

## Topic 2: Environment Charters and strategic planning

The central purpose of this session was to review progress in different UKOTs in implementing the Environment Charters and getting biodiversity into other sectoral plans – including obstacles so that we can discuss overcoming these.

The Environment Charters will be central to integrated and effective progress of conservation work in those UKOTs which have signed Charters. The first commitment of each UKOT in the Charters is to develop a strategy for action to implement the Environment Charter. With support from FCO, and at the invitation of Turks & Caicos Islands Government, the Forum is currently facilitating a pilot project to develop such a strategy for action in TCI, with the additional aim of providing guidelines for use in other UKOTs. A progress report on this is given.

This study makes clear that much relevant work is already in progress in most UKOTs. The first paper gives probably the best example of that, with a description of Bermuda's outstanding Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. This will fulfil a major proportion of Bermuda's commitment under the Charter.

The Environment Charter process should benefit from other similar approaches which fulfil many of its purposes. Three UKOTs are members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which has an environment charter process in the St Georges Declaration. The experience of Montserrat in using work on this to fulfil the needs of both processes is outlined.

The Crown Dependencies of UK have a slightly different relationship to UK to those of the UKOTs, and they do not have environment charters (although this conference seems to have confirmed the idea of some of their key personnel that they should). Very relevant experience is described from the Isle of Man in developing a strategic approach to conservation, following the appointment of a Wildlife and Conservation Officer. This has important ideas on setting priorities and biological recording amongst others.

It is important not to miss the chance of gathering ideas, approaches and experience from elsewhere. The presentation from the Bahamas provides an excellent example of close working between Government and NGO in a strategic way. For example, the use of the Bahamas National Trust to manage and provide safe ownership for the country of National Parks declared by Bahamas Government is striking.

Developing strategies is only a start. We had hoped to include a presentation from TCI Government's new Sustainable Development Planning Initiative, a community-based exercise in applying the sort of ideas discussed here to physical planning. Unfortunately, travel problems prevented this - but this is an important exercise to watch.

UK Government is committed under the Environment Charters to help the UKOTs implement these, including provision, under Commitment 8, of funding from the Environment Fund for Overseas Territories

and help with other funding. The conference welcomed a strong team from FCO to address this and respond helpfully to prolonged and deep questioning.



*Chaired by: Dr Mike Pienkowski, Chairman, UKOTCF; and Avon Carty, President, Anguilla National Trust*

# A Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Bermuda – a Recipe for Success

**A.F. Glasspool, J.A. Ward, H. De Silva, W. Sterrer & J. Furbert, Bermuda Biodiversity Project**



Glasspool, A.F., Ward, J.A., De Silva, H., Sterrer, W. & Furbert, J. 2003. A Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Bermuda – a Recipe for Success. pp 34-38 in *A Sense of Direction: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, [www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org)

Although chefs rarely disclose the recipes for their signature dishes, here is revealed the way that Bermuda produced their Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

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## Ingredients

### Simply take....

- 1 small island
- 1 ounce of political will
- 7 locals to form a Management Team and coordinate activities (preferably fresh)
- 12 well-seasoned members of the community to form a Steering Committee for guidance and to ensure objectivity
- ½ a cup of \$\$\$ for greasing the pan
- Several heaped tablespoons of local knowledge
- A bunch of enthusiasm
- 1 girt shot of Black Seal rum for fortification

(Note: Try to source local ingredients, as this enhances the flavour)

### Additionally....

Ensure a reputable kitchen to work from (Bermuda Zoological Society and Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo).

Adopt an extensive array of utensils for blending ingredients (workshops, local media, private sector, one-on-one meetings, churches, schools, printed materials, internet).

Select experienced international chefs to inspire and guide the local cooks (Drs Abigail Entwistle and Nigel Coulson from Flora and Fauna International).

**“....As with any recipe, the hungrier the audience, the better the meal tastes”**



Photo by Jennifer Gray

Bermuda's economy, through tourism, recreational activities and international business, is intrinsically dependent on the health of its natural habitats. However, with a resident population of 60,000 inhabiting a total land mass of 50 km<sup>2</sup>, and entertaining up to 500,000 visitors a year, the pressure for further development poses a rapidly escalating threat to the Island's fragile ecology, and to its underlying economy.

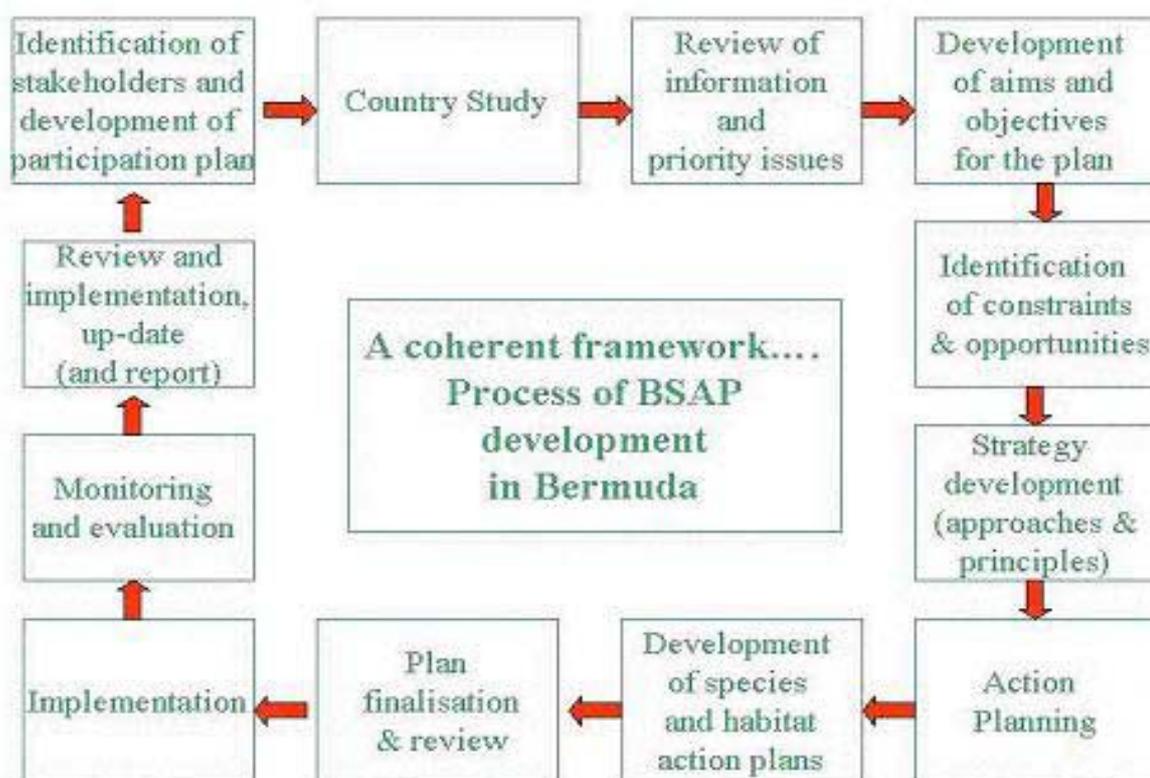
Launched in 1999 through the UK's Darwin Initiative, the Bermuda Biodiversity Strategy and

Action Plan was born out of the widespread recognition by many residents that there was an urgent need for a coordinated, community-based plan for conserving our increasingly threatened biodiversity. There is no doubt that in many areas Bermuda can boast an impressive conservation record. Nowadays, we are particularly fortunate to have many organisations (both governmental and non-governmental) and individuals working hard towards protecting our biodiversity. However, in many instances two different groups are working separately to tackle exactly the same issues. More significantly, in the absence of a common vision for conservation, we often find our efforts diluted by conflicting, albeit well intentioned, activities. Given the limited human and financial resources, it was recognised that a more logical approach would be one in which we first work together to develop a common vision for conservation and then to identify and address the problems and solutions, through the development of a coordinated series of actions.

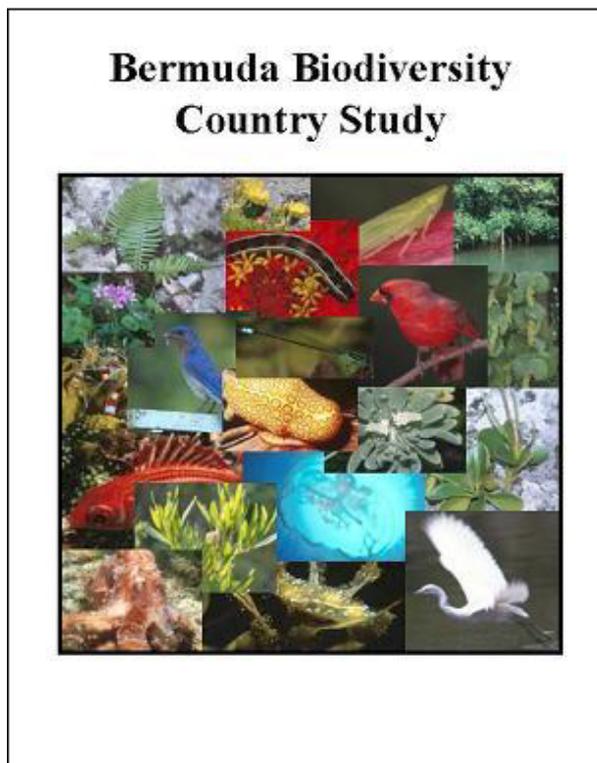
At the outset it was felt that, if the BSAP was to be adopted and ‘owned’ by the whole community, then a participatory approach would be necessary. In a sophisticated society like Bermuda’s there are many conflicting needs. Only by reaching out and inviting broad community participation, could we ensure that the Plan was relevant and achievable;

that it was based on an understanding of how environmental, social and economic factors relate to one another; and that, at the end of the day, it is adopted and put into action by a community of partners.

To this end, the development of the BSAP involved several stages. A 7-member management team was set up with staff from the Bermuda Zoological Society (BZS) and Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo (BAMZ), (an NGO and a Government facility). Being able to drive the project through these two organisations was essential to its success. Their long-standing, well-respected partnership has the support of the local NGO community as well as the ear of Government – a factor that has contributed enormously to the overall buy-in to the project. With 4,000 members, the BZS also has the interest of about 16% of the local population, facilitating outreach significantly. A steering committee, comprising 12 members of the community representing Government, the NGOs and the private sector was also established to provide guidance and ensure objectivity. Finally, the biodiversity planning expertise of Drs Abigail Entwistle and Nigel Coulson from Fauna and Flora International was secured to help develop the strategy and participation plan, and facilitate the planning workshops. They provided the following framework for the BSAP process (see below).



**“...Preheat the oven in preparation”**



With input from many local sources, the next step was an audit of what we know about Bermuda's biodiversity, what measures are in place to protect it, and hence where the gaps lie. This audit was collated and published by the Bermuda Biodiversity Project team in the form of the Bermuda Biodiversity Country Study, a colourful 103-page document which provides an overview of the status of Bermuda's biota, identifies the most critical issues facing the conservation of the Island's bio-diversity and attempts to place these in the context of the social and economic needs of the community. Over 70 people contributed to the material in the Study, which was reviewed as a draft by about 100 people. This document proved an unexpected success – its easy style and brevity engaged people across the community, including many of the politicians.

**“...Prepare and gently fold in key ingredients”**

The support and engagement of the Government was obviously critical to the whole BSAP process. Meetings were held with members of the Cabinet to secure their buy-in with the result that official support was given to the initiative in the Government Throne Speech in November 2000.

**“...Add the remaining ingredients and stir vigorously”**

Armed with the information in the Biodiversity Country Study, two strategic planning workshops were held in 2001 with over 60 participants. The focus of these meetings was to:

- prioritise the issues and identify constraints and opportunities for conservation;
- develop an aim, a set of guiding principles and 12 key objectives.



**“...Strain the mixture to concentrate the flavour”**

#### *12 Objectives*

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

In developing these objectives, The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was used as a framework. Not only did this ensure full consideration of

the various requirements of the CBD, an internationally agreed framework for biodiversity conservation, but it has also ensured more straightforward reporting of our progress in the future. The UK Government signed and ratified the Convention on Biodiversity on behalf of the UKOTs, but Bermuda is currently seeking to conclude the CBD in its own right.

Once the objectives were defined, 12 working groups, comprising local experts, were established to develop the specific actions and activities required to fulfil them. This included setting measurable targets for outputs as well as a time-frame and budget. It was agreed that, overall, the Plan would have a 5-year time-frame. Together, the objectives, actions and activities represent inter-related approaches to biodiversity conservation. Complementing these more generic actions has been the development of a series of specific action plans for key species and habitats considered to be particularly vulnerable, or, in the case of certain invasives, particularly threatening to our native species. Specific workshops were held to help support the development of these action plans. Each activity within the BSAP has been assigned to a lead agency, which has agreed to coordinate activities with other partners to achieve the targets. These lead agencies have an essential role to play in ensuring that the momentum of the Plan is not lost, and that activities are encouraged which truly

support the aims of the Plan. Wherever appropriate, activities have been linked to other projects currently being implemented or planned. To this end, the BSAP does not occur in isolation, but rather complements existing programmes so as to avoid duplicating or conflicting with them. This includes Development Plans, local Agenda 21, the UK Overseas Territories Environment Charter, management plans for nature reserves and parks, and so on.

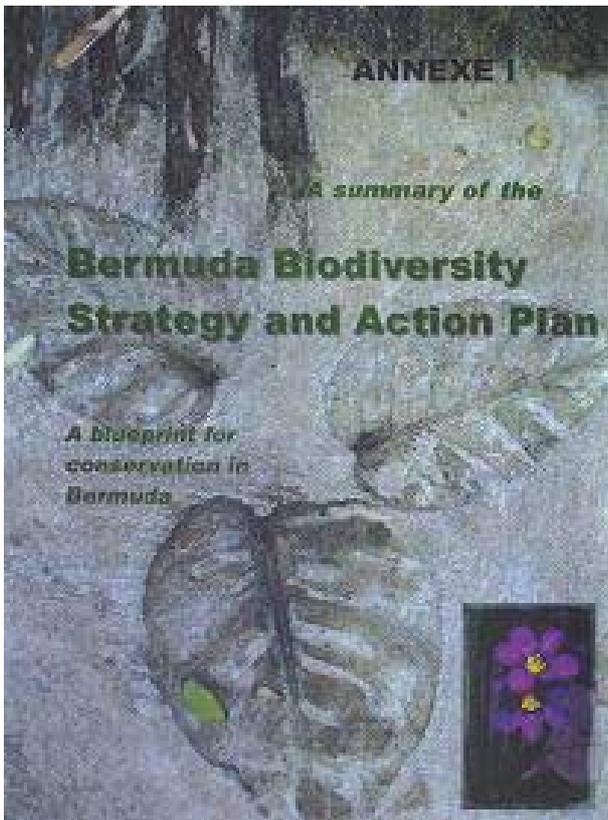
At every stage of the process efforts have been made to try and ensure wide information dissemination to the public, from articles for local magazines, newsletters, newspapers, to presentations at local exhibitions, as well a television and cinema advertising campaign, and a sermon from the pulpit in the Anglican Cathedral on Conservation Sunday.

