12	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
10. Promote publications that spread public awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.																					
Number of publications by Government in each year on local environmental topics	1	0	0	1	0	+	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2002-3	0	0	0	1	0	repor ts	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2003-4	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2004-5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2005-6	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2006-7	3	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2007-8					3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will:)	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey (& Sark) ¹	Alderney	Sark ¹
Number of publications by NGOs in each year on local environmental topics																					
2002-3	2	4	3										7	1	3					4	
2003-4	7	3	3		2									1	3					4	
2004-5	2	3	10		0		1		1					4	3					4	
2005-6	1	1	7		1		2		4					2	5	1	1			5	
2006-7	0	1	8		1		1		1					2	6					8	
2007-8	1	1			3				1					2						6	
Programme in place to promote Environment Charter and implementation strategy	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	n/a	F	Rev	Y	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.																					
[Measures largely included in the 10 above.]																					

Notes:

1. Although having their own administrations, Alderney, Sark and Guernsey are part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey and some aspects are dealt with at Bailiwick level. The general information in the Guernsey column tends to relate also to Sark.
2. Bermuda has two separate relevant processes, one for a Biodiversity Strategy and the other for a Sustainable Development strategy.
3. Gibraltar's Environment Charter is of a different type to the others, and is not an agreement with HMG. The Environment Charter being considered by Alderney is based on the UKOT one, but would be a unilateral adoption by Alderney.
4. Anguilla fund not yet ear-marked for the environment, but this is being explored.
5. Anguilla does have a non-governmental Anguilla Community Fund from non-governmental sources.
6. Anguilla lacks legislation to designate terrestrial protected areas, but such legislation has been drafted and awaits being put before the Legislative Assembly.
7. St Helena awaits new legislation for protected areas and the 15 sites are proposed in the strategy, noted in planning matters but not yet designated.
8. The Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands considers that the whole of South Georgia is effectively a protected area, but notes that a more specific review of areas and appropriate levels of protection is under review.
9. Information on the extent of active management of protected areas is incomplete partly because of a missing section of the questionnaire.
10. Change in protected areas in Bermuda estimated because of incomplete information received.
11. Change in protected areas in Turks & Caicos Islands incomplete because TCI has been unable to supply figures.
12. In the Falkland Islands, 18 islands cleared of rats
13. For Gibraltar, in practice rather than as formal policy.
14. For these territories, EIAs are required, but there are problems in that developments may be effectively approved at an earlier stage and/or EIAs are inadequate.
15. Not required, but undertaken in practice, although may be subject to similar problems to those noted at 14.
16. Not required, but usual.
17. Although TCI EIAs are publicly available, in practice they are difficult to access and not available in time to consult before decisions
18. Anguilla has put forward a proposal for a World Heritage Site, but HMG has not yet put this forward to the Convention.

19. 55 buildings in the Falkland Islands
20. Coverage reported for baseline data:
 Bermuda: marine reptiles, birds, skinks, coral reefs, terrestrial & marine plants, marine molluscs, marine polychaetes, commercial fisheries, coastal erosion, freshwater, amphibians – island-wide
 Cayman Islands: national: Red-list flora, queen conch, marine turtles, parrots (GC & CB), blue iguana (GC). GC: bats
 Turks & Caicos: iguana, grouper, conch, lobster nationally. Biodiversity survey of North, Middle & East Caicos
 British Virgin Islands: samples: in-shore; seabirds, all near-shore; Rock iguana, Aneгада, Forest, Aneгада & Gorda Peak
 Anguilla: reptiles (Only snakes, iguana and Ameiva species, some work also done on geckos and anoles); invertebrates (Only some beetle work, spider work and butterflies, moths, wasps); coastal resources (Reefs, sea grass beds, coastal mangroves; however marine commercial reef fish data is still lacking.)
 Montserrat: forest birds, bats, herptiles, plants, fisheries and catch effort, agricultural production
 Ascension Island: endemic plants, seabirds, green turtles
 St Helena: seabirds, cetaceans, invertebrates on Prosperous Bay Plain, lower plants there & NE, marine fish
 Pitcairn: plants, all; various, Henderson
 Gibraltar: herptiles, mammals, birds, higher plants complete; terrestrial & marine invertebrates & marine vertebrates
 Isle of Man: birds, land-use, main rivers all island, ponds half; plants on all protected sites & invertebrates on some
 Alderney: Breeding birds island-wide; storm petrels and puffins on Isle of Burhou; gannets at 2 breeding colonies; seaweeds in Clonque Bay; butterflies and moths at sample sites
 Bermuda: coral reefs & sea-grass; turtles, cahow, longtail, bluebird, skinks, ground water, commercial fisheries, water quality on marine platform – island-wide
 Cayman Islands: As in note 20
21. Anguilla: Birds of wetlands and sea
 Montserrat: Impact of rats on fauna and flora at test sites
 Ascension Island: green turtles, seabirds, endemic plants
 St Helena: seabirds, cetaceans, grouper, fish catch, vegetation, wirebirds, fish
 Gibraltar: herptiles, mammals, birds, higher plants, terrestrial invert
 Isle of Man: birds, river water quality
 Jersey: all 50 Biodiversity Action Plan species
 Alderney: as for survey in note 20, with breeding success as well as numbers for some birds
 Topics which are priorities for further information gathering:
 Bermuda: All endemic & native species, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, ground water quality, coral reef & seagrass, cave habitat, IAS
 Cayman Islands: Update habitat map since Hurricane Ivan; insects & fungi are very data-deficient
 Turks & Caicos: Turks Head cactus
 British Virgin Islands: Fish, beach profile monitoring, nesting seabirds; insects; herptiles; flora
 Anguilla: Vegetation mapping; invertebrates
 Montserrat: Mountain chicken (frog), galliwasp (lizard), endemic plant species, invasive species, restricted range bird species, turtles, terrestrial and marine habitats
 Ascension Island: Fish
 St Helena: Marine plants & invertebrates
 Pitcairn Islands: Invasives, Endemics
 Gibraltar: Marine, terrestrial invertebrates, bryophyte, fungi
 Alderney: marine bird survey; marine diversity survey
 One case of decline due to volcanic ash.
- 22.
- 23.

Measures of performance of UK Government in implementing its Commitments in the Environment Charters (or equivalent environmental progress for territories without charters)

As noted in the introduction, this section of the collation is much less complete than the first part, because UKOTCF has not received information from HMG in respect of the UK Commitments in the Environment Charters. UKOTCF hopes that HMG will identify the resources to report on its Commitments in the future, and UKOTCF remains ready to collate any such information with the material received from elsewhere.

Please note that, whilst UK Government shares responsibility for international environmental commitments with territorial governments in all UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, it is not party to an Environment Charter with the British Antarctic Territory, the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas (which are both directly governed by UK Government Departments), Gibraltar or the Crown Dependencies (Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney & Sark).

Commitment (The government of the UK will:)	General	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark	
I. Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management which is consistent with the Territory's own plans for sustainable development.																							
Number of capacity building projects resourced by HMG in each UKOT.																							
2002-3																							
2003-4																							
2004-5																							
2005-6																							
2006-7																							
Help provided to develop strategy for action																							
Help provided to implement strategy for action process																							
HMG has indicated named officer or body for monitoring and reporting on the development and implementation of Environment Charters in general and in each Territory																							
Has HMG included in the Governor's letter of appointment any specific responsibility in respect of the Environment Charter?																							
Is there any reference to reporting on and progressing the Environment Charters in the standing agenda items for the annual Overseas Territories Consultative Council?	No																						
When did the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group most recently consider Environment Charters and their progress?	Never																						

Commitment (The government of the UK will: Measures)	Territories																						
	General	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Ile of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark	
2. Assist the Territories in initiating, reviewing and updating environmental legislation.																							
Help provided by HMG to review environmental legislation							Y					Y											
Help provided by NGOs to review environmental legislation				Y	Y		Y				Y				Y								
Number of new/revised Ordinances support provided for drafting		0			1				0		0					0		0					
3. Facilitate the extension of the UK's ratification of Multilateral Environmental Agreements of benefit to each of the Territories and which each Territory has the capacity to implement (and a desire to adopt.)																							
Number of additional MEAs support provided to join.			?				0		0		2			0		0							
Number of projects supported to help implementation.																							
2002-3					1		0		1		0												
2003-4					1		0		3		0												
2004-5		1			1		0		1		1												
2005-6					1		0		1		1												
2006-7			1		1		0		3		1												
Number of requests made by Territory which HMG was unable to meet.			?				Some																
2002-3											0												
2003-4					1						0												
2004-5											0												
2005-6											0												
2006-7											0												
4. Keep the Territories informed regarding new developments in relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and invite the Territories to participate where appropriate in the UK's delegation to international environmental negotiations and conferences.																							
Number of information items provided on MEAs each year.					?																		
2002-3							0		1		0												
2003-4							0		3		1												
2004-5							0		0		0												
2005-6							0		4		1												
2006-7							0																
Number of participants from UKOTs and UKOT-centred bodies in UK delegations to CoPs etc					?																		
2002-3							0		1		0												
2003-4							0		1		1												
2004-5							0			1	0												
2005-6							0		2		1												
2006-7							0																

Commitment (The government of the UK will:)	General	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark
Measures																						
Number of UKOT government/NGO personnel supported in attending MEA meetings					2				1		0							0		0		
2002-3							0				0											
2003-4							0				0											
2004-5							0				0											
2005-6							0				0											
2006-7							0				0											
5. Help each Territory to ensure it has the legislation, institutional capacity (technology, equipment, procedures) and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations.																						
Technical help resourced by HMG for UKOTs to implement international commitments					1		0		0		0							0				
2002-3					0		1		0		0											
2003-4					3		0		0		0											
2004-5					1		0		0		0									1		
2005-6							0		0		0											
2006-7			1				0		0		0							0				
Equipment resourced by HMG for UKOTs to implement international commitments							0		0		0											
2002-3							0		0		0											
2003-4							0		0		0											
2004-5					1		0		0		0											
2005-6					1		0		0		0											
2006-7							0		0		0											
6. Promote better cooperation and the sharing of experience between and among the Overseas Territories and with other states and communities which face similar environmental problems.																						
Number of conferences supported					1		1		1		0											
2002-3							1		1		0											
2003-4							0		0		0											
2004-5							0		0		0											
2005-6							0		0		0											
2006-7			1		1		2		1		1									1		
Number of UKOT conference participants supported					2		2		2		2											
2002-3							2		2		2											
2003-4							0		0		0											
2004-5							0		0		0											
2005-6							0		0		0											
2006-7			3		2		4		4		1											

Commitment (The government of the UK will:)	General	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark
Measures																						
Number of visits/exchanges between UKOTs and with UK or regional partners supported																						
2002-3							0		0	0	0								0			
2003-4							0		0	0	0								0			
2004-5							0		0	0	0								0			
2005-6							0		0	0	0								0			
2006-7							0		0	0	0								0			
Support provided for establishment and use of websites/ databases																						
2002-3									0	0	0								0			
2003-4									0	0	0								0			
2004-5									0	0	0								0			
2005-6									0	0	0								0			
2006-7			1				1	1	1	0	0								0			
7. Use the UK, regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes regular consultation with interested nongovernmental organisations and networks.																						
Number of cases of expert visits from UK supported																						
2002-3									+	0	0											
2003-4									0	0	0											
2004-5					1				0	0	1											
2005-6					1		4		1	0	0											
2006-7			1		1		4		1	0	0											
2007-8							5															
Number of cases of visits from UKOTs to UK experts supported																						
2002-3										0	0											
2003-4										0	0											
2004-5										0	0											
2005-6										0	0											
2006-7										0	0											
Number of other cases of advice supported									++													
2002-3										0	0											
2003-4										0	0											
2004-5										0	0											
2005-6										0	0											
2006-7										1	1											
Number of liaison meetings between HMG and NGOs and coordinating bodies																						
2002-3	2									0	0											
2003-4	2									0	0											
2004-5	2									0	0											

