

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

Jersey 7th to 12th October 2006
(with additional workshops on 6th-7th and 12th October)

Organised by:

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

Conference overview and initial conclusions

Preamble

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

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

The contributions from the conference are being gathered together and edited, for publication of the conference proceedings on this web site. As a first element, here is the overview bringing together a summary and some conclusions from the conference.

Introduction and Jersey

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

The Bailiff of Jersey, Sir Philip Bailhache, graciously opened the meeting with a warm welcome and some very helpful words of support for our joint enterprise. He began our introduction to Jersey with a review of the constitutional position of the Crown Dependencies, something many from the Overseas Territories were learning for the first time. We also had some very thoughtful words from the Minister for Health, Stuart Syvret, about the great complexity of the interaction between the needs of human society and of environmental protection.

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

Through this process, five key environmental priorities were identified:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We learned about:

- An amazing programme to preserve historic structures that would be destined for destruction without a creative business model that saves the buildings, restores them with great sensitivity and creates jobs for the people who live near them.
- The development of a sustainable low-impact ecotourism programme that both preserves a traditional community and protects one of the most important wetlands in the Caribbean
- The conversion of a hillside in Gibraltar from post-industrial wreck to beautifully re-established native habitat, all done with no money, just influence
- A programme to control invasive plant species in South Africa which has been 'mainstreamed' as a water resources protection programme, and which has total financial and political commitment behind it.
- Projects to control invasions by animals ranging from rats to reindeer, including pigs, rabbits, goats, green iguanas and the specially horrible pine scale insect, and plants from casuarinas to giant escaped office plants.

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

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

Environmental Impact Assessments

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

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

Invasive species

This was an issue which really came out in the Bermuda conference and since then has become one of the most important issues we all deal with. We know it is responsible for a huge amount of biodiversity loss and that on islands invasives are both especially destructive but also, actually, more possible to deal with than on larger land masses.

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

- Karen Varnham brought us up to date on the JNCC invasives database for the UKOTs and we learned how to both use this new tool and, by supplying information on our own situations, make the tool even more useful.

- Niall Moore told us about the new secretariat dealing with non-natives in Great Britain – real alphabet soup for the non-initiate – but which will mean a coordinated response to invasives and the possibility of rapid reaction when the circumstances require.
- Jean-Philippe Palasi told us about the French remote territories and the work they are doing, and confessed to us about the French predilection for studies and experts, rather than rapid reaction... Niall may have already started to help him convert his countrymen to the rapid reaction school.
- Claire Miller continued the RSPB tradition of appointing new staff to start work the week of our conference, and told us about the new South Atlantic network project which is also one week old. Especially as this EU-funded project evolved both from our last conference and meetings of our South Atlantic Working Group, we look forward to a good report on this at our next meeting, just as Sarah Sanders has been able to present the Important Bird Areas book for this one.
- In the second half of the session we learned about the scale insect invasion of the pine yards of the Caicos Islands, where rapid reaction may no longer be an option for prevention – although it is essential to allow seed collection and propagation in the hope of future long-term recovery.
- We heard about dealing with the massive disruption of ecosystems after Hurricane Ivan submerged most of Grand Cayman Island.
- And we got some advice from New Zealand on techniques for deciding whether a pro-active or reactive approach to a problem is the better strategy.

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

- An audit of measures that are already in place in each UKOT for invasive species management (the Falkland's biosecurity report has done this to some extent, and the new South Atlantic project will probably cover the other S. Atlantic Territories)
- Enhanced information gathering (Karen Varnham's review is just the start) and information sharing
- Better co-ordination of activities, within and between countries
- Rapid response mechanisms.

Environment Charters

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

- Cathy Hopkins outlined the benefits of using UKOTCF facilitators, based on the pilot work by them with TCI, in developing St Helena's strategy for action to implement their Environment Charter.
- Dominique Giudicelli filled us in on the ways the Falkland Islands was trying to integrate the Environment Charter and Biodiversity Strategy into planning across the sectors.
- Karim Hodge explained how Anguilla and some other territories benefited from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States approach via National Environment Management Strategies as well as the Environment Charters. There were great benefits in following one process but cross-tabulating to the other, for efficient working.

- Jennifer Gray demonstrated the remarkable progress that had been made in implementing Bermuda's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan since its launch at the time of our Bermuda conference three years ago.
- Simon Glass clearly and succinctly explained the amazingly rapid establishment of a system for Tristan whereby he, as Conservation Officer, reports annually to the Territory's Council on progress on the Biodiversity Strategy and Environment Charter, and plans for the future.
- Like other Crown Dependencies, Alderney lacks an Environment Charter relationship with UK. However, Roland Gauvain explained how the Island was developing for itself a strategy based closely on the Environment Charters of the UKOTs.
- From her experience as Head of Conservation in the Isle of Man as well as part of UK's delegation to some Conferences to the Parties to Conventions, Liz Charter explored the differing international conventions to which territories were party and wondered whether further help, perhaps from UK Government and the Forum, might be valuable.