**“...If their appetite has been sufficiently whetted, many guests will be content to lick the bowl, instead of waiting for the meal”**

Perhaps one of the most encouraging aspects of the BSAP process was the extent to which the workshops themselves inspired and encouraged the local conservation community, prompting many groups to start implementing new activities, long before the Plan was actually completed and launched. It was a combination of this enthusiasm, and the opportunity for widespread publicity offered by the



A Sense of Direction: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, page 37



tive, the Bermuda Government, the Kenridge Fund, the Ernest E. Stempel Foundation and the Bay Foundation.

This is Contribution No. 60, Bermuda Biodiversity Project (BBP), Bermuda.



UKOT Conference on Conservation in Bermuda, that finally inspired the completion of the Plan and its official launch by the Minister of the Environment and the BSAP Steering Committee during the conference. In a continuing effort to engage the wider community, the launch was accompanied by the distribution of a glossy version of the Plan which highlighted the key points of the Country Study, summarized the BSAP process, and outlined the aim, guiding principles, objectives and key actions.

In conclusion, it is hoped that, although ambitious, the Biodiversity Action Plan will stimulate a more focused, and coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation. Certainly, it has already created an avenue for strengthening existing partnerships and projects, as well as for establishing new ones.

### **Acknowledgements to the following for all the culinary skills:**

Lynda Johnson and Susan McGrath-Smith from the BSAP management Team; Fauna and Flora International and particularly Abigail Entwistle, Nigel Coulson and Kerstin Swahn; Colin Clubbe; Karen Varnham; and all the many locals who participated in the development of the BSAP, particularly the Steering Committee, and the working groups); and for their financial support; the UK Darwin Initia-

# Facilitating the development of a plan in an example UKOT (Turks & Caicos Islands) for strategic action under the Environment Charter

**Michelle Fulford-Gardiner, TCI Dept of Environmental & Coastal Resources; Dace McCoy Ground & Mike Pienkowski, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum facilitators**



Fulford-Gardiner, M., Ground, M.C. McCoy, Pienkowski, M.W. 2003. Facilitating the development of a plan in an example UKOT (Turks & Caicos Islands) for strategic action under the Environment Charter. pp 39-45 in *A Sense of Direction: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

On 26 Sept 2001, the UKOTs and HMG signed Environment Charters which include statements of principles and undertakings by both parties in respect of integrating environmental conservation into all sectors of policy planning and implementation. The first undertaking of the UKOTs was to formulate a detailed strategy for action, and HMG's first undertaking was to help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management. Informal feedback from the Territories both to the FCO and the Forum indicated that the first need was for facilitation in developing these strategies for action. This project provides for facilitation for a first example UKOT to serve as a model to others.



In October/November 2002, the emphasis of work was on (a) analysis of the Environment Charter documents to produce a structure for planning; (b) undertaking interviews with stakeholders in order to identify current activities which contribute to Environment Charter commitments and any perceived gaps; (c) a workshop of key stakeholders to verify the approach, check and further collate the information on current relevant activities, and start formally to identify gaps, both substantive and of information.

During the January/February visit, the emphasis was on (a) filling the major information gaps identified in the first round, particularly undertaking major work on legislative aspects and multilateral environmental agreements, (b) using a workshop-centred approach to develop headline action points from the matrix developed in the previous round, and (c) presenting the approach to Executive Council and agreeing the proposed timetable of the stages involving ExCo.



The main activity during the April/May 2003 visit was to prepare, conduct and analyse the results of a workshop open to wider participation. This was held on 29<sup>th</sup> April at the National Environment Centre in Providenciales. The main purpose was to take the initial strategy for action produced as a result of the previous workshops, and begin to assign priorities within this.

As agreed at the presentation to Executive Council on 29<sup>th</sup> January, a recommended strategy for action should go before ExCo in August, with a final version (from this establishment phase), modified in the light of any revisions necessary, probably in November.

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## Background

On 26 Sept 2001, TCI and other UKOTs signed with HMG Environment Charters which include statements of principles and undertakings by both parties in respect of integrating environmental conservation into all sectors of policy planning and implementation. The first undertaking of TCI and the other UKOTs was to formulate a detailed strategy for action, and HMG's first undertaking was to help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management.

Informal feedback from the Territories both to the FCO and the Forum indicated that the first need was for facilitation in developing these strategies for action. Following discussions between the Forum and the FCO, it was agreed that a pilot project would provide for facilitation for a first example UKOT to serve as a model to others.

The Forum has been working closely with the FCO from the inception of the idea of Environment Charters through to their adoption, and therefore has a strong background in this area and a great desire to see the Charter process succeed. The Forum's network of member organisations throughout the UK and the UKOTs gives it unique resources and access both to UK expertise and within the governmental and non-governmental sectors of each of the UKOTs. Its long track record of capacity building and facilitating work within the UKOTs gives it unique knowledge of how

governments and NGOs work in the UKOTs and how a complex planning exercise can be successfully carried out. This broad expertise gives the Forum the capacity not only to carry out a successful exercise with the example UKOT but to apply the process and lessons learned to create guidance useful to all the UKOTs.

In TCI, the first undertaking to formulate a detailed strategy for action, with the assistance of HMG, was given priority during the TCI Strategic Country Policy Dialogue 2002. Both Governments through informal discussions, decided that there was a need for facilitation in developing the strategy for action. Consultations facilitated by H.E. the Governor of Turks & Caicos Islands and the Hon. Minister for Natural Resources resulted in approval by the Executive Council of TCI that this UKOT should be the pilot, and confirmed the facilitators as Dr Mike Pienkowski and Mrs Dace Ground of UKOTCF (who have wide experience of working in both official and NGO situations), working with a local committee.

This core team to facilitate the implementation of the strategy for action to implement the Charter was to be formed immediately. Executive Council later confirmed this as:

Under Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources  
Director, Department of Environmental and Coastal Resources  
Deputy Director, Department of Environmental and Coastal Resources



*Turks and Caicos Executive Council at the time of deciding to proceed with the project*

Director of Planning  
 Government's Chief Economist  
 Provo Pollution Task Force Representative  
 Chief Environmental Health Officer  
 Governor's Office Representative  
 Attorney General's Chambers Representative  
 Ministry of Education Representative  
 Director of Turks and Caicos National Trust  
 Chairman, National Parks Environmental  
 Advisory Committee (NPEAC)  
 Turks and Caicos National Museum Representative  
 Hotel and Tourism Association Representative  
 Chamber of Commerce Representative  
 UKOTCF Facilitator (Mrs Dace Ground)  
 UKOTCF Facilitator (Dr Mike Pienkowski)  
 Project Manager, Coastal Resources Management Project  
 Deputy Director of Planning

1. agree on "desired outcomes"
2. identify the most important response mechanisms
3. identify ongoing projects that address the issue
4. identify gaps
5. identify key issues for investigation/evaluation.

d) between and after interviews and workshop, review and analysis by the facilitators in consultation with key local players, in order to refine the ongoing programme and the structure of the draft plan.

The workshop report was circulated along with legislative review summaries and the gaps therein, so that this could be checked by participants.

The facilitation exercise comprised a series of activities covering 2-3 week periods in TCI, between which the facilitators analysed the results of consultations and discussions, clarified points as necessary with TCI colleagues, and prepared for the next round of consultations.

### **Other work**

The first round of consultations identified interim short-term recommendations. Several concerned with the Environment Charter Working Group and Public Awareness were followed up within the later consultation rounds.

### **First round of consultations**

In the October/November 2002 visit (detailed in the first progress report), the emphasis of work was on the following aspects:

- a) analysis of the Environment Charter documents to produce a structure for planning and, in the immediate future, for interviewing stakeholders, together with consultations to identify those stakeholders;
- b) undertaking interviews with stakeholders, with the objectives of (i) identifying current activities which contribute to Environment Charter commitments and any perceived gaps; and (ii) identifying current awareness of the Environment Charter and the issues it addresses;
- c) a workshop of key stakeholders to verify the approach, check and further collate the information on current relevant activities, and start to identify gaps, both substantive and of information; in particular, the purposes of the Workshop were, for each of TCI's 11 undertakings in the Environment Charter:

The proposal for initiating the development of a biological records centre, in the third recommendation, was completed and submitted, following the identification by the facilitators of a potential route and relevant advisory expertise for this, and consultations during the visit with the TCI partners potentially involved. The other aspect of information collation to be addressed concerns information in largely unpublished reports. A basic form to record systematically summaries of this information was developed .

### **Reviews of TCI legislation and of Multilateral Environmental Agreements**

Two major pieces of work were undertaken in the period between the first and second round of consultations and carried through the second round.

The first concerned the question as to what extent the existing TCI legislation is able to address the needs being identified by this project, and what changes might need to be considered. The draft review of legislation resulting from this process was further discussed at the next workshop.

The second addressed the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, both those which already

apply to TCI and those which TCI has expressed some interest in joining. For these, it was necessary to identify to what extent TCI has the mechanisms to fulfil the commitments in the conventions and what changes would be needed. The analyses for the “Ramsar” Convention on Wetlands, the “Bonn” Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on Biological Diversity were presented at the Workshop. The first two already apply to TCI. For the third, the limited range of issues which need addressing seems to indicate that TCI could approach UK Government to request that TCI be added to UK’s ratification of that convention. The analyses were extended to cover the World Heritage Convention, the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (“CITES”), the “Cartagena” Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region, the “London” Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution, and the Marpol Convention.

## Second round of consultations

During the January/February visit, the emphasis was on

- (a) filling the major information gaps identified in the first round, particularly undertaking major work on legislative aspects and multilateral environmental agreements,
- (b) using a workshop-centred approach to develop headline action points from the matrix developed in the previous round, and
- (c) presenting the approach to Executive Council and agreeing the proposed timetable of the stages involving ExCo.

## Executive Council

The project Chairperson Mrs Michelle Fulford Gardiner, the Permanent Secretary Natural Resources Mr Terry Smith, and UKOTCF facilitators Dr Mike Pienkowski and Mrs Dace Ground, attended Executive Council on 29<sup>th</sup> January, at the kind invitation of H.E. the Governor and the Hon Chief Minister. ExCo members expressed strong support and encouragement for the project and its development into an integrated part of TCI procedures. ExCo took note of the proposed remaining stages of the project, welcoming further presentations as appropriate, and in particular the expectation that a recommended strategy for action would come before them in August, with a final version (from this establishment phase), modified in the light of any revisions necessary, probably in November. The idea of attractive, popular versions

*Participants in the second workshop*



of these final products to help public awareness, was also welcomed. The Hon Chief Minister noted the importance of ensuring environmental aspects were taken fully into account in planning and considering development proposals, and thanked

the team for their work.

A press release issued by TCI Government Information Service was carried by TCI radio that morning.

Following the presentation to ExCo, a formal paper was prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources and put before ExCo, resulting in the formal appointment of the project Working Group as outlined in the briefing paper .

### **Workshop**

The meeting room of the Turks & Caicos National Museum was again kindly made available for the stakeholder workshop held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2003, which was opened by H.E. Mr Jim Poston, Governor. The central purpose of the workshop was to develop the head-points of a strategy for action to implement the Environment Charter (as required under Commitment 1) from the matrix developed at the previous stakeholder workshop. To aid this, the facilitators had drafted head-points for those sections where these were obvious consequences of the matrix, and the meeting discussed and amended these as appropriate. For the more complex legislative-related points and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (see above), analyses of these were used to inform the discussion, and generate head-points for action. For the high-level issues under Commitment 3, the starting point to generate discussion and hence headline action points was the matrix itself.

As in the previous workshop, as many as possible of the conclusions of discussions were recorded on a laptop computer linked to a projector, so that participants could check them as they were noted. Immediately following the workshop, the facilitators edited the strategy for action head-points document and circulated it to stakeholders for further checking. This was followed up with detailed discussions with key stakeholders.

The final strategy for action will need to provide more information than just the head-points, both for current work and for those new pieces of work identified. The facilitators provided a draft simple form for such information, and participants agreed to supply any comments on that form within 2 weeks. Subsequently the form would be used by stakeholders (assisted by facilitators where necessary) to record this key information for each project or other task.

One of the tasks for facilitators identified at the Workshop was to make available an updated list of the proposals from the National Trust and others for additions and modifications to the Protected Areas system, and this was done.

### **Awareness-raising**

In the first round of consultations, it was agreed that many aspects of public awareness-raising on the Environment Charter would be integrated with the Sustainable Development Planning Initiative (SDPI) process as this spreads across the islands. Such integration should minimise the risk of confusion in the public's minds between differently titled, but essentially closely integrated, processes. Nevertheless, it was important to give some indications of the importance of the Environment Charter process to the future of TCI. This will be taken up most prominently by the Chief Minister (see Executive Council section above), supported by the locally based members of the project team, and particularly the Chairperson, Michelle Fulford-Gardiner.

In addition, several other opportunities are being developed and taken to raise awareness of the Environment Charter to targeted audiences. As a result of contacts in the first round of consultations, the Providenciales Chamber of Commerce carried the Charter as its front-page news in its winter 2002/3 issue, and a talk to the Chamber is planned. Dr Mike Pienkowski lectured the senior science students at the College on the Environment Charter and other issues. Both the ExCo presentation and the Workshops were the subjects of press-releases issued by the TCI Government Information Service; these were taken up by TCI radio and press media.

### **Recommendations for immediate action**

As happened at the first workshop, issues were raised at the second workshop which were felt to warrant immediate action, rather than waiting for the completion of this process. The Working Group was very concerned about the erosion of the Protected Areas system by development. One of the root problems is that the boundaries of the Protected Areas System are not recorded on the Land Registry maps, so they appear to potential developers to be prime pieces of Crown land suitable for development. The following two items for immediate action were proposed:

Lodge the boundaries of existing Protected Areas in the Governmental GIS system,

Planning and Land Registry by resourcing translation where digitised boundaries are already available and digitising of remaining boundaries. This should be done in stages so that easily identifiable areas such as offshore cays or sites with known block and parcel numbers can be lodged immediately, those which need only translation can be lodged as soon as possible and where surveys or other work are needed, a schedule can be established to ensure that the work is done with as little delay as possible.

Develop Protected Areas Policy with agreement at highest level to ensure that there is no further erosion of the PAS through inappropriate development. DECR has been working on this, but limited staff resources have slowed progress on this; resources must be allocated to facilitate immediate completion.

### Third round of consultations

The main activity during the April/May 2003 visit was to prepare, conduct and analyse the results of a workshop open to wider participation. This was held on 29<sup>th</sup> April at the National Environment Centre in Providenciales. The main purpose was to take the initial strategy for action produced as a

result of the previous workshops, and begin to assign priorities within this. The list of invitees was developed by the Working Group. All invitees received also a copy of the Environment Charter and the list of strategy action items (which was the main output based on workshop 2).

