

Section 2: Progress on Environment Charter implementation

Co-ordinator: Mike Pienkowski (Chairman, UKOTCF)

Many conservation workers, both governmental and NGO, have stressed the importance of the Environment Charters to the UKOTs in providing a framework to encourage effective conservation measures, and stressed the need to assess progress against the Commitments made in these Charters (or international commitments more generally).

St Helena was one of the pioneers in making use of the Environment Charters, and UKOTCF is pleased to have been able to respond to their request to facilitate the development of their strategy for implementation. Isabel Peters, St Helena's Environmental Co-ordinator, outlines some lessons learnt in implementing a strategy for the Environment Charter.

This section includes also a poster on the more recent development of an environmental management strategy, the plan for the Pitcairn Islands, presented by Noeleen Smyth.

In the conference, the session was introduced by Catherine Quick outlining the process for updating of the UKOTCF-coordinated review of progress on implementing the Environment Charters. This included highlighting preliminary results of the review and encouraging further contributions. The preliminary results had been circulated in detail in the conference handbook. In these Proceedings, we combine the presentation with the review document, updated in the light of further information received.

Following this, main points from the resulting discussion are summarised. In order to follow up the points from the discussion, UKOTCF organised a further meeting later in 2009, and the report of this meeting is also included.



The panel for this session: From left:

Iain Orr (UKOTCF Council; formerly the FCO officer who drafted the environmental chapter of the 1999 White Paper on the relationship between UK and UKOTs and guided much of the work in setting up the Environment Charters and the the Environment Fund for the Overseas Territories, forerunner to OTEP);

Isabel Peters (Environmental Co-ordinator, St Helena Government)

Catherine Quick (UKOTCF Co-ordinator)

Mike Pienkowski (UKOTCF Chairman & Session Coordinator)

(Photo: Rob Thomas)

Progress and Problems in Implementing an Environment Charter Strategy: an example from St Helena

Isabel Peters (Environmental Coordinator, St Helena Government)



Isabel Peters
(Photo: Rob Thomas)

Peters, I. 2010. Progress and Problems in Implementing an Environment Charter Strategy: an example from St Helena. pp 54-57 in *Making the Right Connections: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Grand Cayman 30th May to 5th June 2009* (ed. by M. Pienkowski, O. Cheesman, C. Quick & A. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

The *Strategy for Action to Implement St Helena's Commitments under its Environment Charter* (hereafter referred to as the Strategy) was produced in 2004-5 through an active process of stakeholder involvement. The process was facilitated by Dr Mike Pienkowski and Mrs Ann Pienkowski (UKOTCF) and managed by the St Helena Government's Environmental Co-ordinator. The Strategy sets out elements of each Commitment of the Environment Charter, and lists 243 associated identified actual/ potential actions/ programmes with some 40 individuals/ Departments/ organisations responsible as lead bodies for taking these forward.

In the four years since the Strategy was formulated and endorsed, it is fair to say that we have made good progress in implementing the actions/ programmes listed in the Strategy with a fair number having been completed and many others in progress.

The Environment Charter itself and the Strategy are recognised as *the* strategic environmental documents, and reference is made to them in other key St Helena Government policy documents like the St Helena Sustainable Development Plan 2007/08 – 2009/10 (October 2007) and the Land Development Control Plan (December 2006). Broadly, aspects of the Environment Charter are included in Departmental and Organisational Business Plans, including (in some cases) specific actions from the Strategy.

However, there is no clear identified process for the implementation of the Strategy and much of it is done in an *ad hoc* manner. It was recognised fairly early after endorsement that the Strategy is a large document that in its current (original) format is rather unwieldy to use and hence implement. A review of the Strategy including its format and presentation is needed to ensure it is more accessible and user friendly, and this will be a key activity for this financial year. Alongside this, we also need to design and establish a robust monitoring system to ensure that we can quickly and easily ascertain our progress.

This paper provides an overview of how we formulated the Strategy; how we now use it; our progress in implementing the Environment Charter generally and the Strategy specifically. and the key problems we have faced and lessons learnt from this.

It is hoped that, through sharing our experiences, this will help (in some small way) others responsible for implementing Environment Charters and/or preparing Strategies for implementation. In turn, it is hoped that ensuing discussions will generate useful ideas that we can consider and apply when reviewing and revamping our Strategy on St Helena.

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Formulating the Strategy

The *Strategy for Action to Implement St Helena's Commitments under its Environment Charter* (hereinafter referred to as the *Strategy*) was produced in 2004-5 through an active process of stakeholder involvement. The process was facilitated by Dr Mike Pienkowski and Mrs Ann Pienkowski (UKOTCF) and managed by the St Helena Government's Environmental Co-ordinator.

The *Strategy* breaks down each Commitment of the Environment Charter into elements, and lists 243 associated identified actual or potential actions or programmes with some 40 individuals, Departments or organisations responsible as lead bodies for taking these forward.

Reviewing Implementation

It has been recognised for some time that the *Strategy* is in need of a review. Unfortunately, other competing priorities and a lack of resources, including time, have meant that this has not yet happened. However, being asked to prepare this paper prompted myself and others to take a long, hard look at what was working and what wasn't in terms of implementing the *Strategy*.

In preparation for this paper, I did an exercise among all those listed in the *Strategy* as being lead bodies for implementing the actual or potential actions or programmes to ascertain: the general awareness of the *Strategy*; what elements of the *Strategy* were incorporated in Departments' or organisations' business plans; how much progress had been made in actively implementing the *Strategy*; how progress was monitored and whether the *Strategy* as a document was considered user-friendly. Responses to these questions are incorporated in this paper and will form a useful starting point when we begin our Review.

General Awareness of the Environment Charter and the Strategy

Generally, there is a broad awareness of needing to consider environmental issues at all levels, but there is not always a full understanding of what this all means or, indeed, the will to deliver in the light of other competing priorities. When it comes to the crunch, environmental issues often take second place to financial and economic constraints.

Although there is general awareness of the exist-

ence of the Environment Charter and the *Strategy*, those directly involved in environmental, conservation or natural resource issues are more aware than those not directly involved. Those who do not work in environment-related fields know very little about the Environment Charter beyond its existence. High staff-turnover in recent years has also meant that staff who took up post after the formulation of the *Strategy* and the initial active promotion of it are often not aware of it; this is particularly the case in government Sections where all staff members are new. Turnover has meant that some Sections have all new staff members when compared to the time of formulating the *Strategy* in 2004/5.

The success of the implementation of the *Strategy* is therefore dependent on, first and foremost, an awareness of it among all stakeholders. This can be achieved only through regular and ongoing promotion and awareness-raising, of its existence and key aims and objectives, to those responsible for implementing it and the St Helena community as a whole.

How the Environment Charter and Strategy fit into St Helena Government Policy and the Strategic Framework

The Environment Charter itself and the accompanying *Strategy* are recognised as *the* strategic environmental documents; reference is made to them in other key St Helena Government policy documents, like the *St Helena Sustainable Development Plan 2007/08 – 2009/10* (October 2007) and the *Land Development Control Plan* (December 2006).

However, although mentioned and referred to, it is not always evident that there is full understanding of what it all means and the implications of actually implementing the *Strategy* across the board in everyday business.

How the Environment Charter and Strategy are Implemented

Broadly, aspects of the Environment Charter are included in Departmental and organisational business plans, including (in some cases) specific actions from the *Strategy*, particularly for those Departments that are lead bodies for actions listed in the *Strategy*. However, there is no clearly identified process for the implementation of the *Strategy*, and much of it is done in an *ad hoc* manner. Indeed, in some cases, implementation is occurring

by default, as actions listed in the *Strategy* are being done as part of normal business, or have been identified by other needs or priorities. There has also been more progress in implementing activities that have a defined lead body or bodies than for the broader activities which are to be implemented by all. For the private sector, and potential investors or developers, a copy of the *Strategy* is available for all staff in the St Helena Development Agency (SHDA).

There is, however, a need for more integration into business planning and sector planning processes. A suggestion has been made to align the *Strategy* with the St Helena Government's rolling planning cycle to be adopted in 2010, ensuring therefore that the *Strategy* is integrated in policy frameworks. This suggestion has, however, not yet been explored.

There are also some concerns as to whether Departments or organisations are correctly interpreting the *Strategy* and, more generally, the Environment Charter - and implementing it fully, rather than just "ticking boxes". It is easy to say we are implementing the *Strategy* when not fully understanding the full implications of the guiding principles and the full breadth of each action or programme.

Progress in Implementing the Environment Charter generally and the *Strategy* specifically

In the four years since the *Strategy* was formulated and endorsed, it is fair to say that we have made good progress in implementing the actions and programmes listed in the *Strategy*, with a fair number having been completed and many others in progress.

Many of the actions relating to physical planning have or will be addressed through the new *Planning Legislation* and the *Land Development Control Plan*. Much has also been done in implementing Commitment 7: Review range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity. Much work on invasive species has been done through the EU-funded *South Atlantic Invasive Species Project*; and in the education sector, schools are integrating environmental education across the curriculum where possible. In addition, with the establishment of an Adult Vocational Education Service, training in local craft work and skills has been offered.

Format of the *Strategy*

It was recognised fairly early after endorsement (and, indeed, during development) that the *Strategy* is a large document that, in its current (original) format, is rather unwieldy to use and hence implement.

However, from those questioned in the aforementioned exercise, there were mixed feelings as to whether or not the *Strategy* document was indeed user-friendly. Generally, those responsible for actually implementing the *Strategy* felt it was less user-friendly than those that had no direct responsibility for implementing the actions.

Many useful comments were received as to improving the layout. These included the addition of a chart that shows, in order of Departments, the Commitments for which they are responsible, linked to a page detailing the Commitment(s). The establishment of a lead body for each activity, with an indication of supporting bodies or agencies (rather than a list of lead bodies), would give a clear definition of who should lead and be responsible for seeing that a particular action gets done.

The *Strategy*, in its current format, lacks any form of prioritisation of activities and time-bound targets for delivery. (This was recognised at the time of production, and a recommendation made that these be developed.) All actions need to be SMART and prioritised against an annual implementation date.

Monitoring of Implementation

We can assess our success in implementing the *Strategy* only if we have a robust monitoring system in place. Actions should be easily monitored and the layout of the *Strategy* document should be conducive to this; this could be done simply by adding a column for monitoring.

The *Strategy* needs to be a live document that is assessed regularly in light of changing island priorities. An interactive process whereby all stakeholders are brought together to assess if circumstances have changed relating to delivery of the actions, and if activities need to be deleted or added to reflect changing times, should be established as an annual event.

Activities incorporated in business plans are assessed annually as part of the Business Plan Review. For individual Departments, there are ad-

ditional monitoring mechanisms in place in some instances.

Summary of Main Lessons Learnt

St Helena has found it extremely useful to make its Environment Charter and the *Strategy for Implementation* (produced by an open inclusive stakeholder process facilitated by UKOTCF) key documents in its economic development plan.

During the production of this plan, it was recognised that further work would be needed, both on producing priorities and time-related or annual plans from the core document and popular reader-friendly versions. The facilitators recommended this, and experience has borne out the need for resourcing of these next planned stages.

It has been recognised that many of the activities put in the *Strategy* four years ago cannot be implemented in the short term due to the current resource constraints across the board and the exceptional demands on personnel linked to current development proposals. This has led to focus on delivery of secondary service and routine activities at the cost of deferring some aspects of the strategic approach. As part of the planned review, it may be possible to explore ways of adjusting this focus.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our *Strategy* is in need of a review, and this will be a key task for this financial year. We will be looking to overcome all or some of the problems highlighted here. The actual process for the Review has not yet been decided upon, and any suggestions would be most welcome. It is hoped that, by the next Conference, St Helena can report on how the Review was done and our further progress in implementing the *Strategy*.

I think also that we have learnt many valuable lessons in what works and what does not when formulating and implementing a strategy. I would hope that such lessons can be applied to any strategy or action plan which you may be formulating either right now or in the future.

Alongside the Review, we will also need to design and establish a robust monitoring system to ensure that we can quickly and easily ascertain our progress.

RELATED POSTER:

Pitcairn Islands Environment Management Plan

Noeleen Smyth (National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, Ireland; for Pitcairn Islands Council)



Noeleen Smyth

Photo: Thomas Hadjikyriakou

Smyth, N. 2010. Pitcairn Islands Environment Management Plan. p 58 in *Making the Right Connections: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Grand Cayman 30th May to 5th June 2009* (ed. by M. Pienkowski, O. Cheesman, C. Quick & A. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

Dr Noeleen Smyth, National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, Ireland

the environment while infrastructure development is underway. The actions and recommendations are further classified by how much positive impact they would have on the environment of the Pitcairn group, the resources needed for their implementation and the amount of time required to fulfil them.

This *Environment Management Plan* for the Pit-

cairn Island group (Figure 1) sets out ten key objectives based on the Environment Charter guiding principles for the Pitcairn Islands. The targets aim to implement the guiding principles of the Environment Charter and address the issues contained within these principles, which include ensuring that all stakeholders play a part in decisions affecting the environment; increasing environmental awareness; highlighting the need for documentation and protection of the existing biodiversity and aiding development of the island group while integrating environmental protection.

The Pitcairn Environment Management Plan has set out a series of actions and recommendations under four main headings: Environmental Development, Economic Development, Biodiversity and Supporting Measures. These will help the Pitcairn group protect and safeguard

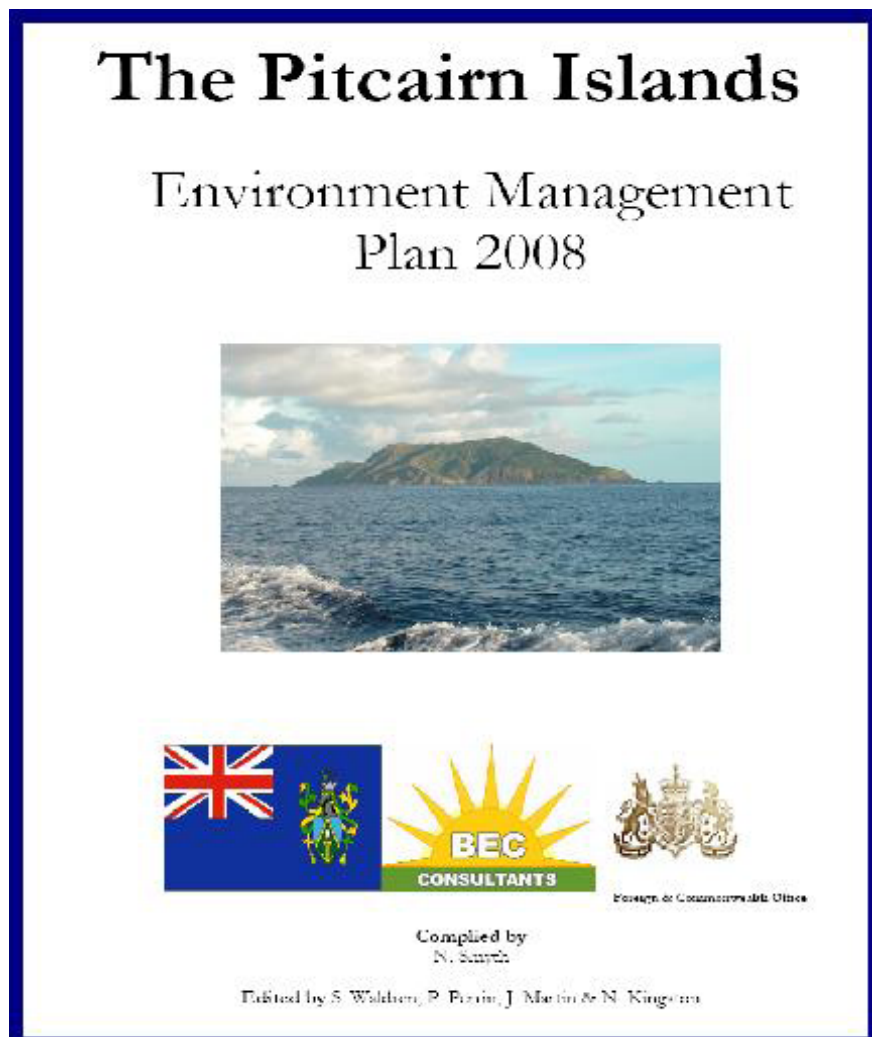


Figure 1. *The Pitcairn Islands Environment Management Plan*

Framework Document: Measures of performance by 2009 of UK Overseas Territories (& Crown Dependencies) and UK Government in implementing the 2001 Environment Charters or their equivalents

Mike Pienkowski (Chairman, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum)

Catherine Quick (Co-ordinator, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum)



Pienkowski, M.W. & Quick, C. 2010. Measures of performance by 2009 of UK Overseas Territories (& Crown Dependencies) and UK Government in implementing the 2001 Environment Charters or their equivalents. pp 59-114 in *Making the Right Connections: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, Grand Cayman 30th May to 5th June 2009* (ed. by M. Pienkowski, O. Cheesman, C. Quick & A. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org



(Photos: Rob Thomas)

The Environment Charters signed in September 2001 between the UK Government and the Governments of UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) are important documents underlying the shared responsibility of the UK Government and the Government of each Territory for the conservation of the environment and the 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. In the context of international commitments, it is UK which lodges – and is accountable for – these, 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. UKOTCF met requests to develop, in wide consultation, a set of measures of progress, and collated information from the Territories and elsewhere to produce the first review of progress, in 2007. UKOTCF agreed to make the most of this work by all, and collate information to update periodically. This document presents the 2009 update.