Commitment (The government of the UK will):	General	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark
Measures																						
2005-6	2										4											
2006-7	2																					
8. Use the existing Environment Fund for the Overseas Territories, and promote access to other sources of public funding, for projects of lasting benefit to the Territory's environment.																						
Number of projects approved for support each year by EFOT or its successors (OTEP)																						
2002-3	3	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	0	2	0	1	0					
2003-4																						
2004-5	2	3	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	0	2	1	0	0					
2005-6	0	2	1	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0					
2006-7	6	2	2	0	0	3	3	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0					
Value of projects supported each year by EFOT or its successors (OTEP)																						
2002-3	461	146	0	113	180	260	103	169	45	206	260	120	0	121	21	41	0					
Committed by OTEP in 2003-4 & 2004-5 (£k) [This line is included as information from HMG, pending accurate data for individual years.]																						
2003-4 (£k)			12		0	0	22		22													
2004-5 (£k)					85	22	61	206														
2005-6 (£k)			50		40		68	45			0											
2006-7 (£k)			54																			
Spend by Defra or its functional successors on UKOT environmental issues								0												0		
2002-3									0					0								
2003-4					160				0		0			0								
2004-5			35						0		0			0								
2005-6			77			161			0		115			0								
2006-7			67						0					0								
Spend by DCMS or its functional successors on UKOT issues			0																			
2002-3									0					0								
2003-4									0					0								
2004-5									0					0								
2005-6									0					0								
2006-7									0					0								

Commitment (The government of the UK will): Measures	General	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark			
Spend per year by HMG on UKOT/CD environmental issues	£1m in total		0		15		130				?			0					0						
2002-3			12		160		0																		
2003-4			35		85		22	61																	
2004-5			127		40		161	68																	
2005-6			121				?																		
2006-7																									
Spend per year by HMG on GB/NI environmental issues	£460 m		2		2		3	1	1		2								0						
2002-3																									
2003-4																									
2004-5																									
2005-6																									
2006-7																									
[additional measures relating spend to importance/need/threat under review]																									
9. Help each of the Territories identify further funding partners for environmental projects, such as donors, the private sector or nongovernmental organisations.																									
Number of other funders for each UKOT identified by HMG		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Value of funding secured from these sources per year by HMG on UKOT environmental issues		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2002-3								9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2003-4								9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2004-5								11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2005-6									0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2006-7									0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Funding for the built environment supplied per year by HMG on UKOT environmental issues																						1			
2002-3																									
2003-4																									
2004-5																									
2005-6																									
2006-7																									

Commitment (The government of the UK will:)	General	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Turks & Caicos Islands	British Virgin Islands	Anguilla	Montserrat	Ascension Island	St Helena	Tristan da Cunha	Falkland Islands	S Georgia & S Sandwich Is	British Antarctic Territory	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pitcairn Islands	Gibraltar	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark
Measures																						
10. Recognise the diversity of the challenges facing the Overseas Territories in very different socio-economic and geographical situations.																						
Recognition by key Departments within HMG e.g DFID, Defra that the UKOTs are very different in terms of their socio- economic and geographical situations.																						
Ensuring access to email and www communication systems for government & NGOs in each UKOT/CD					Y			N	Y		N			n/a	Y							
Ensuring establishment and functioning of environmental NGO in each UKOT/CD.			N		Y		P	I	Y		N			Y								
[Other measures may be developed]																						
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.																						
[Measures largely included in the 10 above.]																						

Turks & Caicos Islands and the implementation of the model Environment Charter strategy

Michelle Fulford-Gardiner, Deputy Director, Department of Environment & Coastal Resources, Turks & Caicos Islands



Fulford-Gardiner, M. 2007. Turks & Caicos Islands and the implementation of the model Environment Charter strategy. p 73 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

The Environment Charters, agreements signed in September 2001, between HMG and the Governments of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTs), set out a range of overarching principles and commitments for both governments to uphold. They act as a medium by which biodiversity conservation and sustainable development could be incorporated into all sectors of the territories.

The Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI) made history at the end of 2003 with the completion of the first action strategy for the implementation of the Environment Charter, setting the pace for other UKOTs to follow. Such a milestone was achieved by employing the expertise of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF), as facilitators. Out of this exercise, the process has been documented and published on the UKOTCF website as a guidance document for other UKOTs to model in the advancement of their Charters.

Since completion of the action strategy, very little progress has been made towards its implementation phase in TCI. This is primarily due to lack of capacity, both financial and human resources, to support effective implementation. While there have been numerous conservation projects in the TCI funded by Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) and other sources, most of these have been presented independent of the strategy's priority actions. The Forum has developed a checklist system to inform progress. However, what is warranted is the establishment of an effective local body that would act as a focal point of coordination of the Environment Charter and other sustainable development activity within in the TCI. The advancement of such a body should take precedence, and be incorporated in the country's overall strategy for economic development, as the environment and the services it provides lie at the root of TCI's economy.

Notably, the Environment Charter in the UKOTs is being used as a key indicator in monitoring and reporting of progress towards CBD 2010 target in reduction of biodiversity loss.

This paper will set out a roadmap by which the TCI can effectively take forward the implementation of the Environment Charter action strategy, and hopefully provide further guidance to the other UKOTs

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St Helena and the application of the pilot model for strategy development

Cathy Hopkins, Director, St Helena National Trust; and formerly Chair of St Helena Environment Advisory Consultative Forum



Hopkins, M.C. 2007. St Helena and the application of the pilot model for strategy development. pp 74-76 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

On 26 Sept 2001, the UKOTs and HMG signed Environment Charters which include statements of principles and undertakings by both parties in respect of integrating environmental conservation into all sectors of policy planning and implementation. The first undertaking of the UKOTs was to formulate a detailed strategy for action, and HMG's first undertaking was to help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management. Informal feedback from the Territories both to the FCO and the Forum indicated that the first need was for facilitation in developing these strategies for action. This presentation reviews the experience of St Helena in being the first territory to apply the pilot model method developed by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Cathy Hopkins, Director, St Helena National Trust, Broadway House, Main Street, Jamestown STHL 1ZZ, St Helena. sth.natrust@helanta.sh

Background to project

No one St Helena Government (SHG) department has overall responsibility for the environment. It lies within various departments and the St Helena National Trust (SHNT), which embraces the St Helena Nature Conservation Group, the Heritage Society and other NGOs.

Taking forward the Environment Charter falls to the Environmental Co-ordinator within the Environmental Planning Department (EPD). A first step was the establishment of an Environmental Advisory Consultative Forum (EACF) in 2003. Membership included:

- Environment & Conservation Sections from within SHG departments,
- SHNT,
- Legislative Council,
- Private sector, and
- the Governor's office.

This fulfilled the first commitment under the Charter. Other Charter Commitments were being broadly fulfilled but there was no overall Action Plan. We recognised the need for a Strategy for the Implementation of the Charter commitments

Aware of the TCI pilot model, St Helena approached Mike Pienkowski for advice and assistance with developing the Strategy. A project proposal was drawn up with help from Mike and approved for OTEP funding. The project started in April 2004.

The TCI model was adapted for St Helena with very few modifications. The TCI approach of taking each Charter commitment and breaking it into its elements was used. This gave a huge matrix which identified actions/programmes with an as-



Endemic scrubwood in flower & view of south coast of St Helena

Commitment 2: Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.

Desired Outcome: Key habitats, key species and landscape features are protected, and/or restored.

Elements of Commitment	Existing programmes/projects/activities	Potential actions/programmes which would address gaps/issues identified in Workshop 1
2.a. Have in place effective legislation for protection of key habitats, species and landscape features	<p>National Parks Ordinance 2003 (provide powers to permit the establishment of parks, nature reserves, sanctuaries and area of historical interest, and generally for the conservation of the natural and ecology of St. Helena)</p> <p>Draft list of protected areas prepared</p> <p>Endangered Species Protection Ordinance 2003 (regulates trade in endangered species to give effect to the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and also gives the Governor in Council the authority to make Orders to protect and encourage the continued existence of any species of plant or animal endemic or indigenous to St. Helena)</p> <p>St Helena National Trust Ordinance 2001 (to establish a National Trust: to act as custodian of St. Helena's heritage, to preserve and promote the island's natural environment and its archaeological, historical and cultural resources for present and future generations)</p> <p>Some relevant provisions also in Land Planning and Development Ordinance 1998, and Fishing Ordinances (see Commitment 3 below)</p>	<p>(To fulfil Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity):</p> <p>(k) Develop or maintain necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations;</p> <p>Draft and pass Regulations needed under National Parks Ordinance to implement protected areas.</p> <p><i>National Parks Ordinance amendments?</i></p> <p>Extend the marine protected area to include all the coastline and inshore waters, with zoning of different levels of protection, using the existing categories of protected area, under the legislation.</p> <p><i>Zoning of different levels of protection and delete ..</i></p> <p>Consider giving protected area status to all the land previously known as 'crown wastes', because of its importance to endemic species?</p> <p>Analyse the results of the tree questionnaire to clarify public opinion. In the light of this, look at existing legislation and, if required, propose new policy for management of trees of historical and cultural importance (possibly including tree preservation orders).</p> <p>Review whether the legislation for protected areas (on land and sea) gives all the powers needed for effective management, monitoring and enforcement.</p> <p>Consider legislation regulating boats for watching dolphins and whales, including numbers of boat-visits per unit time and how close to approach.</p>

A sample page from the matrix

sociated lead body(ies) for each.

The initial documenting task seemed rather daunting, with several hundred actions. However, as we worked the tables, we could see how many actions were already in progress/completed. The matrix became the basis for the whole process and this approach was undoubtedly key to the successful development of the Strategy.

The Workshops and beyond

The method used a participatory workshop approach. We found the role of the facilitators invaluable. This generated a positive response from stakeholders, as well as recognition of the role played by EACF in bringing all stakeholders into one forum where St Helena lacks a "Ministry for the Environment".

There is an ongoing difficulty of resourcing the EACF, and we appreciate the work of the Environmental Co-ordinator and her small team within EPD.

The Strategy document contained 5 columns including "Actions already completed" and "Actions in Progress" - a development from the TCI model.

The Strategy development exercise was hugely useful to St Helena. This included: a realisation of how much was actually going on in the various departments as well as in the NGOs; a sharing of knowledge; and a new depth of understanding & appreciation of each other's work.

St Helena's Strategy for Action was endorsed by Executive Council in July 2006. This shows that we have SHG support. However, it does not necessarily mean that we have political clout for taking forward environmental issues. EACF provides a focus for taking forward the Charter – we have the Strategy and must ensure that the planned actions are taken. The Environmental Co-ordinator is currently undertaking a review of progress.

A full costing of the actions was not possible as not all stakeholders completed Document S (see illustration below) for each project or work-area, in spite of assistance being offered by Environmental Co-ordinator. We would recommend that should any other UKOT undertake a similar approach the format of these prototype forms which we were testing should perhaps be re-designed as a simple questionnaire showing resource implications.

The current review is proving very time consuming

Environment Charter Strategy for Action – Implementation Activities

Note that not all boxes will apply to every activity. Please expand each box as necessary.

Cross-reference to strategy document (if applicable)	
Environment Charter commitment this addresses	
Lead implementing organisation	
Contact person	
Other main orgs involved	
Objective	
Outputs	
Intended outcomes	
Project activities	
Exit strategy/sustainability (where appropriate)	
Project status (new, current, etc)	
For current project: Dates of project/activity	
For current project: Budget head and/or external funding body	
For proposed projects: --Proposed budget --Likely funding source	
Any other relevant information	
Title of project/activity/task	
Project summary	
Date this form completed and by whom	

Please e-mail completed form to pienkowski@cix.co.uk and Isabel@sainthelena.gov.sh

Blank Form S

for Environmental Co-ordinator using a process agreed by EACF. The Environmental Co-ordinator is visiting each department/section/NGO/individual to interview them about their respective actions, problems, future plans and constraints. The findings will be presented to EACF and then to Executive Council. It will provide the basis for the Action Plan for 2007-8.

Advantages of using TCI model

We found several advantages of using the TCI model:

1. Resources on Island: it allowed the best use of our very limited human and financial resource to develop the strategy.
2. Method: The lead facilitator had already learned in developing the TCI pilot model and refined his approach for St Helena – we did not need to re-invent the wheel!
3. Time: Building on experience of the facilitators, the process of designing and agreeing the strategy documents took one year with two visits by consultants as opposed to 4 visits to TCI.
4. Audit: It proved good value to OTEP as the funding provider and to St Helena as the user.

Plans to develop air access and a recent approach to investigate our marine heritage have highlighted environmental concerns in St Helena and raised public awareness of the importance of conserving the environment for sustainable, eco- and heritage tourism.

St Helena values the outputs of the OTEP project and the Strategy to Implement the Environment Charter, and would like to thank TCI and UKOTCF, DFID and FCO for their support.



Endemic wirebird on nest

The implementation of the Environment Charter in the Falkland Islands

Dominique Giudicelli, Environmental Planning Officer, Falkland Islands Government



Giudicelli, D. 2007. The implementation of the Environment Charter in the Falkland Islands. pp 77-81 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

This presentation is a summary of progress in implementing the Environment Charter in the Falkland Islands and developing a co-ordinating strategy.