Within Workshop 3, the main parts of the draft action list were taken in six sessions. Within each session, one or two participants with particular interests in the topics of that session read through a shortened version of the document, which had the same numbering as the main document. The participants had the main document in front of them. The shorter version was projected on-screen. Participants were then invited to review and discuss that section and comment on priorities within it. The main conclusions were noted on screen, so that participants could check that their points had been recorded correctly. At the end of each session, participants were invited each to supply a “vote” on a simple form of their views of the top priorities (up to five each) within that session. At the end of the workshop, participants were similarly invited each to indicate their top five priorities overall based on the preceding discussions.

Subsequent analysis showed good agreement between the views expressed in discussion and those recorded on the “voting” forms. These analyses and the comments made throughout the workshop were integrated with the base document to produce the proposed Strategy for Action to implement TCI Government’s commitments under the Environment Charter and the “Strategy for



*Stakeholders in the third workshop, at the National Environment Centre*



Action: Initial Priority Projects” from that. These outputs were checked with key members of TCI’s Environment Charter Working Group and participants in the Workshop before incorporation in this Progress Report.

### **Next steps**

The Strategy for Action will be collated and the core group will make recommendations. As agreed at the presentation to Executive Council on 29<sup>th</sup> January, a formal presentation on the recommended strategy for action will be made to Executive Council by the Chair of core group and UKOTCF facilitators. This is planned for August 2003, with a final version (from this establishment phase), modified in the light of any revisions necessary, probably in November 2003. Subsequently, popular versions of these final products to help public awareness, could be prepared.

The final strategy for action will need to provide more information than just the head-points, both for current work and for those new pieces of work identified. The facilitators have provided a draft simple form for such information and participants in the workshop process have agreed to use these (assisted by facilitators where necessary) to record this key information for each project or other task. This information can then be included in the material for the final document of this development phase, in November.

A draft of the general guidelines document will be prepared by the facilitators, so that this could possibly be used in the other UKOTs.

TCI Government will ensure that Departments/ Agencies are charged with the responsibility of carrying out actions under the plan in a timely fashion. The core group will be kept intact, so that they they can develop into an advisory board to ExCo to manage the ongoing process. In addition, TCI members would like the Forum to maintain a review role after the current facilitation project.

# Strategic conservation in a non-UKOT: The Bahamas National Park System

Susan Larson, Deputy Director, Bahamas National Trust



Larson, S. 2003. Strategic conservation in a non-UKOT: The Bahamas National Park System. pp 46-49 in *A Sense of Direction: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, [www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org)

This presentation is a summary of recent parks and protected areas accomplishments in the Bahamas and the unique organization behind them.

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The Bahamas National Trust was created by Act of Parliament in 1959 and mandated with the management and development of national parks. The Trust has numerous unique characteristics. Some of them in particular are illustrated here with an explanation as to how these unique features give the Trust certain strengths.

The mandate of the Bahamas National Trust is defined in an Act of Parliament. The Act mandates the Trust to exist and gives it a specific charge and structure. The Trust “shall” exist, says the Act, will ensure the permanent preservation of natural resources and areas of outstanding beauty and historic interest, and will do so as a private organization, outside of governmental structure or authority. Although the Trust is loosely referred to as a NGO in conservation jargon, it is more accurately a quasi non-governmental body because of its Act.

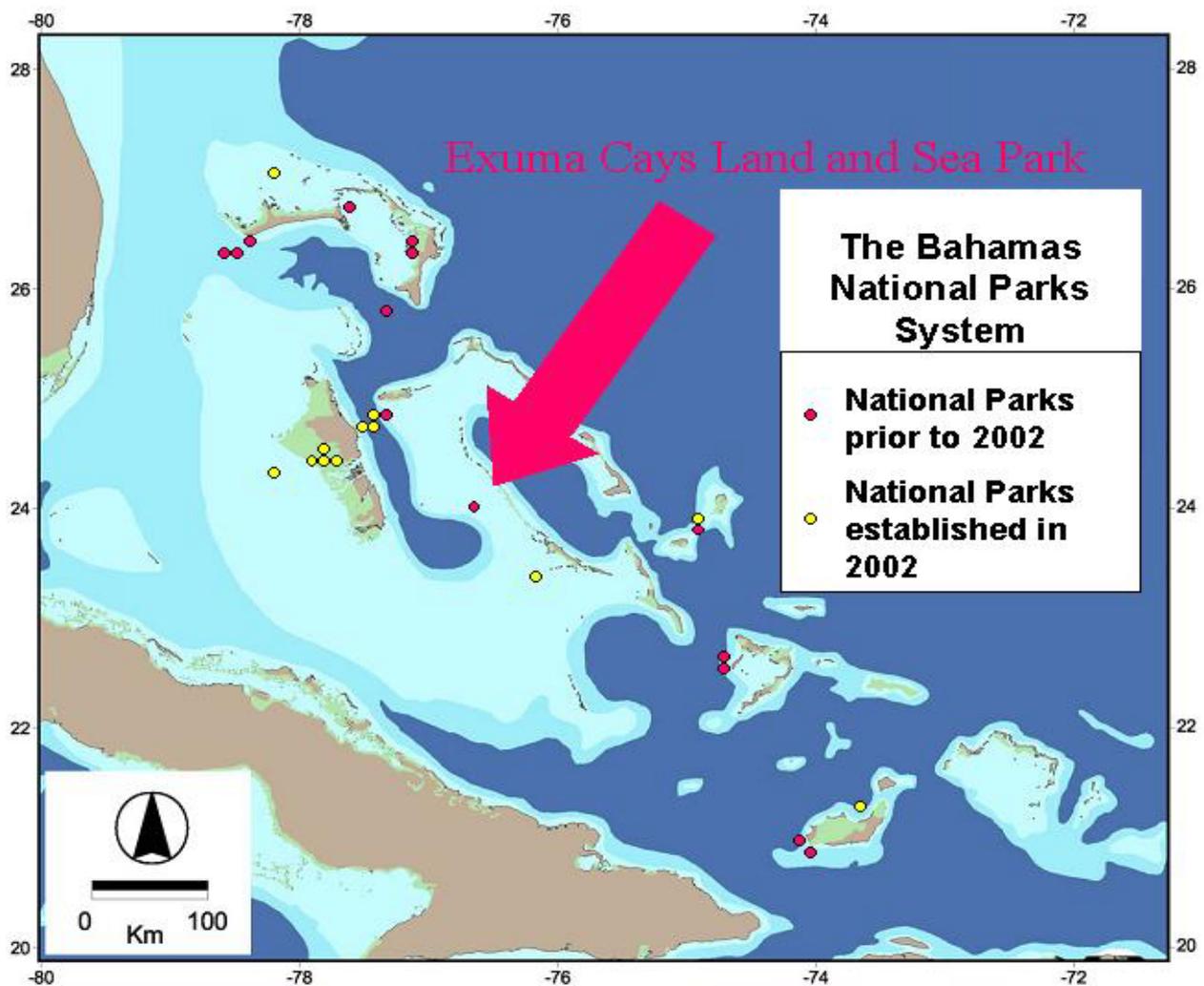
The Bahamas National Trust truly enjoys the best of both worlds – a NGO with a legislated mandate.

The specific charge of national park management and development also makes the Trust unique. No other NGO or quasi-NGO in the world that we are aware of manages a country’s entire national park system. Outside of political change and influence, management of national parks in the Bahamas has been balanced and stable for nearly half a century. Non-governmental management of National Park Systems is seen more and more as a very viable alternative to government-run systems by conservationists and park managers the world-over.

The Trust’s collaborative structure is also noteworthy. Its policy-making body is the Council, comprised of elected Trust members, representatives of Bahamas Government Agencies and prestigious

overseas organizations such as The Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History, the U.S. National Parks Service, and the National Audubon Society, to name a few. Through the mandated structure, the private sector, Government, and scientific interests are represented. Numerous partnerships emerge out of the collaborative structure, as does a wide and invaluable network of advisors which brings added dimension to the work of the Trust.





Perhaps most remarkably, the Bahamas National Trust is self-funded. Only 8% of the Trust's annual operating budget comes from the government. In 1988 the Trust created The Heritage Fund, one of the first conservation endowment funds in this hemisphere. Private donations constitute the fund's capital and over the years, the Heritage Fund has grown into generating nearly 60% of the Trust's annual operating budget. As a result, the Bahamas Government is relieved of the significant financial burden of park management and monies raised for the fund are not lost in the Public Treasury – a very appealing factor to donors.

The Bahamas National Trust has enjoyed more than 4 decades of significant accomplishments across a wide spectrum of themes, but perhaps none was more significant than that which occurred last year. In April of 2002 the Bahamas doubled the size of its National Park System overnight. No other country has ever done this.

In signing over the new national parks to the National Trust, former Bahamas Prime Minister

Hubert Ingraham spoke of:

- the obligation of signatory nations to the Convention on Biological Diversity to step up efforts in “*in-situ*” conservation
- the diverse features and values the new additions to the Bahamas National Park System possessed
- and most importantly – the viability of non-consumptive use of natural resources to the Bahamian economy

Several key factors were behind the unprecedented park expansion. The focus here is on the most important one.

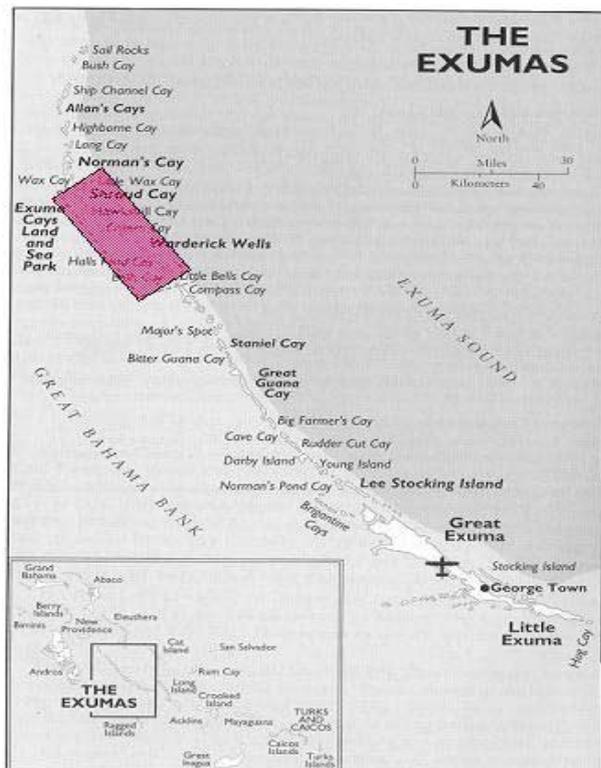
Almost in the center of the Bahamian archipelago is the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park (ECLSP). It is our grandfather national park; its establishment-in-principal actually pre-dates the passing of the Bahamas National Trust Act. Encompassing 176 square miles of land- and sea-scapes, the Exuma Park is also one of the world's first land and sea



parks to exist under a single jurisdiction.

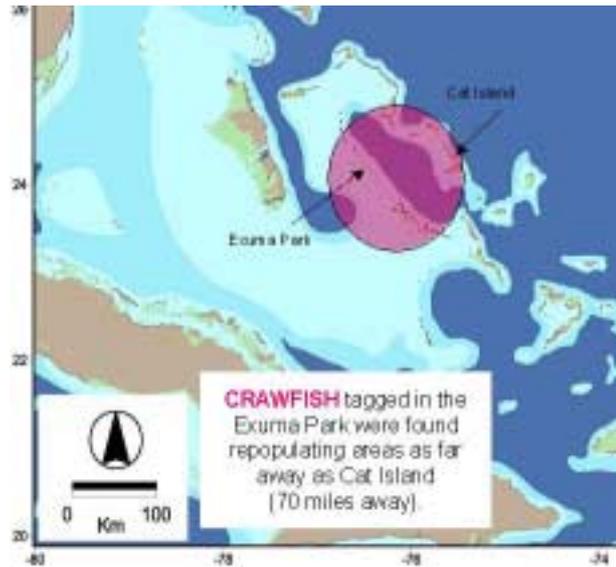
Within the Bahamas National Trust Act is the power for the Trust to write by-laws to assist with management objectives in park areas. This is yet another unique strength of the organization. During the early history of ECLSP limited fishing was allowed. But, in late 1970s and 1980s the Trust believed unsustainable fishing practices and management regimes were increasing nationally and that important commercial fishery stocks were declining.

To counter this, the Trust declared the entire 176-square mile Exuma Park a “no-take area” in 1986.

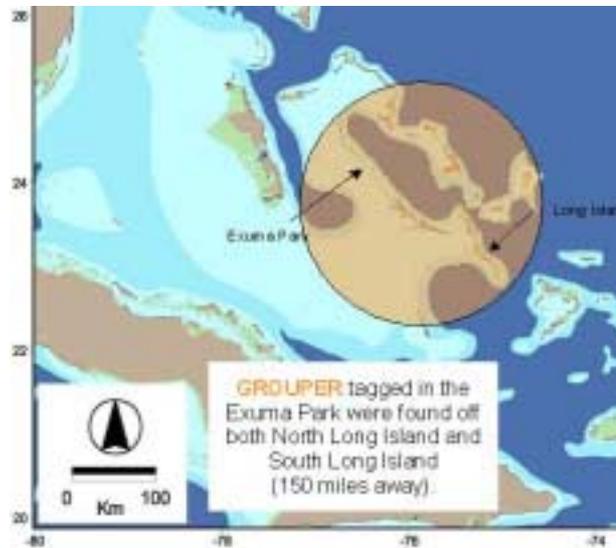


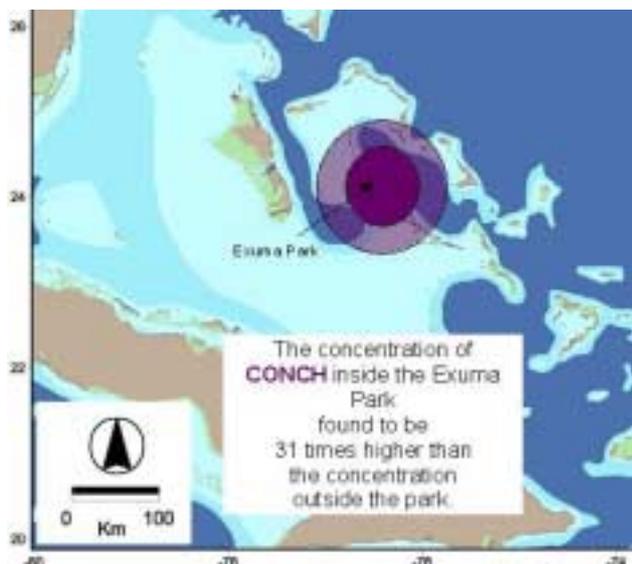
The Trust also began to promote more vigorously the need for “conservation” in the national fisheries plan and worked with local communities and fishermen to heighten awareness of the need to protect marine resources.