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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 underlying the shared responsibility of the UK Government and the Government of each Territory for the conservation of the environment and the 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. In the context of international commitments, it is UK which lodges – and is accountable for – these, 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 considerable effort into developing a set of measures to achieve this end. This need was recognised too by UK Government, which asked UKOTCF to make such a review. Some in UKOTs had expressed concern that a review undertaken by one party (UK Government) to the Charters would have been inappropriate, and suggested that a review by an independent body (UKOTCF) would be preferable. Accordingly, UKOTCF has retained editorial control over this exercise, and will continue to do so. Whilst it welcomed any input from both parties to each Charter, as well as others, UKOTCF will retain its independent oversight of the process. UKOTCF originally suggested the idea of 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 had been asked by various people in the UK (including FCO and DFID) and the UKOTs 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 was not simple. This was challenging because UKOTCF had not drafted the Charters, and these 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 28 in February 2006, inviting further comments and contributions to help populate the tables. 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 Com-

mitments, it is relatively easy to find measures that meet these requirements; for others it is very difficult. UKOTCF does not want to generate unnecessary work, and recognises also that some information is already readily available annually for other purposes. For others, a cumulative measure, updated every few years might be more feasible. UKOTCF tried to allow for both sorts of measures, so as to minimise effort and be cost-effective.

The first UKOTCF review of progress was discussed in draft at the Jersey conference in 2006, and finalised in 2007. The Minister of the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office with responsibility for this area reported to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee in early 2007 that UK Government would be using UKOTCF’s review to monitor progress and consider future work.

Introduction to the 2009 update

In preparing the first review, UKOTCF had committed to Territories and others that it would update every few years. As updating is less work than starting anew, this means that the significant efforts of those supplying information is made most use of – and future reviews take less of their time. The need for such a periodic review is underlined by the 2008 report of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (*on Halting Biodiversity Loss*), which drew heavily on material submitted by UKOTCF and concluded that: *“One of the most important contributions that the [UK] Government could make to slowing the catastrophic global biodiversity loss currently occurring would be to accept its responsibilities and to provide more support for the UK Overseas Territories in this area”*.

Many partners also have stressed the importance of monitoring the implementation of the Environment Charters (or equivalents for those territories without Charters), if these are to fulfil their potential in supporting environmental conservation and sustainable use. Two years after its first exercise in collating information on this, UKOTCF started to gather information on further progress. A draft version of the results (updated later in this document) was included in the handbook for the Grand Cayman conference in May-June 2009. A summary of the results (on which the Overview below is based) was given at the conference, and discussion of this was included in the programme. Following the conference, UKOTCF contacted again many

of the participants and others in the Territories and elsewhere to fill out the information available.

We are grateful to the government departments, NGOs and other interested persons who have supplied information for most territories (Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Turks & Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, Ascension Island, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Falkland Islands, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, British Indian Ocean Territory, Pitcairn Islands, Gibraltar, Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas, the Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark). The amount of information from different territories varies, largely in relation to their available resources. We would welcome further information from these as well as from British Antarctic Territory.

The material collated is inevitably difficult to present and to absorb. In this section, we try to give an overview. Following this, is a section which details the changes reported, both by summary and by text. Finally, to provide context, the first report (of 2007) is repeated, with the changes added to the summary table of that. This third section is intended for reference, rather than for reading.

Overview of the 2009 update

Commitments (or equivalents) by UKOTs

Commitment 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.

Major progress:

Groups assembled in Isle of Man, Sark, Guernsey, Pitcairn and Cayman Islands to develop and manage strategy for action.

Cayman Islands have completed several action plans and Pitcairn have produced an Environment Management Plan.

Major Set-backs :

Grant funding system or local funding mechanism are not in place – or previous ones lost - in Bermuda, Cayman Islands, TCI, Anguilla, 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.

Major Progress:

Bermuda and Isle of Man have designated new protected areas.

Falkland Islands have cleared 20 islands of rats improving the quality of their protected areas.

Bermuda, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Falkland Islands, South Georgia (and SSSI), Montserrat, Guernsey and Sark have all reported significant progress on key species with action plans developed, complete or being implemented.

Several territories have action plans to deal with invasive species.

Major Set-backs:

Loss of effective protected areas in TCI; dredging, development without EIAs

Damage to Ramsar Convention Wetlands of International Importance reported in TCI and Jersey

Arrival of alien fungal infection in Montserrat, severely threatening “mountain chicken” frog

Serious impacts on turtles and migrant song-birds in Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas

Commitment 3: Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.

Major Progress:

Anguilla, St Helena, South Georgia, Isle of Man and Sark have all showed significant progress in fisheries management

Major set-backs:

Waste management is reported as a significant problem in Turks and Caicos, Anguilla and Tristan da Cunha.

Commitment 4. Ensure that environmental and environmental health impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy; and

Commitment 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.

Major progress:

EIAs are publicly available in Bermuda, Cayman Islands, St Helena and Guernsey

Major set-backs:

Developments in TCI and Anguilla have taken place without EIAs and if they are available they cannot be accessed by the public. Public are not fully consulted or inadequate notice given.

Commitment 6: Implement effectively Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.

Major Progress:

Tristan da Cunha have designated (2008) two sites as Ramsar Convention Wetlands of International Importance.
Isle of Man joined 2 CMS Agreements.

Major Set-backs:

Development on TCI's North, Middle and East Caicos Ramsar Site
Generally, rather little progress reported under this Commitment – there may be some under-reporting.

Commitment 7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.

Major Progress:

Monitoring programmes for many taxa and natural resources in Cayman Islands, Anguilla, Ascension, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Isle of Man, Falkland Islands and South Georgia (and SSI).

Major set-backs:

There remains a need to provide a collated and readily accessible overview of the status of wildlife across the Territories.

Commitment 8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective

monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Major set-backs:

Locals in TCI and Anguilla doubt that pollution monitoring occurs or that it is enforced.

Commitment 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.

Major Progress:

Most territories have environmental education initiatives.

Commitment 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.

Major Progress:

Most territories have published material relevant to the Environment Charters since 2007.

Commitments by UK Government

Rather a full interim report was given to the 2003 Conference in Bermuda. However, resource problems prevented UK Government contributing to the first full review in 2007. We are grateful to UK Government officials in several departments for trying to input into this second review. Outline information was received a few days before the Cayman conference, so that it could not be included in the draft version in the conference document, which had to be edited a few weeks earlier to allow for printing. This outline information has been included in the updating results below, and we have attempted to relate the material sent by FCO and DFID to the Charter Commitments insofar as this was practicable.

General Picture

The results give a rather mixed picture, with perhaps rather less progress than most would hope for – with a few notable exceptions.

Someone looking at the draft summary in the Cayman conference handbook said that the first impressions were that it showed a lot more progress in talking (publications, education, plan

development, etc) than doing (open environmental assessment, site-safeguard, funding conservation work...), with some significant steps backwards in the last two. This is probably a gross – and somewhat unfair – generalisation. However the information does give some basis for the comment.

Clearly, conservation personnel (government and NGO) are not receiving the tools to do the job – and that includes UK Government personnel, whose resourcing to monitor and promote fulfilment of HMG’s commitments has reduced in the last 6 years.

In looking forward to the discussion at the conference and after, the editors suggested that it might be interesting to consider refining/replacing this simplistic analysis with a more subtle one – and raising the questions of what are the blockages in fulfilling Commitments and what can be done to address them. UKOTCF has since continued to facilitate such considerations.

We are grateful to the many persons and organisations who have supplied information, and to Dr Oliver Cheesman for additional checking.

Results of the 2009 update

Below, we try to summarise the information received in several ways. First, a colour-coded table is used to give a simple overview of progress, with a column for each territory. For each measure in each Territory, a colour is used to indicate the approximate level of progress. These are:

Major progress	Significant progress	Information supplied but not obviously positive or negative	Significant concerns	Set-backs
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Below that, the major reported elements are summarised, in text.

Finally, the rows of the first summary table are copied (in the rows marked “**UPDATE 2009**”) into the original 2007 report. This allows those addicted to reading complex summaries to place the new information in context. For example, it would be difficult to show marked improvement in cases where most requirements had already been met. The original report text is also given, for reference.

We should note also that UKOTCF can use only the information supplied. Please contact cquick@ukotcf.org if you think that it is incomplete. UKOTCF plans to produce a further update after 2 or 3 years.

Summary of changes 2007-2009

These are tabulated on the following 5 pages. More detailed summaries of the information on which this is based is supplied below that.

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will:)	Measures	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
		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.																				
	Ia. Signed Environment Charter																					
	Ib. Group assembled to develop and manage strategy for action																					
	Ic. Strategy for action developed																					
	Id. Named Minister or Councillor responsible for carrying the implementation forward and ensuring reporting on progress																					
	Ie. Named officials designated and resourced to coordinate across departments and other partners, draft annual reports.																					
	If. NGOs resourced by Government to provide an independent monitoring and reporting mechanism																					
	Ig. Strategy implemented and monitored as ongoing process																					
	Ih. Annual reports produced on progress achieved and plans for the forthcoming year																					
	Ii. Funding for recurrent expenditure and projects to implement the Charter's strategy included in annual departmental budgets																					
	Ij. Amount expended in year on Environment Charter implementation from Territory resources (£k)																					
	Ik. Local funding mechanism in place in support of non-governmental projects implementing the Charter (e.g. earmarked visitor tax)																					
	Il. Grant funding system in place for any such local funding mechanism, involving open processes and NGO involvement in decision process																					
	Im. Amount collected in such fund																					
	In. Amount expended on Environment Charter objectives by such fund																					
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.																						
	2a. Number of nature protected areas designated																					
	2b. Area (km ²) identified as nationally or internationally important for nature																					
	2c. Area (km ²) of nature protected areas designated nationally or internationally important for nature																					
	2d. Area of nature protected areas as % of area identified as nationally or internationally important for nature																					
	2e. Land area of territory. (km ²)																					
	2f. Area (km ²) of terrestrial nature protected areas																					
	2g. Area of terrestrial nature protected areas as % of land area																					

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																					
Land and sea area of territory (km ²)																					
2h. Area of all nature protected areas as % of land and sea area																					
2i. Area (km ²) of designated nature protected areas subject to operating management plan ^y																					
2j. Change in area (km ²) of nature protected areas since Environment Charter signed (Sept 2001) (Positive except as indicated)																					
2k. Number of nature protected areas improving in nature quality since Sept 2001																					
2l. Number of nature protected areas maintaining nature quality since Sept 2001																					
2m. Number of nature protected areas with declining nature quality since Sept 2001																					
2n. Number of nature protected areas with no information on changes in quality since Sept 2001																					
2o. Government bodies (G) and/o NGOs (O) involved in managing protected areas																					
2p. Number of key species with conservation action plans developed and completed or being implemented																					
2q. Number of species with reduction in threatened status																					
2r. Number of species with increase in threatened status																					
2s. Review completed identifying gaps in legislation and needs to fulfil them to meet nature commitments																					
2t. Legislation updated to fill gaps in nature protection																					
2u. Review completed of invasive species problems																					
2v. Action plans completed or operating to deal with invasive species																					
2w. Review completed of threats posed by potentially invasive species																					
2x. Effective measures in place to prevent arrival of further invasives																					
3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.																					
3a. All Country Plans and strategic plans refer to the Environment Charter and its Commitments																					
3b. Have environmental considerations been integrated into social and economic planning processes, and are activities undertaken in sustainable manner in the following sectors:																					
3c. Waste management																					
3d. Water resources management																					
3e. Tourism																					

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																					
3f. Transport																					
3g. Public and private land use																					
3h. Taxation & Economic																					
3i. Fishing																					
3j. Farming & Forestry																					
3k. Mineral Extraction																					
3l. Power Generation																					
3m. Traditional Crafts																					
3n. Others																					
4. Ensure that environmental and environmental health impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.																					
4a. EIAs required on development projects																					
4b. Number of proposed or active development projects																					
4c. Number of these with publicly available EIAs																					
4d. 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)?																					
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.																					
5a. EIAs publicly available to community and peer review with time for comment before decision.																					
5b. Public enquiry system and decision independent of parties and government available and used																					
5c. Decision process open with reasons given.																					
5d. Policy development open to public consultation																					
6. Implement effectively Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.																					
6a. Ramsar Convention on Wetland extended to Territory																					
6b. Number of sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance																					
6c. Area (km ²) designated as Wetlands of International Importance																					
6d. Area (km ²) of sites identified as qualifying as Wetlands of International Importance but not yet designated																					
6e. Area (km ²) designated as Wetlands of International Importance but suffering damage																					
6f. Area (km ²) of wetland outside protected areas being managed sustainably																					

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will:)	Measures	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)	Alderney	Sark	
6g. Area (km ²) of wetland outside protected areas for which there is no information on management																							
6h. Area (km ²) of wetland outside protected areas which has suffered damage																							
6i. CITES extended to Territory																							
6j. Convention on Biological Diversity extended to Territory																							
6k. Convention on Migratory Species extended to Territory																							
6. Agreements under CMS extended to Territory:																							
6l. Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels (ACAP)																							
6m. Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)																							
6n. Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Sea (ASCOBANS)																							
6o. Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Eurobats)																							
6p. Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - Indian Ocean Turtle MOU																							
6q. World Heritage Convention extended to Territory																							
6r. Number of World Heritage sites (natural and cultural) designated																							
6s. Area (km ²) of World Heritage sites (natural and cultural) designated																							
6t. Number of domestically protected cultural heritage sites																							
6u. Area (km ²) of domestically protected cultural heritage sites																							
6v. Other Conventions extended to Territory																							
6w. 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)																							
6x. Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic OSPAR																							
6y. Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena)																							
6z. Protocol concerning specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA/W) to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena)																							
6z1. Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (London Convention)																							

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will;) Measures	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
	7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity. 7a. Taxa and natural resources for which base-line data have been collected and made available, with extents of coverage for each. 7b. Taxa and natural resources for which there are monitoring programmes, with extents of coverage for each. ²¹ 7c. 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. 8a. Are effective Ordinances in place to implement polluter-pays principle? 8b. Number of cases of polluter paying, and amounts involved. 8c. Monitoring of pollution and adherence to planning conditions in place 8d. Enforcement measures in place 8e. Number of enforcement cases brought.																					
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. 9a. Environment Charter, strategy for implementation in schools curriculum 9b. Local environment, global context in schools curriculum 9c. Number of visits at all levels to local environmental sites 9d. Number of field classroom facilities																					
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. 10a. Number of publications by Government in each year on local environmental topics 10b. Number of publications by NGOs in each year on local environmental topics 10c. Programme in place to promote Environment Charter and implementation strategy																					

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.

1a. Signed Environment Charter

Whilst the Isle of Man has not signed an Environment Charter, they are currently considering it.

1b. Group assembled to develop and manage strategy for action

Sark reports a group assembled to start work on a new wildlife law to make good a deficiency, Guernsey reports a group assembled to support the development of an Environmental Plan, and the Cayman Islands report several cross-sectoral working groups on various issues (e.g. climate change, sustainable tourism). However, reports from Anguilla are that few, if any, meetings take place, and those from TCI note that meetings have declined in inclusiveness and that virtually no progress has been made over recent years on previously agreed action points. St Helena notes that meetings have become irregular and poorly attended, partly related to poor resourcing. The BIOT Administration has a Scientific Advisory Group, but its role in 'managing a strategy for action' is very limited. In Pitcairn, a group has been formed, consisting of the Governor's Representative, Commissioner, Director of Biosecurity, Division Manager Natural Resources, Councillor with Natural Resources portfolio. In the Isle of Man, an NGO conservation forum has been established for consultation and communication, but not for Charter purposes specifically.

