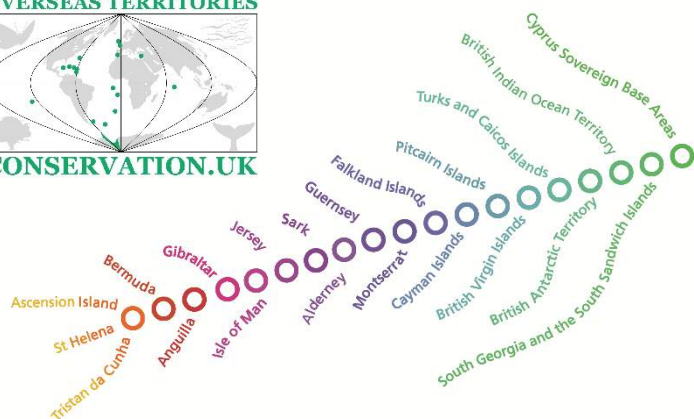


# UKOTCF's 7th conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island states

By Zoom  
13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025



## Preliminary Programme (including initial posters)

**Note that timings may change right up until presentation**

**Timings as BST.** Cyprus 2h ahead; Gibraltar 1h ahead; St Helena, Tristan da Cunha & Ascension 1h behind; Falklands & Bermuda 4h behind; TCI, BVI, Anguilla & Montserrat 5h behind; Cayman 6h behind; Pitcairn 9h behind.

### Mon 13 Oct 2025

11:50-12:00 Technical opening

Session 1: **Sharing Experiences** across territories

12:00-13:25 Part 1

Chairing: Helena Bennett (St Helena)

Question-master: B Naqqi Manco (TCI)

Rapporteur: Adam Riggs (St Helena)

The Manx Blue Carbon Project Rowan Enthorn (Isle of Man Government)

Recolonisation and Expansion of Masked Booby Colonies in Sandy Bay, St Helena: A Conservation Success Story Neil Thorpe & Kenickie Andrews (St Helena National Trust)

Conserving the Cloud Forest endemic invertebrates of St Helena Liza Fowler (St Helena National Trust) & Vicky Wilkins (Species Recovery Trust)

Extending our understanding of important foraging habitats for sea turtles in the Chagos Archipelago Nicole Esteban<sup>1</sup>, Jeanne A Mortimer<sup>2,3</sup> & Graeme C Hays<sup>4</sup> (1 Department of Biosciences, Swansea University, Wales; 2 Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA; 3 Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles; 4 Deakin Marine Research and Innovation Centre, Deakin University, Geelong, Victoria, Australia)

(Session suspended until after following item)

13:30-14:30

Chairing: Mike Pienkowski

Rapporteur: Keith Bensusan (Gibraltar)

**Formal opening & remarks from Ministers:**

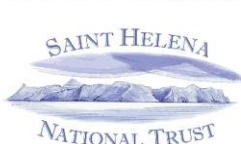
**Hon. Mary Creagh, UK Minister for Nature**

**Hon. Prof. John Cortés, Gibraltar Minister for Education, the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change, Heritage, Technical Services and Transport; and Chair of the Council of Environment Ministers (or equivalents) of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies,**

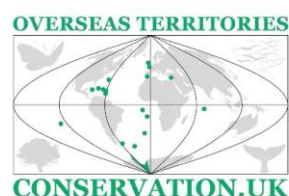
Followed by questions and answers.

(This session may need to be moved in time at short notice if Ministers' timing of availability changes.)

We are pleased to acknowledge financial support for this conference  
from anonymous donors and these following organisations:



amphibian and reptile  
conservation



15:00-17:40

Session 1 (continued): **Sharing Experiences** across territories resumes

Cultivating an appreciation and understanding of the environment through the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens *Bethany Maxwell & Elizabeth Ulloa Chaura (University of Gibraltar)*

From Wilderness to Stewardship: Empowering Communities for East Caicos' Conservation *Della Higgs (Turks & Caicos National Trust) & Louise Soanes (RSPB)*

The Community Voice Method - Building UKOT capacity in stakeholder engagement expertise *Amdeep Sanghera (Marine Conservation Society)*

Healing Landscapes: Community, Culture, and Conservation in Montserrat's Botanical Heritage *Chris Sealys<sup>1</sup>, Dr Jodey Peyton<sup>2</sup>, Dr Sofie Meeus<sup>3</sup> and Catherine Wensink<sup>2</sup> (1. Montserrat National Trust; 2. UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum; 3. Meise Botanic Garden, Belgium)*