Wanting data on the “holy trinity” of the Bahamian fisheries – crawfish, conch, and grouper – the Trust also promoted the need for research and science in the Exuma Park to document the affects of the no-take designation.



In the 1990s the results began to come in ... and they were quite impressive. Crawfish tagged in the Exuma Park were found repopulating areas as far away as Cat Island, a distance of 70 miles. Tagged Grouper were found off of both north and south Long Island, 150 miles away. Another study concluded that 74% of all Grouper in the northern Exuma region were coming from within the Exuma Park. And with regard to conch, it was found that the concentration of conch inside the Exuma Park





was 31 times greater than the concentration of conch outside of the park boundaries. It was conservatively estimated that through larval dispersal this concentration provided several million conch outside the park for fishermen to harvest each year.

The Bahamas National Trust took these results to partners and stakeholders and the groundswell of support and enthusiasm was significant.

- Fishermen began to realize the value of the park to their livelihood.
- At a Coral Reef Task Force Meeting, the Government of the Bahamas announced a policy decision to protect 20% of Bahamian marine ecosystems.
- The Department of Fisheries began to implement a network of marine protected areas.
- The Exuma Park was used as a model of success abroad.



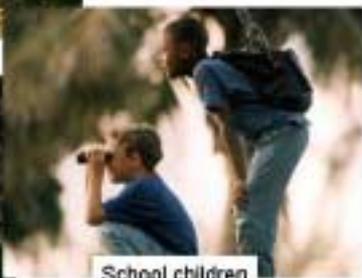
Local Communities



Government Officials



Fishermen



School children

In 1986 the Trust took the bold action to declare the Exuma Park a no-take area. In a sense, it was the conservation equivalent of “Just do it”. With little science in place to support it, the Trust was firmly committed to the notion that as with terrestrial resources, marine resource conservation required habitat conservation. Subsequently to 1986, the term marine fishery reserve (MFR) was coined and has become a highly-promoted tool in sustainable management of fisheries. The Bahamas Department of Fisheries has embraced MFRs as an effective management tool and five sites are now “in transition” towards formal designation.

The extraordinary benefits to fisheries are coupled with equally significant benefits to tourism and education. Having marine and terrestrial life in abundance, growing to large sizes and unmolested, the Exuma Park is a mecca for tourists and an invaluable outdoor classroom for Bahamian youth. People began to see the tangible benefits such parks provide to themselves and called for parks in their own areas. And it was against this backdrop, created in large part by the success of the Exuma Park, that the doubling of the Bahamas National Park System in 2002 occurred.

Windows of opportunity in small island states can be miniscule and fleeting and the delicate balance between science, community support, and political will can be easily be lost – and with it goes the opportunity. From time to time in the conservation world the value of paper parks is questioned. But in our experience in the Bahamas, getting a Park established is the thing. Point in case is the Exuma Park itself, now our crown jewel. It began as a paper park and sat un-manned for half of its history.

Getting the parks established was the thing that drove the national parks expansion accomplishments of 2002. Stakeholders contributed significantly to the definition of areas and community support was strong; science existed at varying levels and will be built upon; political will was there. With this formula ten new parks, encompassing more than 350,000 acres, were established overnight. The specifics of management regimes will be worked out next.

# Implementing the St Georges Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the UK Overseas Territories Environment Charter: No Conflict

**Gerard Gray, First Vice-President Montserrat National Trust, and Director of Agriculture, Montserrat Government**



Gray, G.A.L. 2003. Implementing the St Georges Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the UK Overseas Territories Environment Charter: No Conflict. pp 50-51 in *A Sense of Direction: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, [www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org)

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

In order to implement the St Georges Declaration, Montserrat will develop a National Environmental Management Plan. To achieve this a number of stakeholder consultations will be convened nationwide to include Government Agencies, Non Governmental Organisations, Focus Groups and the wider Civil Society to prioritize for action the major environmental issues. Priority areas will then be included into the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), which sets our Government's overall investment programme. Implementation is assured when elements of the PSIP are subsumed into the respective work programmes of the Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Statutory Bodies.

**Gerard A L Gray**, Department of Agriculture, Montserrat.  
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Montserrat is party to the UKOT's Environment Charter and the St George Declaration (SGD) of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and must implement the provisions of both instruments.

The UKOT Environment Charter and the SGD are similar. There is no philosophy or provision in one that is in discord with the other. The basic document of the SGD is more detailed than that of the UKOT Environment Charter (but the first requirement of the latter is to develop a strategy for action to implement it). There are no substantive differences between the two documents; differences are mainly those of presentation. SGD is organised around 21 points and the UKOT Environment

Charter around 10 principles.

Because of these similarities, satisfactory implementation of one instrument will satisfy the execution of the other. The strategy employed by Montserrat for implementation of these instruments was developed by the OECS-ESDU in collaboration with Member States. The process by which the SGD was arrived at is critical to its successful implementation.

## **St Georges Declaration**

The St Georges Declaration was sanctioned by the OECS Environment Policy Committee. It was developed with broad-based stakeholder participation at the national and regional levels (community, interest groups, government agencies and the



### Take home message

The process is important to successful implementation, because it:

- Elucidates relevant issues
- Ensures stakeholder ownership and participation.

It must be subsumed into the regular work programme:

- Ensures some progress, even with limited funding
- Otherwise becomes onerous, and does not get the attention it deserves.

Monitoring and evaluation important to gauge progress.

### Conclusion

The implementation process used on Montserrat allows for

the satisfactory execution of the UKOT Environment Charter and the St Georges Declaration.

private sector).

### National Environmental Management Strategy

The National Environmental Management Strategy is the main vehicle for bringing the environmental instruments to life. It employed nation-wide stakeholder participation to prioritise for action major environmental issues.

### Sustainable Development Plan

The Sustainable Development Plan addresses key social, economic and environmental issues to guide development to meet Montserrat's Mission Statement. This also employed broad-based stakeholder participation.

### Public Sector Investment Programme

The Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) outlines government's overall investment programmes on an annual basis. This involves a priority of priorities, implemented via annual work programmes.

### Annual Work Programmes

PSIP is put into action by inclusion in:

- Work programmes of Government Agencies, NGO's, Statutory Bodies
- Private Sector and Community Projects.

### Reporting Mechanism

A progress report is presented to the EPC annually. It reports on action taken and outputs for each principal identified in the work programme.

# Statutory nature conservation on a small island: Developing a strategy for the Isle of Man

Elizabeth Charter, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Isle of Man



Charter, E. 2003. Statutory nature conservation on a small island: Developing a strategy for the Isle of Man. pp 52-58 in *A Sense of Direction: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, [www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org)

This paper provides a brief outline of statutory nature conservation on the Isle of Man and the development of a conservation strategy over the last 5 years. The paper covers the strategic planning process. It has been a process rather than the production of a document although a Conservation Strategy document is now required. The other aspects discussed are the relationship between the Island's legislation and the EU, the role of International Conventions, the implementation of the Wildlife Act 1990, the various levels of wildlife and habitat protection and how the government works through partnerships with other organisations and individuals.

The paper draws attention to some of the particular issues for small islands and their administrations, the importance of biological recording and the particular value of conservation and heritage organisations, and of individuals in the rate of progress. Other small administrations may recognise the stages of progress and the constraints as having similarities to their own. The process on the Isle of Man is not a model or blueprint but, by presenting it in this forum, the aim is to stimulate debate.

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## Introduction to the Isle of Man

The Isle of Man is in the centre of the British Isles, in the Irish Sea. It covers 227 square miles and has a population of 76,000. It is a UK Crown Dependency with a governor. Our parliament, Tynwald,



was established more than 1000 years ago, in 979 AD, by the Vikings. It is not part of European Union but has to operate in harmony with many EU subsidies and legislation through being part of a common trading area with the EU. Selected European legislation is adopted but generally not in the area of environment. State aids have to be notified. The island signs international conventions through the UK.

The island has a number of important and successful populations of birds, notably the chough (pictured) and the hen harrier. Manx shearwater numbers on the Calf of Man (the islet off the south coast) are recovering as rats are controlled. Basking sharks frequent Manx waters and, mysteriously, the lesser mottled grasshopper (pictured) occurs at one Manx site and nowhere else in the British Isles. The Isle of Man cabbage is not an endemic or a very cabbage-like plant. It occurs in several other places around the Irish Sea but only at two sites on Mann. There are in fact no Manx endemic species (although probably some sub-species or genotypes).



There are two protected areas at present, the Ayres National Nature Reserve which is a strip of coastal grassland, dunes, shingle and heath in the north and the Langness Peninsula Area of Special Scientific Interest in the south, home of the rare grasshopper. A representative suite of designated areas has yet to be established.



Until 5 years ago the majority of the nature conservation was undertaken by voluntary organisations or less actively by the Manx National Trust (a government agency) and the Forestry and Lands Board, through land ownership. The progress of conservation can be seen in the establishment dates of organisations and the passing of legislation.

### Organisations

- 1879 Manx Natural History and Antiquarian Society
- 1886 Manx Museum founded
- 1935 Society for the Preservation of the Manx Countryside
- 1967 Manx Ornithological Society
- 1973 Manx Nature Conservation Trust (Wildlife Trust)

- 1989 Manx Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
- 1990 Manx Bat Group and Manx Chough Project
- 1995 The Basking Shark Society
- 1998 Manx Bird Atlas
- 2000 Manx Rivers Improvement Association

### Legislation

- 1867 Sea Gull Preservation Act
- 1932 The Wild Birds Protection Act
- 1955 Protection of Birds Act
- 1956 Prevention of Damage by Agricultural Pests Act
- 1959 Manx Museum and National Trust Act
- 1963 Destructive Imported Animals Act
- 1980 Wild Animals (Restriction on Importation) Act
- 1981 Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act
- 1990 Wildlife Act.

The island is signatory to the following conventions and agreements:

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (**CITES**),
- **Bonn** Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS),
- the Bonn Convention Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (**EUROBATS**),
- **Bern** Convention on European Wildlife and Natural Habitats,
- **Ramsar** Convention on Wetland Conservation,
- Agreement on the Conservation of the **African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds** (under the Bonn Convention),
- **OSPAR** Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and
- the Agreement on Conservation of **Albatrosses and Petrels** (Bonn).

However the island is not yet a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Before the 1980s conservation was progressed to a great extent through the dedicated effort of individuals or groups of committed people. The major milestones in the development of conservation have been the establishment of the Biological Records Centre in the 1980s, which provided the data for listing rare and endangered species for the schedules of the wildlife legislation, and the

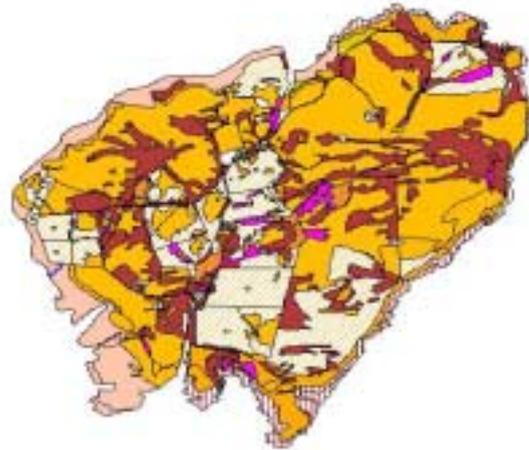
Wildlife Act 1990. Following the passing of this Act, Government undertook a thorough survey of habitats and land use for the whole island. In 1998 the first two full-time conservation officers were appointed to progress nature conservation within the Agriculture office of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Following this, voluntary management agreements were negotiated with private land owners to conserve rare species (orchids, corncrakes and the rare grasshopper). The site designation on private land began in 2000 with Langness. To persuade land owners that habitats on farmland have a monetary value the pilot Agri-environment Scheme was brought in before further land was designated. This was an important element of the developing conservation strategy.

### The conservation strategy

The need for a strategy immediately became apparent when the office was set up. It goes without saying that in nature conservation there is always much more that needs to be done than can be done with the resources available, hence the need for priorities and a strategy. A ship's rope makes a useful metaphor for the conservation strategy; it is not very interesting in itself but a very valuable tool for holding us to our aims or keeping us moving in the right direction. With it we are less likely to be diverted from our purpose. It is made up of a number of strands. The legislation strand (Wildlife Act 1990) was in place when the office was established in 1998.

The biological data strand of the rope urgently needed strengthening. Considerable effort has been focused on the development of digitised habitat maps (see top of next column), with recent aerial photographs, to back up our advice and policies. Sound and up-to-date information on the abun-

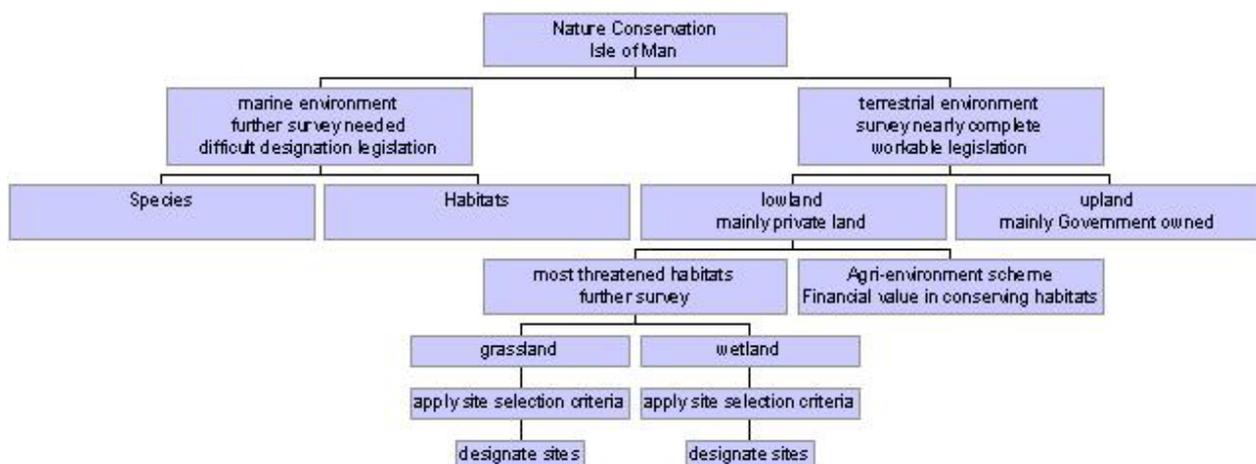
*Habitat survey of the Calf of Man map*



dance and distribution of habitats and species is the foundation stone of conservation and efficient use of resources.

At the start the principle was agreed that the Isle of Man should have a comparable standard of conservation service as the UK – an ambitious target. Our vision was to have protective designation status for a representative and ecologically viable sample of Manx habitats and to avoid further loss of the island's biodiversity.

Some strict prioritizing was required to progress the proactive work as the constant flow of reactive casework could easily take all the officers' time. The number of staff has grown to 4 full-time ecologists including a local graduate trainee ecologist. In parallel to this the budget has increased from less than £50,000 a year when the main activity was habitat survey before I began, to £280,000 a year in 2003/4. The diagram below shows the choices which have been made and how effort is currently focused on lowland farmland.