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The Environment Charter was signed in 2001. Since that time, much progress in its implementation has taken place in the islands.

A Conservation and Biodiversity Officer was appointed in 2003. This was funded in the main by the FCO through OTEP. The officer produced a draft Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy with two “sister” documents. These are a “baseline survey” for the island’s biodiversity and a report on “trends and pressures” which gives an idea of what changes are taking place affecting biodiversity. All documents were produced in 2005 and still need to be updated to a final version.

The Conservation Officer left in April 2005 as it was a 2-year project. This departure highlighted a great gap in “environmental” capacity within the government.

The government has consistently funded a large number of environmental/conservation projects in two ways: firstly by giving significant core grants to the main NGO, Falklands Conservation, and

its own “Environmental Budget” which is used to fund a number of conservation and environmental enhancement projects.

It has become clear that, in order to implement better the Environmental Charter – and, more specifically, to complete the Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy which is regarded as a critical document for the future of the island’s biodiversity – capacity is needed on a permanent basis, within the government. Consequently, part of the Environmental Budget has been used to appoint a permanent and full-time officer and appointment is taking place at present.

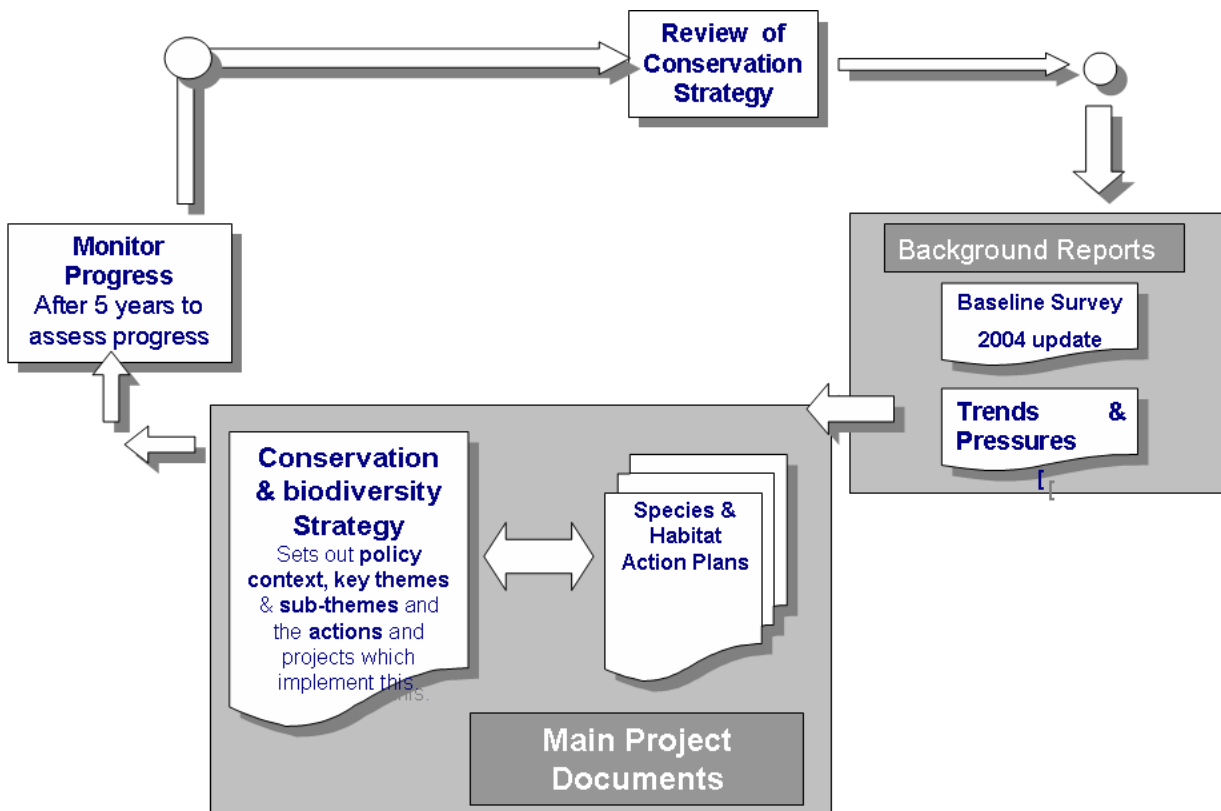
This is an exciting development, as it is the first permanent post created specifically to deal with conservation and the environment in the Falklands. It should help to involve the community in playing a stronger part in conserving the outstanding biodiversity of the islands. It will also help to meet the growing number of international obligations in a meaningful manner.

The Environment Charter (2001) sets out commitments which are a mix of strategic policy objectives and specific undertakings.

1 Bring stakeholders to formulate detailed Strategy.

- A draft Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy (CBS) and 2 “sister” documents: Trends and Pressures and A Baseline Survey, are in place since 2005.
- CBS has had some stakeholder involvement (priority setting workshop, 2005).



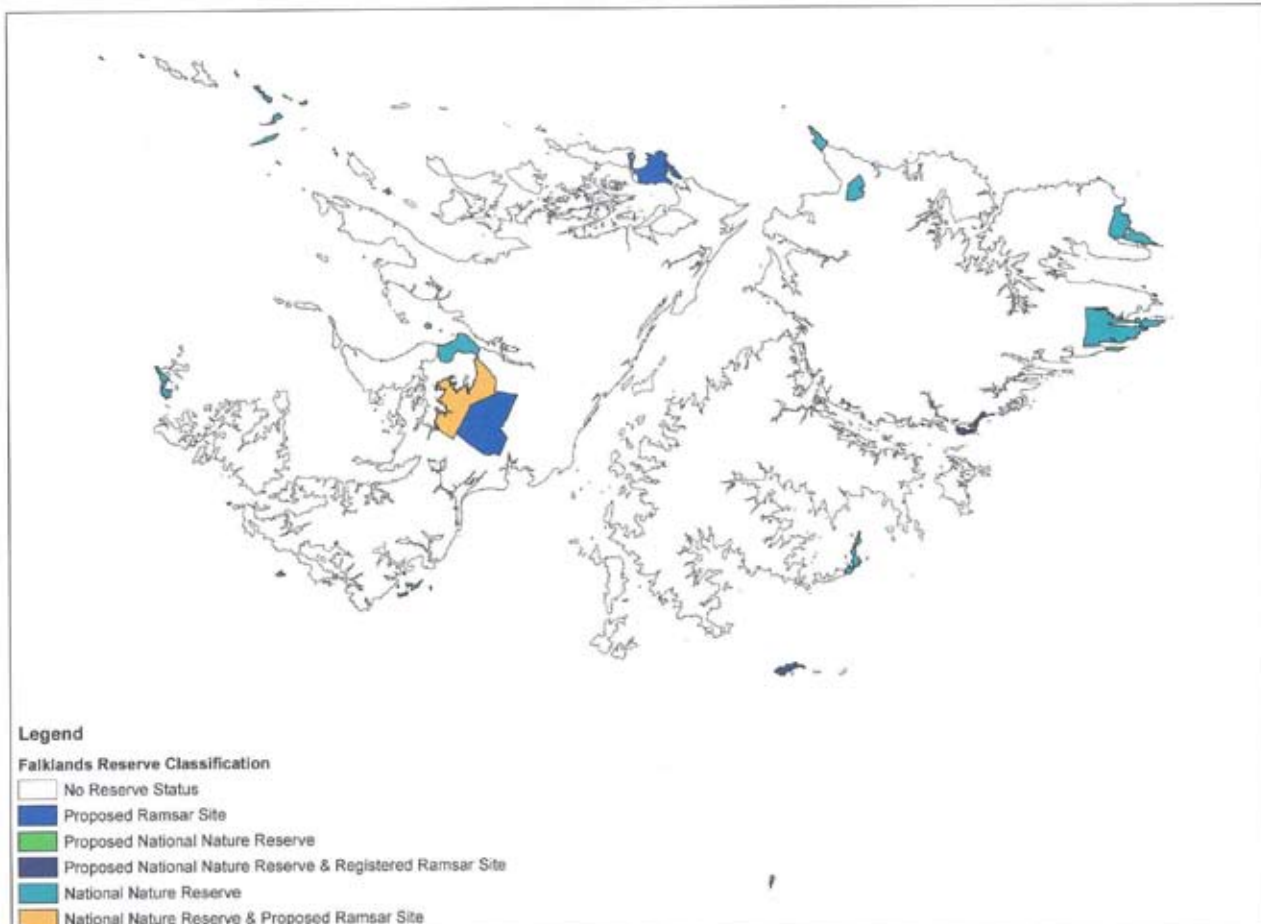


2 Protection and restoration of key habitats.

- Identified in draft CBS as a priority – CBS pro-

notes whole ecosystem approach which fits in well with habitat management.

- Falkland Islands Structure Plan and Stanley Town Plan – 2004. For future sustainable development... contains policies promoting habitat



LHB7 Protection of Species

The Government will not normally grant consent for developments on land or water that would have a significant adverse effect upon species protected by law and their habitat. In cases where planning approval may be acceptable conditions may be imposed or planning agreements sought, which:

- i) ensure the survival of individual members of the species; and/or
- ii) reduce the disturbance to members of the species to an acceptable minimum.

Issue and Objective

In considering development proposals it is essential that the possible effects on species and their habitat are adequately addressed. This is particularly relevant where species are protected by law. The objective will be to ensure that the

most important species are protected from unsustainable development.



King and Magellanic penguins, Volunteer Beach

Methods and Outcomes:

Important species and habitats protected by the Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance are listed in schedule 4. The Government will also seek to ensure that its consideration of proposals for development or land use change

reflects its obligations under the UK Overseas Territories Environmental Charter and any Bio-diversity Action Plan in place at the time. Proposals raising specific environmental concerns relating to habitats or species of recognised importance will be required to be accompanied by an environmental impact statement. The retention or enhancement of key habitats such as tussock will be encouraged.



Tussock habitat

Example from Falkland Islands Structure Plan



management.

- Land is mostly in private ownership which can be challenging for habitat management
- National Nature Reserve (NNR) legislation is weak – however, some Management Plans are being drafted, including habitat-specific objectives and resources.
- Grants to NGOs for rat clearance and study of invasive species (£ 20K in 2005/06)
- Biosecurity Strategy: (Dec 2004). Some recommendations deal with the control of Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, page 79

invasive species and their risk to wildlife.

3 Environmental considerations integrated within socio-economic planning

- All Executive Council reports have a checklist which includes consideration of environmental considerations.
- Structure and Town Plans promote sustainable development and are considered in all new development proposals

Biosecurity Strategy (dec 2004)

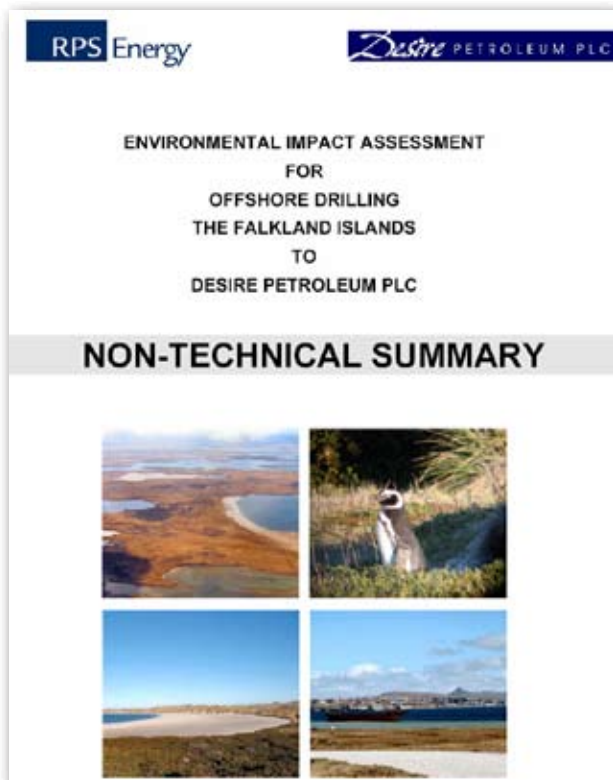
There is potential for exotic organisms to enter the Falkland Islands through a wide range of pathways and for damage to be caused to agriculture, native species or fisheries. The likelihood of damaging organisms entering and establishing in the Falkland Islands in any one year is small. The impacts, however, can be very large.

Proposal 1. That a specific information pack on biosecurity concerns in the Falkland Islands and the management of those risks associated with yachts be developed and supplied to all visiting yachts at their first port of call. This pack should include information on the risks of pet escapes, hull fouling, unapproved foods use, GASH disposal and visits to sensitive wildlife sites.