1c. Strategy for action developed

In Guernsey, the Government has committed to writing an Environmental Plan with a 25-year vision supported by annual action plans. The new group on Sark is to bring proposals on Wildlife Law to the new Chief Pleas Assembly. Cayman reports that several Biodiversity Action Plans have been completed. For the Isle of Man, an external contract to develop a conservation strategy was undertaken in 2008. An Environment Management Plan for the Pitcairn Islands was produced in 2008.

1d. Named Minister or Councillor responsible for carrying the implementation forward and ensuring reporting on progress; and

1e. Named officials designated and resourced to

coordinate across departments and other partners, draft annual reports.

Reports from TCI and Anguilla have alleged that politicians and/or officials with key roles in carrying the implementation forward have actually worked against the Charter objectives. Cayman reports lack of significance attached to the Environmental Charter due to changes in government and focusing on other key environmental issues (climate change, etc.). For BIOT, it is noted that there are various consultants and advisory groups, but their role in managing a strategy for action is very limited.

If. NGOs resourced by Government to provide an independent monitoring and reporting mechanism

Some contract monitoring work done by La Société Guernesiaise's company Environment Guernsey. In the Falklands, one NGO receives considerable resources for this role from the Government. This and another NGO also fund substantial monitoring from other (non-governmental) resources. For British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), although there is no major funding of this type, a conservation NGO receives occasional, modest support. For Anguilla, concerns have been expressed that the nature of Government support prevents local NGOs from doing effective independent monitoring and reporting. For TCI, reports indicate that earlier reports of funding of this nature may have been incorrect.

1g. Strategy implemented and monitored as ongoing process

Guernsey and Tristan da Cunha have plans to develop monitoring, the former via desired outcomes and performance indicators included in the developing Environmental Plan, and the latter by implementation of Biodiversity and Invasive Species Action Plans as part of the South Atlantic Invasive Species Project. In St Helena, the strategy for action is being implemented by Departments / organisations / persons listed within the Strategy, particular progress being made regarding those activities relative to the finalisation of the Land Development Control Plan and OTEP-funded projects. However, lack of resources and increased workloads has resulted in inadequate amounts of time and personnel to take other activities forward. Reports from Anguilla express concern at deficiencies in monitoring and implementation due to low priority being allocated, rather than an overall shortage of official personnel or funding. In TCI, doubts have been expressed, even by members of

the Environment Charter Working Group, that the Working Group is able to implement a strategy.

1h. Annual reports produced on progress achieved and plans for the forthcoming year

Reports on biodiversity monitoring for Falklands and sustainability for Guernsey produced. In St Helena, a review started in 2006 is incomplete due to other priorities; the process needs to be restarted, as majority of the information collected in 2006 is out of date, but this can be done only when time and resources allow. The reporting process appears to have wound down to a halt in TCI.

1i. Funding for recurrent expenditure and projects to implement the Charter strategy included in annual departmental budgets

In Guernsey, the Environmental Plan and its action plan when approved by the States will become part of the Government business plan against which resources are allocated. In Tristan da Cunha, the formation of a Conservation Department (TCD) is very recent and there is currently no allocated budget except to cover salaries. However, an Assistant Conservation Officer has been appointed, and other assistance secured. In St Helena, the Strategy for Action is a 'working document'. Most Departments / Sections / Organisations include 'issues to be addressed' within annual departmental Business Plans. Budget ceilings imposed during 2007/08 put downward pressure on recurrent expenditure across SHG, giving no scope for funding any project activities specifically linked to the Environment Charter, unless identified as core business. Funding from departmental budgets is insufficient, so donor funding needed, with some being secured. There could also be potential from funding from within SHG budget if there was better linking between departmental budgets and between the budget process and the Strategy for Action document. In TCI, resourcing is no longer linked to the Strategy, if it ever was, and there are reports of funding set-backs from Anguilla also. In the Isle of Man, £615,000 (of which £271,000 is agreements and payments to others for land management work) is available (2009-10) for all conservation work by IoM Government Wildlife and Conservation Division.

1k. Local funding mechanism in place in support of non-governmental projects implementing the Charter (e.g. earmarked visitor tax); and

1l. Grant funding system in place for any such local funding mechanism, involving open processes and NGO involvement in decision process

There are major set-backs reported from several territories. Bermuda has cancelled the \$100,000 pa Govt Environmental Grants Scheme. In Cayman, a Departure Tax (from all persons) is collected for an Environmental Fund, but this cannot currently be readily accessed for environmental funding purposes. In TCI, the Conservation Fund seems to have been depleted by the Government for other uses. The committee to manage this, composed of various stake-holders is not functioning, and officials have failed to pay grants approved by it. In Anguilla, there are reports that the Environmental Levy has been diverted to other uses. In St Helena, a local environmental funding mechanism was not established as it was felt by Legislative Council that it would be wrong to 'ring-fence' revenue money for environmental projects. In Tristan da Cunha, however, the Conservation levy has been raised to 8% and continues to be paid into the Environmental Fund, now controlled by the Head of Tristan's Conservation Department who makes recommendations to the Conservation Committee and Island Council on spending proposals. In the Isle of Man, partnership funding and small grants are available, but not specifically for Charter purposes.

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.

2a. Number of nature protected areas designated

Bermuda has designated new nature reserves at Scroggins Hill and Cooper's Island.

In BVI, the Conservation & Fisheries Department is in the process of demarcating the 14 fisheries (marine) protected areas under the Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations 2003.

In St Helena, although sites are proposed as Protected Areas within the Land Development Control Plan adopted 01.01.07, no formal management plans have been written for these areas, nor have they been formally/ legally designated.

In TCI, there has been severe damage to protected areas and other areas which should have been protected, with a small proportion of designated protected areas being formally (and many more effectively) de-designated. Losses of effective protected areas (some of which were summarised in *Forum News* 32: 3-5, but other sites were damaged after this) include: construction of roads within land area of parks and nature reserves without planning

permission; extensive sub-division within nature reserves and bulldozed boundaries to these plots; built development to a national park shore boundary without buffer or impact assessment; large area of rare tropical dry forest ecosystem within a national park bulldozed clear by TCI Government (TCIG) for agricultural use, later abandoned as unsuitable; bulldozing continued on the border of the national park, including in threatened Caicos Pine area; stone quarried from bulldozed area to complete work on North-Middle Caicos causeway, as estimates of material needed were inadequate - no consultation with land-managing body or others, nor EIAs; major, inappropriate developments proposed within national parks and nature reserves; major dredging without EIA in several protected areas; creation of artificial island for development, destroying coral reefs and sea-grass beds, within a national park and adjacent to nature reserve islands; extensive channel dredging through adjacent flats and reef, and development of major dock in nature reserve, partly to replace previous dock nearer to open sea, which has been transferred to marina and resort development; land within protected areas offered for sale for development, even though such development would be against regulations; approval for major resort development given without clear plan to overcome the impact on the threatened endemic and other sensitive species in a nature reserve; Crown land transferred by TCIG to developer despite objection of local residents, who have come under pressure to sell to the developer; historically important salt-pans and creeks, also internationally important for birds, to be converted to a marina; channel to be dredged through reef and land, separating the community into two (work to start at short notice without proper consultation or EIA); TCIG approved investigation for resort development on nature reserves without consulting the independent statutory body holding the lease; continued delay by TCIG in transferring land to National Trust continues to impede conservation management; some of land due to be transferred to National Trust transferred by TCIG instead to a developer, who has damaged the site; value of one of the two best salt-pans for birds destroyed by mis-use approved by TCIG; other salinas suffering from rapid piecemeal infilling by many individuals, contrary to planning regulations and without EIAs; proposed removal of one of two different types of pond from statutory Nature Reserve status, to develop marina. In the Isle of Man: Central Ayres was extended by 44.7ha in 2008, making the total area for that site 317.02ha, subject to an operating management plan; newly designated in 2008,

Glen Maye (44.83ha) is an Area of Special Scientific Interest, with the area of the site identified as nationally important (15.92ha) managed by DAFF and private partners; also designated in 2008, Greeba Mountain and Central Hills (15.92 ha) is an Area of Special Scientific Interest. Area identified as nationally important is 1080.05 ha, managed by DAFF with private tenants.

2b. Area (km²) identified as nationally or internationally important for nature

In Anguilla, the East End Pond is no longer listed as an Important Bird Area.

2c. Area (km²) of nature protected areas designated

2d. Area of nature protected areas as % of area identified as nationally or internationally important for nature

2f. Area (km²) of terrestrial nature protected areas

2g. Area of terrestrial nature protected areas as % of land area

2h. Area of all nature protected areas as % of land and sea area

2j. Change in area (km²) of nature protected areas since Environment Charter signed (Sept 2001) (Positive except as indicated)

2m. Number of nature protected areas with declining nature quality since Sept 2001

In TCI, many areas have again been reduced or damaged (see above) but precise areas are not available. In Jersey, damage and potential further threats are reported for the SE Jersey Ramsar Convention Wetland of International Importance. For Isle of Man, see comments under 2a.

2i. Area (km²) of designated nature protected areas subject to operating management plan

In the Central Peaks in St Helena, areas are being cleared of invasive species and endemics are being re-introduced. The Heart Shaped Waterfall is the subject of a project involving planning and developing the area to provide public access for amenity. A longer term management plan will need to be prepared by the NT; Legal Lands and Planning Department will address the polluted pond. In the absence of a substantive Marine Science Officer, no further progress has been possible in managing sites at Gill Point, George Island & Shore Island. It is hoped that a Marine Biologist can be recruited within the next financial year (2009/10) and that management plans / designation will be undertaken in line with the land development plan (LDCP). In Gibraltar, problems are reported in that Spain has listed as a European Union Natura2000 site a sea

area which overlaps Gibraltar's already listed site, causing confusion about management accountability. For Isle of Man, see comments under 2a.

2k. Number of nature protected areas improving in nature quality since Sept 2001

A further two sites have been cleared of rats in the Falkland Islands, making a total of 20 islands cleared.

2l. Number of nature protected areas maintaining nature quality since Sept 2001

2n. Number of nature protected areas with no information on changes in quality since Sept 2001

2o. Government bodies (G) and/o NGOs (O) involved in managing protected areas

Reports are generally lacking. In the Isle of Man, there is some wetland (mostly grassland) in management agreements, and some under agri-environment schemes, but most are outside protected areas; several areas have been damaged recently, but have not been quantified.

2p. Number of key species with conservation action plans developed and completed or being implemented

Action Plans for previously listed species in Bermuda have been completed and additional Action Plans prepared for land crabs, lionfish, groupers, lobsters, Red-Footed Booby *Sula sula*, whelks, and hermit crabs; Habitat Conservation Plans have been prepared for mangroves, coral reefs and sea grass (lagoons). In TCI, it is not clear whether Action Plans are still active. In St Helena, Recovery Plans have been prepared (with review, updating and implementation being supported under OTEP Critical Species Recovery Project) for She Cabbage *Lachanodes arborea*, False Gumwood *Commidendrum spurium*, St Helena Redwood *Trochetiopsis erythroxylon*, Large Bellflower *Wahlenbergia linifolia*, Small Bellflower *Wahlenbergia angustifolia*, and Dwarf Jellico *Sium burchellii*. In Tristan da Cunha, Gough and Inaccessible have Management Plans due to be reviewed in 2009. A review of the Tristan BAP and the production of management plans for Tristan and Nightingale will take place in 2009/ 2010, and a bird and seal monitoring manual for Tristan and Nightingale was completed at the end of 2008. Four of the 12 proposed Action Plans in the Falkland Islands have been prepared and adopted. A draft Action Plan for ACAP species in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands is currently undergoing a consultation process. In Guernsey, Habitat Action Plans rather than Species Action Plans are being applied.

Several new Action Plans are in preparation in Montserrat.

2q. Number of species with reduction in threatened status

In Tristan da Cunha, the Spectacled Petrel is now listed as Vulnerable due to increasing population (2008).

2r. Number of species with increase in threatened status

If no conservation action plan is put in place, then invasive plant impacts will have worsened on Sombrero Island (Anguilla), affecting species status there. Northern Rockhopper Penguin status in Tristan da Cunha has been confirmed as Endangered following publication of data identifying declines >90% (2008). Corncrake has a conservation action plan being implemented in the Isle of Man, but is thought to be in decline. Serious threats to turtles from fishing by-catch in Western SBA, and resurgence of illegal migrant songbird trapping in Eastern SBA, are reported from Cyprus. A recently arrived fungal pathogen poses a severe threat to the Mountain Chicken frog population in Montserrat.

2s. Review completed identifying gaps in legislation and needs to fulfil them to meet nature commitments

It is not clear to local stakeholders whether the OTEP-funded project reviewing gaps in TCI legislation has reported. With the exception of fisheries legislation, all South Georgia legislation is under review.

2t. Legislation updated to fill gaps in nature protection

The Environmental Health Department in TCI has formally enacted regulations for phytosanitary certification for importing of plants; legislation to enact CITES is in development. The anticipated legislative review for Anguilla has not yet been produced. In St Helena, the Land Planning & Development Control Ordinance 2008 includes a section on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and specifies the types of development that should have an EIA report, who should prepare the report, what should be included, that the quality of the report must be reviewed, and who should review the report. This also provides for the preservation of the historical heritage of St Helena, specifying that the Planning Officer shall issue building preservation orders to owners of land / buildings having historical value. It gives the Governor in Council power to designate special protection (in relation to

any development) on account of the natural beauty of the area, the flora, fauna, ecological, geological, hydrogeological, or physiographical features of that area, or if it is desirable to provide special opportunities for the study or research into the terrestrial or marine environment by designating any of these areas as Conservation Areas. In Sark, work is currently being done on a Wildlife Law, needed to complete the island's Environment Charter. In the Isle of Man, the Agricultural Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2008 changed Wildlife Act offences from needing to prove intention to actions deemed intentional or reckless.

2u. Review completed of invasive species problems

An update of the earlier JNCC review of non-native species across all UKOTs and CDs has been completed by Karen Varnham, with input from many parties. In addition, the following specific points are reported for individual territories. TCNT and RBG Kew will collaborate on a study by an MSc student on two known and two potential invasive plant species in TCI; study and mapping of infestation extent of the pine tortoise scale insect will be completed by TCNT from March to October 2009. Updating of the St Helena component of the JNCC list suggests that vertebrate records are unchanged, whilst the invertebrate list has been updated to include the European Wasp *Vespula vulgaris*, not new to the island but now officially listed. The results of the six month botanical survey carried out by the South Atlantic Invasive Species Project are currently being analysed and outputs can be expected from March 2009. These will take the form principally of estimates of abundance and distribution of higher plants, ferns and two invasive mosses.

2v. Action plans completed or operating to deal with invasive species

In the Cayman Islands, Action Plans are in place, on-going, or successfully implemented for casuarinas, lionfish, Little Cayman cats and (through Agriculture Department) *Maconellicoccus hirsutus*. TCNT and RBG Kew have developed a ten-year species recovery proposal to protect the Caicos Pine *Pinus caribaea* var. *bahamensis* from an introduced scale insect in TCI. An Invasive Species Action Plan has been drafted by the Department of Environment in Anguilla. An Action Plan was formulated after a stakeholder workshop in St Helena in July 2007; many of the activities identified were focussed on developing the island's capacity to deal with invasive species. The following

key species were identified: gorse *Ulex europeaus*, whiteweed *Austro eupatorium inulaefolium*, bull-grass (various species), myna birds *Acridotheres tristis*, feral pigeons *Columba livia*, fruit fly *Ceratitis capitata*, rodents (*Rattus rattus*, *R. norvegicus*, *Mus musculus*). The project has established with stakeholders the scope of problems associated with each species. Practical measures are being trialled to assess and cost the control of the plant species impacting on pasture. Contracts are being let for expert assessment and pilot control activities on the myna bird and rodent species. A feasibility study on rabbit control and monitoring programme of the common wasp has been undertaken. See also 3d for other relevant activities in St Helena. In Tristan da Cunha, alien plant eradications began on the main island in 2007; an Invasive Species Action Plan was written in 2007, and an Invasive Species Project Officer arrived in December 2008. Action planning for invasive species in the Falkland Islands includes measures towards rat eradication and control of Calafate and Gorse. In South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, a feasibility study on rat eradication has been prepared and the South Georgia Heritage Trust (an NGO) has indicated an interest in taking this work forward. January 2009 *Chagos News* (p13) contains Objectives for Restoration of ecosystems and management improvements in BIOT; more work is needed on this. In Sark, work is in progress on Hottentot Fig and Japanese Knotweed. Policies on potentially invasive coarse fish being developed for the Isle of Man.