At the same time reactive work is strictly prioritised in order to delegate to Non Government Organisations or diplomatically drop work which does not relate to a protected species, a protected or potentially protected place or an invasive alien species.

The strands of the conservation strategy have needed to be spliced into the Department's business plan and the Government's corporate plan. The following objectives have been selected from the Conservation Office's Operation Objectives to take their place among the Department's Business Plan objectives.

- To ensure the Island's most scarce and important species of wild plants and animals, and their habitats are conserved effectively.
- To maintain the ecological health and biological diversity of the Island's countryside and marine environment.
- To control the trade in globally endangered species.

Each year key performance indicators are set. An example is the area or % of land use/habitat surveyed. 100% of the Island has had habitat survey in the last 10 years. More detailed and up-to-date survey will still be required before each site can be designated. Currently two sites have been

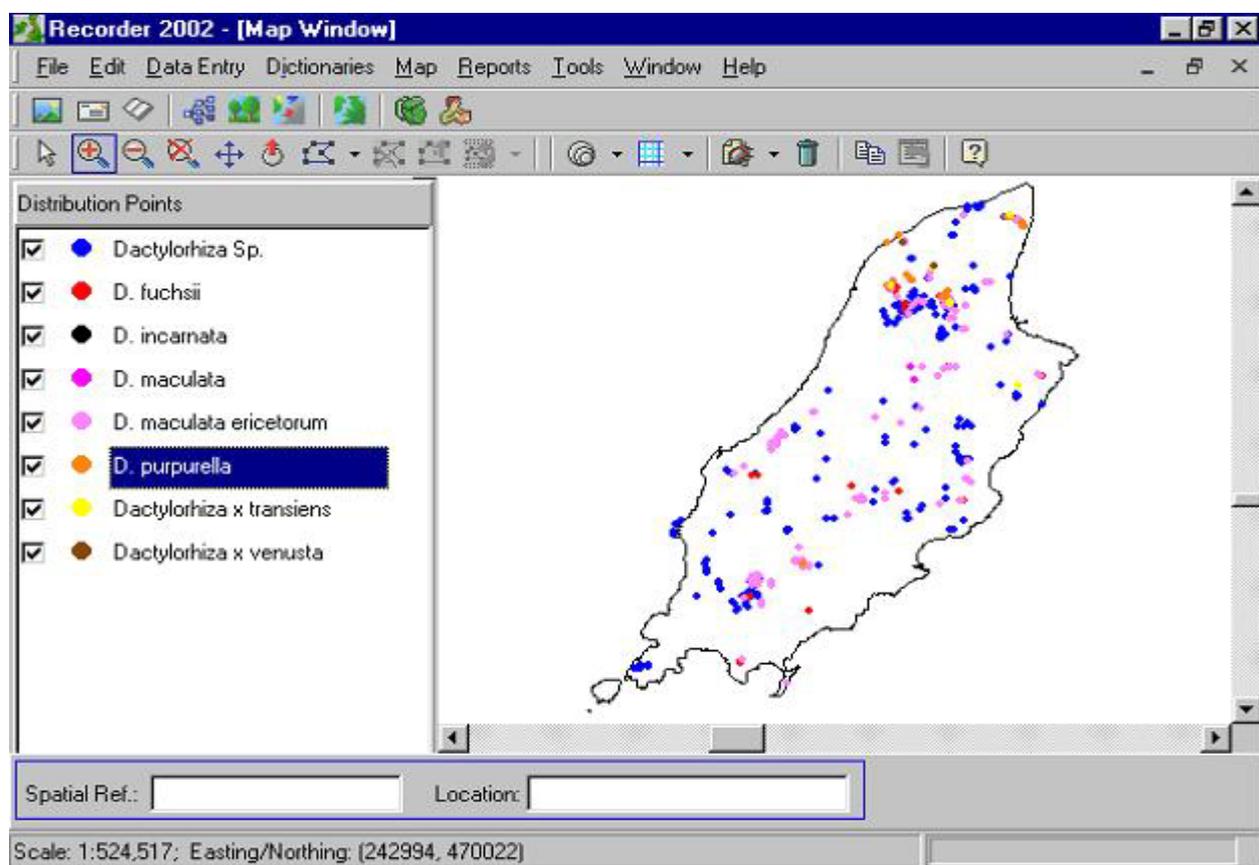
designated as Areas of Special Scientific Interest, and their area (582 ha) could be a better indicator. Another example is ensuring all rare, endemic or endangered species are protected by legislation. The schedules of protected species are currently being reviewed. Currently there are 65,000 records in our database which uses the Recorder package, and this is another useful measure of progress.

Setting realistic targets has been one of the most difficult parts of the strategic planning process. These are our proposed targets although agreeing the resources required to meet them has some way to go:

- 10 % of land area (or 5,500 ha) to designate to protect best examples of all habitats by 2010,
- Management agreements on 50% of designated area (2,750 ha) by 2020,
- 1/5 of island's farms (100) in Agri-environment Scheme by 2010,
- Revision of rare species schedules every 10-12 years.

### Priorities for small islands

To recap on the aspects of conservation which we have focused on.



*Distribution of orchids on Recorder map*

### **Biological recording and mapping**

We have improved biological recording (see Recorder package screen on previous page) and mapping, including GIS (Arcview) and Phase 1 habitat survey based on the technique pioneered by the old UK Nature Conservancy Council. This included collecting all known survey data and identifying gaps for further survey, remembering that selecting indicator organisms can save time on surveying everything. The Island has brought in specialists (recently a moth specialist) to help train local people, as encouraging a group of local enthusiasts is often the most cost-effective way to undertake surveys and ensure a regular supply of records. We also need to ensure we have a new generation of naturalists growing up on the island (we help a young naturalists' club).

### **Site protection**

The Wildlife Act enables the Manx government to designate National Nature Reserves, Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), Marine Nature Reserves and Areas of Special Protection for plants, birds and other animals. In addition we enter 5-year voluntary management agreements on fields of importance for rare species or on the whole farm through the Agri-environment scheme. Land under Manx Museum and National Trust ownership is protected by by-laws. The Manx Wildlife Trust have their own reserves and a set of criteria for selecting Wildlife Sites in the wider countryside. These latter will be a level of conservation value below ASSI. Currently criteria are being developed in our office to select the land for the ASSI series, based on the selection system in the UK.

### **Indigenous species protection legislation**

Indigenous species protection legislation and maintaining the population integrity of indigenous sub-species and genotypes are very important to more remote islands. Manx work has centred on the native wildflower project and a private individual's native tree nursery, in the absence of true endemic species. A wildflower seed nursery and plantlet production system has been developed by the project officer, who works for a broad partnership of government departments and voluntary bodies (including the Farmer's Union and the Department of Transport). This was set up by the Department of Tourism.

### **Alien species legislation and control.**

A number of known invasive species are listed in the Manx legislation including two seaweeds. This

list is being revised as new threats have become apparent, particularly aquatics such as New Zealand

Pigmyweed  
*Crassula helmsii*.

We collect site records of these species to assess the scale of the alien species problem and have mapped this to help justify the bids for re-

sources to control the species. For Japanese Knotweed (pictured) we have published a leaflet on identification and control.



Ultimately the legislation is there to prosecute, as well as providing publicity for the problem species. The law states that "if any person plants or otherwise causes to grow in the wild" the plant species in question or "releases or allows to escape into the wild any animal of a kind which is not ordinarily resident in and is not a regular visitor to the Island in a wild state" they are committing an offence. Active control by government of the natural spread of a species such as Japanese Knotweed is going to be required along certain river banks on the island. We have already taken steps to control the introduced fox although we are attempting this when the population is still very small, very few are sighted and we are often unable to rely on the sighting information given to us (the last "fox" turned out to be a rooster). On returning from the conference the body of a fox killed on the road was brought to the office, proving foxes are alive and well in the Manx countryside, a fact which had been questioned when our hired marksman and the Game Conservancy Trust's two-week survey in 1999 failed to find a single one.

### **Building partnerships**

On the premise that government cannot and should not be the only one acting for wildlife and conservation, partnerships with others are essential. Partners effectively multiply the level of success and degree of consensus within the population. There is specific budget allocation for partnership support and a small grants scheme for projects.

### **Other government departments**

A considerable amount of time has been spent working with other departments. Work varies from looking at potential waste disposal sites with least ecological impact to contributing to the Marine Pollution Contingency Plan. We work with the Planning Office on impact of proposed developments and the draft local planning documents. Developers and land purchasers now ask about wildlife constraints at a very early stage in discussions about a new development or even a speculative land purchase. The legislation requires “a department, statutory board or local authority, so far as may be consistent with the proper discharge of their statutory functions, to have regard for the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside, the protection of wildlife habitat, and the conservation of flora and fauna and geological or physiographical features of interest.”

We work with the Manx Museum and National Trust (a government agency) who own and manage areas such as the Calf on which there is a bird observatory (picture below).



### **Voluntary groups**

The Manx government works closely with the Manx Wildlife Trust through entering a management agreement with them on the conservation of a reserve in which corncrakes have nested and wild orchids occur in abundance. The Trust also acts as employer of the Ayres warden and for other temporary posts. A strong partnership exists between the Manx Bird Atlas and the office providing site by site bird reports and status reports on birds. Currently the Atlas staff are monitoring the effectiveness of the Agri-environment scheme. The Manx Bat Group assists with surveys of bat roosts especially where more eyes are required to surround a building at dusk as the bats leave. More recently the RSPB Northern Ireland office have been very supportive of chough conservation efforts, co-funding the Chough PhD study (see Research

Bodies and universities below).

### **Private companies**

During the last 5 years a good working relationship has developed between the conservation office and several companies, particularly the limestone quarry and the aggregates quarry. Both have disused holes. The old limestone quarry is a bee orchid site and a management plan has been developed for it. The worked-out gravel pit is now visited and colonized by a great variety of water birds and has been designated an Area of Special Protection for Birds (which used to be called a Bird Sanctuary). Memoranda of Understanding based on the Scottish model are the tool for cementing these partnerships.

### **Media**

To ensure frequent and accurate reporting of progress and events we have developed good links with newspapers and radio. Remembering to report the positive helps to counter the inevitable less favourable coverage all government departments suffer from.

### **Land owner and farmer groups**

The Farmers' Union and local Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group are always interested to see which government conservation schemes will affect them so we give talks and write for newsletters. Six individual landowners are now signed up to voluntary management agreements for rare species.

### **Research bodies and universities**

The island is fortunate in having Port Erin Marine Laboratory (University of Liverpool) based here. They are acting as the supervisors for a Chough research PhD student and they undertake marine surveys for us. Postgraduate students from University College London Conservation Course have undertaken projects both on Mann and Jersey.

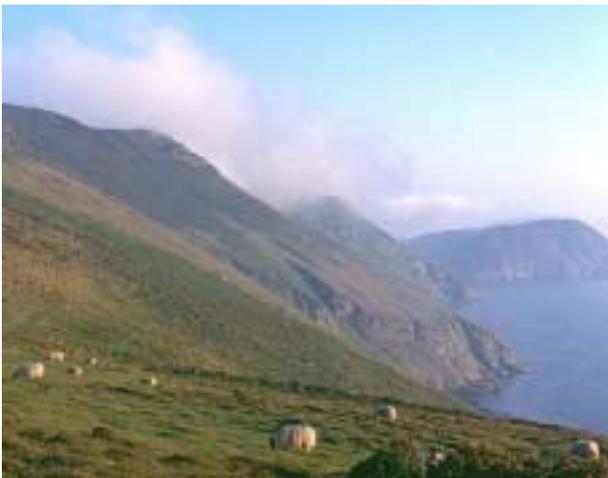
### **UK Authorities**

Recently most contact has been with Defra (UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). They are coordinating a regional sea initiative and we work with them on meeting international convention requirements. Ultimately they can be very useful in raising the profile of conservation in Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies with other parts of government, local or UK. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee and country conservation agencies also provide valuable assistance.

## Summary

Gradually the Isle of Man is bringing together and strengthening the strands of the conservation rope. In common with many Overseas Territories, we have a beautiful island, relatively few naturalists and conservationists, relatively few resources (compared with the UK for example) and a certain amount of pressure to develop (if not as strong as in Bermuda).

Our strategy is to build up our pool of skilled conservationists and naturalists both within and outside government, in order to work towards the sustainable use of species, habitats, both on land and in water, and the conservation of biodiversity, in protected areas and outside in the wider countryside. The next milestone has to be signing up to the Convention on Biological Diversity.



# The UK Government's commitment to the Environment Charter process in the UK Overseas Territories

**Valerie Caton**, Head of Environment Policy Dept, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office; with **Roy Osborne**, Deputy Head, Overseas Territories Dept, FCO; **Denise Dudgeon**, EPD, FCO; and **Joelene Foster**, OTD, FCO

Caton, V. 2003. The UK Government's commitment to the Environment Charter process in the UK Overseas Territories. pp 59-76 in *A Sense of Direction: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities* (ed. M. Pienkowski). UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, www.ukotcf.org

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

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We are pleased that FCO has been able to contribute £70,000 towards this conference.

Our aim in this talk is briefly to cover three areas and then take questions:

1. Where have we got to so far in implementing the environment charters?
2. What are the UK government's priorities for

the charters in the coming year?

3. What funds are available to the UK overseas territories for environmental projects?

The UK remains fully committed to taking forward the environment charter process, as the FCO Minister Bill Rammell made clear in a press release just before this conference. He said "The UK has a



L to R: Valerie Caton, joint chairpersons, Roy Osborne and Denise Dudgeon

rich natural heritage in the environment of the Overseas Territories. We must not squander this. We have a shared vision with the OTs to implement sustainable management practices". I see this conference as an opportunity to articulate that shared vision and help make it a reality.

Within the FCO, responsibility for the environment charters is shared between Environment Policy Department (EPD) in the Global Issues Command and Overseas Territories Department (OTD) in Americas Command. EPD lead on charter strategy; OTD on individual environmental issues. But of course to be successful we in FCO need to draw on the expertise of other Government departments, especially Defra (Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) and DFID (Department for International Development), and of NGOs, notably the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. That is why, as of this year, we have established a new steering group in London, meeting three times a year under EPD's chairmanship, in January, June and September to give new impulsion to implementing the charters. The meetings in January and June are timed ahead of our joint meeting with the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and designed to ensure that we coordinate our efforts better and have some well thought through ideas to discuss with the Forum.

### **Where have we got to so far in implementing the environment charters?**

The first meeting earlier this year reviewed progress so far in implementing the Charters and discussed priorities for the coming year as we saw them.

### **Review of progress on implementation of the Charters since their signing**

This is summarised in the two tables we have circulated (appended), which show progress by the UKOTs and HMG to date. It is essential that the UKOTs maintain close contact with us on their implementation of the Charters, and on the assistance they need, so that HMG can more effectively implement its own Charter commitments. It is also vital that UKOTs monitor and evaluate projects and let us know about their successful completion. This helps us demonstrate the value of our funding.