Proposal 2. That FIG work with cruise ship operators and local tour operators to ensure that, where appropriate, there is compliance with IAATO guidelines and that for visitors to Port William there is a biosecurity advisory programme.

Proposal 3. That passengers from cruise ships be prohibited from bringing food for consumption ashore.

Proposal 4. That information networks such as those available to Falkland Conservation and the Agriculture Department on international disease trends in birds and wildlife are used to target higher risk ships or visitors based on previous ports visited.



4 Environmental Impact Assessment

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations as part of Planning Ordinance (2005) based on European Directive
- EIA regulations within the Offshore Minerals Ordinance (1994)

5 Consultative decision-making

- The Environmental Committee is important in that it makes key environmental recommendations to FIG.
- Stakeholders participate in discussions and decisions (see picture below)
- Open to the public which is a key aspect of democratic decision making in the islands.



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6 Implement Multilateral Agreements

Implemented

- Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP)(2004)
- Kyoto Protocol (2006)
- The London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972
- The Ramsar Convention

Not implemented yet:

- The Aarhus Convention on Access to Information and Environmental Justice.
- The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)
- The Cartagena Protocol (under the auspices of the CBD)
- The Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC)
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

7 Review quality of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity

- Baseline Survey (2005) intended as a “live” document to be updated regularly
- Most other documents subject to reviews (e.g. Structure and Town Plans)

8 Polluter pays legislation and policies

- Fortunate not to have much pollution
- Legislation not comprehensive (e.g. no equivalent to UK’s Environmental Protection Act 1990).
- Any new development can be controlled (and enforced) through Planning Ordinance by means of conditions
 - Structure and Town Plans contain Policies which aim to allow development which does not allow unacceptable environmental impacts

9 Encourage teaching within schools to promote local environment and “act global”

- One NGO has much involvement with children

by means of its “watch group”. OTEP funded 18 month placement of Primary School teacher in Falkland and Ascension islands.

- Many teachers use local environment as example in classrooms.

10 Promote publications for islands biodiversity to increase awareness

- All new publications are subject to public consultation. Use of radio and local press is extensive.



11 Abide by principles in Rio Declaration.

- Improvement is taking place in many parts of principles. Current new appointment of full time “environmental officer” will accelerate implementation of charter.

Future directions:

- Completion of Conservation & Biodiversity Strategy and sister documents
- Implementation of actions (and parallel allocation of resources)
- target “camp” [i.e. areas outside the capital, Stanley] to support diversification initiatives which enhance biodiversity e.g.: “set aside”(habitat restoration), visitor management schemes.



Collaborating with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Model towards Environment Charter Implementation: Anguilla's Approach

Karim Hodge, Anguilla Director of Environment



Hodge, K. 2007. Collaborating with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Model towards Environment Charter Implementation: Anguilla's Approach. pp 82-85 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

The Caribbean Overseas Territories that are members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have signed the St George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS, and therefore must implement the instruments of the Declaration as well as those of the UK Overseas Territories Environment Charter. Close scrutiny of both documents has indicated that they are quite similar and there is no philosophy or provision in one that is in discord with the other. Therefore any course of action that will lead to the satisfactory implementation of one will satisfy the execution of the other. This presentation summarises Anguilla's approach and progress in this regard.

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In recent years, the Government of Anguilla has increasingly recognised the strategic advantage of environmental management and conservation. In response to changing pressures from stakeholders such as the electorate, environmental groups, local communities, and the island's administering power, Anguilla and Anguillians have realized that they need to analyse strategically their developmental context, and integrate ecological principles into their comprehensive national development strategies. In deciding on an environmental strategy, the country engaged in a process of analysis that focused on the internal factors, such as the resources, infrastructures, and the dependence on the fragile tourism sector.

Despite the advancement in knowledge and practices in the area of strategic environmental management and conservation, Anguilla was struggling to find the right mix and fit for an environmental strategy that will allow it to meet its regional and international obligations, as well as its commitment to sustainable national development. As had been found in other islands in the region during the early to mid 1990s, there was a potentially caustic gap that existed between what strategies were in

place and what was really needed to achieve the desired results.

Governments in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) recognised that the absence of a sub-regional corridor towards environmental protection and management was an inevitable time-bomb waiting to explode. OECS, of which Anguilla is an associate member, at the 3rd Meeting of the OECS Environment Policy Committee in September 1999, requested that the OECS Secretariat prepare an "OECS Charter for Environmental Management" and "a regional strategy...that will become the framework for environmental management" in the region. While the gestation period lasted two years, to their credit, the OECS Ministers of Environment signed the St George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS (SGD), at St George's, Grenada in April 2001. Last month (September 2006), the SGD was revised by the OECS Member States to ensure that the key biodiversity conventions and other international and regional declarations, as well as international strategies and plans of actions, are now incorporated in the revised SGD. Drawing from the examples of the devel-

oped world and the international community, where MEAs are signed and the reporting and enforcement are left to the prerogative of the member country, the OECS called upon member countries to develop a National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS). The NEMS remains the key mechanism for implementing the SGD at the national level. These strategies also offer Member States the opportunity to set and pursue national goals and targets in addition to, or at a more rapid pace than, those included in the SGD. Additionally, the NEMS provide an instrument for tracking progress towards the goals and targets of the SGD and for communicating with other Member States, national partners and regional institutions on that progress.

Moving from the regional context to a more national focus, we see that the preparation of a National Environmental Management Strategy and Action Plan (NEMS) for Anguilla is in fact a requirement of the Government in discharge of its obligations under the St George's Declaration (SGD) of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS, 2001. There are 21 Principles that have been prescribed in the SGD. Anguilla, like other OECS Member States, has agreed to utilise these in the governance of national affairs. Most of these Principles are directly relevant to the operations of the Ministries and statutory agencies in Anguilla.

The fundamental challenge for environmental conservation & management in Anguilla is to ensure levels of environmental quality that maximise opportunity for economic and social development for present and future generations, without compromising the integrity and sustainability of biological diversity, environmental and cultural assets. This challenge is accentuated by the vision of the present government's Manifesto. This suggests that the achievement of economic growth, international competitiveness and improved quality of life are largely dependent on the appreciation and management of the environment. Do not get me wrong: while the road ahead is a long and arduous one, it would be invidious of me if I

did not acknowledge that the implementation of the NEMS and the SGD have already begun to bear much fruit in Anguilla.

Examples of Implementation Successes based on the 21 Principles of the SGD:-

Principle 2 – Integrate Environmental Considerations into National Social & Economic Development Plans, Policies and Programmes

Accomplishment – Government, by virtue of both policy and practice, has made EIAs a standard requirement for ALL tourism related developments and projects. This principle is also evident when one looks at the inclusion and active involvement of the Department of Environment and the Anguilla National Trust in all national discussions relating to economic and social development. Moreover, we have seen the Government of Anguilla begin to mandate to new tourism-related developers that portions of lands they acquire must be allocated to green space and/or protected areas.

Principle 3 - Improve Legal & Institutional Frameworks

Accomplishment – Through funding from OTEP, the Government of Anguilla has been able to commence, and are in fact almost ready to introduce, revised environmental ordinances in some cases, and introduce new legislation in other cases. Beneficiaries of this project have been the Anguilla National Trust, which now boasts a revised ordinance that gives them more legal teeth to achieve their mandate; the Environmental Health (Public Health) Unit, the Department of Fisheries & Marine Resources, and the Department of Environment who, as a result of this initiative, are going through a restructuring and refocusing exercise.

Principle 4 - Ensure Meaningful Participation by Civil Society in Decision-making

Accomplishment – Anguilla's implementation of the NEMS has brought about a new surge in CBOs. Even more astonishing is the Government's willingness to build the capacity of

civil society organisations to be able not only to participate in decision-making processes, but also to be able to assist in environmental conservation and management. Through partnerships with the Anguilla National Trust, Anguilla Beautification Club and ALHCS Environmental Club, young people in particular are being given a new lease on life by having them help shape the direction and sustainability of the country. As an Associate Member of the OECS, Anguilla's civil society is able to tap financial and technical resources from the UNDP Global Environment Fund (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) to assist in environmental projects covering POPs, Land Degradation, Climate Change, Biodiversity, and International Waters. The reality is that, without our membership in OECS and our implementation of the NEMS – which are two of the criteria stipulated by the UNDP for an island from the sub-region to participate – Anguilla would have been lagging behind and would have been the laughing stock of the sub-region.

Principle 12 - Protect Cultural & Natural Heritage

Accomplishment – Anguilla is rich in both cultural and natural heritage resources. With its revised Marine Parks Bill, Anguilla National Trust Ordinance and the vesting of key terrestrial areas as national protected areas, the Government of Anguilla's actions in this regard are a testament to its implementation of the NEMS and the SGD. To accentuate the continuous work on this principle, plans are afoot for a regional workshop on Leadership and Governance of Marine Protected Areas to be held in Anguilla in November that will address the management and protection of Marine Parks. We in Anguilla realise that without collaboration with our sub-regional partners, the protection of sea turtles in our waters vis-à-vis our moratorium will prove futile if they are allowed to be harvested in another. Consequently, our work as a nation in this area is not only confined to Anguilla but in fact stretches to the sub-region.

Principle 13 - Protect & Conserve Biological Diversity

Demonstrating the Government's recognition that effective development truly requires sound environmental considerations, the Executive Council approved on the 4th October 2001, the Native Plant and Habitat Conservation (Biodiversity) Policy as a commitment to maximising the potential of the diverse natural resources of Anguilla. There are partnerships with RSPB, Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB), WWK-UK, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and others, so that biodiversity conservation is on a strong footing in Anguilla.

Article 17 - Negotiate & Implement Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Accomplishment – Again, the implementation of the NEMS and the SGD required the involvement of the OTEP. Through funding from OTEP, Anguilla has been able to make significant strides towards the achievement of this principle. As a UK Overseas Territory, should Anguilla want to conform to certain MEAs, it must request that HM Government extend the necessary MEAs to the island. However, there were certain legislative frameworks that needed to be put in place and the OTEP project entitled “Technical Assistance for Drafting Environmental/Conservation Legislation for MEA Extension” provided the necessary resources to facilitate this process. This project has already yielded the output of a revised Anguilla National Trust Act, a Conservation Easement Act and an Anguilla International Trade in Endangered Species Act. These three pieces of legislation will be put before Government for approval before the end of 2006 for full approval, gazetting, and passage through the House of Assembly/Cabinet. There was also a considerable amount of public awareness that was built into this project and has yielded significant comments, and support from the community. This project comes to close during July 2007. However, before that, two other outstanding pieces of legislation remain to be completed:

- a) National Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage Act – this deals more with national biodiversity, ecosystems, species, biodiversity-related MEAs, and
 - b) An Environment Protection Act – this deals with pollution prevention control, waste etc.
- Both these two pieces of legislation are in their first draft.

What should be evident from the examples presented above is that the implementation of the NEMS and SGD has catalysed tangible enhancements in environmental management in Anguilla. In this context, I am using the term “tangible enhancements” to refer to observable and broad improvement in environmental quality. The NEMS has been instrumental in identifying what should be done and the agencies that should do it. Ultimately, we know however, that the Anguilla’s National Environmental Management Strategy will be successful only if, through implementing the measures it identifies, environmental considerations are routinely incorporated into decision-making at all levels and in all sectors.

NEMS vs. UK Environment Charter

Some agencies and in unique cases individuals have sought to bring pressure to bear on Anguilla for what is perceived by them as refusal and/or failure to implement the UK Environment Charter. What is even more disheartening is that those who have sought to brand Anguilla as lacking environmental prioritisation are the same ones who are missing the mark when it comes to understanding the complementary and harmonising role that the UK Environment Charter plays to the SGD - NEMS or vice versa.

When they are placed side by side one can only assume that both the SGD-NEMS and UK Environment Charter documents are mirrors of each other. There is no question that Anguilla has not been flying the flag of the UK Environment Charter that it signed with H. M. Government in September 2001; but that is because any attempt to implement the Charter on its own and the SGD-NEMS on its

own would prove a wastage of resources and a duplication of efforts. The reality is that the 11 Commitments of the Government of Anguilla as articulated in the Charter are IN FACT being achieved and being worked towards through the implementation of the NEMS and the SGD. Every one of the Charter’s Commitments is covered under a Principle of the SGD-NEMS. Commitment 4 requiring EIAs be conducted as part of major projects is in fact a policy and a practice in Anguilla. Commitment 3, which calls for a multi-sectoral approach to consumption and production is covered under Principle 2 of the SGD-NEMS and as aforementioned is in fact being implemented. Commitment 6, which addresses the extension of MEAs is yet another clear example of how these two agreements are working hand in glove to ensure that Anguilla remains on course to “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The era of competing environmental policies and programmes are long gone. We are at a crossroads in our developmental stage and we must be sure to look at what is essential and what is practical and pragmatic for Anguilla amidst its limited resources. This focus on Anguilla does not require us to discard the NEMS or the Environment Charter. What it calls for, and what Anguilla has made a deliberate decision to do, is to ensure that they continue to complement, enhance and accentuate each other. We in Anguilla find that it is easier to achieve the mandates of the Charter by implementing the NEMS.