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

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

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

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

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

Eric Blencowe gave us a good overview of Defra and how the UKOTs fit into their funding programmes. Many of us have benefited from the Darwin Programme over the years in its focus on capacity building and on projects which have real impact and legacy for biodiversity conservation.

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

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

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

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

Integration of Conservation & Sustainable Livelihoods – parallel sessions

Terrestrial Session

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

- In the terrestrial session, we learned from Gordon Liddle about managing a tourism industry in South Georgia with zero local population to take into account, but a glut of fur seals that is becoming a population problem in itself. Gordon thinks they have a shot at becoming the largest rat-free island in the world, which is a population solution that we can all envy.
- Naqqi Manco described the development of a low impact ecotourism industry in the Caicos Islands based on the management plan for the TCI's (and UKOTs') largest Ramsar site, and designed with full cooperation of the local people who are vitally concerned to preserve their way of life. This is a project which the Forum and its UK member organisations have partnered from the very beginning, and of which we can all be truly proud.
- Dick Beales described a few of the many issues involved in developing an airport with the minimum possible environmental impacts in St Helena.
- John Maurimootoo first depressed us all with the tale of mass extinctions throughout the span of human occupation on Mauritius and Rodrigues and then inspired us with his ideas on mainstreaming conservation issues by integrating them into the broader social context.

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

- While biodiversity is the critical element, it is not the only element to be considered when it comes to project design in relation to biodiversity.
- Importance of engaging with all stakeholders when undertaking major activities (Government, NGO and the public).
- Creative solutions adapted to local needs should be adopted as a practice.
- Upscaling and mainstreaming – small scale experimental work should serve as a model to apply to larger projects. Mainstreaming is the adoption of biodiversity issues into broader societal issues.
- Invasive species is an issue of concern which is impacting a number of Territories affecting sustainable livelihoods.

Marine Session

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

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

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

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

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

Messages to come out of the review so far:

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

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

Education

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

The discussion was detailed and resulted in four recommendations:

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

4. Through environmental education, raise public awareness, thus empowering communities and stakeholders to influence the decision making processes.

Resources

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

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

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

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

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

Posters

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

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

Posters revealed that throughout the region we are all working hard and going in the right direction. If Ascension Island was successful at eradicating the entire island of feral cats and enabling sea-bird colonies to re-establish, and Falklands can succeed at reducing mortality in sea-bird populations by 90%, then we can safely say that all our efforts are worthwhile and that there is hope for the biodiversity in our territories in the hands of this group of passionate environmentalists.

Working Groups

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

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

APPENDIX

Statement and recommendations from the workshop “Biodiversity and impact assessment in Small Island States” 6-7 October 2006, Jersey

This workshop was held immediately preceding the fourth conference organised by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and brought together approximately 45 representatives of Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities from around the world.

The workshop reviewed model practices in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA), and heard several case studies illustrating current approaches being used in small island situations.

The following conclusions and recommendations have been formulated against this backdrop and are intended to reflect the current state of impact assessment approaches in small islands, and offer tangible ways to move forward to improve these practices.

Current status of impact assessment in small island situations

There is no reliable information available about the status of EIA legislation and practice throughout the UKOTs and other small islands. On the evidence available, application of model approaches is best described as patchy, with some territories, dependencies and states demonstrating progress toward greater rigour and transparency in this area. However, for the most part, it is evident that on-going biodiversity loss is being exacerbated by less than adequate or appropriate impact assessment processes.

The key challenges identified by this workshop include the following:

1. Lack of coordinated strategic planning frameworks/processes that integrate biodiversity concerns and a reactive approach to development planning and impact assessment;
2. Weak institutional frameworks in some cases;
3. Lack of information and guidance on good impact assessment processes (with the appropriate checks and balances) that will ensure transparency and accountability;
4. Lack of capacity to provide effective input to EIA, to enforce mitigation requirements and other provisions and conditions or to ensure monitoring and follow-up;
5. Lack of any independent review facility to provide advice on the quality and content of EIAs;
6. Lack of good practice standards, contributing to poor quality;
7. Shortage of capacity and resources to gather and maintain biodiversity-related data upon which to base well-informed EIA decisions;
8. Shortage of advice on how to design and ensure appropriate community participation, involvement and consultation in impact assessment;
9. Few opportunities for training for those engaged in or assessing EIAs (help is needed to develop skills in valuation techniques, mitigation etc);