2w. Review completed of threats posed by potentially invasive species

Potential from MSc project (cf. 2u) in TCI. A list of the top twenty adventive plant species with potential to become invasive in St Helena was produced by Tom Belton; focus on potentially invasive species has not been a priority, but the project is seeking to address this with a review and recommendations for the region's biosecurity in combination with enhanced public awareness. Threats posed by mammals in South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands are well documented, and a study of alien invasive flora and invertebrates is currently under way (field work completed and analysis in progress).

2x. Effective measures in place to prevent arrival of further invasives

Progress on effective control of animal and plant pests and on reviewing applications to import plants is reported in Bermuda. The TCI Environ-

mental Health Department has enacted phytosanitary certification requirement for plant importation. Anguillan authorities are reported as not very strict on phytosanitary requirements, especially with regard to plant species. Biosecurity measures in place in St Helena include the checking of imported fruit and vegetables by the Pest Control Section of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Department. Further recommendations will be made following a regional review of biosecurity measures. Additional activities are being undertaken to reduce the pressure to import further plant materials, enhance production of native species for gardens and landscaping, promote local compost production and enhance public awareness. In Tristan da Cunha, preparatory work for eradication of mice and *Sagina* on Gough Island is due to begin in September 2009. New funding is expected in 2009 for *Sagina* and mouse eradication work on Gough for a further two years. Trial quarantine officer and procedures are in place in Cape Town (from early 2009) to control rodents and invertebrates on supply ships to Tristan. Procedures for ships landing tourists on Tristan, Nightingale and Inaccessible are in place. Biosecurity documentation is close to completion for the Falkland Islands. Biosecurity measures have been introduced in South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands to ensure that all landings are subject to specified procedures and a self-audit mechanism. A dedicated building is under construction to enable cleaning and storage of equipment between intra-island transfers. Additional legislation controlling coarse fish is proposed in the Isle of Man.

3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.

3a. All Country Plans and strategic plans refer to the Environment Charter and its Commitments

Strategic planning exercises and yearly work plans by the Conservation & Fisheries Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour, in BVI take into consideration the country's national, regional and international obligations, including the Environment Charter.

3b. Have environmental considerations been integrated into social and economic planning processes, and are activities undertaken in sustainable manner in the following sectors:

The draft Constitution of the Cayman Islands con-

tains aspirational rights for environmental protection. A consultant has been contracted for a habitat mapping project in TCI, focusing on endemic species and vulnerable habitats; this will provide information to feed into the National Physical Development Plan. In 2007, the BVI Government signed an agreement to participate in The Enhancing Capacity for Adaptation to Climate Change in the UK Caribbean Overseas Territories (ECACC) Project; this project is being used as a major driving force for integrating climate change adaptation strategies (essentially, environmental issues) into decision making at the highest levels. In February 2009, an economic development strategy was developed by the Tristan Council with assistance from a DFID appointed consultancy; this process has not yet been completed but environmental considerations are included. In Guernsey, the Environmental Plan, Social Plan and Fiscal/Economic Plan jointly form the island's Strategic Plan.

3c. Waste management

In April 2009, the online *TCI Journal* and *TC Weekly* reported major problems with waste management and health problems caused by the dump on Providenciales. Bottle collecting for future shipment for recycling has begun in BVI. A non-profit organisation "Green VI" was recently formed specifically to address waste management issues. One of their first major initiatives is to construct a furnace to recycle glass into usable household/decorative items. A new incinerator with larger capacity is to be installed soon on Tortola. In Anguilla, Environmental Health used to collect glass bottles, but this initiative was abandoned without explanation. For St Helena, informal workable arrangements are in place with the *RMS St Helena* to manage disposal of waste oil generated on the island; discussions with Andrew Weir Shipping also took place during the period under review on recycling issues. In 2007, a DFID Environmental Health report was produced for Tristan da Cunha. This focussed on waste management but included all issues and made a number of recommendations, however, resources have not been available for implementation. Relevant activities are dealt with through the planning system in the Isle of Man.

3d. Water resources management

The Water Corporation of Anguilla was established in 2008, with the Ministry of Health responsible for quality of water supplied. Some degree of water quality monitoring and testing was formerly undertaken by the Environmental Health Unit, but this appears to have declined, possibly as a conse-

quence of staff changes. The production capacity of the desalination plant at Crocus Bay was expanded by 50% in 2001. When the plant became operational in 1999, there was concern about the impact on the marine environment of the high salinity outflow and also some concern about the EIA. This should have been monitored.

In St Helena, a Water Catchment Management Study has informed the programme for invasive plant removal on the Peaks. A more phased approach to the clearance of flax *Phorium tenax* has resulted, reducing the annual removal of this invasive plant but maximising the interception of water from this area. The Drip Irrigation Project has provided for the establishment of infrastructure that allows for a more efficient use (versus overhead irrigation) of water resources for both agriculture and horticulture (see also 3j).

Tristan da Cunha: Water management issues were included in the 2007 report for Tristan da Cunha (cf. 3c). Relevant activities are dealt with through the planning system in the Isle of Man.

3e. Tourism

An Environmental Project for the Tourism Sector has been implemented and is on-going in the Cayman Islands. Recent large scale developments in BVI, such as those on Scrub Island and at Oil Nut Bay, Virgin Gorda, have been required to hire an environmental manager during the construction phase. This has helped with monitoring, as the environmental manager produces weekly reports. However, there is a need for a more structured format for, and consistency in, this reporting. Relevant activities are dealt with through the planning system in the Isle of Man.

3f. Transport

EIA reports on transport projects in TCI are not regularly circulated or made available. Public transportation to reduce congestion and improve air quality is being investigated in BVI, specifically for the Road Town area. Relevant activities are dealt with through the planning system in the Isle of Man.

3g. Public and private land use

In Anguilla, a draft Physical Planning Bill was withdrawn from consideration when serious faults were revealed, and was then abandoned, rather than improved; there are allegations of significant corruption in the granting of planning permits. The Land Planning & Development Control Ordinance (2008) is now in force in St Helena, providing for the planning and regulation of the development and

use of land, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Relevant activities are dealt with through the planning system in the Isle of Man.

3h. Taxation & Economic

The Environmental Fund in the Cayman Islands cannot currently be readily accessed for environmental funding purposes.

3i. Fishing

Excellent management is reported in Anguilla; a marine biologist recruited to the Fisheries Department has enhanced capacity. The Directorate of Fisheries in St Helena is responsible for the management and regulation of the fishery resource. Various Ordinances applicable to the management of the fishery regulate licensing, types of fish caught, types of gear used and numbers of fish taken. A quota system is currently in place on the grouper fishery. In South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, three Restricted Impact Areas, where long-line fishing is restricted to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, have been established. Fisheries management for BIOT is currently provided by the company MRAG; there is poaching (levels of which are disputed). Restrictive fishing legislation in place in Sark may be extended to 12 miles. Relevant conservation matters are considered in the Isle of Man insofar as the Wildlife & Conservation Division has an input into fisheries policy development. Serious threats to turtles from fishing by-catch in Western SBA are reported from Cyprus.

3j. Farming & Forestry

Funding has been removed from most relevant activities in TCI. In St Helena, the Forestry Management Plan is still to be endorsed by the Agricultural & Natural Resources Committee, but is still very much a working document for Forestry. There is controversy over the impact of eucalyptus on local hydrology. There have been no new plantings since before 1992 and, since 2006/07, a number of areas of eucalyptus have been thinned. Whilst there have been no formal investigations carried out by the ANR Department, work has progressed in areas of eucalyptus being cleared. One of the areas cleared of eucalyptus (Warren's Gut) has seen a vast improvement to the water supply. This is monitored by the Water Division and flows that were virtually nil have now risen to over 300 cubic metres per day. The area earmarked for clear-felling has not been cleared, but this intention is still included within the Management Plan. Relevant conservation matters are considered in the Isle of

Man, insofar as the Wildlife & Conservation Division has an input into farming and forestry policy development.

3k. Mineral Extraction

Countless complaints to police in Anguilla about illegal sand-mining appear to have been ignored. Relevant activities are dealt with through the planning system in the Isle of Man.

3l. Power Generation

In the Cayman Islands, there is a stated aim of 10% renewable energy production; the power company is now ready to 'buy-back' user-generated electricity. Unfavourable customs regimes continue to discourage solar and wind energy in Anguilla. Under the Interim Wind Generation Project in St Helena, three more wind turbines have been procured. However, only one has been erected to date, and there are concerns over its environmental impacts at the site selected on Deadwood Plain. The Energy Division is currently erecting 50m masts to ascertain the suitability of three sites for future wind turbine development. An Environmental Assessment is also to be conducted at these sites, to ensure that future sitings of wind turbines take into account both technical feasibility and environmental impacts. In Tristan da Cunha, the hydro-electric project will open fully in 2009, following a delay to works. Relevant activities are dealt with through the planning system in the Isle of Man.

3m. Traditional Crafts

Concern continues over sale of land in coastal areas that support plant species used in traditional crafts in TCI, largely without public consultation or knowledge. In St Helena, the Adult Vocational Education Centre (AVEC) and St Helena's Active Participation in Enterprise (SHAPE) project have provided courses and facilities to support training in traditional crafts and related skills, and it is hoped that such provision will be extended.

3n. Others

Resurgence of illegal migrant songbird trapping in Eastern SBA is reported from Cyprus.

4. Ensure that environmental and environmental health impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.

4a. EIAs required on development projects

In practice, no EIAs were required on many

projects in TCI, including those proposed by the Government (cf. evidence given to Commission of Enquiry); development proposals for land in Protected Areas and National Trust land holding continued to be submitted and in some cases promoted by TCIG. Local reports from Anguilla note that the exercise is often cosmetic in terms of the timing and decision making. It is reportedly commonplace for developments to proceed before EIAs are completed and reports reviewed. With weak monitoring, developers have continued to "do their own thing." In St Helena, the new Land Planning & Development Control Ordinance (2008) makes provision for mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Whether or not a development will require an EIA will be determined by the Planning Officer. For projects funded by external donors, St Helena must comply with donor requirements (e.g. Development Aid Projects must have an Environmental Scoping Note (ESN) completed before funding is approved). In most cases, a full EIA is not needed, however an ESN allows the Advisor to specify if further action, such as an EIA is required. Pressure from BIOT conservation consultant is being applied on this, in relation to Diego Garcia. In Guernsey, EIAs will be required for certain types of development under a new law to be introduced 6/4/09. In the Isle of Man, EIAs are required through the planning system for terrestrial developments.

4b. Number of proposed or active development projects

In Bermuda, the Southlands hotel proposal, which was subject to public criticism on environmental grounds, was cancelled; recently, concerns have been expressed over a proposed (seasonal) development on Warwick Long Bay beach. In the Cayman Islands, these are reported to be too numerous to list; amongst the largest is the George Town Port Redevelopment Proposal

4c. Number of these with publicly available EIAs

In Bermuda, EIAs are in preparation or prepared and publicly available for other major projects. Public EIAs are pending in the Cayman Islands. For TCI, see 4a above. In Anguilla, EIAs are secret documents considered in closed meetings; public input is limited. For the St Helena Development Aid Project (Accelerated Growth Phase), an ESN is written and available for public viewing; for the Interim Wind Generation Project, an initial ESN done by DFID is being further developed by EPD Section on island in consultation with stakeholders. This was never done formally as it was intended

to appraise all alternative sites but, in the absence of relevant technical data, there was a reluctance to consider sites other than Deadwood Plain. In Guernsey, Longue Hougue waste plant has a public EIA. In Alderney, 3 EIAs have been completed but none are available to the public.

4d. 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)?

Isle of Man clarifies that no list of major potential and actual threats to the environment, detailing threatened species, ecosystems and landscapes has been developed.

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.

5a. EIAs publicly available to community and peer review with time for comment before decision.

Procedural problems impede EIAs being made publicly available at the Planning Department in TCI; local people do not think that the decision-making process is open or that policy development is open to public consultation. In Anguilla, adequate time is not always given for peer review, and community interest is still too low to factor this into the sustainability of development outcomes. There has been improvement in this area in the last two years, although some EIAs have been described by experts as mere “lobbying documents, insubstantial and shallow”, and some projects appear to have been approved in the face of all the evidence. The new Land Planning & Development Control Ordinance (2008) makes provisions for EIA’s to be undertaken in St Helena (if deemed necessary by the Planning Officer) and included with any plans submitted for development permission. The public are given 28 days to view any documentation, including any EIAs that are produced, relating to any requests for development permission.

In the Isle of Man, EIAs are publicly available to community and peer review, with time for comment before decision.

5b. Public enquiry system and decision independent of parties and government available and used

This is reported to be the case in the Isle of Man.

5c. Decision process open with reasons given.

In Anguilla, the public reportedly find it difficult to find out about biodiversity and heritage conservation; it is noted that they do not have a Freedom of Information Act, Parliamentary Committees or Commissions of Inquiry in support of scrutiny, as in UK. In the Isle of Man, the decision process is reported to be open with reasons given. In Guernsey the decision process is reported to be open, with reasons given.

5d. Policy development open to public consultation

In the Isle of Man, in some cases, the consultation process is being more formalised and government guidelines published.

6. Implement effectively Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.

6a. Ramsar Convention on Wetland extended to Territory

6b. Number of sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance

Inaccessible and Gough Islands (in the Tristan da Cunha group), and their 12-nm territorial waters, have been both designated (2008) as separate Ramsar Wetland Sites of International Importance.

6c. Area (km²) designated as Wetlands of International Importance

For Tristan da Cunha, see 6b above.

6d. Area (km²) of sites identified as qualifying as Wetlands of International Importance but not yet designated

6e. Area (km²) designated as Wetlands of International Importance but suffering damage

In the (TCI) North, Middle and East Caicos Ramsar Site, building and other proposed developments are reported within the northern part of the nature reserve in North Caicos, and extension of the North Caicos runway into the nature reserve, apparently without an open EIA. Also, construction of a causeway linking North and Middle Caicos, near to the nature reserve boundary, without apparent EIA on the effects on the nature reserve. An invitation has appeared in the TCI press for bids to construct

a causeway between Joe Grant's Cay and East Caicos. There is no way that such a causeway could not pass through the North, Middle and East Caicos Ramsar Site. However, no EIA has been mentioned and no consultation has taken place. This potentially puts HMG in breach of the terms of the Convention, which require: that the Secretariat is advised of expected impacts on the site; avoidance of these if possible; and that a comprehensive EIA is carried out before any construction work begins (with examination of alternatives, plan for minimising impacts and compensatory measures if the national interest requires the work to go ahead). In Jersey, damage and potential further threats are reported for the SE Jersey Ramsar Site.

6f. Area (km²) of wetland outside protected areas being managed sustainably

6g. Area (km²) of wetland outside protected areas for which there is no information on management

6h. Area (km²) of wetland outside protected areas which has suffered damage

For TCI, see 2a above.

6i. CITES extended to Territory

6j. Convention on Biological Diversity extended to Territory

6k. Convention on Migratory Species extended to Territory

Isle of Man has become a Party to the Convention on Migratory Species Raptor Memorandum of Understanding.

6. Agreements under CMS extended to Territory:

6l. Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels (ACAP)

6m. Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)

6n. Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Sea (ASCOBANS)

Isle of Man is now a signatory to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS).

6o. Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Eurobats)

6p. Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - Indian Ocean Turtle MOU

6q. World Heritage Convention extended to Territory

6r. Number of World Heritage sites (natural and cultural) designated

Although it has been suggested that the whole of St Helena be designated as a World Heritage Site, this has yet to be discussed further with all stakeholders and the process and ramifications of designation also needs to be fully explored.

6s. Area (km²) of World Heritage sites (natural and cultural) designated

6t. Number of domestically protected cultural heritage sites

6u. Area (km²) of domestically protected cultural heritage sites

6v. Other Conventions extended to Territory

6w. 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 Caledonia, 17-25 November 1986)

6x. Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic OSPAR

6y. Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena)

6z. Protocol concerning specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena)

6z1. Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (London Convention)

7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.

7a. Taxa and natural resources for which baseline data have been collected and made available, with extents of coverage for each.