One of HMG's main input into Charter process has been the funding of two pilot projects: in Falkland Islands and TCI. Both have the same broad aim of developing a strategy for implementing Charter,

but each takes a different approach. The methods used by both projects will eventually be assessed independently, with idea of using either or both as models for use in other UKOTs.

We will all face challenges in taking forward the Environment Charter process. One example of this is the proposal of the government of the Turks and Caicos Islands to introduce large scale cruise ship tourism into Grand Turk.

### **What are the UK government's priorities for the charters in the coming year?**

I list below the UK government's priorities for the coming year, as agreed at the February meeting of the Whitehall Group on UKOT Environment Charters. We welcome your input/views on these priorities. HMG's priorities are:

#### **1. UKOT legislative review**

**CITES legislation:** In 1998/99, the CITES Secretariat assessed CITES implementing legislation in the UKOTs. This assessment identified that CITES legislation in Pitcairn, St Helena and Dependencies [Ascension and Tristan da Cunha], and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI), was insufficient. The UK has been instructed to submit a CITES Legislation Plan to the Secretariat by 31 March 2003 in respect of those three UKOTs. This work is now in hand. The Governor of Pitcairn has written to the CITES Secretariat outlining the powers that exist and he is awaiting comments and advice from them. St Helena has drafted new Ordinance to give effect to CITES and a similar review process is being undertaken in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** Work is ongoing in Bermuda and the Falkland Islands, and with FCO Legal Advisers, to put appropriate legislation in place in order to enable extension of CBD. Currently we hope extension to both UKOTs will be achieved during 2003. We hope then to identify one or two more UKOTs for CBD extension.

#### **SPAW (Specially Protected Areas of Wildlife)**

**Protocol to Cartagena Convention:** the Cayman Islands are close to enabling UK ratification. We hope to identify other Caribbean UKOTs for extension of this Protocol.

**Aarhus Convention:** The Aarhus Convention came into force in 2001 and the UK is aiming to

ratify later this year. It champions public access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice. We are keen to provide assistance to UKOTs on the practical implications of this Convention. Defra has wide expertise for you to tap into and has published guidance handbooks on participation and access to justice.

## **2. Post-WSSD partnerships in UKOTs**

***UK Sustainable Tourism Initiative:*** The goal of the STI is to introduce sustainable tourism practice into the UK outbound tourist industry. This takes 20 million visitors every year to 150 countries where they spend £9bn. In essence the STI seeks to ensure that this expenditure leads to sustainable development of the destinations they visit. There are 40 partners including tour companies, NGOs and Government. An action programme has been agreed. A multi-stakeholder Foundation, under the chairmanship of Derek Stevens, a former finance director of British Airways, has been established to implement the programme. Initial funding is in place and it is hoped to grow this over time. There is a possibility for the STI Foundation to undertake a project with one of the UKOTs. Come and talk to me if you are interested.

***Caribbean oceans initiative, White Water to Blue Water:*** (2-page handout included in delegates' packs). We are giving active support to WW2BW, notably through EPD's provision of £65,000 for a Caribbean workshop focusing on land-based sources of pollution and sustainable tourism. We would like to bring together the STI and the Land Based Sources of Pollution Protocol to the Cartagena Convention in a workshop looking into the impact of tourism on island infrastructure. This is with the aim of finding ways of establishing co-operation between the tourist industry and local public and private stakeholders to minimise pollution and protect the natural environment. We are still at the planning stage for this workshop, which is likely to take place late this year or early next. We would welcome your suggestions on content, format and venue.

## **What funds are available to the OTs for environment projects?**

Funding avenues available to UKOTs for environmental projects:

### **FCO Environment Fund:**

FCO's funding arrangements for environment

projects have been undergoing considerable change last year and this. The aim is to avoid a watering-can approach to project work, and to improve how we administer the funds. Some were worried that the FCO's decision last year to combine the fund for UKOTs with other funds into a single Environment Fund might result in the UKOTs losing out in this year's bidding round. The final decision on allocation of funds will be taken this week but the strong likelihood is that the UKOTs will in fact attract more than the half million pounds previously allocated to the UKOTs Environment Fund. This is due to the high quality bids we have received this year from the UKOTs, which have competed well against other bids.

As of this year, the FCO's environment fund has become part of the much bigger Global Opportunities Fund (GOF). It comes under a strand of the GOF for energy and environment programmes. Funding for this strand is expected to be 2003-04 £5m, 2004-05 £8m, and 2005-06 £13m. Again the FCO's aim will be to avoid a watering-can approach, instead focusing effort on what Ministers see as the UK's global priorities. What those priorities will be and how the new fund will be administered are currently still under discussion with Ministers. A sizeable portion of the new money is likely to go towards climate-related renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Another priority will be promoting democracy and good governance, including better public access to information, public participation in decision-making and better public access to justice. This fund should therefore offer new funding opportunities for good projects from the UKOTs, which are targeted to further these aims but we need you to think imaginatively when putting your bids together, to ensure that they fit well with the fund's objectives. Of course, funding for current projects under what was the Environment Fund for Overseas Territories will continue as well.

### **DFID's new Global Environment Programme fund:**

A sum of £200,000 has been committed for 2003/04, with further commitments over 5 years expected to total £1million. Project details are currently being developed with DFID OTD's incoming Environment and Natural Resources Adviser, Dick Beales, who starts work in London on 1 April 2003. A document outlining the key objectives of the project will be sent to those Territories with which DFID works for consultation shortly after Mr Beales takes up his post. The

programme will be designed to ensure complementarity with FCO funds, and it is anticipated that the two departments will work closely together on these issues.

On **Defra's Darwin Initiative**, we are very pleased to hear that two UKOT applications have been successful. They are for Tristan da Cunha (Empowering the people of Tristan da Cunha to implement the CBD) and for British Virgin Islands

(Assessment of the Coastal Biodiversity of Anegada). Defra will be making the official announcement today (Monday 24 March 2003).

The UK remains as committed as ever to supporting and funding the Environment Charter process. We look to you in future to find new ways and newer and even better projects for taking this process forward.

## Appendix 1: HMG Commitments and Progress to date

Please note that these lists are working drafts, and do not yet include reference to the contributions of DFID or the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and other NGOs. The lists are being developed further to reflect those contributions.

	HMG Commitment	Progress	Timing
1	Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management which is consistent with the OTs' own plans for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing Henderson Island Management Plan including use of FCO funds (FCO)</li> <li>Developing Chagos Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for BIOT (FCO)</li> <li>Applied to UNESCO to have Gough Island World Heritage Status extended to include Inaccessible Island (FCO and DCMS)</li> <li>Various consultation exercises with OTs requesting details of environmental priorities/assistance required (FCO)</li> <li>FCO funded feasibility study into Barker's Park – to establish first of a network of national parks in Cayman Islands (FCO)</li> <li>FCO funding two Environment Charter pilot projects – in Turks &amp; Caicos and Falklands Islands. JNCC to independently assess both projects in due course with a view to one or both models being used eventually in other OTs.</li> <li>Whitehall Group on OT Environment Charters formed in 2003 to secure co-ordinated Whitehall approach to Charter implementation. In particular, the Group aims to maximise HMG's funding resources to achieve implementation of Charters and MEAs. Guidelines and priorities for 3-year period up to and including FY 2005/06 will be set.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>Application submitted in Dec 02</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>FY 2001/02</p> <p>FYs 2002-2005</p> <p>2003 and ongoing</p>
2	Assist the OTs in reviewing and updating environmental legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of spreadsheets giving details of MEAs distributed to OTs (FCO)</li> <li>Provided expert advice (including legal) to Cayman Islands on draft National Conservation Legislation including for SPAW Protocol, and on CITES legislation. New CITES Endangered Species law due to go before Legislative Assembly soon (FCO and JNCC)</li> <li>FCO-funded project to update National Parks legislation in BVI. Supplied draft model legislation from other OTs and offered legal advice. (FCO)</li> <li>Advice given to Pitcairn, SGSSI and ST Helena and Dependencies on updating their legislation to meet the requirements of CITES (FCO)</li> </ul>	<p>August 2002</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>FY 2002/03</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p>

3	Facilitate the extension of the UK's ratification of MEAs of benefit to the OTs and which they have the capacity to implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal advice to Cayman Islands govt on effect of SPAW ratification on Cayman Turtle Farm (FCO and JNCC)</li> <li>• Legal advice given to Anguilla and Turks and Caicos in extension of UK ratification of CITES and SPAW Protocol (FCO)</li> <li>• Advice given to BAT on extension of CMS, ACAP (FCO and JNCC)</li> <li>• Advice given to SGSSI, Falkland Islands and Tristan da Cunha on extension of ACAP (FCO and JNCC).</li> <li>• FCO signed the MOU on Indian Ocean Turtles on behalf of UK on 25 March 2002, on the basis that it is a non-binding instrument reflecting common understanding between the signatories and does not impose any legally binding obligations (FCO and Defra. JNCC scientific support to IOT MOU meeting)</li> <li>• Discussions held with Defra, JNCC and Ascension Island about possible UK signature of Atlantic Ocean Turtle MOU (FCO and DEFRA. JNCC scientific support to Nairobi AOT MOU meeting)</li> <li>• Extension of CITES to BIOT (FCO and Defra. JNCC appointed as scientific authority (fauna). CITES legislation was enacted and has been in force since December 2001.</li> <li>• Ongoing liaison to support Bermuda and Falkland Islands with preparations for extension of CBD following work done on legislation in mid-2001. (FCO)</li> <li>• Ramsar designation for Great Chagos Bank (BIOT) being pursued (FCO and Defra)</li> <li>• Cross-Whitehall discussions on the implications and feasibility of the extension of the Aarhus Convention to the Overseas Territories, Cyprus SBAs and Crown Dependencies</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01, March 02</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>January 02 onwards</p> <p>FY 2002/03</p>
4	Keep the OTs informed regarding new developments in relevant MEAs and invite OTs to participate where appropriate in the UK's delegation to international environmental negotiations and conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EFOT funded St Helena govt representative to attend CBD, The Hague, April 2002 (FCO)</li> <li>• EFOT funded OT participation at Hawksbill turtle conference, Cayman Islands, May 2002. JNCC, Defra and FCO held various discussions with the OTs during that meeting and have continued to advise since then. JNCC provided brief of Hawksbills for OT comment.</li> <li>• FCO funded participation of Michelle Fulford-Gardiner in International Whaling Commission, May 2002 (FCO)</li> <li>• Facilitated participation by Caribbean OTs at Cartagena Convention (FCO)</li> <li>• UK delegation attended Cartagena Convention (FCO, scientific support from JNCC)</li> <li>• Keep OTs informed of CITES prior to November 02 COP 12 and arrange for their comments to be considered prior to UK's decision on proposals. (FCO and Defra)</li> <li>• Look at how best to establish a "virtual forum" to give advice to the OT CITES Management and Scientific Authorities (FCO and Defra. JNCC provided advice and engaged consultant to provide technical project proposal that meets the needs of users)</li> <li>• Advice on application for CITES registration by Cayman Turtle Farm (FCO and Defra. JNCC made significant input to the proposal, its evaluation and presentation) Follow-up instructions sought from Cayman Islands in Jan 03</li> <li>• OTs invited to join the UK delegation to Ramsar COP8 in November 2002 (FCO)</li> <li>• OT contributions included in UK National Ramsar Report to COP8 (FCO, Defra, JNCC)</li> <li>• Contribution to Ramsar site review (JNCC)</li> <li>• World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Johannesburg: Bermuda's Environment Minister and Perm Sec on UK delegation</li> </ul>	<p>April 2002</p> <p>Ongoing since Jan 02.</p> <p>May 2002.</p> <p>May 2002</p> <p>May 2002</p> <p>Ongoing in 2002</p> <p>Ongoing since 2002</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>2002</p> <p>Sept/Oct 2002</p> <p>FY 2002/03</p> <p>Sept 02</p>

5	Help ensure the OTs have the legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCO funded CITES customs training workshop for Caribbean OTs planned for July 2003 (FCO)</li> <li>FCO-funded workshop on sustainable tourism/land based sources of pollution for Caribbean OTs/Bermuda, and independent Caribbean states, planned for late 2003/early 2004 (FCO)</li> <li>Provided guidance to all OTs on requirements for Environmental Impact Assessments</li> </ul>	<p>July 2003</p> <p>Late 2003/early 2004</p> <p>January 2003</p>
6	Promote better cooperation and the sharing of experience and expertise between the OTs and small island states and communities which face similar environmental problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCO co-funded third OT Environment Conference in Bermuda (March 2003) (FCO)</li> <li>FCO supported the Defra-funded 3-year project Turtles in the Caribbean Overseas Territories (FCO)</li> <li>Exploratory contact made with New Zealand funded Co-operative Islands Initiative on Invasive Alien Species and existence of initiative flagged up in CBD COP6 telegram. Potential for future co-operation but none recorded as yet (Defra, FCO)</li> </ul>	<p>FYs 2002, 2003</p> <p>FYs 2002-05</p> <p>FY 2002/03</p>
7	Use UK, regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes regular consultation with interested NGOs and networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided advice for use of devolved funds and for developing project bids to new Environment Fund (FCO)</li> <li>Offered technical expertise through visits to OTs, and through panel of experts for EFOT funding applications (FCO)</li> <li>JNCC continue to provide technical support for the Seabirds at Sea project around the Falkland Islands (and also South Georgia) and sit on the project steering group (JNCC)</li> <li>JNCC published "<i>Biodiversity: the UK Overseas Territories</i>" as a contribution to the Environment Charter process (JNCC)</li> <li>JNCC part-funding PhD study into effects of climate change on UK OTs (JNCC)</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing since April 02</p> <p>Ongoing since 2002</p> <p>Ongoing since 1999</p> <p>1999</p> <p>Study started 2000</p>
8	Use the existing EFOT and promote access to other sources of public funding for projects of lasting benefit to the OTs' environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EFOT now merged into FCO's Environment Fund/Global Opportunities Fund. £500,000 secured from GOF for OT environmental projects up to and including FY 2005/06.</li> <li>DFID Global Environment Programme Fund (OT-GEP) to come on line in FY 2003/04. FCO and DFID working together to harmonise funds and maximise their impact.</li> <li>Many projects funded from EFOT – all linked in closely with HMG and OT Environment Charter commitments (FCO)</li> <li>EFOT supported Cayman Islands 'Under the Waves' educational project which received several awards including a 2002 US Telly Award for Excellence in Children's Programming (FCO)</li> </ul>	<p>FY 2003/04 up to and including FY 2005/06</p> <p>FY 2003/04 onwards</p> <p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>FY 2001/02</p>
9	Help the OTs identify further funding partners for environmental projects, such as donors, the private sector or NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaison within HMG (FCO)</li> <li>Secured publicity for projects including on FCO website/homepage. Press articles and Ministerial statements delivered on launch of South Georgia website, on TCOT project, and on Bermuda Conference (FCO)</li> <li>Explore access to EU funds for OTs (FCO)</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p> <p>Ongoing since April 02</p> <p>Ongoing in 2002</p>
10	Recognise the diversity of the challenges facing OTs in very different socio-economic and geographical situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An overriding aim when dealing with OTs. For instance, despite pressure from UNESCO, we are taking the time needed to consult the Pitcairn Islanders fully on a World Heritage Site Management Plan for Henderson Island. Drs Mike Brooke and Rosie Trevelyan visited Pitcairn Feb/March 2003 to take forward the Plan. (FCO)</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through activities listed above and planned for the future (FCO)</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing since Sept 01</p>

## Appendix 2: Overseas Territories Commitments and Progress to date, plus Requests for Assistance

Please note that these lists are working drafts, and do not yet include reference to the contributions of DFID or the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and other NGOs. The lists are being developed further to reflect those contributions.

