

# Environment Charter

## MONTSERRAT



### Guiding Principles

*For the UK government, for the government of Montserrat and for the people of Montserrat.*

- 1 To recognise that all people need a healthy environment for their well-being and livelihoods and that all can help to conserve and sustain it.
- 2 To use our natural resources wisely, being fair to present and future generations.
- 3 To identify environmental opportunities, costs and risks in all policies and strategies.
- 4 To seek expert advice and consult openly with interested parties on decisions affecting the environment.
- 5 To aim for solutions which benefit both the environment and development.
- 6 To contribute towards the protection and improvement of the global environment.
- 7 To safeguard and restore native species, habitats and landscape features, and control or eradicate invasive species.
- 8 To encourage activities and technologies that benefit the environment.
- 9 To control pollution, with the polluter paying for prevention or remedies.
- 10 To study and celebrate our environmental heritage as a treasure to share with our children.

  
**John A. Osborne**  
MONTSERRAT  
26 September 2001

  
**Valerie Amos**  
UNITED KINGDOM  
26 September 2001

### Commitments

#### *The government of the UK will:*

- 1 Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management which is consistent with Montserrat's own plans for sustainable development.
- 2 Assist Montserrat in reviewing and updating environmental legislation.
- 3 Facilitate the extension of the UK's ratification of Multilateral Environmental Agreements of benefit to Montserrat and which Montserrat has the capacity to implement.
- 4 Keep Montserrat informed regarding new developments in relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and invite Montserrat to participate where appropriate in the UK's delegation to international environmental negotiations and conferences.
- 5 Help Montserrat to ensure it has the legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations.
- 6 Promote better cooperation and the sharing of experience and expertise between Montserrat, other Overseas Territories and small island states and communities which face similar environmental problems.
- 7 Use UK, regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes regular consultation with interested non-governmental organisations, Government Agencies and networks.
- 8 Use the existing Environment Fund for the Overseas Territories, and promote access to other sources of public funding, for projects of lasting benefit to Montserrat's environment.
- 9 Help Montserrat identify further funding partners for environmental projects, such as donors, the private sector or non-governmental organisations.
- 10 Recognise the diversity of the challenges facing Overseas Territories in very different socio-economic and geographical situations.
- 11 Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (See Annex 2) and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment (See Annex 3).

#### *The government of Montserrat will:*

- 1 Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action. (See Annex 1).
- 2 Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.
- 3 Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes; promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the territory.
- 4 Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.
- 5 Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.
- 6 Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to Montserrat and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.
- 7 Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.
- 8 Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; ensure that potential polluters are educated about the impact of continued pollution; and establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.
- 9 Ensure that teaching within schools promotes the value of our local environment (natural and built) and explains its role within the regional and global environment.
- 10 Promote through the media, cultural programmes and publications awareness of the special features of the environment in Montserrat; promote within Montserrat the guiding principles set out above.
- 11 Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (See Annex 2) and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment (See Annex 3).