As I close, allow me to leave you with the philosophy of the Department of Environment on the matter of the SGD-NEMS vs. the UK Environment Charter. Our philosophy is that “Together We Aspire... Together We Achieve... and it is ONLY through collaboration of both Agreements that Anguilla will in fact move closer to ensuring there is preservation for generations, which will be achieved because of our strength and endurance.”

Bermuda's biodiversity strategy implementation and its Environment Charter

Jennifer Gray, Bermuda Conservation Service, Bermuda Zoological Society & Bermuda Audubon Society



Gray, G. 2007. Bermuda's biodiversity strategy implementation and its Environment Charter. pp 86-90 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan have been more than just the publication of a document. Rather, it has been a process in which people from a wide range of backgrounds have come together to exchange ideas, develop solutions which are grounded in reality, and provide a clear, step-by-step approach for ensuring that our conservation targets can be met.

In 2000 the Government of Bermuda embraced and supported the concept of the BSAP which was officially launched by the Ministry of the Environment at the UKOT Conference hosted in Bermuda in March 2003

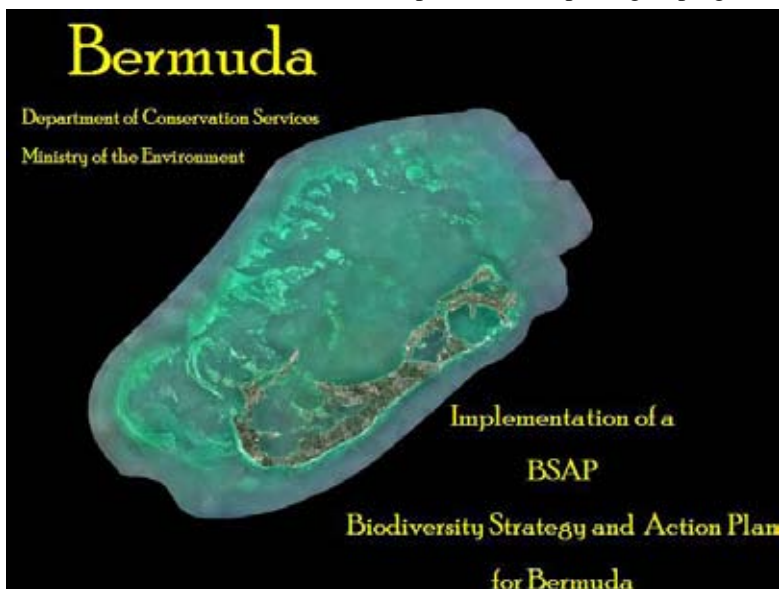
In September of 2005 the Ministry of the Environment hired a BSAP coordinator and provided an operating budget for implementation. The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Coordinator, under the direction of the Director of Conservation Service, administers and supports the implementation of the BSAP. By liaising with all key stakeholders to monitor, promote and report on actions identified in the plan we can better facilitate progress toward its stated objectives. The BSAP provides a forum for us to work together, to learn from each other and exchange ideas, and to build on the very strong foundations that already exist to protect our unique wildlife.

To date numerous meetings with stakeholders have been held to review existing commitments, document progress and assess the relevance and potential impact of each BSAP action based on current issues and needs. To complete this process many more meetings and workshops will be held in 2006. This essential and time consuming process will lead the way to increased positive and coordinated action for conserving our biodiversity and their associated habitats through a widely accepted and effectively current plan of action.

Increased collaboration amongst NGOs and with Government agencies has been accomplished and reporting of progress toward objectives is being pursued. It is

intended that by the end of 2006 a full report detailing progress to date will be made available to all stakeholders. Enhanced monitoring and reporting of activities will be an integral part of any fresh collaboration moving forward.

In addition to strengthening ties with NGOs and members of the community efforts have also been initiated to increase public awareness of conservation issues. These include but are not limited to publishing of conservation ads, improved community outreach and engagement through the implementation of an interactive BSAP list serve, an innovative Conservation Services Website, public lectures, educational programmes and increased media coverage



on conservation issues. Action for the environment as outlined in the BSAP is the driving force behind a group of volunteers who meet regularly to serve the environmental community under the BSAP coordinator.

A major boost toward the implementation of the BSAP and the Environmental Charter was Bermuda Government's announcement in January of 2006 to take receipt of the draft Sustainable Development Plan for Bermuda. In June of 2006 the Draft Sustainable Development Strategy and Implementation Plan for Bermuda was released and the public consultation phase launched. A main objective of the plan is to continue to implement the BSAP. This development ensures central Government support in promoting and monitoring the success of the plan. Having BSAP accepted as a major plank in this keystone plan for the future is a major step forward for conservation in Bermuda.

Jennifer Gray, (Bermuda Conservation Service, Bermuda Zoological Society & Bermuda Audubon Society) Bermuda Government Conservation Services, P O Box FL145, Flatts, Bermuda FLBX. jgray-c@gov.bm

The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Bermuda is not just a document that sits on a shelf. Rather, it has been a process in which people from a wide range of backgrounds have come together to exchange ideas, develop solutions which are real and are provided in a clear, step-by-step approach for ensuring that our conservation targets can be met. The plan is focused around the following twelve main objectives:

- Improved coordination, collaboration and communication between key stakeholders
- Integration of biodiversity conservation throughout Government
- Improved biodiversity education and training
- Increased public awareness
- Increased active participation by the community
- Provision of appropriate economic incentives
- Revision of legislation to address gaps
- Ensuring effective enforcement
- Revision and development of management plans for species and habitats
- Strengthening of protection through protected areas system
- Increased management-oriented research and monitoring
- Securing of public and private financing

The efforts of the Bermuda Biodiversity Project team and the Department of Conservation Services have shown that collaboration

across organizations and a passion for what you want to achieve can lead to success. It should be noted that the BSAP for Bermuda was initiated by an NGO resulting in perhaps a longer time to the goal. Our BSAP took some five years from inception to implementation. In 2000 the Government of Bermuda first embraced the concept of the BSAP and the consultative process began.

In 2001 the Ministry of the Environment publicly endorsed the BSAP which was, at that time, being developed by the Bermuda Biodiversity Project and Flora and Fauna International through a grant from the UK Government's Darwin Initiative.

In 2003, the BSAP was officially launched during the UKOT conference hosted in Bermuda. It was recognized by our Government that the plan would support our commitment to the Environmental Charter and our desire to meet the international obligations as laid out by the CBD.

An essential component of BSAP was the establishment of a coordinating unit. In 2005 the Government cemented its commitment to the plan by appointing a full time employee tasked with coordinating, facilitating and monitoring implementation of the plan by the many lead and partner agencies. By the end of 2005 the office of the BSAP Coordinator was occupied and an operating budget in place.



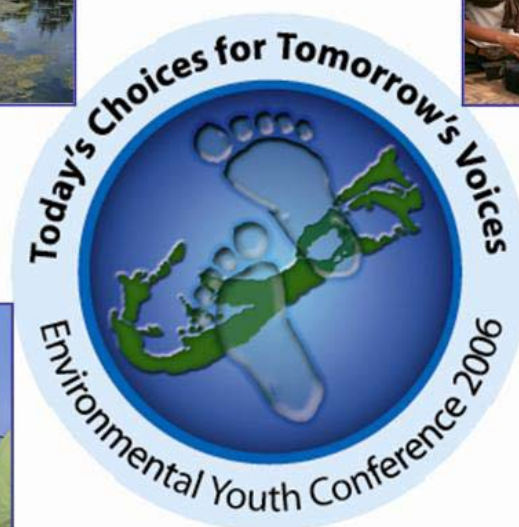
moving forward.

There are too many completed activities and successes to report on in the time given today but a few are worth mentioning. The creation of an environmental coalition called ECO has been particularly effective. ECO is comprised of delegates from each of the fifteen or more environmental NGO's, Government representa-

Getting all our 'ducks in a row' was the first challenge of the coordinator. The BSAP is some 68 pages jam-packed with 400 activities identified to support 77 actions under each of the 12 aforementioned objectives and involves a multitude of stakeholders.

tives and a few key individuals. The group meets regularly to share knowledge, discuss the issues of the day and most importantly support each other in efforts to promote a better Bermuda.

Numerous meetings with stakeholders have been held to review existing commitments, document progress and assess the relevance and potential impact of each BSAP action based on current issues and needs. In this monitoring process increased collaboration amongst NGO's and with Government agencies has been accomplished. It is intended, to have a full report made widely available. Enhanced monitoring and reporting of activities will be an integral part of any fresh collaboration





Action for the Environment

are not limited to the publishing of conservation ads, improved community outreach and engagement through the design of an interactive BSAP list serve, planning for an innovative Conservation Services Website, public lectures, educational programmes and increased media coverage on conservation issues. An Environmental Youth Conference organised by the BSAP coordinating unit in collaboration with NGO's and experts in the field targeted youth delegates and teachers from all schools in the islands in an exciting and full programme of environmental learning.

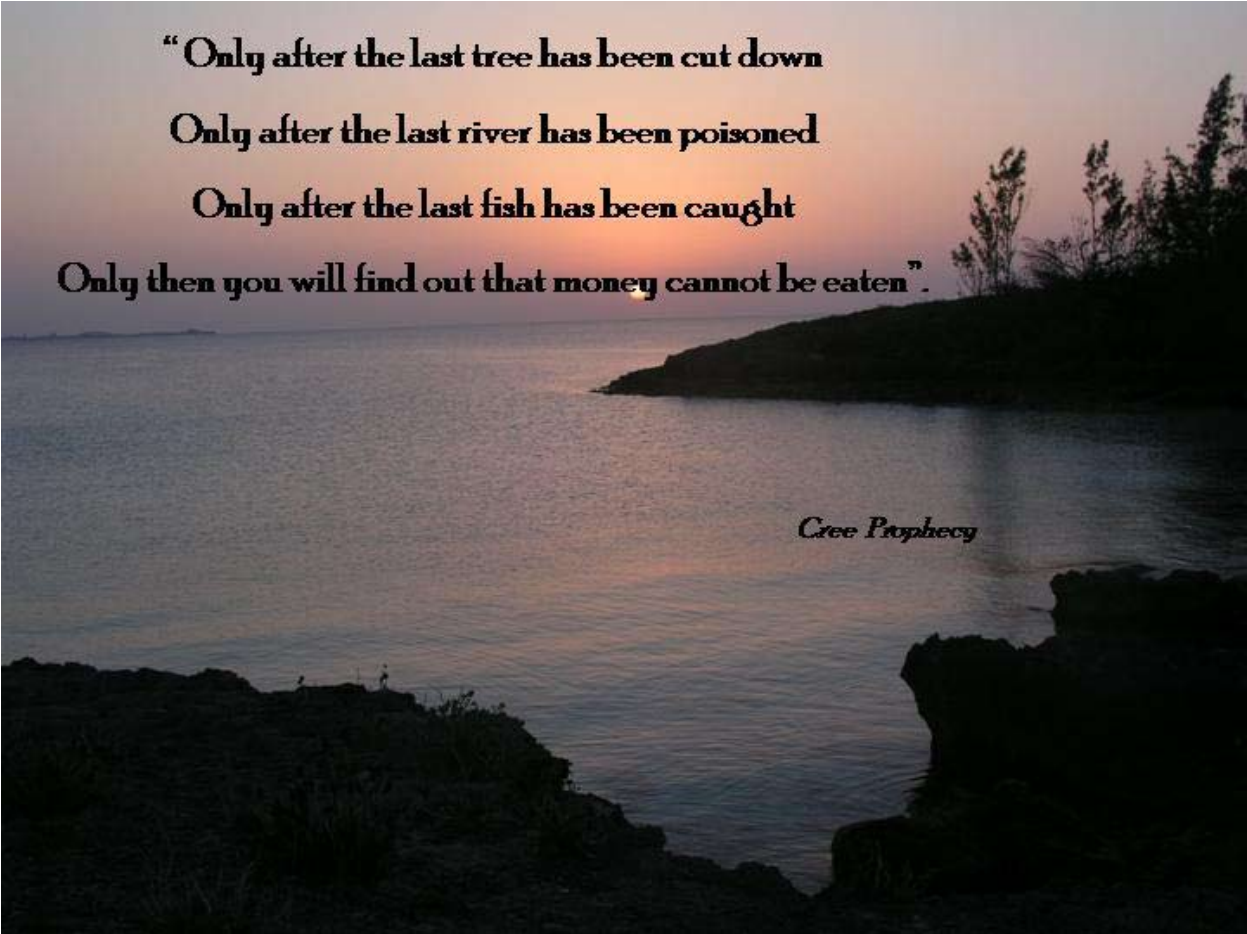
Action for the environment as outlined in the BSAP is the driving force behind a group of volunteers who meet regularly to serve the environmental community under the BSAP coordinator.