Overseas Territory	Progress	Requests for assistance from HMG	Action:
<b>Anguilla</b>	<p>Charter is being linked with the OECS St George's Declaration for which a National Environmental Management Strategy and Action Plan is being formulated with the help of the OECS Natural Resources Management Unit (NRMU). The government is committed to environmental protection and conservation as a key strategy for sustainable development. This has included a new policy on Biodiversity, a draft policy on National Wetlands, a draft ordinance on National Parks and Protected areas, and the declaration of a number of marine and terrestrial protected areas/parks.</p> <p>Anguilla lacks adequate financial and technical resources and there are limited numbers of people/expertise with which to take forward all the initiatives contained in the OT Charter. Furthermore, there is neither an environmental department nor director of environment and no focal point to draw together all the relevant parties.</p> <p>The main activities for future implementation include the establishment of a suitable management structure for the proposed National Parks and Protected Areas System using the TCI model, the development of a National History Museum and also the development of a Heritage Tourism Programme by the Anguilla Trust in association with the RSPB and the implementation of the National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS).</p> <p>We have not yet had sight of a strategy for action, as mentioned in OT Commitment No 1 of the Environment Charters.</p>	<p>Technical assistance to recruit the first Protected Areas Manager (PAM) who would also provide in-service training for an understudy.</p>	<b>OTD</b>
		<p>Technical assistance for the recruitment of a Multi-lateral Environment Advisor to guide extension and initiate implementation of SPAW Protocol, CBD, CMS and CITES.</p>	<b>OTD</b>
		<p>Funding for some activities for the implementation of NEMS.</p>	<b>OTD</b>
		<p>A medium term relationship with another environmental NGO which can commit resources could establish a base for sustainable environmental management (eg, RSPB have been working with the Anguilla National Trust on a tourism-supported environmental project and they could do a lot more).</p> <p>Seven project bids submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04: (1) Eco-tourism in Anguilla; (2) Establishment of a First Class Interpretation Centre for East End Pond Conservation Area; (3) Development of the Anguilla National Museum; (4) A publication: A Guide to the Flora of Anguilla; (5) Security of a Potential World Heritage Site: The Fountain Cavern; (6) Establishment of the Anguilla National Parks Service; and (7) Survey, Mapping and Research of Anguilla's Marine Resources. Four bids rejected.</p> <p>Two bids successful: (1) Eco-tourism in Anguilla; (2) A Publication: A Guide to the Flora of Anguilla</p>	<b>OTD</b>

<p><b>Ascension Island</b></p>	<p>An informal cross-sectoral environmental forum in the form of the Ascension Heritage Society (AHS) exists. However, for the purposes of formulating an environmental action plan, an entity independent of the AHS will be formalised by the new government.</p> <p>The Ascension Island Management Plan (AIMP) focuses on many of the commitments of the Charter and Ascension are at a stage of implementing many of these commitments. Some of the Environmental Charter commitments are not included in the AIMP and it will be the responsibility of the new cross-sectoral forum to discuss and develop these areas.</p> <p>Five ordinances exist in relation to protection of species and habitats. A new ordinance, the Ascension National Protected Areas Bill, is in draft format and is hoped to be enacted by the end of 2002, with management plans, in early 2003. It will allow for the development of marine and terrestrial protected areas.</p> <p>Environmental awareness is actively promoted through the local media and by production and distribution of several publications, leaflets, a video and the creation and development of a conservation visitors centre.</p> <p>A review of baseline data was completed during the creation of the AIMP and work is in progress to collate supplementary data where gaps were identified. Further efforts are required in partnership with St Helena Government in respect of the collation of marine baseline data.</p> <p>Monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are required together with a review of existing legislation and new legislation created to uphold the principle that the polluter should pay.</p> <p>RSPB are conducting an FCO-funded seabird restoration project on Ascension Island. They are also looking into rat control. They do not recommend a rat eradication exercise at this stage due to the complexity of the exercise, the uncertainty of a complete eradication and the cost (estimated at £2 million). RSPB have completed some further research and a report is due for issue shortly. This should advise local authorities of an affordable, effective strategy to keep the rat population down to manageable levels.</p> <p>We have not yet had sight of a strategy for action, as mentioned in OT Commitment No 1 of the Environment Charters.</p>	<p>Two project bids submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04: (1) Ascension Island Marine Turtles; and (2) Ascension Turtles Follow-on Project.</p> <p>One bid successful: Ascension Island Marine Turtles</p>	
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<p><b>Bermuda</b></p>	<p>An Environmental Forum was established in 2002. It includes representatives of all the principal environmental organisations, individual champions and four representatives from different sections of the Ministry of the Environment.</p> <p>In April 02 the Ministry of the Environment was reorganised following a review. Responsibilities, resources and programmes were reallocated to the new Department of Environmental Protection or the Department of Conservation. It is hoped this reorganisation will enable Bermuda to better meet its environmental commitments.</p> <p>Following a review of Bermuda's legislation and policies in May 2001, action has been taken to address those areas that fail to comply with the provisions of the CBD. These include development of policies regarding access to genetic resources, amending the Parks Act to extend into the marine environment, and creating a Protected Species Act.</p> <p>Bermuda's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was tabled in the House of Assembly in March 2003. This followed an ambitious public education and engagement campaign spanning 2001-2002 which facilitated wider community input into the development of policy options. This project was funded by the Darwin Initiative.</p> <p>The Minister of the Environment declared 2001 as the year of "Biodiversity Awareness" and 2002 as the year of "Biodiversity Action". The focus is to encourage a co-ordinated, community based plan of action to conserve the Islands biological diversity.</p> <p>All of Bermuda's schools were involved in the second Environmental Youth Conference May 02.</p> <p>As part of the development of a BSAP for Bermuda, the Darwin Initiative sponsored a week-long invasive species workshop aimed at the development of a co-ordinated strategy for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive plants and animals.</p> <p>Funding has been secured for an applied ecologist to co-ordinate the review of environmental impact statements for all major developments.</p> <p>Bermuda's first "State of the Environment Report" is expected to be published before the end of 2003. It will provide an up-to-date report on the state of the environment, establish benchmarks for monitoring change and progress, and will serve as an excellent resource for assessing future policy initiatives.</p> <p>Under the Bermuda Biodiversity Project work continues on the collation of biodiversity and natural resource data into a relational database with a GIS interface.</p> <p>The Department of Education has worked closely with the Bermuda Zoological Society to promote environmental education in the schools. The curriculum for primary and middle school levels have incorporated modules on Bermuda's natural history.</p>	<p>Attendance at the WSSD</p> <p>Technical assistance to prepare an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>Technical assistance in the development of a sustainable energy plan. The plan is in the early stages of development.</p> <p>Technical advice regarding progress towards satisfying the requirements of the CBD</p> <p>Assistance in training senior colleagues on the importance of integrating environmental considerations in the development of government-wide policy.</p> <p>Requested guidance on furniture recycling scheme. Assistance is being sought from the London Community Recycling Network.</p> <p>Assistance to identify a UK expert on sustainable development in SIDS.</p> <p>One project bid submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04 and was successful: Amphibian deformity and links to marine pollution.</p> <p>Assistance in the development of policies and/or legislation for the controlled access to genetic resources</p> <p>Draft TOR for a study being considered by the Government of Bermuda</p>	<p><b>Iain Orr, EPD, arranged. Minister and Perm Sec attended</b></p> <p><b>James Burt, Defra</b></p> <p><b>Meg Patel, EPD FCO, awaiting advice from Governor's office</b></p> <p><b>Denise Dudgeon, EPD, FCO</b></p> <p><b>Carl Malin, OTD. No specific approaches yet from Bermuda.</b></p> <p><b>Carl Malin, OTD, secured advice from London Community Recycling Network and passed details to Bermuda.</b></p> <p><b>Carl Malin, OTD, passed details to Bermuda</b></p> <p><b>Denise Dudgeon, EPD, FCO</b></p> <p><b>Carl Malin, OTD</b></p>
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	<p>On stockpiled asbestos, Bermuda has been asked to identify technical assistance required to identify asbestos disposal options.</p> <p>A summary of the BSAP, which fits with OT Charter Commitment No 1 (a strategy for action), was presented at the Bermuda conference.</p>		
<b>BIOT</b>	<p>The draft Chagos Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) is with the BIOT administration for comments. The completed version is likely to be published in Spring 2003.</p> <p>Wider Ramsar designation was suspended pending the outcome of the feasibility study into possible resettlement of the outer islands of the Chagos Archipelago. Although the feasibility study itself has been completed, no final decision on its implications has yet been made. In the meantime, the BIOT Administration have been exploring the idea of Ramsar designation for part of the Great Chagos Bank.</p> <p>We await the completion of the update to the US Natural Resources Management Plan for Diego Garcia.</p> <p>CITES legislation was enacted for BIOT on 21 December 2001 extending the convention to BIOT.</p> <p>UK signature of MOU on Indian Ocean Turtles March 2002.</p>		
<b>British Virgin Islands</b>	<p>OT Charter commitment 1: The National Integrated Development Strategy (NIDS) planning process took place during 1996-99. All Govt depts, the private sector and the community were involved in the development and review of this strategic 5-year plan. NIDS outlines the vision for BVI and sets out the main strategies, policy agenda and administrative framework needed. The BVI Govt adopted NIDS in 2002. The present plan guides 2002-2006.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 2: The most recent legislation which offers protection to marine habitat is the BVI Fisheries Act (2000). Since 2001, the BVI has been working on the regulations for the act. They are presently in final draft stage and should be passed by second quarter of 2003.</p> <p>There is existing Parks and Conservation Legislation, but these are greatly outdated and need revision. The National Parks Trust has been successful in securing FCO funding to have parks and protected areas legislation reviewed and updated.</p>	<p>A project bid to Defra's Darwin Initiative on "Assessment of the Coastal Biodiversity of Anegada" was successful (results announced March 2003)</p> <p>Seven project bids submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04: (1) Environmental Action Plan/Environmental Code; (2) Drafting regulations for National Parks; (3) Eradication of invasives re Iguanas; (4) Mangrove Interpretative Centre; (5) Island erosion website; (6) Island restoration for Magnificent Frigatebird; and (7) Raising Environmental Awareness and Education. Six rejected.</p> <p>One bid successful : (1) Environmental Action Plan/Environmental Code.</p>	