There are a large number of taxa for which baseline data have been collected and reported on all islands in the Tristan da Cunha group. In the Falkland Islands, distribution data have been collected for penguins (four species), black-browed albatross, seals, land birds and ACAP species [Procellariiformes] (white-chinned petrels, northern and southern giant petrels); baseline data on flora and invertebrates has been collected but is not yet available. Baseline data have been collected for Procellariiformes in South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (all island breeding sites); the South Georgia GIS is now available publicly online (www.sggis.gov.gs) and contains baseline data, with the intention to increase the amount of historical data stored in the system and to ensure that all new data collected are also included. In Alderney, the seaweed survey has been extended. A new flora catalogue/guide is being written for the Isle of Man, where butterfly and moth surveys are on-going also, with baseline data available for the whole island on road verges and intertidal, coastal and sub-tidal areas; data are also available on marine mammals and basking sharks.

7b. Taxa and natural resources for which there are monitoring programmes, with extents of coverage for each.

In the Cayman Islands, there is a national programme for Grouper (including monitoring) as part of the related Species Action Plan; DoE have also established a long-term monitoring programme. The bird monitoring programme in Anguilla was extended to terrestrial sites in July 2008. In Ascension, land crabs are subject to monitoring. Weekly monitoring of cetaceans around St Helena includes two land surveys and once per month on the seaward side of the island; an island-wide wirebird census is carried out annually at 31 different sites, and wirebird monitoring of 5 key sites is carried out weekly. There is monitoring of important sea and land birds, as well as seals and the invasive *Sagina procumbens* where it occurs, across the islands of the Tristan da Cunha group. In the Falkland Islands, there is monitoring of seabirds (penguins, black-browed albatross, southern giant petrel), seals, Cobb's Wren, and distribution of invasive plants. In South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, monitoring of wandering albatross, black-browed albatross, grey-headed albatross, fur seals, macaroni penguins and gentoo penguins involves various extents of coverage. A monitoring programme for invertebrates in rivers has started in the Isle of Man.

7c. Topics which are priorities for further information gathering.

In the Cayman Islands, priorities are reported as including the updating of habitat maps, continuation of current mapping (nearshore / offshore), and issues related to sea-level rise (and climate change). In Ascension, priorities include biocontrol agents on plants, development of protocols for endemic plants, and issues related to illegal fishing. The anticipated recruitment of a Marine Scientific Officer in St Helena will assist in the clarification and pursuit of priorities there. In Tristan da Cunha, priorities include establishment of reasons for the recently documented declines in Northern Rockhopper Penguin, and clarification of the status of winter breeding seabirds (Atlantic Petrel, Great-winged Petrel and Grey Petrel) on Inaccessible and Nightingale Islands. In the Falkland Islands, reported priorities include clarification of the biology of Cobb's Wren, and work on seal and cetacean species (see National Biodiversity Strategy document on www.epd.gov.fk). In South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, continued monitoring of ACAP species is considered a priority; a further survey of South Sandwich Islands is required but costs are currently prohibitive. Invertebrates, the island flora (especially lower plants) and marine life are reported priorities for survey and monitoring in the Isle of Man.

8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

8a. Are effective Ordinances in place to implement polluter-pays principle?

In the Cayman Islands, anti-litter legislation is in place, although weakly enforced. In St Helena, there is no effective Ordinance in place to implement the polluter-pays principle. Such issues can be addressed only in part, using the Public Health Ordinance, the Health and Safety Ordinance and also the Litter Ordinance. A review of relevant legislation will be done under the Solid Waste Project Phase II.

8b. Number of cases of polluter paying, and amounts involved.

8c. Monitoring of pollution and adherence to planning conditions in place

Doubts have been expressed locally in TCI about the existence of reports monitoring pollution. In

the Isle of Man, some monitoring is reported, but this appears to be under-resourced.

8d. Enforcement measures in place

Doubts have been expressed locally in TCI over enforcement by conservation officers and the pollution task force. In Anguilla, reports indicate no enforcement, and no compliance.

8e. Number of enforcement cases brought.

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.

9a. Environment Charter strategy for implementation in schools curriculum

Several environmental education initiatives exist in the Cayman Islands on a variety of issues, though none directly reference the Charter.

9b. Local environment, global context in schools curriculum

Several environmental education initiatives exist in the Cayman Islands on a variety of issues. In Tristan da Cunha, all classes have *Tristan Studies*, primarily aimed at environmental and wildlife topics, and input from visiting specialists (ecologists, the vet, etc., are encouraged to give a class on their subject during their stay). The local environment in a global context is considered at most levels in the Falkland Islands, including in relation to the impacts of invasive species. For South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, there is engagement with Falkland schools when appropriate.

9c. Number of visits at all levels to local environmental sites

In TCI, the TCNT facilitates numerous field trips to Protected Areas and National Trust managed areas, environmental education classroom visits, and a summer camp programme. In Anguilla, the ANT has a conducted at least ten visits in 2008.

9d. Number of field classroom facilities

Facilities in Bermuda include the *Spirit of Bermuda* sloop, providing for education on a sailboat, including on marine environmental issues. In TCI, the National Trust's Middle Caicos Conservation Centre features environmental exhibits and is increasingly visited by schools. In Ascension, all Primary Schools (KS1 & KS2) have science laboratories. Other Primary level field work,

follow-up displays, etc., are done in ordinary classroom facilities or Hall and Library display areas, and schools support displays set up for Marine Awareness Week and Environment Week and make visits. At Secondary level, there are six science laboratories in school, which includes a lab at Harpers Field Centre (Harpers is used for those children interested in doing horticultural science). In 2009, a school vegetable garden was established in Tristan da Cunha, with all classes involved (3-15 years), older children on a weekly basis. The New Island Interpretive Centre (Barnard Building) has been established in the Falkland Islands, but not yet used as a classroom facility due to transport & logistical problems. In Alderney, development of a field classroom at the Alderney Wildlife Trust's Essex Farm site is on-going, with more than 2000 resident and visitor users. The Akrotiri Environmental Education & Information Centre (Cyprus SBA) hosts 5000 school children per year.

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.

10a. Number of publications by Government in each year on local environmental topics

10b. Number of publications by NGOs in each year on local environmental topics

Reported publications include:

TCI: *A History of the Turks & Caicos Islands*

[2008, Macmillan-Caribbean, commissioned by TCIG Education Department] includes chapters on native flora and fauna of TCI authored by TCNT staff.

BVI: *Marine Awareness - A BVI Guide* (First Edition) [2008, BVI Government] includes coverage of marine habitats and species, marine laws, conservation practices, potentially dangerous marine organisms, storm preparation and safety; *Reef Critters of the Virgin Islands* [Conservation & Fisheries Department 2009 Calendar, BVI Government] features pictures of reef critters with fun facts; *Beach Safety* (Brochure) [2008, BVI Government] information on beach safety rules, safety flags, lifeguards; *Climate Change – What does it mean for tourism? Impacts of Climate Change on Tourism in the BVI*. [2008, BVI Government]; *International Year of the Reef 2008 Article Series in the BVI Yacht Guide* [March-December 2008, A Looking Glass (private company)] featuring various aspects of reef biology and conservation.

Ascension: *Climate Change – it will affect you!* [2007 EPD Section, Ascension Government] brief on climate change, the consequences of climate change and what can be done on island to assist with slowing down the impacts of climate change.

Tristan da Cunha: *Tristan and Nightingale Islands - Wildlife Monitoring Manual* [2008, RSPB research report (NGO)]; The biology and conservation status of Gough Bunting *Rowettia goughensis*, Ryan, P.G. and Cuthbert, R. J. [2008, *Bulletin of the B.O.C.*, 128(4)]; Population trends and conservation status of the Northern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi* at Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island, Cuthbert, R.J. et. al. [2009, *Bird Conservation International* 19: 109–120, BirdLife International].

Falkland Islands: *Falkland Islands State of the Environment Report* (and references within) [2008, www.epd.goc.fk]; *Biodiversity Strategy* (draft) [2008, www.epd.goc.fk]. *Plants of the Falkland Islands*, Ali Liddle [2008, NGO]; *New Island, Falkland Islands - A South Atlantic Wildlife Sanctuary for Conservation Management* [2007, published by Design In Nature for the NICT], informative, highly illustrated work, outlining a management plan and charting the history and development of one island as a reserve, designed to be used as an example to other landowners..

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: *South Georgia Land and Visitor Management Report* [(2002) South Georgia Surveys (NGO)], comprehensive review of land and visitor management policies, legislation, guidelines and practices.

BIOT: BIOT environmental awareness leaflet [2008, Chagos Conservation Trust (NGO)], advice handed to all personnel on Diego Garcia about 'how to protect the beauty and wildlife' of BIOT; Chagos Factsheets miniCD [2008, Chagos Conservation Trust (NGO)], illustrated factsheets about aspects of BIOT (mainly environmental).

Guernsey: Sustainability Report [2007]. (Once the Environmental Plan is agreed, a strategy for its promotion and implementation will be developed.)

Isle of Man: *Making a Manx home for wildlife - Things you can do to help wildlife in your garden* (leaflet) [2008, NGO partnership with Government support]; *Guidelines for the selection of Biological Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) on the Isle of Man* (Basis of statutory designation) [2008, Government]; *Manx hedge-*

row management - code of best practice (leaflet) [2007, Government]; *Manx watercourse management code* [2006, Government partnership]; several other leaflets.

10c. Programme in place to promote Environment Charter and implementation strategy

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

As noted earlier, UK Government has drastically reduced its resources in this area since signing the Environment Charters in late 2001, and contributing very full interim reports to the Bermuda conference in early 2003. In late May 2009 (just before the Cayman conference), FCO and Defra supplied summary statements on their fulfilment of the Commitments under the Charters. These statements are given below, reordered slightly to relate to the Commitments themselves insofar as this was practicable.

General: HMG Commitments under the Environment Charters

Responsibility for environmental protection is devolved to the Territories. However HMG acknowledges that they need help to address environmental issues. In doing this, three departments (Defra, DFID and FCO) work together alongside JNCC, and involving NGOs, with a view to providing encouragement, support, dialogue, expertise and any other assistance to the UKOTs. This joint effort ensures a coherent and structured approach, which seeks to focus on the areas that UKOT Governments are less able to address themselves.

Defra co-ordinates nature conservation and biodiversity across UK Government, including reporting under multilateral agreements (MEAs), including CBD, CITES, ACAP and Ramsar. It includes UKOTs in its reporting for the UK as applicable, and liaises with them when negotiating. It also helps UKOTs adapt their domestic legislation. Defra is responsible for the Darwin Initiative which supports commitments under the MEAs, and nearly £2m has been spent in the UKOTs to this end. Defra accords or facilitates other sources of funding as well, including the Flagship Species Fund, the

International Sustainable Development Fund, and a variety of research funding (see note from Defra incorporated below).

DfID provides development assistance to UKOTs in need of budgetary support, as well as technical and financial support on cross-cutting issues - all of which can be used in support of environmental protection as appropriate. DfID also jointly funds and manages OTEP with FCO, to the tune of £500,000 per annum.

FCO co-ordinates overall policy on the UKOTs, with other Whitehall Departments leading in their area of expertise. FCO was responsible for the initial creation of the Environment Charters. FCO seeks to assist the UKOTs to use the Charters as the UKOTs see fit, whether as a tool from which they can draw up specific objectives in conservation issues, or to give more general direction to their conservation efforts. OTEP was set up to facilitate the implementation of the Charters, and FCO contributes £500,000 per annum to this and manages it jointly with DfID. Additional, larger projects can be considered under the wider OTPF budget. FCO staff in Governors' Offices assist the UKOTs in the management and implementation of these projects in the territories themselves, and act as a liaison between UKOT Governments and HMG.

The Charters provide a general framework to drive environmental efforts in the UKOTs. However, HMG recognise that they need to be updated and tailored to specific UKOT requirements.

1. Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management which is consistent with the Territory's own plans for sustainable development.

Since the Charters were signed, HMG has helped build capacity for environmental management, through various initiatives including the Overseas Territories Project Fund, which includes OTEP. Each Governor has a small devolved budget which is used to support the UKOTs.

2. Assist the Territories in initiating, reviewing and updating environmental legislation

Since the Charters were signed, HMG has assisted the UKOTs with environmental legislative issues, such as providing funding through

OTEP for TCI, Montserrat and Anguilla to recruit a consultant to update environmental legislation. OTPF has also provided funds for legislation updates within the UKOTs, to help with sustainable development.

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.)

Since the Charters were signed, HMG has assisted the UKOTs by facilitating the extension of MEAs to them, working closely to identify MEAs of interest to them, and providing legal advice.

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

Since the Charters were signed, HMG has kept the UKOTs informed of new developments in MEAs by copying correspondence to the relevant authorities in the UKOTs. HMG has also invited UKOTs to be members of a number of delegations, including occasionally funding UKOT representation at meetings.

5. Help each Territory to ensure it has the legislation, institutional capacity (technology, equipment, procedures) and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations

Since the Charters were signed, HMG has helped the UKOTs meet their international commitments, by providing legal advice and support for legislative issues. Funding has been provided to recruit specialist consultants, and FCO Legal Advisers have provided advice to a number of UKOTs on legislation under consideration.

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

Since the Charters were signed, HMG has promoted co-operation and sharing of expertise between UKOTs and other small island developing states, by funding a number of regional

projects through OTEP, including educational projects and the Economic Valuation toolkit. OTEP funds have also been used to pay for a large proportion of the costs of UKOTCF conferences.

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 non-governmental organisations and networks.

Since the Charters were signed, HMG has provided technical assistance and specialised knowledge using UK, regional and local expertise, by providing funding for officials to visit UKOTs, for example for Defra and JNCC officials to offer advice on CITES requirements. Officials also provide advice and assistance to UKOTs preparing project submissions to OTEP, or when drafting legislation.

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.

Since the Charters were signed, HMG has commissioned JNCC to work currently on a survey of possible funding sources for UKOTs, and investigating the best means to help the UKOTs access this funding. Defra is providing improved access to Darwin funds for the UKOTs, and DfID and FCO fund £1m per year of projects through OTEP. FCO's OTPF (Overseas Territories Programme Fund) can be used to fund environmental projects.

In this context, Defra has supplied the following note:

1. Defra supports biodiversity conservation in the UKOTs in a number of ways, including to help UKOTs deliver their obligations under the biodiversity conventions and to implement the Environment Charters.
2. Several MEAs have been extended to the Overseas Territories. Within Defra, the Darwin Initiative is the main vehicle for supporting commitments under the MEAs - since Darwin began in 1992, nearly £2m has been awarded to biodiversity projects in UKOTs to support implementation of CBD, and latterly CMS and CITES. In the most recent round (R16) Defra extended a special

welcome to projects in the UKOTs. Annex 1 provides more details of individual projects.

3. As member of MEAs, Defra has to report on the implementation of these Conventions and has sought input from UKOTs where relevant, for instance on the recent Fourth National Report to CBD.

4. Defra has provided information to UKOTs on key developments in MEAs, for instance prior to meetings under the Conventions. Defra has also welcomed the participation of stakeholders in negotiations on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) where relevant, and delegations have included participants from devolved administrations and the UKOTs.

The Convention on Biological Diversity

5. The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) holds a biennial Conference of the Parties (COP) and a range of intersessional meetings. In 2004, Defra paid for two participants from Turks and Caicos Islands to engage in negotiations at COP7. In 2005, Defra and FCO cosponsored a participant from Ascension Island to attend a subsidiary scientific meeting (SBSTTA10) which negotiated a draft work programme on Island Biodiversity. The same participant attended COP8 in 2006, and Defra provided in kind logistic and policy support. Two additional participants from Turks and Caicos attended the meeting without financial support from HMG.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

6. Under CITES, Defra has supported a training visit to the Cayman Islands by the UK's CITES Licensing authority, Customs and JNCC to identify local CITES trade issues and share expertise in CITES processes and controls, with OTEP funding, in 2007 and a similar visit is planned for Montserrat, and possibly St Helena, later this year [2009]. Defra also works closely with all UKOTs, on an on-going basis, to advise them on domestic legislation which implements CITES controls giving them legal advice, and liaising with and reporting to the CITES Secretariat on their behalf.

CMS agreements – ACAP & IOSEA

7. The UK has signed up to several CMS agreements because the UKOTs are range

states. The UK is a key Party to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and have made voluntary contributions, including towards the costs of an officer who will co-ordinate ACAP activities in the South Atlantic territories from a base in the Falkland Islands. Representatives from SGSSI and BAS formed part of the UK delegation to ACAP MoP1, and a representative from FIG attended AC2. In addition, the UKOT governments have engaged in discussions to inform UK positions at international meetings.