A BSAP Steering Committee has been established and meets regularly to guide the direction of the BSAP. They will review financial plans and programmes, identify priority actions moving forward; supervise BSAP's

performance and the process of receiving and dispersing funds.

A major boost toward the implementation of the BSAP and the Environmental Charter was Bermuda Governments announcement in January of 2006 to take receipt of the draft Sustainable Development Plan for Bermuda. In June of 2006 the Draft Sustainable Development Strategy and Implementation Plan for Bermuda was released and the public consultation phase launched. The BSAP has been embraced as a pillar of that plan. This recent development ensures central Government support in promoting and monitoring the success of the BSAP.

There is no doubt that there is an environmental awakening emerging in Bermuda and we hope that the BSAP will be the tool that brings this awakening to an island-wide change in behaviours that will benefit our precious biodiversity.



**“ Only after the last tree has been cut down
Only after the last river has been poisoned
Only after the last fish has been caught
Only then you will find out that money cannot be eaten”.**

Cree Prophecy

Tristan da Cunha Biodiversity Action Plan 2006-2010

Simon Glass, Conservation Officer, Tristan da Cunha



Glass, S. 2007. Tristan da Cunha Biodiversity Action Plan 2006-2010. pp 91-92 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

A presentation was given on the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Tristan. The presentation gave a brief outline of the BAP and outlined what issues went well with the BAP and what did not go so well, as well as lessons learnt.

Simon Glass, Conservation Officer, Government of Tristan da Cunha, Tristan da Cunha. tdcenquiries@stratosnet.com



Background

The biodiversity of Tristan is of global importance and faces significant threats. At the same time livelihoods (fishing, tourism) on Tristan are dependent on the conservation of its natural assets. The purpose of the Darwin project was to strengthen local capacity on Tristan so that biodiversity is conserved and therefore livelihoods secured in the long-term.



Vision

The vision is to enable the people of Tristan da Cunha, in partnership with organisations from around the world, specifically UK and South Africa, to halt or in the case of some species and habitats, reverse the rate

of biodiversity decline on Tristan.

Objectives

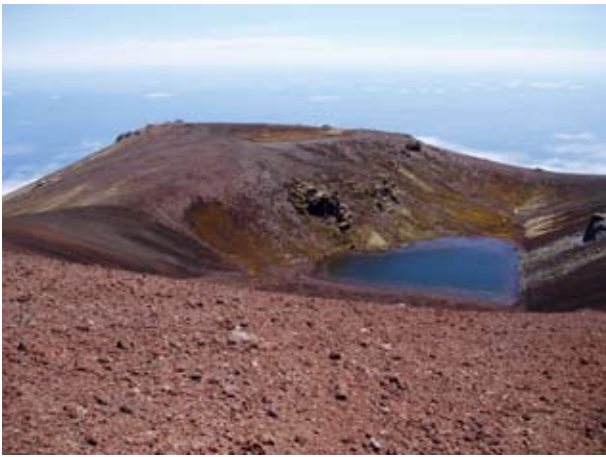
1. Conservation is integrated into all Government programmes, policies and plans.
2. Support for biodiversity conservation is strengthened on Tristan.
3. Tristanians have the capacity to manage biodiversity effectively.
4. The impact of invasive alien species is reduced or eliminated.



5. The sustainable use and management of the marine environment is enhanced.
6. The knowledge of Tristan's key habitats and species is increased.

Achievements and lessons

A major achievement of the project is that Tristan is now in a stronger position to manage effec-



two summers, which was changed in the third year. They had to learn new methods within a period of three months. It is important that methods are agreed at the start of a project and stay the same to avoid confusion among fieldworkers.



tively its biodiversity. A biodiversity action plan is prepared, an environment fund established, conservation laws have been revised, a conservation office is under construction, a satellite communication system is in place and Tristanians have been trained. The Government has demonstrated its commitment to biodiversity by employing a local conservation officer full time to take forward proposals in the BAP. Another major achievement is that the entire population were aware of the project. Every family has had the opportunity to be involved.

Activities that did not go so well was the establishment of the monitoring systems. Fieldworkers were trained to use one method of monitoring for

The main lessons learnt were it took more time than expected to conduct fieldwork because of the terrain and climate. Also it will not be possible for the Tristan Island Government alone to carry out all the activities set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan - some external assistance is required for bigger projects such as rodent eradication and the continuation of the invertebrate survey.

An approach to strategic environmental planning in a Crown Dependency

Roland Gauvain, Alderney Wildlife Trust



Gauvain, R. 2007. An approach to strategic environmental planning in a Crown Dependency. pp 93-94 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

The presentation placed Alderney within the structure of the Crown Dependencies, and outlined Alderney's current position in regards to environmental legislation, policy and strategy. It then considered the potential for making use of the Environmental Charter framework, covering the Trust's /States [Government] of Alderney's plans to use the Charter as a policy framework to help with the development of local strategic planning - as well as the potential for the long-term integration within this of, for example, the Ramsar Management Strategy.

Roland Gauvain, Alderney Wildlife Trust, 34 Victoria Street, St Anne, Alderney GY93TA, Channel Islands. manager@alderneywildlife.org

An Overview

Alderney is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Alderney is self-governing apart from some key services managed by the Bailiwick. The main island is 9 km² of land but Alderney owns and controls its own seabed of 150 km². The human population is 2400.



What's Missing on Alderney

Local government has no formal responsibility for its environment. Consequently, there is as yet no policy framework. There is one bird protection act. Otherwise, there is no environmental or environmental impact assessment (EIA) legislation.





There is no island plan, economic, social, building or environment. There is no civil servant with a responsibility for the environment

Alderney is included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species, but not to most other relevant multilateral environmental agreements. Under the Ramsar Convention, Alderney recently designated the first Wetland of International Importance in the Bailiwick.

Finding A Way In

The Alderney Wildlife Trust was formed in 2002 to start to rectify the imbalance.

The government has acknowledged the need for environmental protection and the EIA concept has



been accepted in green-belt planning issues

An Environmental Charter

Alderney is using the UKOT example of Environment Charters to drive forward a process. However, this is being done in isolation by government and NGO in Alderney, without support from the UK Government or the Bailiwick of Guernsey support

The Environmental Charter is being used as a statement of intent in a new island plan, linking environment with all other aspects of island life. The process is running parallel to the development of the Marine Consents Act, which includes an EIA framework.



Multilateral Environmental Agreements and UKOTs/CDs - a need for more guidance?

Elizabeth Charter, Head of Isle of Man Wildlife & Conservation Division



Charter, E. 2007. Multilateral Environmental Agreements and UKOTs/CDs - a need for more guidance? pp 95-97 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

Some of the internationally most important wildlife on British soil (and waters) is in Overseas Territories. As such we need to use the international agreements system to protect it. Despite help which has been given to assist territories in meeting the obligations of the agreements to which they have signed up, there is still scope to raise the profile of conservation in some places and to raise awareness of the importance of the unique and endemic wildlife present. It is difficult for islands which are non-sovereign states to be players on their own in international conservation. I am all too aware how familiarity with rare or internationally important species and habitats on the Isle of Man leads to reduced sense of urgency in conserving them. In this short presentation, several questions are raised for colleagues to consider, including:

Which key agreements?

How do these conventions work and what do they all aim to do?

How should they be used by Governments?

How can they be used by NGOs?

How can the HM Govt help, and what would participants like to see in the way of support for international level conservation?

Elizabeth Charter, BSc, MSc, MIEEM, Senior Wildlife and Conservation Officer, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Isle of Man Government, Knockaloe, Patrick Peel IM5 3AJ, Isle of Man. liz.charter@gov.im

Introduction

The purpose of this short presentation is to identify ways in which the Isle of Man has sought guidance on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and ask what would be useful to other islands.

Despite help which has been given to assist territories in meeting the obligations of the agreements to which they have signed up, there is still scope to raise the profile of conservation in some places and to raise awareness of the importance of the unique and endemic wildlife present. The Isle of Man, like Jersey, is without an Environmental Charter, but finds the MEAs very valuable to provide the drivers for conservation.

Some key agreements

Before the Wildlife Office was established

in 1998, the Island had agreed to the UK ratification being extended to the Island for a number of agreements, including Ramsar and Bonn (Convention on Migratory Species). It has taken some time to start to comply with the Ramsar, but last month the first Ramsar site at Ballaugh Curragh was formally launched. We have been working towards having a



wetland inventory, and currently there is a database officer working on that project. In addition, it has been enormously valuable to be able to accompany the UK delegation to the Ramsar Conferences of Parties.

The Island has yet to embrace the Convention on Biological Diversity. At the suggestion of a Defra officer, we invited the World Conservation Monitoring Centre to undertake an evaluation of what we were doing and what we had still to do to comply. We found we were already well down the road to meeting the requirements. In view of the aspirational nature of this convention, it is possible to sign up and work towards compliance slowly as resources become available. The question we are facing, and which may arise elsewhere, is: is it better to become a signatory without resources and trust that resources will be come available after signing, or wait for agreement to commit resources before recommending signing?

Complying with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) requirements when not in the EU but part of a common trading area has created a particular difficulty for the Isle of Man. It is a difficulty which we have still to resolve, and we are requesting a bilateral agreement

with the EU to enable us to be treated as part of the EU for the purpose of CITES, while agreeing to adopt mirror legislation.

Obtaining international recognition for the habitats and species present on the Isle of Man is important – but to Overseas Territories, which have some of the internationally most important wildlife on British soil (and waters), it is even more significant. We need to use the International agreements system to protect it. However it is difficult for islands which are non-sovereign states to be players on their own in international conservation.

How do these conventions work and what do they all aim to do?

For those here who are less familiar with how these conventions work this is a very brief summary.

Convention text are made up of articles, ratified once there are enough signatories. Resolutions from conferences (usually every 3 years) on key subject areas develop, expand on, and provide guidance on the intentions in the articles. National reporting takes place to identify how intentions are being followed through with action.

Inclusion of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies in some key multilateral environmental agreements

Territory	WHC	Ramsar	CITES	CBD	CMS	ASCOBANS	ACAP	AEWA	Eurobats	Turtles
Bailiwick of Jersey	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	-	?	yes	n/a
Bailiwick of Guernsey	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no	-	?	yes	n/a
Isle of Man	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	n/a
Anguilla	yes	yes	no	no	no	n/a	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bermuda	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
British Antarctic Territory	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a
British Indian Ocean Territory	no	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	-	n/a	n/a	yes
British Virgin Islands	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cayman Is	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	yes	yes	?	?	yes	n/a	n/a	?	?	n/a
Falkland Is	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gibraltar	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	-	-	yes	n/a
Montserrat		yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pitcairn Island	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
St Helena, Tristan da Cunha & Ascension Island	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes (TdC)	no	n/a	n/a
South Georgia & South Sandwich Is	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a
Turks & Caicos Is	yes	yes	no	no	yes	n/a	-	n/a	n/a	n/a

WHC = World Heritage Convention

Ramsar = Convention on Wetlands

CITES = Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

CBD = Convention on Biological Diversity

CMS = Bonn Convention on Migratory Species; the following are Agreements under that Convention:

ASCOBANS = Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Sea

ACAP = Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

AEWA = Agreement on the African Eurasian Waterbirds

Eurobats = Bats in Europe

Turtles = Indian Ocean Turtle MOU

HM Government is the contracting party and it extends the UK's ratification to a territory if the territory's government request it.

MEAs are more or less dependent on the voluntary approach by the parties signing up to intentions, enacting these intentions and then reporting on their progress. Most articles commit countries to putting in place legislation to protect species and habitats, both in situ and from trade.

How should they be used by Governments?

Contracting governments are expected to bring in legislation, enforce this legislation and report on how effective they have been in dealing with the conservation issue. These agreements need to be referred to in a Territory's strategic documents such as planning strategies, Environmental Charters, land use strategies and policies.