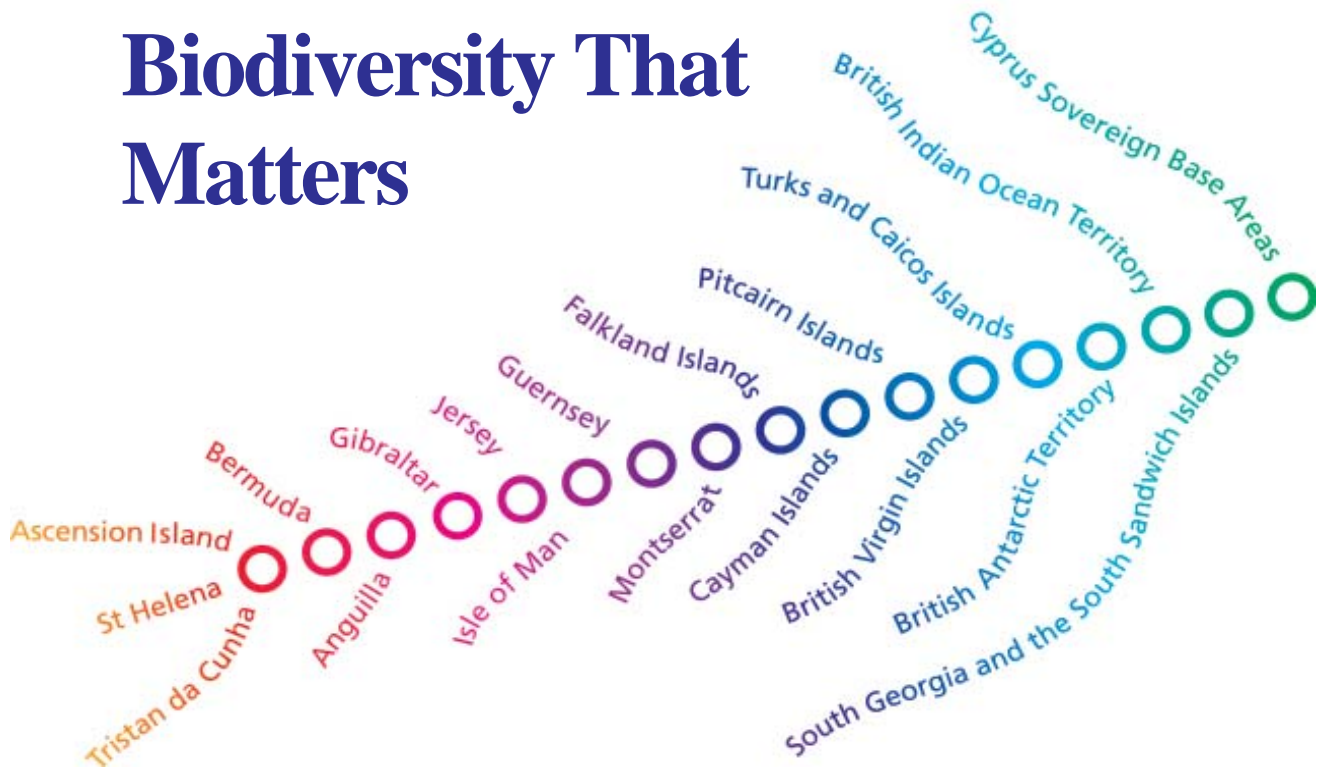
10. Sharing of impact assessment experiences and information between island territories, dependencies and states needs to be improved: at present there is no established mechanism for this.

Recommendations

The following recommendations have been formulated primarily for the attention of the Fourth conference of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, the Convention on Biological Diversity (and other relevant multi-lateral environment agreements) and bilateral and multilateral donor organisations:

1. Establish a facility to provide independent review/advice of EIAs.
2. Pursue development of good practice standards for EIA.
3. Commission reviews of the legislative, policy and administrative processes being applied to biodiversity-related impact assessment in the UKOTs and Crown Dependencies and, as appropriate, develop assistance to modify these to align with model approaches in terms of rigour, transparency and community participation.
4. Pilot SEAs in some UKOTs and other small island communities to align reviews of NBSAPs and national development strategies.
5. Encourage the adoption of common biodiversity recording methods and improve the availability of the 'Recorder' Programme and other relevant programmes to assist UKOTs and other small island communities with the establishment of baseline biodiversity data sets.
6. Collate, develop and provide advice on environmental valuation techniques suitable for application in impact assessment.
7. Continue to develop and refine the CBBIA 'Biodiversity and Impact Assessment Toolkit' in collaboration with UKOTs and other small island communities, using it as a mechanism to provide the latest advice on good practice and illustrative case studies (also via an annual CD mail-out).
8. Prepare a range of communication tools to promote and support the application of impact assessment as a tool for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (and make available through the CBBIA Toolkit), to include:
 - One pager or 'bookmark' summarising key aspects of good EIA.
 - Local advice sheets for ecologists on the benefits of EIA.
 - Email or internet links to support sharing of advice and experiences among small island communities.
 - Guidance for local specialists and surveyors to enable them to maximise their contribution to the EIA process and maintain an independent status.
9. Develop guidance (with documented case studies) on stakeholder and community participation and consultation in impact assessment processes and make these available through the CBBIA Toolkit (also provide advice to communities on how they can get involved).
10. Offer training opportunities in impact assessment through established programmes or new initiatives as necessary, focusing on the particular context of small island states.

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