8. Defra support also another CMS daughter agreement, the Indian Ocean-South East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle MoU which covers the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), part of the Chagos Islands archipelago which is an important habitat for marine turtles. The UK helps fund the work of the IOSEA MoU Secretariat coordinating the work of the signatories to protect the turtles.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

9. A review of existing and potential Ramsar sites in the UKOTs and Crown Dependencies was commissioned by Defra, from UKOTCF, to identify potential sites featuring interests that were under-represented in the List of Wetlands of International Importance. Defra and UKOTCF have since worked with UKOTs, most recently Tristan da Cunha, to designate Ramsar Sites.

Research funding

10. In autumn 2008, Defra contributed an extra £150k research funding to assist projects in UKOTs, including support of the TCI government's habitat mapping, and a contribution to the Tristan da Cunha government's monitoring of seabird populations. Defra has also allocated funding from its International Biodiversity research programme for research in future years.

FSF Flagship Species Fund

11. The FSF is a joint initiative between Defra and Flora & Fauna International (FFI) which supports conservation projects in developing countries and also attracts additional funding from the corporate sector. FSF has supported several projects in UKOTs, including on Turtles in the Chagos Islands and the Caribbean.

International Sustainable Development Fund

12. Defra has supported several projects under the WSSD Implementation Fund (WIF) fund, now known as the International Sustainable Development Fund, established to accelerate implementation of commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Several projects were taken forward in UKOTs including a capacity building workshop on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) which was held in early 2006 in Montserrat. Kew Gardens and JNCC were the key partners.

Annex 1 – Darwin Initiative projects in OTs

3-032 Various UKOTs - Core Development of the Forum and Support for NGOs in UK Dependent Territories, UK Dependent Territories Forum
Round 1 started 1993 £25,000

4-148 Various UKOTs - Cultivation and Conservation of Threatened Plant Species for UK Overseas Territories, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
Round 3 started 1995 £102,454

7/006 Ascension Island - Assessing the status of Ascension Island green turtles, University of Wales Swansea
Round 6 started 1998 £133,873

7/115 St Helena - Ecology and conservation of the endemic St Helena wirebird, University of Reading
Round 6 started 1998 £88,968

7/163 British Virgin Islands - Integrating national parks, education and community development, British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust
Round 6 started 1998 £116,550

8/024 Falkland Islands - Status and distribution of the flora of The Falkland Islands, Queens University Belfast
Round 7 started 1999 £33,330

8/114 Anguilla - Capacity building for biodiversity conservation in Anguilla, World Wide Fund for Nature - UK
Round 7 started 1999 £82,507

8/164 Turks & Caicos Isles - Developing biodiversity management capacity around the Ramsar site in Turks and Caicos Islands,

CABI Bioscience
Round 7 started 1999 £124,100

9/009 Bermuda - Development of a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Bermuda, Bermuda Zoological Society (BZS)
Round 8 started 2000 £98,528

12/010 Tristan da Cunha - Empowering the people of Tristan to implement the CBD, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Round 11 start 2003 £154,117

12/023 British Virgin Islands - Biodiversity Action Plan for Anegada, BVI University of Wales
Round 11 start 2003 £164,205

13/022 Falkland Islands - Falkland Islands Invertebrate Project
Round 12 priority reserve- start September 2004 £118,488

14/027 Montserrat - Enabling the People of Montserrat to Conserve the Centre Hills, RSPB
Round 13 start 2005 £160,900

14/051 Cayman Islands - In Ivan's wake: Darwin Initiative BAP for the Cayman Islands, University of Exeter in Cornwall
Round 13 start 2005 £179,325

17/004 Cross Caribbean UKOTs - Building civil society capacity for conservation in the Caribbean UKOTs, Commonwealth Foundation
Round 16 start 2009 £262,755

14/ Pacific Island States - Conservation Extension Through Distance Learning for the small Island States of the Pacific, International Centre for Protected Landscapes
Pre-project Round 13 £2,292

EIDPO023 Tristan da Cunha - Enabling the people of Tristan to implement the CBD in the marine environment, RSPB
Post-Project start 2007

EIDPO027 Montserrat - Reducing the impact of feral livestock in and around the Centre Hills
Post-Project start 2009 £144,236

EIDPR078 Falkland Islands - Conservation strategies for Falkland Islands freshwater fish biodiversity
Scoping Award start 2007

9. Help each of the Territories identify further funding partners for environmental projects, such as donors, the private sector or nongovernmental organisations.

Since the Charters were signed, HMG has helped the UKOTs identify further funding partners for environmental projects, through the initiatives described above.

10. Recognise the diversity of the challenges facing the Overseas Territories in very different socio-economic and geographical situations.

Since the Charters were signed, HMG has recognised the diversity of challenges faced by the UKOTs in very difficult socio-economic and geographical situations, by providing funding from FCO through OTPF for projects such as economic diversification, immigration, security and health, depending upon the issues facing the individual UKOT. DfID funding is used to provide budgetary support to those UKOTs in most need.

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.

Since the Charters were signed, HMG has abided by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration and working towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals on the environment, by using OTPF to promote sustainable development, and DfID funding to assist development.

First Review in 2007 (with additional rows for changes)

Background

The Environment Charters signed in September 2001 between the UK Government and the Governments of UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) are important documents underlying the shared responsibility of the UK Government and the Government of each Territory for the conservation of the environment and the 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. In the context of international commitments, it is UK which lodges – and is accountable for – the international commitment, but the legislature and executive of each territory which are responsible for the local implementing legislation and its implementation. 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 considerable 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 & the Department for International Development's (DFID) joint Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP). Accordingly, part of this work was supported by funding from OTEP. Some in UKOTs have expressed some concern that this might mean that one party (UK Government) to the Charters might have special access to the assessment process. However, it is important to note 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 both parties to each Charter, as well as others, UKOTCF will retain its independent oversight of the process. UKOTCF originally suggested the idea of 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, and these 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. 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 measures that meet these requirements; for others it is very difficult. UKOTCF does not want to generate unnecessary work, and recognises also that some information is already readily available annually for other purposes. For others, a cumulative measure, 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.

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 the *Biodiversity That Matters* conference in Jersey in October 2006, organised by UKOTCF and supported by OTEP. UKOTCF took the opportunity to invite further contributions and enquired whether there were blockages which could be addressed. There was a general agreement from UKOTs that it is important that the Territories and other parties supply information to update these. There were also requests to provide in addition forms designed more for the supply of

information than for summarising the results. This was done 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 (Report 23 May 2007). When preparing supplementary evidence to address questions put to their Minister by the Committee, FCO officials asked of progress on UKOTCF's 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 to cut out some areas of the form, because of the structure of the Charters and the fact that different territories had made most progress in different areas. For efficiency of collation and reporting, those territories without Charters were also invited to include themselves 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 much effort.

Acknowledgements

UKOTCF is grateful to all those who helped develop and commented on the development of the indicators and OTEP for part support for some of the earlier stages of the work. The contributions of those who then supplied information on progress was, of course, essential and UKOTCF gratefully acknowledges this. These thanks are the more so

because some of the bodies which had originally asked UKOTCF to undertake this review circulated to UKOTs, as it was moving towards completion, other questionnaires. 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 and 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. HMG did not identify any problems when the draft indicators were published in early 2006. 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, 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 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, particularly for those Commitments for which indicators are particularly difficult to develop, some measures include an element of interpreta-

tion, and there is a risk that these have been interpreted differently in different territories. Wherever possible, it has been attempted to move towards a more shared 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:



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)

These follow on the next 11 pages, with the updating lines as explained above. This is followed by the 2007 report on UK Government commitments.

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
Measures																					
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.																					
1a. Signed Environment Charter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ³	N	N	N	N	N	N
UPDATE 2009																					
1b. Group assembled to develop and manage strategy for action	2 ²	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Rev	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Y	n/a
UPDATE 2009																					
1c. Strategy for action developed	2 ²	B	Y	N	Y	Y	P	Y	B	Draft	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	?	Rev	B	P		
UPDATE 2009		rev																			
1d. 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	Y	N	n/a	n/a	Y	n/a	
UPDATE 2009																					
1e. Named officials designated and resourced to coordinate across departments and other partners, draft annual reports.	2	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	n/a	N	N	N	?	Y	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
UPDATE 2009																					
1f. 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	?	?	P	n/a	
UPDATE 2009																					
1g. 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	n/a	
UPDATE 2009																					
1h. 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	?	N	?	?	Y	n/a	
UPDATE 2009																					
1i. 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	?	Not yet	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	
UPDATE 2009																					
1j. Amount expended in year on Environment Charter implementation from Territory resources (£k)	\$15 m pa on incid ental supp ort	?						4	98	164				0			Y		n/a	n/a	
2002-3									232	232				0			Y				
2003-4					>60		72.3	10	84	190				0			Y				
2004-5					>40		65.6	13	107	177				0			Y				
2005-6									125								567				
2006-7																					
UPDATE 2009									193												
1k. Local funding mechanism in place in support of non-	Y	P	Y	N	P	Rev	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	n/a	

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																					
governmental projects implementing the Charter (e.g. earmarked visitor tax)					rev ⁴																
UPDATE 2009																					
11. 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 ⁵	Rev	N	N	P	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	n/a	
UPDATE 2009																					
1m. Amount collected in such fund		n/a	?	n/a	0	0	0	0	Curr hold £6k	134 117 90 87	n/a			n/a	0		0		n/a	n/a	
2002-3																					
2003-4																					
2004-5																					
2005-6																					
2006-7																					
UPDATE 2009																					
In. Amount expended on Environment Charter objectives by such fund		n/a	?	n/a	0	0	0	0	n/avail	134 117 90 87	n/a			n/a	0		0		n/a	n/a	
2002-3																					
2003-4																					
2004-5																					
2005-6																					
2006-7																					
UPDATE 2009																					
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.																					
2a. Number of nature protected areas designated	?	4	24	20	6 ⁶	4	1	(15) ⁷	3	?	1	6	1	0	2	1	12	10	?	?	?
UPDATE 2009																					
2b. 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
UPDATE 2009																					
2c. Area (km ²) of nature protected areas designated	5.07	1.32	773	7.48	0	12	9	0	93	180	3755 ₈	ca 400	?	37	?	22	9.43	191	11.1	157	0.01
UPDATE 2009																					
2d. 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
UPDATE 2009																					
2e. Land area of territory (km ²)	53	260	430	153	90	102	90	122	181	1217 ₃	4033	170	940	44	6.5	254	872	117	62	8	5

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																						
UPDATE 2009																						
2f. Area (km ²) of terrestrial nature protected areas	5.07	1.32	35	4.38	0	12	9	0	93	180	3755		?	37		22	572	4	ca	?	0.01	
UPDATE 2009																						
2g. 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 ⁸		?	84		8.7	1.1	3.4	16	?	0.2	
UPDATE 2009																						
Land and sea area of territory (km ²)										3436 93		5440 0					4587					
2h. Area of all nature protected areas as % of land and sea area										0.05		0.08					0.02					
UPDATE 2009																						
2i. 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	0	
UPDATE 2009																						
2j. Change in area (km ²) of nature protected areas since Environment Charter signed (Sept 2001) (Positive except as indicated)	0.5 ¹⁰	0	-0.5 ¹¹	0.14	0.5	0	9	0	14	0	0		0	0	?	22	3.61	157	3.9	157	0.01	
UPDATE 2009																						
2k. Number of nature protected areas improving in nature quality since Sept 2001				1				1	3	18 ¹²				n/a								
UPDATE 2009																						
2l. Number of nature protected areas maintaining nature quality since Sept 2001				18		2				All				n/a								
UPDATE 2009																						
2m. Number of nature protected areas with declining nature quality since Sept 2001		all	5	1		2 ²³				0				n/a								
UPDATE 2009																						
2n. Number of nature protected areas with no information on changes in quality since Sept 2001										0	1			n/a								
UPDATE 2009																						
2o. 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		
UPDATE 2009																						
2p. 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		
UPDATE 2009																						
2q. 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		
UPDATE 2009																						
2r. Number of species with increase in threatened status			1																			
UPDATE 2009																						
2s. Review completed identifying gaps in legislation and	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	P	P	N	N	Y	?	?	N	Y	N	?	Y	Y	N	N		

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will):	Measures																					
	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	
needs to fulfil them to meet nature commitments																						
UPDATE 2009																						
2t. 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		
UPDATE 2009																						
2u. Review completed of invasive species problems	Y	P	N	P	Rev	N	Y	P	P	Pending	?	?	N	N	Y	?	N	N	N	Rev		
UPDATE 2009																						
2v. Action plans completed or operating to deal with invasive species	P	5	?	N	?	N	4	Rev	3	Y	?	?	?	1	N	?	Rev	N	N	n/a		
UPDATE 2009																						
2w. Review completed of threats posed by potentially invasive species	P	P	?	N	?	N	Y	N	P	Y	?	?	N	Y	?	N	N	N	N	N		
UPDATE 2009																						
2x. 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	?		
UPDATE 2009																						
3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.																						
3a. 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		
UPDATE 2009																						
3b. Have environmental considerations been integrated into social and economic planning processes, and are activities undertaken in sustainable manner in the following sectors:	P	N	D	P	N	Rev	N		P	Y	Y		P	Rev	Y ¹³				N			
UPDATE 2009																						
3c. Waste management	P	N	Rev	P	N	D	?	Rev	?	Y	Y		Y	Rev	?	?	?	?	P	N		
UPDATE 2009																						
3d. Water resources management	Y	P	D	?	N	P	?	Rev	?	Y	?		Y	Rev	?	?	?	?	Y	N		
UPDATE 2009																						
3e. Tourism	N	N	D	N	N	P	?	Rev	?	Y	?		n/a	Rev	?	?	?	?	N	N		
UPDATE 2009																						
3f. Transport	N	N	D	N	N	N	?	Rev	?	Y	n/a		?	Rev	?	?	?	?	N	N		
UPDATE 2009																						
3g. Public and private land use	Y	P	D	?	N	P	?	Y	?	Y	n/a		?	Rev	?	?	?	?	P	N		
UPDATE 2009																						
3h. Taxation & Economic	N	P	D	?	N	P	?	Rev	?	Y	n/a		n/a	Rev	?	?	?	?	N	N		
UPDATE 2009																						
3i. Fishing	Y	Y	P	P	N	Rev	?	P	Y	Y	Y		P	Rev	?	?	?	?	N	N		
UPDATE 2009																						

Commitment (The government of the Overseas Territory will:)	Measures																			
	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	Sark ¹
3j. Farming & Forestry	Y	N	D	?	N	P	?	Rev	?	Y	n/a		n/a	Rev	?	?	?	?	P	N
UPDATE 2009																				
3k. Mineral Extraction	Y	Y	D	N	N	D	?	?	?	Y	none		n/a	Rev	?	?	?	?	P	N
UPDATE 2009																				
3l. Power Generation	P	P	?	N	Rev	Rev	?	Rev	?	Y	Y		Y	Rev	?	?	?	?	N	N
UPDATE 2009																				
3m. Traditional Crafts	N	rev	P	?	N	?	?	?	?	Y	none		n/a	Rev	?	?	?	?	N	N
UPDATE 2009																				
3n. Others																				N
UPDATE 2009																				N
4. Ensure that environmental and environmental health impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.																				
4a. EIAs required on development projects	D ¹⁴	N	D ¹⁴	Y	N ¹⁵	D	N	P	Y	Y	Y		D ¹⁴	Y	Y	?	N ¹⁶	Y	Rev	infor
UPDATE 2009																				mal
4b. Number of proposed or active development projects	4	man	Mean	6	10+	6	?	11	3	3	2		?	1	4	?	3	?	?	2
UPDATE 2009																				
4c. Number of these with publicly available EIAs	0	0	D ¹⁷	5	2	0	?	3	0	3	2		?	N	1	?	0	?	?	0
UPDATE 2009																				
4d. 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
UPDATE 2009																				
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.																				
5a. EIAs publicly available to community and peer review with time for comment before decision.	Oce	N	D ¹⁴	P	N	N	Usu	N	P	Y	Y		N	Rev	Y	?	?	Y	P	?
UPDATE 2009							ally													
5b. Public enquiry system and decision independent of parties and government available and used	Mos	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N		N	Rev	N	?	?	Y	Y	Y
UPDATE 2009																				
5c. Decision process open with reasons given.	Mos	N	D ¹⁴	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N		N	Rev	N	?	?	Y	P	Y
UPDATE 2009																				
5d. Policy development open to public consultation	Y	N	D	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y		N	Rev	Y	?	?	Y	P	P
UPDATE 2009																				