Tackling plastic pollution across the UKOTs and working towards an inclusive UN Global Plastics Treaty *Jessica Vagg (Zoological Society of London; The South Atlantic Plastics Project was delivered in partnership by Ascension Island Government, St Helena National Trust, St Helena Government, Zoological Society of London)*

General discussion and agreeing conclusions on session

**Related poster**

Managing the effects of Human Impacts on our marine environment *Leeann Henry (St Helena Government)*

The Gibraltar Biodiversity Portal – Enhancing access to The Rock's research gems *Nell Cava & Caroline Moss-Gibbons (University of Gibraltar)*

18:10-19:40

Session 2:

Chairing & Question-master: Dace Ground & Mike Pienkowski

Rapporteur: Keith Bensusan (Gibraltar)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sir Richard & Lady Dace Ground Lecture: Whose environment is it anyway? Essential roles of our stewards of today, the guardians of tomorrow and how we can help them** *(Myles Darrell, Bermuda National Trust)*

**Tues 14 Oct 2025**

12:00-17:00 Session 3: **Achieving Biodiversity & Sustainability Targets**

Chairing: Joan Walley

Question-master: Nancy Pascoe (BVI)

Rapporteur: Mike Jervois (Falkland Islands)

The spider fauna of Saint Helena: taxonomic and ecological advances *Danniella Sherwood (IUCN SSC Atlantic Islands Invertebrate Specialist Group, UK; Arachnology Research Association, UK; Fundación Ariguanabo, Cuba; Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas de Honduras) & Daryl Joshua (Saint Helena National Trust and IUCN SSC Atlantic Islands Invertebrate Specialist Group)*

Backyard rewilding as a mitigation response to habitat loss in the UKOTs *Kathleen McNary (SWA Environmental)*

The pathway to achieving "30 by 30" in the Isle of Man *David Bellamy (Manx Wildlife Trust)*

Informing Conservation Priorities through Earth Observation in the Caribbean *Samuel Pike & Katie Metcalf (Environment Systems Ltd)*

Mapping St Helena's Endemic Invertebrates for Targeted Conservation *Adam Riggs (St Helena Government)*

Planning Marine Biosecurity for Guernsey *Julia Henney (Natural Environment, States of Guernsey) & Lucinda Lintott (Senior INNS Consultant Scientist, APEM Ltd.)*

Wild Water Whales: Studying the Recovery of Baleen Whale Populations in South Georgia *Stephanie Martin & Dr Jennifer Jackson (British Antarctic Survey)*

GBIF Building sustainable biodiversity-data for the UK Overseas Territories

*Quentin Groom; questions to be addressed by Dr Sofie Meeus (Meise Botanic Garden, Belgium)*

Invisible, Undervalued and Underappreciated? Fisheries transparency in Small Island Developing States *Sven Biermann & Valeria Merino (Fisheries Transparency Initiative, FiTI) (This talk may move to another session.)*

General discussion and agreeing conclusions on session

**Related posters**

Grasses of Montserrat *Virginie Sealys<sup>1</sup>, Ajhermae White<sup>2</sup>, Sarita Francis<sup>1</sup>, Jodey Peyton<sup>3</sup>, Catherine Wensink<sup>3</sup>, Vicky Wilkins<sup>4</sup>, Quentin Groom<sup>5</sup>, Sofie Meeus<sup>5</sup>, Alan Gray<sup>6</sup> (1. Montserrat National Trust; 2. Department of Environment Government of Montserrat; 3. UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum; 4. Species Recovery Trust; 5. Meise Botanic Garden; 6. UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology)*

Predation of sea-turtle eggs by rats and crabs *Holly Jayne Stokes<sup>1</sup>, Nicole Esteban<sup>1</sup> & Graeme C Hays<sup>2</sup> (1. Swansea University, UK; 2. Deakin University, Australia)*

17:30-19:00 Session 4: **Online Poster Session**

Chairing: Catherine Wensink (UK)

Question-master: Myles Darrell (Bermuda)

Rapporteur: Jodey Peyton

We will be using Zoom for this session, and UKOTCF's website will also be used as a back-up to view posters (available also throughout the conference): <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/ukotcf-online-conference-2025-poster-session/>.

Welcome & Session Overview

Poster introductions (length will be determined by final number of posters)

Each presenter notes their poster's key points: problem, innovation, impact. Where absent, the chair will do this for them and pass on any questions. (For lists of posters, see the end of each session item in this programme.)

Live Q&A with Presenters (Grouped by Themes as per session topics)

Moderated by Question-master. Short, focused answers will be encouraged to make best use of time.