	<p>The Conservation and Fisheries Dept (CFD) has secured FCO funding to develop an Environmental Action Plan/ Environment Code. This should entail comprehensive reviewing, updating and revising of the rest of the Territory's environmental legislation. This is necessary for CFD as well as NPT to function since new parks legislation will be extremely limited in effectiveness if comprehensive environmental legislation is not enacted.</p> <p>CFD has sought funds from BVI Govt for 2 years but this has been rejected.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 3: Provision for inclusion of environmental concerns into social and economic planning is made in NIDS but this still requires more effort to implement in practice</p> <p>In the Fisheries Management sector, the Govt has entered into co-management ventures with fishermen who collaborate on the identification of closed seasons, etc.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 4: EIA is presently an administrative requirement by BVI Govt for all development projects/applications that go through the normal channels.</p> <p>EIA needs to be legally formalised in order to ensure all major projects undergo – Environment Code necessary.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 5: It is the Land Development Control Authority's policy to require public notice in the newspapers about major projects. In some cases the public has demanded meetings on certain developments. Again, public participation needs to be legally formalised and enforced – requires development of an Environment Code.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 6: Again development of an Environment Code necessary. Local enabling legislation needs to be passed in many cases.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 7: Since 2000, the Complete Resource Information System (CRIS) has been developed which allows users to view all GIS data available in the BVI on a simple to use computer interface. It compiles all critical environmental indicators and has assisted in making inventory of current data (fully documented with metadata) and can be used to identify data gaps.</p> <p>Coastal Resources inventory is an ongoing project for 2003.</p> <p>Darwin Initiative project on "Assessment of the Coastal Biodiversity of Anegada" has been successful and will evaluate extent and special nature of Anegada's environment.</p>		
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	<p>OT Charter commitment 8: There is existing Fisheries Legislation (2000) which makes provision for persons to pay penalty for contaminating the marine environment with oil.</p> <p>Need for wider legislation through development of environment code. Working through NPT legislation project to restructure surveillance unit and training.</p> <p>Regulations passed in 2002 for the derelict motor vehicle act (2000) make provision for automobile owners to pay a fee for the eventual disposal of their vehicles at end-of-life.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 9: Environmental Education Unit coordinates summer programme in conjunction with NPT. Also participate in annual schools science fair and creates displays for various events (Agricultural fair, Tourism Month, GIS Day, regional and international meetings)</p> <p>CFD is aiming to put all public information available on a website. Several hundred thousand dollars have been invested in the website's development. However funds are needed to complete and launch the website.</p> <p>BVI Solid Waste Department piloted a 'green school' environmental competition during 2002. The programme will be expanded to other schools in 2003.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 10: CFD and NPT both publish newsletters. CFD submits several articles to local papers. In addition, CFD conducts month-long awareness raising during environment month activities every June.</p> <p>Funds are needed to complete CFD website and a CD Atlas.</p> <p>The BVI Solid Waste Dept also publishes a quarterly educational newsletter on keeping the environment clean</p> <p>A Farmer's magazine has recently been launched</p> <p>CFD hosted/participated in radio programmes promoting departmental projects on Red Hind, Fisheries Management, Fisheries Regulations and other environmental issues.</p> <p>OT Charter Commitment 11: The BVI has a national strategy – NIDS – there are also national sustainability commitments under St Georges Declaration, as well as UKOT Environment Charter.</p> <p>CFD has made progress in this area by designing a research strategy that identifies which areas of work need new research, and how individual projects may feed these, and an environmental action plan project. The basis for the Research Strategy is the agreements BVI has committed to (Rio Declaration, UKOTEC, SGD, MCAP, etc).</p>		
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<p><b>Cayman Islands</b></p>	<p>On 27 August 2002 the Executive Council approved a National Environment Policy developed to address commitments made in the OT Charter and MEA (e.g. RAMSAR, CBD, SPAW etc) extended to the Cayman Islands by the UK.</p> <p>The policy outlines five broad goals and eight key strategies, with two of the agreed areas for priority being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The enactment of the National Conservation Legislation; and</li> <li>- The establishment of a National System of Protected Areas, starting with the creation of the Barkers National Park.</li> </ul> <p>The National Conservation Legislation was redrafted in late 2002. It was hoped that the legislation would be passed in February 03 but this has slipped again to late 2003. Amongst other things, this should enable UK ratification of the SPAW Protocol.</p> <p>There are a number of recent and on-going public/private sector committees and focus groups that have and are working on a variety of environmental issues, the Dept of Environment has initially opted not to convene another forum to determine an Environment Charter strategy for action, but rather to concentrate on implementing existing recommendations. Examples of recent and on-going environmental forums include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vision 2008: the national strategic plan involving numerous strategy “round tables” consisting of public and private sector representatives – completed 1999. Two relevant strategies are Strategy 10 “<i>We will develop and implement a growth management plan to achieve and maintain a balance between the natural and built environment</i>” and Strategy 11 “<i>We will protect our natural environment, particularly the Central Mangrove and other wetlands, the North Sound and coral reefs, from further development</i>”</li> <li>- Wetlands Committee: report submitted November 2001</li> <li>- 2002 Development Plan Review Committee’s Special Issues Committee on Environment and Coastal Zone Management: report completed April 2002. Among other things, the report recommends the establishment of four new zones in the Development Plan: (a) The Conservation Zone; (b) Land for Acquisition Overlay Zone; (c) Special Planning Area Zone; (d) Nature Tourism Zone.</li> <li>- Ongoing Dept of Environment review of Marine Park system involving consultations and meetings with a number of stakeholder groups</li> <li>- Various stakeholder groups for the Aggregate Study conducted by CH2M Hill.</li> <li>- Recently established Beach Review and Assessment Committee that is comprised of public and private sector representatives and reports to the Ministry of Tourism, Environment, Development and Commerce. Terms of Reference for the Committee are available from EPD.</li> </ul>	<p>The Cayman Islands Dept of Environment have requested help from HMG in developing a sustainable tourism action plan.</p> <p>Three bids submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04 : (1) Design and Implementation of Barkers Park; (2) Improvements to Mastic Trail; (3) Parrot Jam Cooperative</p> <p>One bid successful: Improvements to Mastic Trail.</p> <p>Technical assistance to prepare an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to the Kyoto Protocol.</p>	<p><b>Roger Platt, EPD, awaiting feedback from Cayman Islands Dept of Environment</b></p> <p><b>Meghna Patel, EPD</b></p>
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	All the above environmental initiatives involve public consultation and all relate to implementation of the Charter commitments.		
<b>Falkland Islands</b>	<p>A cross-sectoral stakeholder forum has been established responsible for discussing environmental issues, strategy and policy. Falklands are well on track to fulfilling their Environment Charter commitments.</p> <p>A Falkland Island development plan to guide and facilitate sustainable development in the islands is planned for November 2004. This will ensure that commitments under the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development are met inside of the Rio timetable.</p> <p>Protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features is ensured through implementation of 1999 legislation to designate National Nature Reserves under which 26 designations have been made. Furthermore, 1992 legislation prohibits the killing or taking of marine mammals on land or in internal waters, territorial seas or fishery waters of the Falkland Islands. Two RAMSAR sites have been designated and two sites currently being assessed for designation. Three further areas under consideration with a view to their designation as National Parks.</p> <p>An annual Environmental Studies Budget in the order of £130,000 supports research and active habitat management. A similar level of funding is given to Falkland Conservation.</p> <p>Environmental impact assessments can be requested at the behest of the Environmental Planning Officer under section 33 of the Planning Ordinance 1991. EIA requirements will be further consolidated by the Islands Plan 2002-05, which sets a task of preparing draft EIA regulations by 2003 and adopted regulations by 2004. This will assist the Falkland Islands to be a signatory to CBD.</p> <p>CITES, CMS, the London Convention and RAMSAR have all been extended to the Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands Government support the UK ratification of ACAP. A working group is addressing extension of CBD to the Islands, which is expected to happen in 2003.</p> <p>The introduction of an environmental regulation system should ensure better management of waste in the Falkland Islands. The Islands plan tasks implementation for 2003/04.</p> <p>By 2003/04 a cross phase policy on environmental education will be in place operating in harmony with Falklands Conservation and its youth group.</p> <p>Environmental awareness is promoted by the media in the Falkland Islands through FIGO in London and through local press and radio stations.</p>	<p>Three project bids submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04: (1) Conservation of Threatened Flora; (2) Developing Environmental Education; and (3) Boat for Environmental project work. Two bids rejected</p> <p>One bid successful: Boat for Environmental project work.</p> <p>Bid submitted to Defra's Darwin Initiative on "Falklands Islands Invertebrates Conservation Project". Unsuccessful.</p>	

	<p>Further work is needed to identify gaps in research, to prepare outstanding management plans and to prioritise management action against available resources. The FCO funded Environment Charter pilot study, involving the recruitment of a Conservation Strategy Officer, will help to deliver on these aspects via a conservation strategy and biodiversity action plan.</p> <p>We expect the strategy for action, as mentioned in OT Commitment No 1 of the Environment Charters, to be produced as a result of the Conservation Strategy Officer post.</p>		
<b>Montserrat</b>	<p>Charter is being linked with the OECS St Georges Declaration on the Environment. In early 2002, Ministry of Agriculture, Housing, Land &amp; Environment (MAHLE) planned to hold series of stakeholder meetings, following which the environmental strategy paper would be submitted to GoM Ministers at the Executive Council for approval.</p> <p>The main problem in taking the environment charter forward is lack of resources. GoM civil servants and Montserrat National Trust are severely stretched. An Environmental Educator/Co-ordinator is required to produce the strategy paper. MAHLE and MNT have been advised to submit project proposals to fund the recruitment. MNT is under new temporary management.</p> <p>Without external funding, it is very unlikely that the Government of Montserrat will make much progress on the Environment Charter</p> <p>We have not yet had sight of a strategy for action, as mentioned in OT Commitment No 1 of the Environment Charters.</p>	<p>Three project bids submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04 : (1) Developing Marine Park; (2) Rehabilitation of Carrs Bay Wetland; and (3) Soil &amp; Biodiversity Conservation.</p> <p>None successful.</p>	
<b>Pitcairn</b>	<p>Progress in drafting an environmental strategy or forming a stakeholder group has been limited.</p> <p>We have not yet had sight of a strategy for action, as mentioned in OT Commitment No 1 of the Environment Charters. Progress should be made further to the March 2003 visit to Pitcairn of Drs Mike Brooke and Rosie Trevelyan (they will be discussing the draft Henderson Island Mangement Plan, and the Environment Charter process in general), and the arrival on Pitcairn of HMG's first representative, Jenny Lock (March 2003)</p>	<p>One project bid submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04 and was successful: Removal of Invasive Rose Apple and Restoration of Native Vegetation.</p>	
<b>South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands</b>	<p>The GSGSSI's Environmental Management Plan is due to be revised in the next 12 -18 months and this will set out the Government's plans for the following 5 years. It will also enable the Government to provide a report on the progress that it has made in implementing its current plan.</p> <p>The Government's Environmental Baseline Survey, a three-year project, has just been completed and the final report is awaited. This will enable decisions to be made on how to handle any impact that visiting tourists have on sensitive sites.</p>	<p>Two project bids submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04: (1) Grytviken asbestos removal; and (2) The Future of South Georgia Conference.</p> <p>One bid successful : The Future of South Georgia Conference.</p>	

	<p>There is progress on the clean-up of hazardous waste at the former whaling station at Grytviken. It is hoped that a partnership agreement with a Falkland Islands based contractor will enable the project to start this year.</p>		
<p><b>St Helena</b></p>	<p>OT Charter commitment 1: The cross-sector forum, named the Environmental Advisory Consultative Forum (EACF), responsible for implementing the Environment Charter was appointed in December last year. The EACF includes representation from the Sections/Departments of the St Helena Government responsible for the wide range of environment and conservation issues on St Helena, the island's business community, the National Trust and Legislative Council.</p> <p>The aim/objective of the EACF is to "provide a cross sectoral forum to facilitate the implementation of the Environment Charter leading to the formulation of an Environment and Conservation Strategy for St Helena and to advise on Environmental best practice."</p> <p>One of the first tasks of the EACF will be to formulate and agree on a strategy for action.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 2: The St Helena Government adopted the Strategic Land Use Plan (SLUP) in 1993, which provides the framework for policy guidance on land use and development in St Helena up until 2002.</p> <p>The SLUP is now in the process of being revised and on completion will become the Land Development Control Plan in accordance with the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance 1998.</p> <p>SLUP includes a Protected Areas policy, which designates conservation areas for the built and rural environments.</p> <p>Species Conservation for the endemic flowering species is a critical issue. Recently tremendous losses have occurred in both nursery stocks and in wild populations. A working group chaired by the Environmental Co-ordinator has been set up to determine a co-ordinated approach to addressing this problem.</p> <p>The Environment Conservation Section of the Agricultural and Natural Resources Department (ANRD) with support from the NGO, The St Helena Nature Conservation Group, are working towards expanding rehabilitation activities to save native habitats and endemic plant species and increase their populations. Current activities include establishing seed orchards and natural habitats, and drawing up Recovery Plans for all species.</p>	<p>Three project bids submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04: (1) Invertebrates survey on Prosperous Bay Plain; (2) Monitoring scheme for cetaceans; and (3) Control of Alien Species.</p> <p>Two bids successful : (1) Invertebrates survey on Prosperous Bay Plain; and (2) Monitoring scheme for cetaceans</p>	

	<p>OT Charter Commitments 3, 4, &amp; 5: In many regards social and economic planning processes are currently in their infancy on St Helena. However where deemed appropriate environmental considerations are integrated through consultation with key environmental stakeholders. This is usually done through the project cycle where environmental concerns are investigated from the concept note stage.</p> <p>Environmental Screenings (following the DFID guidelines) are done for all major projects, including all projects that are funded through external development aid.</p> <p>A project to survey the endemic invertebrate fauna at the proposed airport site has secured FCO funding. The data derived from this project will be used as part of the ecological impact assessment for the EIA for the airport project.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 6: St Helena is currently signed up to ten Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Our implementation and compliance to some of these MEA's has noticeably increased in recent months. Of particular note is the passing of the Endangered Species Protection Ordinance 2003 late last year. This is our CITES Ordinance.</p> <p>The design and implementation of a monitoring project for Cetaceans is also underway, this will help us meet part of our obligations under the Convention on Migratory Species. A project in relation to this has secured FCO funding.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 7: One of the main shortfalls of the environment sector is the provision of environmental baseline data.</p> <p>A project to establish baseline data in St Helena's flora and fauna, in particular endemic invertebrate species, rare ferns, lower plant species and marine flora and fauna has been preliminary drafted and will be developed as a matter of priority.</p> <p>OT Charter commitment 9: Schools on the island continue to work towards the implementation of local environmental issues cross-curricular, to raise awareness and appreciation of our local environment.</p> <p>The Fisheries Section of the ANRD ran a Dolphin and Whale awareness week in early 2003 to promote awareness of these species. This proved to be very successful and it is hoped that this can become an annual event.</p> <p>In Summary: 18 months on from having signed up to the Environment Charter, St Helena has made some significant progress in implementing the Charter. We will continue to build upon this. However it should be noted that limited resources will impede future progress. With escalating staff losses targets cannot be fully met and efforts have to be scaled down to cope with a smaller and often untrained work force. In addition there is a lack of specialist-trained personnel in the environment and conservation fields and limited financial resources.</p>		
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<p><b>Tristan da Cunha</b></p>	<p>The Gough Island Management Plan will be updated in FY 2003/04.</p>	<p>Three project bids submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04: (1) Updating the Gough Island Management Plan; (2) Clearing Invasive Flax from Inaccessible Island; and (3) Website for Tristan da Cunha.</p> <p>Two bids successful : (1) Updating the Gough Island Management Plan; and (2) Clearing Invasive Flax from Inaccessible Island.</p> <p>A project bid to Defra's Darwin Initiative on "Empowering the People of Tristan Da Cunha to implement CBD" has been successful (results announced March 2003).</p>	
<p><b>Turks &amp; Caicos Islands</b></p>	<p>FCO is funding an Environment Charter pilot project in TCI. It has broadly the same aim as the Falkland Islands pilot, ie, of developing an action plan for implementing the Environment Charters.</p> <p>A review of key legislation on Land Based Sources of Pollution has been undertaken. The results reflected that regulations in place to deal with these issues are few and lack comprehensiveness with respect to minimising the impacts to the aquatic environment.</p> <p>TCI is also in the process of developing a Protected Areas Policy, which will have as an annex the SPAW protocol and other key policies and conventions that develop over time rather than create new legislation</p> <p>However, recent development proposals have caused concern. This includes the TCI Government's proposal with Holland America, who propose to invest \$25 million in Grand Turk (pop. 3,000) for the construction of a pier and on shore facilities for up to 14 ships per week, and 300-500,000 passengers per year. The wall and the Columbus passage which falls to 7,000 feet a few hundred yards of Grand Turk are also the principal migratory route for whales. Holland America's project will irrevocably change all of this. HMG have raised concerns about the quality of the Environment Impact Assessment.</p>	<p>Resources and expertise to take forward/implement the CITES and SPAW and LBS Protocols. EPD await project bids to the Environment Fund for a legal consultant for this.</p> <p>The provision of training and building local capacity with requisite expertise and experience (possibly through attachment schemes). Retainment of trained staff is also an issue.</p> <p>Funding to implement programmes and to procure tools and technology.</p> <p>Three project bids submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04 : (1) Digital habitat mapping; (2) Field-road trails in biodiversity and sustainable development management plan; and (3) Establishing a biological records system.</p> <p>One bid successful: (1) Field-road trails in biodiversity and sustainable development management plan.</p>	<p><b>Project proposer</b></p> <p><b>Carl Malin, OTD</b></p> <p><b>Carl Malin, OTD</b></p>
<p><b>OTs General</b></p>		<p>Four cross-OT projects submitted to FCO for FY 2003/04: (1) Seed Conservation in the OTs, covering St Helena, Ascension Island, Falkland Islands and British Virgin Islands; (2) Training in Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, involving all Caribbean OTs plus Bermuda; and (3) Celebrating Fragments of Paradise – the Environment Charters and Arts and Crafts in the UKOTs, involving Anguilla and Cayman Islands; and (4) UKOTs CITES Virtual Forum Network, involving all OTs.</p> <p>Three bids successful: (1) Seed Conservation in the Ots; (2) Training in Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation; and (3) UKOTs CITES Virtual Forum Network.</p>	