UK authorities report for all Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, and attend Conferences of Parties representing them as well as metropolitan UK. The ways in which Territory's progress and actions are included in national reports is an area for discussion.

How can they be used by NGOs?

The non governmental organisations which are familiar with the requirements of these conventions can remind politicians of the commitments they have made. They also have a role in reminding governments at reporting time of the good work done locally by all the partners in conservation projects which meets the convention's objectives.

Is there a case for more guidance from HMG?

It is suggested that HM Government departments and agencies should be keeping up the dialogue on what contracting parties should be doing, and providing resources to train personnel and establish management systems (capacity building). Critical stages in conservation which are often not recognised by authorities, and therefore need encouraging are:

- quality biological databases and mapping systems,
- value of field personnel with identification skills, and

- local people with habitat management knowledge and skills.

HM Government has a role in ensuring a meaningful reporting process is developed, using reporting formats which are as clear as possible and avoid too much overlap between different agreements. There are opportunities to contract UKOTCF, IUCN or other organisations to advise, undertake reviews (e.g. recently on Ramsar), chase potential funding sources, organise workshops, and perhaps coordinate volunteer support.

Opening this to the whole conference, what would delegates like to see in the way of support for international level conservation?

Other sources of guidance

CBD assessment:

<http://www2.wcmc.org.uk/cbd/assessment/index.html>

Harmonisation of reporting:

<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/conventions/harmonization/index.htm>

Poster: Pitcairn Islands Environmental Management Plan

Noeleen Smyth, Steve Waldren, Jim Martin, Botanical, Environmental & Conservation Consultants and Naomi Kingston, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Republic of Ireland



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Pitcairn Island, a member of the Pitcairn Group, is located in the South Pacific Ocean. The island is remote, with a small population and a relatively underdeveloped infrastructure. The flora of Pitcairn is unique, with a number of endemic and endangered species. Challenges exist for nature conservation on the island, including invasive non-native species, soil erosion and infrastructural development issues. Careful environmental management is needed to ensure sustainable development.

Environmental Management Plans are a necessity in the modern age as they promote the integration of environment with planning and development issues. The aim of this project is to deliver an Environmental Management Plan for the Pitcairn group by the end of 2006. This Environmental Management Plan will enable sustainable development to proceed alongside environmental protection and conservation of local natural resources. It will provide the framework by which all activities that impinge on the environment can be regulated to the benefit of the people of Pitcairn Island and HM Government.

BEC Consultants are sourcing information on policy issues, legislation and island practices and are working in conjunction with the stakeholders to prioritize the current and anticipated environmental concerns. The first draft Environmental Management Plan for the Pitcairn group is currently available from: pitcairncharter@yahoo.ie.

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Pitcairn Islands Environment Management Plan



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Facts and Figures

- Pitcairn Group consists of four islands – Pitcairn, Henderson, Oeno & Ducie (Fig. 1). Total land area is 43km²
- Pitcairn Island is the only currently inhabited island in the group with a population of 48 people descendants of the "Bounty" Mutineers. Pitcairn, Oeno & Henderson had former periods of Polynesian occupation
- All islands in the group are volcanic in origin with Oeno, Henderson and Ducie having developed carbonate caps and formed atolls.
- Priority Bird area (Birdlife International)
- 162 species of native vascular plants (20 of which are endemic) and 250 introduced species.

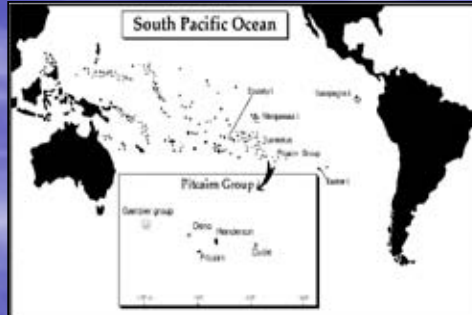
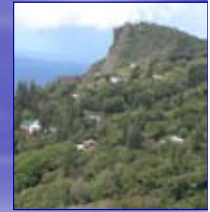


Figure 1: Location of the Pitcairn Island group in the South Central Pacific Ocean



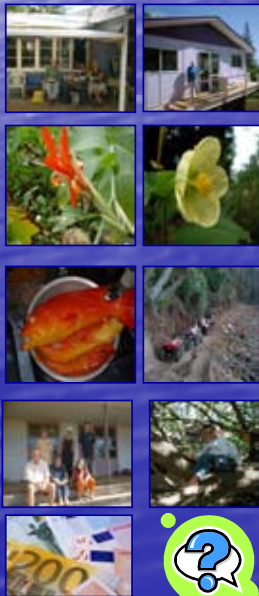
Pitcairn Island – view over sole settlement at Adamstown

Process in developing the Environment Management Plan

- Environment Charter Guiding principles
- Existing Environmental Legislation
- Stakeholder consultation



Pitcairn Islands Environment Management Plan (PEMP)



- Land use guidelines
- Housing guidelines
- Water & waste disposal guidelines
- Conservation of threatened species
- Control of invasive species
- Designation of protected areas
- Habitat restoration
- Environment impact assessment
- Energy production
- Local produce and souvenirs
- Tourism
- Infrastructure
- Fisheries and the Marine
- Environmental awareness campaign
- Environmental education in school
- Formation of a committee
- Funding to support PEMP actions

1. Social & Economic Planning
2. Habitats, Species & Landscape Planning
3. Environment & Development planning
4. Environmental education and awareness
5. PEMP Implementation & Legal Provision



Henderson Island – raised coral atoll, a World Heritage Site



Ducie Island – coral atoll



Oeno Island – coral atoll

Fulfilling HMG commitments - Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Helen Nellthorp, Deputy Head of Overseas Territories Department, and Shaun Earl, Overseas Territories Environment Programme Manager, OTD, Foreign & Commonwealth Office



Nellthorp, H. & Earl, S. 2007. Fulfilling HMG commitments - Foreign and Commonwealth Office. p 100 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

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We are representing the FCO's Overseas Territories Department. UK government has agreed ten international strategic priorities (SPs). Under SP10, the FCO leads on co-ordinating HMG's responsibility, as set out in the 1999 White Paper on the Overseas Territories, for the security and good governance in the Overseas Territories.

As part of our work on this priority, we support the UK Overseas Territories in their implementation of international obligations, and support their sustainable long-term development.

Since the start of this financial year (2006-7), our programme work in the UKOTs has had a more strategic focus. The UK OT Environment Programme (OTEP) is now part of a larger UK OT Programme Fund (OTPF) of £4.8m. OTPF funds a wide range of projects and programmes supporting sustainable development.

The FCO remains strongly committed to supporting the UKOTs' work on the environment. This is shown by our continued support to OTEP. We have ring-fenced funds of £469,000 per annum. We are also prepared to consider good quality environment-related programmes, particularly those with a regional focus and evidence of UKOT government support, for funding under the wider OTPF.

The most recent OTEP bidding round focuses on: environmental governance; capacity building; invasive species; and climate change.

Under the Environment Charters, the UK Government and respective UKOT Governments have made joint commitments to *inter alia*: recognise

that all people can help to conserve and sustain their environment; to aim for solutions which benefit both the environment and development; to contribute to the protection and improvement of the global environment; and safeguard and restore native species and habitats.

We were interested to see Mike Pienkowski's presentation at the start of this session. As a starting point for our discussions today it would have been helpful if you had consulted FCO, DFID and DEFRA about our progress on our Charter commitments. A number of the UK Government commitments are to assist or facilitate UKOT Governments – who of course have the lead responsibility for their environment and government policies.

For the last three years, OTEP has funded projects in all these areas. Before that, the FCO's Environment Fund also contributed. But many of the charter commitments do not require large amounts of funding before they can be implemented. Most require a moral commitment from governments and civil society to ensure that environmental considerations are mainstreamed into all policies. We hope that this week's conference will contribute to this process. We also hope that the sharing of best practice and experiences will be invaluable for UKOT environmental experts.

The FCO and DFID are pleased that OTEP is a partner in this conference we hope it leads to some measurable outcomes in implementation of the Environment Charters, and ensuring a better understanding of progress on commitments. We look forward to continuing to work closely with all stakeholders.

Fulfilling HMG commitments - Department for International Development

Phil Mason, Head of Overseas Territories Department, and Dick Beales, Senior Natural Resources & Environment Adviser, Department for International Development



Mason, P. & Beales, R. 2007. Fulfilling HMG commitments - Department for International Development. pp 101-102 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

DFID's Overseas Territories Department (OTD) aims to meet the reasonable development needs of the UK Overseas Territories and to promote their self-sufficiency. It draws its mandate from a combination of DFID's 1997 White Paper: *Eliminating World Poverty: A Challenge for the 21st Century*; the FCO's 1999 White Paper: *Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories* and the International Development Act 2002 (which expressly provides for assistance to the territories as an exception to the poverty-reduction criterion that applies to all other DFID assistance).

The main targets for its annual budget (approximately £30 million) are the territories of Montserrat and St Helena, and to a lesser extent Pitcairn Islands and Tristan da Cunha. The Department also has a regional programme supporting of a range of activities common to several territories, including HIV and AIDS prevention, law revision, human rights, child protection, and environmental conservation. Support for the last of these is provided mainly through the joint DFID/FCO Overseas Territories Environment Programme to which DFID allocated £1.5 million for the three year period 2003/04-2006/07.

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I am really pleased to have been invited to this, my first, UKOTCF conference. I thought I could best contribute by saying a few words, for those who may not know how DFID comes into the picture, about DFID's mandate and the basis for our engagement with the Overseas Territories generally.

DFID (and HMG) policy towards the UKOTs derives from the international moral and legal responsibilities of sovereign governments towards their Territories. In particular, Article 73 of the UN Charter requires governments to accept, as a sacred trust, the obligation "to promote to the utmost ... the well-being of the inhabitants of these territories". This is the ultimate foundation of our responsibilities.

This obligation also carries or implies a wide range of international legal and reporting obligations for which, under international law, HMG is ultimately

responsible on behalf of the UKOTs. These include international norms and commitments on, for example, the environment.

DFID is governed by a specific piece of legislation - the International Development Act 2002. The main purpose of this Act was to ensure that development assistance is used primarily for poverty reduction purposes. However, in recognition of our obligations to, and the special circumstances of, UKOTs, the Act includes an explicit provision enabling DFID to support the UKOTs as an exception to our normal poverty reduction mandate.

The prevailing policy framework for DFID's engagement comprises the three key development objectives for the UKOTs reflected in the Government's 1999 White Paper. These are:

a) to maximise economic growth and self-suf-

iciency through sensible economic and financial management, leading to graduation from such support where this objective is feasible;

b) to ensure in the meantime that basic needs are met, including the provision of essential infrastructure; and

c) to support the good governance of the territories, including the proper management of contingent liabilities and the fulfilment of the UK's international obligations - particularly of human rights and the multilateral environment agreements/obligations.

DFID's focus lies on the neediest territories (in terms of basic needs). We maintain full bilateral programmes with St Helena (including Tristan da Cunha), Montserrat and Pitcairn. Together, our programmes here currently amount to some £32m a year.

Our approach is very much one of partnership. We listen very carefully to what the needs are and respond accordingly. This is especially the case with our other channel of support which is how we reach most other territories: thematic cross-cutting programmes (in total around £1.6m) targeted on topics that are of common concern for all UKOTs: these include HIV/AIDS, human rights, child protection, law revision, disaster risk reduction - and, of course, the environment, manifested by the OTEP programme jointly with FCO.

On that, I am pleased to be able to announce confirmation that DFID will be supporting a new three-year round of OTEP, with a further £1.5m over the next three years carrying on when the existing one expires at the end of this FY.

As a relative newcomer to this family, I feel very welcome already. The territories are all unique in their own ways, and we try to respond accordingly. I know that financial constraints often bedevil us. I am looking at whether the way we approach the funding of the UKOT programmes we have delivers the optimal outcomes. I have in mind situations where expenditure spikes, for example on urgent infrastructure, cannot be met under existing programme ceilings with that leading to us spending a sub-optimal

amount - because that is what we can afford in the budget - and then having to spend more later because we could not do the job in full the first time round, with the result that we can often end up spending in aggregate more than what the original requirement was.

We might be able to manage these demands better if we took a longer perspective than the three years we currently are obliged to work to. I am exploring the scope with my centre for possibly looking at 10-year horizons. This is very much work in progress, and does not offer a panacea for every challenge faced by UKOTs. But I hope we can work more responsively to iron out some evident obstacles that stand in the way of better outcomes.