Poster Competition Voting (one vote per conference participant) *Led by Question-master*

Key Takeaways & Reflections *Led by Rapporteur*

Closing & Poster Prize Announcement *Led by Chair-person*

**Wed 15 Oct 2025**

12:00-16:05

**Session 5: Using technology and data to inform and monitor conservation and novel approaches to address threats to biodiversity**

Chairing: Andy Pearce (UK)

Question-master: Jodey Peyton

Rapporteur: Keith Bensusan (Gibraltar)

The use of satellites for environmental monitoring in the UK Overseas Territories: Social considerations for the collection and use of data *Jasper Montana (Australian National University; University of Oxford)*

25 years of collaboration: combining field data, genetics, seed biology, and GIS for conservation planning *Thomas Heller (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew) & Nancy Woodfield Pascoe (National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands)*

Updated population estimates for the Endangered Northern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi* at Tristan da Cunha in the South Atlantic *Antje Steinfurth<sup>1,2</sup>, Richard B. Sherley<sup>3,4</sup>, Trevor Glass<sup>5</sup>, Chris Bell<sup>1</sup>, Ben J Dilley<sup>2</sup>, Delia Davies<sup>2</sup>, Rukaya Johaadien<sup>2</sup>, Fabrice Le Bouard<sup>1</sup>, Mara Nydegger<sup>1</sup>, Norman Ratcliffe<sup>6</sup>, Karen Bourgeois<sup>1</sup>, Jan Bradley<sup>1</sup>, Jaimie Cleeland<sup>1,6</sup>, Roelf Daling<sup>1</sup>, Sylvain Dromzee<sup>1</sup>, Bruce Dyer<sup>7</sup>, Carmen Ferreira<sup>1</sup>, Derren Fox<sup>1</sup>, Simon Glass<sup>5</sup>, Ivan Green<sup>5</sup>, Kirsty Green<sup>5</sup>, Matthew Green<sup>5</sup>, Christopher W. Jones<sup>1</sup>, David Kinchin-Smith<sup>1</sup>, Werner Kuntz<sup>1</sup>, Kate Lawrence<sup>1</sup>, Henk Louw<sup>1</sup>, Greg McClelland<sup>1</sup>, Graham C. Parker<sup>1,8</sup>, Vonica Perold<sup>1</sup>, Michelle M. Risi<sup>1</sup>, Julian Repetto<sup>5</sup>, Riaan Repetto<sup>5</sup>, Kalinka Rexter-Huber<sup>1,8</sup>, Andy Schofield<sup>1</sup>, Kim L. Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, George Swain<sup>5</sup>, Chris Taylor<sup>1</sup>, Paul Visser<sup>1</sup>, Otto Whitehead<sup>2</sup>, Alex Whittle<sup>1</sup>, Emma Witcutt<sup>1</sup>, Richard Cuthbert<sup>1,9</sup>, Brad Robson<sup>1</sup>, Peter G. Ryan<sup>2</sup>, Alexander L. Bond<sup>1,10</sup>* (1 RSPB Centre for Conservation Science; 2 FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town; 3 Environment and Sustainability Institute/Centre for Ecology and Conservation, University of Exeter; 4 Department of Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, University of the Western Cape; 5 Tristan Conservation Department; 6 British Antarctic Survey; 7 Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa; 8 Parker Conservation, Karitane, New Zealand; 9 World Land Trust; 10 Bird Group, The Natural History Museum, Tring)

iRecord St Helena: a community platform for biodiversity knowledge empowering conservation action and decision making *Selene Gough & Rebecca Cairns-Wicks (St Helena Research Institute)*

Progress in the Blue Belt programme *Danielle Anthony (CEFAS) TBC*

The Cyprus Database of Alien Species (CyDAS) *Jakovos Demetriou (Laboratory of Vector Ecology and Applied Entomology, Joint Services Health Unit Cyprus, Akrotiri, Cyprus; Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre, Nicosia, Cyprus; Department of Ecology and Systematics, Faculty of Biology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece)*

In Search of the eDNA Bounty: Uncovering Marine Biodiversity in the Mutineers' Seas *Kirsten J. Harper, J. Murray Roberts, Jason Cleland, Simeon Archer-Rand, Georgia Holly & Rob Ogden (The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies and The Roslin Institute)*

Beyond bases: modern remote monitoring of animal populations *Tom Hart & Laure Cugnière (Seabird Watch, Oxford Brooks University)*

General discussion and agreeing conclusions on session

**Related Posters**

Tracking Change: Phytoplankton Trend Analysis in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) *Marre Linthorst<sup>1</sup>, Stephen J. Warr<sup>2</sup> and Awantha Dissanayake<sup>1</sup>* (1. School of Marine and Environmental Science, University of Gibraltar; 2. Department of Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage)