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
6. Implement effectively Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.																					
6a. 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
UPDATE 2009																					
6b. 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	4	1	1	1	1
UPDATE 2009																					
6c. 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
UPDATE 2009																					
6d. Area (km ²) of sites identified 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
UPDATE 2009																					
6e. Area (km ²) designated as Wetlands of International Importance but suffering damage	5	71							0												
UPDATE 2009																					
6f. Area (km ²) of wetland outside protected areas being managed sustainably	0																				
UPDATE 2009																					
6g. Area (km ²) of wetland outside protected areas for which there is no information on management	All																				
UPDATE 2009																					
6h. Area (km ²) of wetland outside protected areas which has suffered damage	much	1+	1+	1+	1+				?												
UPDATE 2009																					
6i. 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
UPDATE 2009																					
6j. 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
UPDATE 2009																					
6k. 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
UPDATE 2009																					
6. Agreements under CMS extended to Territory:																					
6i. Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels (ACAP)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
UPDATE 2009																					
6m. Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	N	-	-	-	-	-
UPDATE 2009																					
6n. Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Sea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	As	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
(ASCOBANS)																					
UPDATE 2009																					
6o. Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Eurobats)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
UPDATE 2009																					
6p. Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - Indian Ocean Turtle MOU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UPDATE 2009																					
6q. 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
UPDATE 2009																					
6r. 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
UPDATE 2009																					
6s. 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
UPDATE 2009																					
6t. Number of domestically protected cultural heritage sites			7		2					55 ¹⁹			0								
UPDATE 2009																					
6u. Area (km ²) of domestically protected cultural heritage sites			2		?					?			0								
UPDATE 2009																					
6v. Other Conventions extended to Territory																					
UPDATE 2009																					
6w. 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 Caledonia, 17-25 November 1986)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UPDATE 2009																					
6x. Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic OSPAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	Y	Y	N	N	N
UPDATE 2009																					
6y. Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena)	-	Y	Y	Y	N	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UPDATE 2009																					
6z. Protocol concerning specially Protected Areas and	-	N	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																					
Wildlife (SPA/W) to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena)																					
UPDATE 2009																					
6z1. Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (London Convention)																					
UPDATE 2009																					
[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.																					
7a. 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	?	?	?	?	?	?	Man y	?	Man y	?	?	Man y	Man y
UPDATE 2009																					
7b. 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	?	?	?	?	?	?	Man y	?	Man y	?	?	Man y	Man y
UPDATE 2009																					
7c. Topics which are priorities for further information gathering. 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
UPDATE 2009																					
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.																					
8a. Are effective Ordinances in place to implement polluter-pays principle?	Y	P	P	N	N	N	P	N	?	N	Rev	?	?	?	?	?	Y	?	?	N	N
UPDATE 2009																					
8b. Number of cases of polluter paying, and amounts involved.	24	?	Av 1-3 pa	n/a	0	0	0	0	P	0	2	?	n/a	0	?	?	?	?	?	N	n/a
UPDATE 2009																					
8c. Monitoring of pollution and adherence to planning conditions in place	P	Y	Y	N	N	D	N	P	P	Y	n/a	?	?	N	?	?	P	?	?	Y	N
UPDATE 2009																					
8d. Enforcement measures in place	Y	?	Y	N	D	Y	N	N	N	Y	n/a	?	?	Y	?	?	?	?	?	P	N
UPDATE 2009																					
8e. Number of enforcement cases brought.	Man y	?	av 1-3 pa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	?	0 (ca 7 fish)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	n/a

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																						
UPDATE 2009																						
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.																						
9a. 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		
UPDATE 2009																						
9b. Local environment, global context in schools curriculum	Y	?	Y	Y	Rev	P	Y	Y	?	Y	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	Y	?	?	Y	?	N		
UPDATE 2009																						
9c. 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. 1 com P	?	Y	Ca 200	?	?		
UPDATE 2009																						
9d. Number of field classroom facilities	12	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	?	1	?	?	2	0	Rev		
UPDATE 2009																						
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.																						
10a. Number of publications by Government in each year on local environmental topics													0									
2002-3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1			0						1		
2003-4	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0			1						1		
2004-5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0						1		
2005-6	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	1			0						1		
2006-7	3	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	1				1						1		
2007-8					3	2	1														1	
UPDATE 2009																						
10b. Number of publications by NGOs in each year on local environmental topics													7									
2002-3	2	4	3	2										1	3						4	
2003-4	7	3	3	0					1	3				1	3						4	
2004-5	1	10	7	1			1	2	2	3			1	3		1					4	
2005-6	1	7	1	1			2	4	4	3				2	3						5	
2006-7	0	1	8	1			1	1	1	5				1	6						8	
2007-8				3					1	2				2	6						6	
UPDATE 2009																						

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
10c. Programme in place to promote Environment Charter and implementation strategy UPDATE 2009	N	N	?	N	N	?	N	Y	N	N	N	n/a	P	Rev	?	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 to 2007 lines:

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, snapper, conch, lobster nationally. Biodiversity survey of North, Middle & East Caicos
 British Virgin Islands: samples: in-shore; seabirds, all near-shore; Rock iguana, Anegada; Forest, Anegada & 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
 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.
- 21.
- 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): 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	
1. 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									0		0												
2003-4									0		1												
2004-5									0		1												
2005-6									0		0												
2006-7									0		0												
Help provided to develop strategy for action		Y	B	Y	Y		N	Y	Y	Y	Y		N		Y	n/a		N	N	N	N	N	
Help provided to implement strategy for action process		N	N (in prep)	N	N		N		Y		N					n/a		N	N	N	N	N	
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			?		?		N				Y		n/a		N	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Has HMG included in the Governor's letter of appointment any specific responsibility in respect of the Environment Charter?			?		?		?		?		N		n/a			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
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										N		n/a			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
When did the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group most recently consider Environment Charters and their progress?	Never																						

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	
2. Assist the Territories in initiating, reviewing and updating environmental legislation.	Help provided by HMG to review environmental legislation		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		P	N	N	Y		P	N	N		N		N			
	Help provided by NGOs to review environmental legislation		Y	Y	Y		Y		N	Y	Y			N	Y	N		N		Y			
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 new/revised Ordinances support provided for drafting		0		1				0		0					0		0		1			
	Number of additional MEAs support provided to join.		?						0		2			0		0				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 projects supported to help implementation.																						
	2002-3				1				1		0												
	2003-4				1				3		0												
	2004-5		1		1				1		1												
	2005-6			1	1				1		1												
	2006-7			1	1				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													
Number of information items provided on MEAs each year.	2002-3																						
	2003-4								1														
	2004-5								3														
	2005-6								0														
	2006-7								4														
	Number of participants from UKOTs and UKOT-centred bodies in UK delegations to CoPs etc																						
	2002-3								1		0												
2003-4							1			1													
2004-5									1	0													
2005-6										0													
2006-7							2			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 UKOT government/NGO personnel supported in attending MEA meetings	2002-3				?		0	1			0						0	0					
	2003-4						0				0												
	2004-5						0				0												
	2005-6						0				0												
	2006-7																						
	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												
2005-6									0		0												
2006-7			1																				
Equipment resourced by HMG for UKOTs to implement international commitments									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																							
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																							
2003-4							0		0		0												
2004-5							0		0		0												
2005-6							0		0		0												
2006-7			1		1		2		1		1												
Number of UKOT conference participants supported					2		2		2		2												
2002-3							0		0		0												
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							0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0							0	0			
Support provided for establishment and use of websites/ databases			1				1	1	0 0 0 1		0 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.									+		0 0 0 0 0							0				
Number of cases of expert visits from UK supported			1								0 0 1 0							1				
Number of cases of visits from UKOTs to UK experts supported					1 1		4 4 5				0 0 0 0							1				
Number of other cases of advice supported									++		0 0 0 1											
Number of liaison meetings between HMG and NGOs and coordinating bodies											0 0 0 0											
2002-3	2										0											
2003-4	2										0											
2004-5	2										0											
2005-6											0											
2006-7	2										0											

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
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	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	-
2003-4	2	3	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
2004-5	0	2	1	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
2005-6																						
2006-7	6	2	2 (1 deferred)	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			0		15		130		45													
Committed by OTEP in 2003-4 & 2004-5 (£k) [This line is included as information from HMG, pending accurate data for individual years.]	461	146	33	113	180	260	103	169	181	206	260	120	0	121	21	41	0	-	-	-	-	-
2003-4 (£k)			12		0		0		22													
2004-5 (£k)			50		85		22	61	206													
2005-6 (£k)			54		40		68	45		0												
2006-7 (£k)																						
Spend by Defra or its functional successors on UKOT environmental issues																						
2002-3								0			0			0						0		
2003-4					160				0		0			0								
2004-5			35				161		0		0			0								
2005-6			77						0		115			0								
2006-7			67		0		0	0						0						0		
Spend by DCMS or its functional successors on UKOT issues																						
2002-3									0		0			0								
2003-4									0		0			0								
2004-5									0		0			0								
2005-6									0		0			0								
2006-7									0		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																						
2002-3		0	15	130	0	15	0	0														
2003-4		12	160	0	0	160	0															
2004-5		35	85	22	85	22	61															
2005-6		127	40	161	40	161	68															
2006-7		121		?		?																
Spend per year by HMG on GB/NI environmental issues																						
2002-3																						
2003-4																						
2004-5																						
2005-6																						
Number of HMG funds accessed by UKOTs		2	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	2									0		
[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
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
2002-3																						
2003-4							9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004-5							9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005-6							11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006-7																						
Funding for the built environment supplied 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
2002-3									0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003-4									0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004-5									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
2006-7									0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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																						
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	1	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.]																						

Discussion

The discussion recalled that the Environment Charters were signed in September and October 2001 between UK Government and most of the UK Overseas Territories. This was to address the problem that UK Government answers for international commitments but Territory administrations deal with local legislation and implementation. These international commitments apply whether or not there is a Charter for a particular territory – and whether or not a Territory structures its actions using the Charters or according to some other format, such as a regional agreement. Therefore, all UKOTs and Crown Dependencies are included in the collation of progress.

It was noted that the preliminary version (in the conference booklet) of progress in implementation of the Environment Charter Commitments highlight both some successes and some setbacks. Those present generally agreed on the importance of supplying further information so that the current review round can be completed as soon as possible after the conference.

Turks & Caicos Islands were cited in the discussion as an example where poor implementation of Charter Commitments, and indeed major damage to extremely important natural areas, can be caused by a government about which serious questions of corruption and mis-management had been raised (by House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee and independent Commission of Inquiry) – and which UK Government was now addressing under its responsibility for good governance. There was general agreement that the people and the hard-working conservationists of TCI are to be supported in their work in such awful circumstances.

The meeting commended St Helena, as Isabel Peters' presentation had outlined, for its effective use of its Environment Charter and *Strategy* as key documents in its economic development plan. In a process facilitated by UKOTCF, St Helena stakeholders had developed an environmental *Strategy* by breaking down the commitments into specific actions. Some 40 bodies had been identified as responsible for taking action (sometimes the same person wearing different hats). This process was found fundamentally useful – but needs resourcing to the next planned stages (delayed by other commitments), to use the full document as a source from which to produce time-limited priority sections, and also popular reader-friendly versions,

as well as other aspects needed to take forward effectively.

It was concluded that the coordination of monitoring of progress in all territories, as being done by UKOTCF's current second review, is essential – but depends on local input. This needs human resources – as does encouraging all the responsible organisations actually to incorporate the agreed tasks into their programmes. Undoubtedly some work is being done on many aspects in many territories, but in most not coordinated to a strategy. A focal person is needed in each territory to promote implementation of the Charter Commitments (or the equivalent if using another coordinating structure). That needs resources.

There was some concern that UK and Territory Commitments are not being carried out in balance. One surprise was that Whitehall Departments have reduced staff resources to implement & monitor Environment Charter Commitments. UK Government progress was reported very fully at the 2003 conference, but HMG could not resource input on its own performance to UKOTCF's first review of progress in 2006/7, even though it reported to Parliament at the same time that it was depending on the review to answer questions Parliament had asked. The current effort of UK Government officials to try to start collating and supplying information to the review was greatly appreciated, but it was noted that they are having great difficulties in resourcing this basic work.

The need to explore, further than was possible within the time available within the conference, ways to overcome current bottlenecks in the fulfilling of Environment Charter Commitments was noted. Accordingly, UKOTCF arranged to continue discussions in an open meeting in September 2007. A report of that meeting follows, together with a report of further discussions linked to the Overseas Territories Consultative Council meeting of December 2009, to which was attached a workshop of progress in the 10 years since the UK Government 1999 White Paper on the Overseas Territories Partnership for Progress and Prosperity - Britain and the Overseas Territories.

Environment Charters – the way forward: Report of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum meeting held in the Mappin Pavilion at ZSL (London Zoo), 2 September 2009, from 1330 (from *Forum News* 35: 2-3)

On 2nd September 2009, UKOTCF convened a meeting to address the theme of *Environment Charters – the way forward*. It was attended by representatives of a number of UKOTCF Member and Associate organisations, UK representatives of two UKOT governments, and officials from four UK Government (HMG) departments. The meeting was hosted by the Zoological Society of London, in the Mappin Pavilion at London Zoo.

As background, Oliver Cheesman (UKOTCF) gave an overview of the Environment Charter process to date. HMG had not originally planned to include significant coverage of the environment in the 1999 White Paper *Partnership for Progress & Prosperity – Britain and the Overseas Territories* but, with encouragement from the Forum, FCO and DFID officials of the time ensured that a relevant chapter was included. This outlined HMG's intention to develop jointly with UKOT governments a set of Environment Charters, based on the *Checklists* earlier proposed by UKOTCF (Pienkowski 1998). Although the Charters were based on the Forum's ideas, UKOTCF was not involved in HMG's subsequent drafting of the documents and their negotiation with UKOT governments.

The Charters summarise a set of Guiding Principles for environmental management and biodiversity protection, alongside more specific Commitments on the part of HMG (on one side) and each UKOT Government (on the other). There is some variation between Territories, but essentially the Principles and Commitments are consistent across the Charters, which were signed in September 2001. Although signed by governments, the Charter concept stressed the need for civil society (NGO) involvement alongside governments throughout. The only UKOTs without Charters (for various reasons) are British Antarctic Territory and the Sovereign Bases Areas in Cyprus; Gibraltar has a unilateral Environment Charter. The Crown Dependencies were not included in the Environment Charter process. However, some (e.g. Alderney, Sark, Isle of Man) have used, or are exploring, the Charters as a model for developing their own, broadly equivalent documents.

An initial set-back occurred within a year of the Charters being signed, when FCO cancelled the Environment Fund for Overseas Territories (EFOT), thereby failing HMG's Commitment

8 under the Charters. However, the UKOTCF-organised Bermuda conference in March 2003 made clear the problem that this had caused. FCO implemented interim arrangements, and then combined with DFID to establish the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP). Recognising the importance of measuring progress against the Charter Commitments, FCO made an excellent start with a report at the Bermuda conference by members of its Environment Policy and Overseas Territories Departments (Caton *et al.* 2003). Unfortunately, subsequent restructuring in FCO substantially reduced its capacity in relation to environmental matters, including monitoring of progress under the Charters. However, FCO, DFID and others (including some UKOTs and many NGOs) had already asked UKOTCF to develop a more systematic method for monitoring progress.

UKOTCF invested considerable effort between 2004 and 2007 in developing and consulting widely on measures to provide a 'review of progress' in Environment Charter implementation, in gathering information to complete the exercise, and producing the final report (Pienkowski 2007; see also summary of results in *Forum News* 31). Also late in 2007, FCO commissioned a report from the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED), which concluded that the Charters were useful, particularly in providing a set of Guiding Principles, but that a forward process was required to enhance their value. In fact, progress had already been made in a number of the areas identified, including the linkage of Charter Principles to Territory-specific strategies or action plans, developed through a participatory approach to the identification of local priorities. This reflected Commitment 1 of UKOT governments under the Charters, to bring together all local stakeholders to formulate a detailed strategy for action.