Shaun Earl (FCO) and Dick Beales (DFID) at the poster displays

Fulfilling HMG commitments - Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Eric Blencowe, Head Zoos & International Species Conservation, Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs



Blencowe, E. 2007. Fulfilling HMG commitments - Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. pp 103-104 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

This presentation reviews progress on implementation of the Environment Charters since their signing in September 2001. It also gives a read-out of the UK government's priorities for the coming year, as agreed at the February meeting of the Whitehall Group on UKOT Environment Charters. The presentation provides an opportunity to explore strategies for strengthening stakeholder participation in, and implementation of, the Environment Charters. It explains the various funding avenues available to the UKOTs for environmental projects, and gives a progress report on the current FCO Environment Fund bidding round.

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It is a particular pleasure to be here in Jersey, the home of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, and I shall certainly be taking the opportunity to spend some time there.

I have been asked to say something about Defra's mandate. I want to outline how the biodiversity element of Environment Charters fits with Defra's remit, then give some examples of how we work with others to achieve our biodiversity aims, and finally give some pointers on what you might expect from us in the future.

Defra is a large department with a diverse range of priorities including climate change, sustainable farming, sustainable consumption and production, animal health and welfare, rural issues and of course natural resource protection.

For any of you who have read Defra's 2006 Annual report (and I suspect that is virtually all of you!), you will know that it states that Defra works for the essentials of life – food, air, land, water, people, animals and plants. One of its aims is to secure a better environment at home and internationally through the sustainable use of natural resources. And this is the hook for Defra's work in the area of biodiversity.

So what does this mean for the UKOTs and CDs?

I am sure that you are all aware of the UK government's commitments on the World Summit on Sustainable Development target to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010. This target is the main driver for our work.

One vehicle for addressing the 2010 target is through our membership of Multilateral Environment Agreements or MEAs.

One such MEA is the Convention on Migratory Species or CMS, and in a number of cases our interests in CMS daughter agreements are founded entirely on the UKOTs. The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) is one; the Marine Turtle MoU covering the Indian Ocean and South East Asia (including BIOT) another. Through these bodies we can direct expertise and funding to help bring about conservation gain.

A specific example is where Defra (through ACAP) and the FCO jointly funded a population census for petrels in South Georgia last year.

And, of course, UK membership of these MEAs is very much a two-way process. We receive much from you; our national reports for example are always well received, and this is very much down to your input. In addition you have informed our

positions at international meetings and have been members of UK delegations.

Of course, there are also areas where Defra acts unilaterally, through its various funding schemes.

You will all be aware of the Darwin Initiative, which focuses on capacity building and seeks to achieve real impact and legacy for biodiversity conservation. A number of highly successful projects have been funded in the UK Overseas Territories and applications from UKOTs are looked on favourably in the application process. To date, over £1.5 million has been used to fund UKOT projects.

A more recent initiative is the WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) Implementation Fund. This fund seeks to accelerate implementation of the UK's WSSD commitments in areas where Defra leads. For example, a capacity building workshop was held earlier this year in Montserrat on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, with Kew Gardens and JNCC the key partners.

A smaller scale initiative worth mentioning is the Defra/FFI Flagship Species Fund. Its focus is primarily on primates, trees and marine turtles. For example, a marine turtle habitat restoration project in BIOT was carried out this year with support from both the FSF and OTEP. The FSF also oper-

ates a small grants fund whereby very small scale start-up projects can apply for funding through open-competition.

So what can you expect from Defra in the future?

Our grant regimes will continue to be available. Our work will continue to be based around the MEAs to bring about conservation benefits as well as tapping into the shared global expertise that membership brings.

Where we can we will support practical conservation projects through these agreements. However, our pot is limited, and the prospect of a significant funding increase for biodiversity is unlikely in the near future.

Instead we need to continue to work together to find creative solutions to the challenges we face.



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Fulfilling HMG commitments - JNCC's involvement in supporting implementation of Environment Charters in the Overseas Territories

Marcus Yeo, Director Resources & External Affairs, and Dr Vin Fleming, Head - International Unit / CITES Scientific Authority (Fauna), Joint Nature Conservation Committee



Yeo, M. & Fleming, V. 2007. Fulfilling HMG commitments - JNCC's involvement in supporting implementation of Environment Charters in the Overseas Territories. pp 105-106 in *Biodiversity That Matters: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Jersey 6th to 12th October 2006* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

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JNCC advises the UK Government on nature conservation issues affecting the whole of the UK and internationally. As part of this remit one of our strategic objectives is to 'promote measures that effectively protect and enhance biological and geological diversity in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies'.

JNCC's current role in supporting nature conservation, and the implementation of Environment Charters, in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (hereafter referred to collectively as the 'Territories'), is modest. Examples of our input include advising on the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), participating in the advisory panel to the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, and commissioning a review of non-native species occurring in the Territories.

However, enhanced support for nature conservation in the Territories is essential if the UK is to meet its international commitments, such as significantly reducing the rate of global biodiversity loss by 2010, and we feel JNCC has an important contribution to make in assisting the UK to achieve this.

It is proposed that JNCC's future role should be:

- to engage at a greater level with strategic cross-territory issues
- to seek greater direct involvement with in-Territory projects, especially where these have a

broader application than to a single Territory alone and/or which would have wider applicability or contribute to capacity building

However, we recognise that any involvement by JNCC should:

- a) be built on collaboration and partnership with the Territories and other stakeholders,
- b) address subjects of mutual interest and
- c) focus on areas where JNCC involvement can add significant value (i.e. be based on our key strengths).

We need also to focus on those issues which are of greatest relevance to conservation in the Territories, such as non-native species or climate change, and, of course, should be guided by the Environment Charters or equivalents.

Potential examples of where JNCC might contribute include:

- stronger support to the implementation of MEAs in the Territories
- marine issues, especially fisheries, marine habitat mapping, seabirds and cetaceans, and the strategic and environmental impact assessments of offshore oil and gas exploration
- biodiversity surveillance and monitoring, including the development of indicators and management of biodiversity information
- climate change, including predicting/modelling potential impacts on the Territories' biodiversity, risk assessment, and measures that may be used to mitigate or adapt to these impacts

- the Ecosystem Approach and its application as a framework for sustainable development
- non-native species, including audit, prioritising species for control or eradication, and identification of preventative measures
- economic valuation of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services
- Earth heritage conservation, including the potential for an overview of geodiversity interests within Territories.

We look forward to exploring how JNCC might assist Territories in the implementation of the Environment Charters.



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Discussion

Several rapporteurs noted the wide-ranging discussions in this session. Some of the main points are noted here.

There was widespread agreement that the assessing of progress in implementing the Commitments under the Environment Charters (or their equivalents such as National Environment Management Strategies or others) was important if there is to be real progress. There was concern that less information had been supplied than would be desirable. There was some discussion of the difficulty in supplying information, although some of those who had already tried to supply such information from a territory said that it was not as difficult or time-consuming as it might look at first sight. Nevertheless, UKOTCF offered to develop a simpler data supply form. [This was done, resulting in a much fuller supply of information from the Territories, which has been incorporated in the updated report in this Topic section of these Proceedings.]

There was some discussion on what impedes progress on implementing good environmental practice in the Territories. Setting some clear, agreed objectives was a key, and several participants noted the value of facilitation (such as in Turks & Caicos and St Helena) in turning the commitments of Environmental Charters, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) etc into operational activities. Once an action plan is agreed, what is needed to implement it? Some key elements identified are:

- The need for continued strong collaborative involvement of all players, governmental and non-governmental;
- The need for a post with the full-time role of co-ordinating between the players to drive the implementation forward;
- The need for maintained political support, and the recognition that implementation should be integrated fully into all activities, including those of Government;
- The need for financial resources (see also below).

Participants from some (but not all) territories noted that there remain challenges also in achieving an open approach to policy development, environmental planning, environmental impact assessments etc.

In respect of joining MEAs, there was some debate as to whether it is better to sign up to MEAs when one does not now have the resources

to implement (and resources will follow) or wait until the resources are available. There were strong arguments from the Territories in both directions. Perhaps the best answer is a variable approach. Some MEAs (such as CITES) have very precise requirements, so that it is necessary to implement in full on joining and have the resources to do so. Others (such as the Convention on Biological Diversity) include more aspirational (and probably no country is yet implementing everything in it), expecting increasing implementation with time, so that early sign-up may be more appropriate. Analyses can be undertaken identifying the needs and allowing countries to deal with the issues incrementally (as, indeed, was part of the analysis process in developing strategies for implementation of the Environment Charters for those countries that have done this).

There were a series of questions on:

- Why is so little spent by UK Government on the UKOTs and CDs?
- Is there an assessment by Whitehall on the needs to meet its international commitments in the UKOTs and CDs?
- How does Defra decide on its financial commitment (or lack of it) to UKOTs and CDs?
- Why is the small project funding in OTEP often limited to 2-year projects at most, when much of the work to meet Environment Charter commitments needs a longer time-frame?
- Why is it that there is a change in OTEP's focus as opposed to the issues addressed within the Environment Charter?
- Invasive (and other) issues are central to many commitments but can cost millions in implementation – where can a UKOT go to address the bigger issues of invasives in terms of funding?

It was noted that there has been no assessment to meet World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) commitments. There was an acknowledgement of the low spend, but it was noted that officials cannot address the differences; it requires decisions by UK politicians.

In respect of Defra, it was noted that all priorities are set by Ministers in consultation with scientific authorities and public campaigns. It was thought that there was no consultation with UKOTs or CDs.

It was reported that OTEP's project timing is based on government's horizon of funding for three years. It was noted that it would be better if this

was a moving horizon, allowing a proportion of longer-term commitment. The possibility of an exploration for longer-term funding (perhaps a 10-year horizon) was widely welcomed.

On OTEP's focus, the independent review of OTEP had recommended an attempt to focus this more. In practice, OTEP projects often depend on opportunities for matching effort, in kind if not in money, and the timing of availability of this is variable. It is not now expected that any focusing will restrict OTEP from addressing any elements of the Environment Charters.

On work, such as Invasive issues, requiring higher levels of funding, no answer was provided. However, 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.

There was a deal of concern that the built and cultural heritage is becoming threatened by events, but does not benefit even from the small grants from UK Government available for the natural heritage. DFID noted that the amounts of money which might be needed in support of the built heritage could be huge, and well beyond the scope of OTEP. Some asked: are there opportunities for discussion with UK's Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)? It was suggested that DCMS does not have a mandate to deal with UKOTs (although it does lead, for example, on the World Heritage Convention, including for UKOTs & CDs). It was noted that tourism strategies are possible for the two UKOTs (St Helena and Montserrat) that can access programmatic assistance from DFID within the bilateral framework.

It was noted that other UK government departments are also involved, for example the Department of Constitutional Affairs (formerly the Lord Chancellor's Office and previously in the Home Office [and since the conference translated into Justice Department]), which is UK Government's link to the Crown Dependencies. The question was raised as to whether the Department of Constitutional Affairs and DCMS had been invited to the conference. They had, but had not responded to the invitations.

The question was raised as to how the UKOTs and CDs could be eligible for National Lottery funds? It was noted that this too came into DCMS responsibilities, but that the matter would be discussed

further in the Session on Resources, where we would learn about the better situation in the Netherlands.

It was noted that Bioverseas, involving UKOTCF in partnership with other umbrella organizations for French and Netherlands territories and European bodies, were working in parallel with governmental partners in OCTA, to encourage the opening of access to other European Union funds by UKOTs. This also would be explored further in the Resources session.

There was a general view from the Territories that DFID and FCO should work on an educational programme to sensitise other UK government departments.

When the UK reports on its MEA commitments, it has to include UKOTs and CDs. However, they have very limited capacity allocated to this, and have often requested, and received, unpaid assistance from UKOTCF, as well as the territories themselves. It was noted by the Territories that it was unfortunate that Defra had no focal point to interact with the UKOTs and CDs. The suggested answer of always working via FCO was not very helpful, because that simply involved a translation stage via an agency without technical knowledge of the subjects involved, especially since FCO had terminated its environmental posts.

In terms of Defra itself, it was noted that its declared focus on species and habitats did not really apply in its relationship with UKOTs and CDs. Domestic issues and international issues are dealt with separately in terms of funding, with UKOTs and CDs often falling into a gap between these. It was noted that, due to the asymmetry of British government arrangements, Defra is primarily an English department, which also has to take a domestic UK lead on some matters, and UKOTs and CDs represent yet another step. This leads to these being considered "international" – which seemed unfair and unreasonable to many present.

All participants were grateful to the panel for a welcome discussion. Inevitably, many of the questions had been directed at representatives of UK government bodies, and these were thanked particularly for discussing matters so constructively. The friendly and professional approach by all parties to the discussion was valued, even though it is difficult to give the impression of this in a brief summary of the discussions.