<p>The Dietary Dynamics of Red Foxes <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> Amidst Changing Rabbit Availability <i>Jemila Mellin (University of Gibraltar)</i>, <i>Bethany Maxwell (Gibraltar Botanic Gardens / University of Gibraltar)</i> &amp; <i>Dr Awantha Dissanayake (University of Gibraltar)</i></p> <p>Ecological insights and conservation challenges for the Orange Cup Coral <i>Astroides calycularis</i> in the Western Mediterranean <i>Awantha Dissanayake (School of Marine and Environmental Science, University of Gibraltar)</i></p> <p>Establishing a Baseline Characterisation of Marine Benthic Taxa and Trophic Structure in Guernsey: Evaluating the Ecological Impact of Local Fisheries <i>Eve Torode, Jamie Selina Davies &amp; Awantha Dissanayake (University of Gibraltar)</i></p>
<p>16:35-19:00</p> <p>Session 6: <b>Identifying and preparing for future challenges and opportunities</b></p> <p>Chairing: Sarita Francis (Montserrat)</p> <p>Question-master: Lord (John) Randall</p> <p>Rapporteur: John Pinel (Jersey)</p> <p>Roots of Resilience: How Nature Fights Climate Change in the BVI <i>Dr Katie Medcalf, Dr Nancy Pascoe &amp; Samuel Pike (Environmental Systems &amp; National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands)</i></p> <p>What the future could be – Changes in breeding success of Gough Island’s seabird populations in response to the house mouse eradication attempt in 2021 <i>Antje Steinfurth<sup>1</sup>, Roelf Daling<sup>1</sup>, Lucy Dorman<sup>1</sup>, Rebekah Goodwill<sup>1</sup>, Hannah Greetham<sup>1</sup>, Christopher Jones<sup>1</sup>, Vonica Perold<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Risi<sup>1</sup>, Kim Stevens<sup>1</sup>, Trevor Glass<sup>2</sup>, Steffen Oppel<sup>1</sup></i> (1. RSPB Centre for Conservation Science, Cambridge, UK; 2. Tristan Conservation Department, Edinburgh of the Seven Seas, Tristan da Cunha)</p> <p>Ecosystem Integrity Assessments, GBIF <i>Alan Gray and Rebecca Cairns-Wickes St Helena</i>) TBC</p> <p>Education and Youth Participation in the National Trust for the Cayman Islands <i>Catherine Childs (Environmental Programmes Manager, National Trust for the Cayman Islands)</i></p> <p>General discussion and agreeing conclusions on session</p>
<p><b>Thurs 16 Oct 2025</b></p> <p>12:00-16:30</p> <p>Session 7: <b>Funding/resourcing</b></p> <p>Chairing: Leigh Morris (Isle of Man)</p> <p>Question-master: Keith Bensusan (Gibraltar)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Jodey Peyton</p> <p>Fundraising for South Georgia – obstacles and opportunities <i>Alison Neil (South Georgia Heritage Trust)</i></p> <p>Why sustainability and green financing is important to Lloyds and a case study on working with Manx Wildlife Trust in the Isle of Man <i>Nigel Cheesley (Head of Sustainability for Lloyds Bank International in the Crown Dependencies)</i></p> <p>Eco-Match: Enabling Corporate Partnerships for Conservation <i>Leigh Morris &amp; Jodey Peyton (UKOTCF)</i></p> <p>The importance of sustainable finance and showcase how both UKOTCF and Manx Wildlife Trust are working with him <i>Greg Easton (MD, Resilience Asset Management)</i> TBC</p> <p>Biodiversity NGO Fundraising Structures are Broken: To What Extent Might a Marketing Requirement be the Solution? <i>Robin Clough</i></p> <p>Lloyds Bank: Partner of Choice for the UKOTs <i>Matt Pendrey (Head of UK Government &amp; British Overseas Territories, Lloyds Banking Group)</i></p> <p>Building corporate partnerships to deliver environmental goals. <i>Jonathan Andrews (Remarkable Partnerships)</i> TBC</p> <p>Interactive session (including also agreeing conclusions on session, and possible involvement of panel of session speakers). Run by <i>Leigh Morris &amp; Jonathan Andrews</i>.</p> <p><b>Related Poster</b></p> <p>Evidence of Barriers to Marine Conservation in UK Overseas Territories: A Practitioner-Informed Study <i>Natalie Muirhead-Davies (University of Gibraltar)</i></p>
<p>17:00 <b>Closing session</b></p>