Several UKOTs had recognised at an early stage that support was needed to address this Commitment, and under HMG's Commitment to help, it granted some of the required costs to UKOTCF to pilot the facilitation of strategy development. The TCI Government asked that TCI host the first exercise, which was undertaken in 2002-3, and stakeholders in St Helena then applied a similar Forum-facilitated approach in 2004-5. The strategy documentation and general material from both

these exercises are available on the UKOTCF website, as a basis for wider application, and the lessons learnt have been used by several other Territories. Other approaches have been used also to fulfil the same function, in some cases combining these with other regional or local initiatives, such as the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs). A case study was presented at the Cayman conference by Isabel Peters (St Helena Environmental Co-ordinator), outlining how St Helena had used its Environment Charter as a key document in its economic development plan. In the process facilitated by UKOTCF in 2004-5, stakeholders had developed an environmental strategy, breaking down the Charter Commitments into specific actions. However, as recognised at the time, resourcing was required to move to the next stage, refining and implementing the strategy, as well as producing simpler extracts for wider consumption. This experience illustrates that (whilst invaluable in moving the process forward) the production of a strategy is not, in itself, sufficient to ensure implementation, and continual encouragement and support is needed.

In further exploring the way forward, the 2nd September meeting confirmed that, despite the various changes that had occurred within individual Departments in the years since the Environment Charters were signed, HMG remained very conscious of the Charters and their importance. Reference to the Charters provided a valuable means of assessing proposals for targeted work in the Territories (e.g. under OTEP); in this context, further facilitation work to develop local strategies for Charter implementation could be useful, including to help assess projects against a Territory's own priorities - the preferred approach of both HMG and UKOTCF. It was important for the Territories to lead the Charter process.

UKOTCF and its Member and Associate organisations were keen to promote Charter implementation broadly, and to help re-invigorate the process overall. There was a range of ways in which the Forum and its network could contribute, from continuation of earlier work of facilitating strategy development, to more focused projects (for example, to advance establishment of marine and terrestrial protected areas). Where local strategies existed, the next steps typically related (for example) to the development, integration and implementation of annual work programmes for local bodies to address the priority actions identified. It was essential that such programmes were "owned" and operated by local stakeholder (Government and

NGO) partnerships, but experience had shown that external support, including from HMG as well as from UKOTCF, was also vital. However, resources were limiting, despite the enthusiasm to pursue such activities.

In relation to funding opportunities, JNCC's exploration of this area was noted, related to HMG's Commitment 9 under the Charters. There clearly remained a need to identify new sources of funding, particularly for larger projects. The particular issue of Lottery funding was considered; it appeared that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Trustees' policy remained that UKOT-based projects (as opposed to Crown Dependency ones) were ineligible, a position that many felt should be challenged.

The issue of including further UKOTs/CDs in UK's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) was also raised. HMG remained ready to advance this if approached by the Territories concerned. MEA 'sign up' could be valuable in keeping biodiversity on the local political agenda; for example, the joining of UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands by all the remaining UKOTs/CDs had followed a voluntary programme of explanatory work to Territory decision makers by UKOTCF. The subsequent Defra-supported UKOTCF review of existing/potential Ramsar sites had resulted in significant progress, including (for example) in marine management in the Isle of Man. It was noted that exploration of the benefits of MEAs was another area where further facilitation exercises might be useful.

Feedback from both officials and NGOs in the Territories suggested that the Forum's 'review of progress' was useful in maintaining momentum; this was important, as UKOTCF was not interested in conducting this work purely as a 'box ticking' exercise. In December 2008, UKOTCF had begun collecting information for a second review of progress, based on the measures developed for the first - an effective way (at relatively small effort by the Territories) of building on their work for the initial review. Input had been received from most Territories, and a summary overview was presented at the Cayman conference in May/June 2009. Work continued to complete the exercise and to produce the final report.

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UK Government White Paper on Overseas Territories: 10 years on (from *Forum News* 35: 5-7)

Overseas Territories Consultative Council 2009

Ten years after the publication of the 1999 White Paper *Partnership for Progress and Prosperity – Britain and the Overseas Territories*, on the relationship between Britain and the UKOTs, and at the request of Overseas Territory leaders, a workshop was organised on 8th December 2009 to review progress. This involved outside participants in addition to the UK and UKOT Ministers (or equivalents) and officials who participate in the annual closed Overseas Territories Consultative Council (OTCC) meeting, held on the following days. The White Paper had established the principles that have guided the relationship between the UK and Territories since 1999. UK Government considers the workshop as the first stage of a consultation process on the future of the UK/OT relationship.

The OTCC was established in 1999, as a forum for discussion of key policy issues between British Ministers and elected leaders from the Overseas Territories. It meets once a year in London. An FCO Minister (currently Chris Bryant) has specific responsibilities for Overseas Territory issues. The Territories represented at this year's OTCC and the preceding workshop were: Anguilla, Ascension, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Turks & Caicos Islands.

The Defra Minister for Marine and Natural Environment, Huw Irranca-Davies, and several NGO participants joined the 1-hour workshop session on sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Huw Irranca-Davies recalled his attendance at the UKOTCF-organised Cayman conference, as the first UK environment minister to attend one of these meetings. He noted also his announcement then of Defra's involvement, alongside FCO and DFID, in UKOT environmental matters and the earmarking

for UKOTs of some of Defra's Darwin Initiative small projects fund. He remarked also on the need for better communications and announced a new enquiries email address: ukotenquiries@defra.gsi.gov.uk. He invited representatives of UKOTs to report on progress they had made against the Environment Charters.

The Falkland Islands representative reported on the highly sustainable fisheries that currently provide the basis of that territory's economy. Effective measures had been introduced to end almost totally by-catch of birds in the Falklands fisheries and by Falklands vessels operating in South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands waters. With respect to the White Paper and Environment Charter, he regretted the lack of engagement by FCO for the past few years. The Pitcairn Islands noted progress on physical planning matters and also plans for wardening of Henderson Island, as well as improving arrangements for visitors. Tristan da Cunha noted the economic importance of wildlife tourism, even with present infrastructural challenges. St Helena reported the importance of the strategy for implementing the Environment Charter (developed with facilitation from UKOTCF) in guiding much of the progress in recent years. The Premier of the Cayman Islands enquired as to whether guidance was available from UK Government on the development of eco-tourism, and also on what was being done to monitor progress in implementing the Environment Charters.

From the NGOs represented, Mike Pienkowski, Chairman UKOTCF, welcomed the presence of Mr Irranca-Davies, both at the Cayman conference and in this workshop, and the involvement of Defra that this represented. Whilst congratulating Defra on earmarking some Darwin Initiative funds for UKOT projects, thereby (with OTEP) doubling the resources for small projects, Dr Pienkowski underlined the remaining need for a larger fund to enable biodiversity recovery programmes and also to

facilitate the development of a cadre of local UKOT personnel to work alongside colleagues from UK and elsewhere, to provide the future local capacity to maintain this work, fundamental to the UKOTs' futures. He noted also that UKOTCF had accepted the task of collating information from the Territories (and UK Government) on their fulfilling of their respective Commitments under the Environment Charters. The first report on this had been published in 2007, and an update was nearing completion. He congratulated the UKOTs on the progress that had been made. He noted that, particularly at the recent Cayman conference, a concern expressed by many personnel from UKOTs was the loss of natural capital due to problems in strategic and physical planning processes. He wondered whether any UKOTs suffering from such problems might like to seek UK Government support in this area.

Clare Stringer, RSPB, underlined the need for a fund for larger recovery programmes, recalling estimates of at least £16m per year needed for conservation work in UKOTs, compared with the £2m available for the coming year. She noted also an obvious example of this need in the removal of introduced mice from Gough Island, to allow recovery of several species of breeding seabirds which occur nowhere else in the world. Alistair Gammell, Pew Environmental Trust, reiterated the need for funding from the National Lottery to be made available for conservation projects in UKOTs, as it is for domestic UK. Colin Clubbe, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew,

underlined the points made by UKOTCF and other colleagues, calling for support for UK and UKOT NGOs, as well as other UKOT bodies, to implement biodiversity recovery work and to facilitate the structured development of the next generation of local UKOT conservation workers.

From other academic institutions, the National Oceanographic Centre outlined deep-water research cruises off British Indian Ocean Territory and the Cayman Islands, although some concerns were noted by the UKOTs and the NGOs about whether local workers and administrations were adequately involved.

The Governor of Anguilla sought confirmation as to whether the UKOT natural environment remained a high priority for UK Government, in view of some signs that this might not be the case.

In responding to the points made, the UK Minister confirmed that protection of the UKOTs' natural environment did indeed remain a high priority for UK Government, noting the international commitments it had made on behalf of the UKOTs. He recognised the huge world importance of the wildlife of the UKOTs and the need for more resourcing. Whilst he could not, of course, commit further funds, he did note the high value for money that conservation work in the UKOTs represented, and looked forward to continued effective coordination both by governments and, for example, UKOTCF. He saw



The workshop in session in Great George Street, Westminster. Photo: FCO

the International Year of Biodiversity, just starting, as a good opportunity to deliver progress. He noted the opportunity to refresh the Environment Charters, the opportunities of post-2010 biodiversity targets, the importance of analysing and stressing the economics of ecosystem services, and the need to focus on best practice. He noted in particular the need to make people in Britain more aware of the uniquely high global importance of wildlife in UKOTs, a point echoed by Colin Roberts, FCO Director of Overseas Territories, in summing up the day's workshop.

In preparing for the workshop, FCO had asked UKOTCF to take a quick look at the way in which the environmental plans of the White Paper had been taken forward. The following is drawn from that analysis.

Background

Chapter 8 (*Sustainable development – the environment*) of the 1999 White Paper recognised that the natural capital of the UK Overseas Territories was globally much more important than that of the metropolitan UK, with the UKOTs supporting orders of magnitude more endemic species (i.e. those that occur nowhere else) than Great Britain & Northern Ireland. This point has since been forcibly re-emphasised by the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (in its 2008 report on *Halting Biodiversity Loss*), which concluded that “One of the most important contributions that the Government could make to slowing the catastrophic global biodiversity loss currently occurring would be to accept its responsibilities and to provide more support for the UK Overseas Territories in this area.” In addition, the natural environment is crucial for the economies, sustainable development and future well-being of UKOTs, including through the provision of ecosystem services such as marine fisheries, freshwater capture and storage, coastal protection and potential eco-tourism.

Recognising the importance but also the challenges, the 1999 White Paper said (paragraph 8.8):

We aim to integrate sustainable environmental management into the Government's decision-making. ... But in Overseas Territories as elsewhere, short-term economic pressures can be severe and can undermine the goal of sustainable development. That makes it all the more important for the Government to give guidance and support on how to develop policies and practices to ensure that practice in the Overseas Territories is consistent

with the objective of sustainable development.

The means to achieve these aims were set out in paragraphs 8.11 and 8.15, in bullet points that provide the italic headings below.

Review

Helping to make sure Overseas Territories have the legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms they need to meet their international obligations

This has been addressed mainly by the reactive small grants programmes noted below, by support from NGO networks and by the assistance of some UK Government agencies. Some valuable progress has been made, but the process is far from complete. Workers from several UKOTs made clear at the UKOTCF-organised conference in Grand Cayman in June 2009 that appropriate planning laws, enforcement and monitoring are crucial to the success of any sustainable development process, but that there are particular problems in this area at present.

Using UK, regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes close and open consultation with interested Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) groupings such as the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

UKOTCF had a close working relationship with HMG at the time of the White Paper and for some years after, and still gives a great deal of support. There is a close working relationships between UKOTCF and its Member and Associate organisations based in the UK and UKOTs, helping to transfer skills and experience to and between Territories. UKOTCF has received part funding from HMG to undertake some of this work, including for communications via a well-regarded web-site and for organising highly valued 3-yearly conferences. However, UKOTCF is slightly concerned that the degree of consultation and collaboration has become less in the last 3-4 years, since FCO drastically reduced its environmental staffing. Whilst welcoming recent modest increases in total spending by HMG in support of environmental conservation in the UKOTs, UKOTCF is also concerned at the declining contributions from HMG in support of its largely voluntary work in this area.

Providing financial assistance to the Overseas Territories for integrated environmental management

UKOTs cannot access most global and international aid and environmental funding mechanisms (which regard UKOTs as British), nor many UK sources (such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, which conversely regard UKOTs as “foreign”). Support comes mainly from:

- UKOTs, drawing on their own resources
- NGOs, including through voluntary inputs, from UKOTCF, its network and others
- HMG, via a single dedicated small projects fund, FCO/DFID’s joint Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP). However, the continuity of this is never guaranteed for more than a year or two, and its predecessor was actually lost for a time shortly after the signing of the Environmental Charters. This programme has been highly effective in supporting small projects, most of which give excellent value for money, in many cases because of major donations of skilled voluntary time by implementing NGOs.
- HMG, via the Darwin Initiative, some funding from which has recently been earmarked for UKOT projects. This is greatly welcomed.

As the White Paper notes, under international conventions, UK Government shares responsibility for biodiversity conservation in the UKOTs with UKOT Governments. However, an analysis for a recent year based on UK Government figures showed that it spent about 500 times less on conservation in UKOTs (£1m per annum) than in Great Britain & Northern Ireland (>£460m per annum). The recent earmarking of Darwin Initiative funds approximately doubles the spend on UKOTs, but the scale of the funding gap is clearly still profound, despite the global importance of biodiversity in the Territories. Most significantly, no funding mechanism exists for projects larger than those supported by OTEP or the Darwin Initiative. At a stage when, in domestic UK, a project would (for example) develop into a species recovery programme, it stops in a UKOT for want of such a fund.

Promoting effective communication, exchange and dissemination of information with UK Overseas Territories

Addressed via links through UKOTCF (see above), with some further provision recently through increased activity in the UKOTs by the Joint Nature

Conservation Committee (JNCC).

Promoting sustainable development strategies, including commitments to clear environmental and sustainability targets

In the UKOTs, environmental sustainability is typically threatened by habitat destruction and degradation of ecosystems (generally due to built developments), invasive species, over-exploitation of natural resources and other factors. These threats, combined with the lack of resourcing noted above, mean that endemic species are still being lost, despite pilot work in small projects identifying potential solutions. For example, the St Helena Olive (an endemic genus) went extinct in 2003 – after UK agreed the target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. If the UK is to have any credibility in the face of this target, we cannot afford to permit further biodiversity loss from our Territories, yet at least 240 UKOT species are at high risk of global extinction, according to the IUCN.

Another related issue concerns the lack of effective and participatory planning systems in several UKOTs, noted earlier. The Environment Charters (see below) include commitments to: the protection of key habitats, species and landscape features; environmental impact assessments; and open and consultative decision-making. However, serious procedural flaws are often reported, especially in the UKOTs of the Wider Caribbean, leading to built developments that many consider inappropriate.

Development of Environment Charters to clarify roles and responsibilities, set out a shared vision, etc

Good progress was made after the White Paper, with most UKOTs signing an Environment Charter jointly with HMG in 2001. These included statements of Principles, and Commitments made by both parties, including to formulate a detailed strategy for action, with the goal of integrating environmental conservation into all sectors of policy planning and implementation. With support from HMG, and at the request of the Territories concerned, UKOTCF facilitated local stakeholders developing such strategies in some UKOTs. UKOTCF has also collated information on progress in Charter implementation, the first report being published in 2007, with an update currently in progress. (For more detail on Environment Charter matters, see article on pp 2-3.)

There are some suggestions that replacement Charters are now required to tailor these more to local requirements. However, this represents a fundamental misunderstanding of the Charters, which represent formal statements of intent that provide a framework for the development of more detailed, locally-focused strategies and plans. This has already been done in some UKOTs, either through the UKOTCF-facilitated exercises noted above, or through the production of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (or similar strategic documents). To replace the Charters would be a retrograde move, rather than a step forward to build on what is already in place.

Conclusions

What are the main needs to stop the loss of biodiversity and enhance sustainable development in the UKOTs?

- A more open approach in UKOTs to decision making in planning, with greater involvement of civil society.
- Greater recognition in the UK (amongst public, officials and politicians) that the Territories are British, not foreign, and that the UK shares responsibility for the conservation of their natural resources.
- This means UK Government:
 - maintaining its one dedicated fund (OTEP) and other support for small projects (earmarked part of Darwin Initiative), but providing also a separate UK Government fund, at least an order of magnitude larger, for full-scale conservation programmes and support of sustainable use of natural resources in UKOTs, as well as capacity development
 - supporting the release of Heritage Lottery funding, etc, for UKOT projects
 - otherwise encouraging and assisting UKOTs in meeting their commitments.