

FORUM NEWS 50

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UKOTCF/CIEEM workshop on

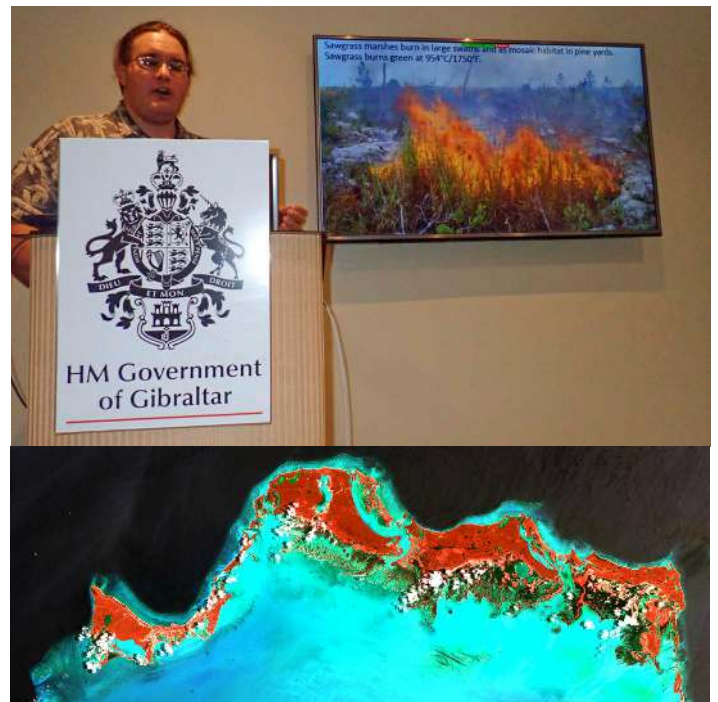
Providing an Evidence Base for Conservation in the UKOTs

UKOTCF and the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM) took the opportunity of the presence in UK of several Caribbean UKOT personnel to organise on 31st May a workshop on *Providing an Evidence Base for Conservation in the UKOTs*. This was held in Gibraltar House, Strand, London by kind invitation of Hon. Prof. John Cortés, HM Government of Gibraltar's Minister for Education, Heritage, Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

As well as 27 people in the room, 29 online connections were made to the streamed webinar, during which people participating remotely could send questions and comments for answering. In some cases, these remote connections each involved several persons, for example 5 in the case of St Helena.

The agenda survived some chaos on the day, because an incident on the main railway line to London from the north delayed three speakers for about 2 hours, but all made it. The programme included:

- Welcome, Introduction and Thanks to HM Government of Gibraltar, by Dr Mike Pienkowski (UKOTCF) and Dr Katie Medcalf (Environment Systems)
- CIEEM OT Territories Special Interest Group, by Mike Baker (CIEEM OT SIG Committee)
- Conservation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, by Lormeka Williams, Director, Department of Environment and Coastal Resources, Turks and Caicos Islands



- Use of satellite imagery to record change following the hurricanes in TCI and BVI, by Dr Katie Medcalf (Environment Systems)

- Uncovering the value of natural capital for conservation management in the British Virgin Islands, by Nancy Pascoe, (Deputy Director, National Parks Trust for the Virgin Islands)

- Facilitating a science-based approach into policy, procedures and public debate: an example from Montserrat, by Dr Mike Pienkowski (Chairman, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum)

Top: Bryan Naqqi Manco speaks on the need for fire to manage TCI's native Caicos pine forests, threatened by invasive insects imported by humans on North American Christmas trees.

Above: In this satellite image of the Caicos Islands, vegetation is red because plants reflect infrared light strongly. Such images can be a useful tool for conservation practitioners. Credit: Environment Systems <https://www.envsys.co.uk>

Left: About half of the participants physically present outside Gibraltar House, The Strand, London. Photos in this article by UKOTCF and CIEEM





Left: TCI Director of Environment Lormeka Williams discusses with participants.

Right: Some of those who have worked in TCI and BVI. From left: Dr Mike Pienkowski, Dr Katie Medcalf, Nancy Pascoe, Bryan Naqqi Manco, Oshin Whyte (TCI student at Oxford) and Lormeka Williams.

- The South Atlantic Natural Capital Assessment project, by Tara Pelembe (South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute)
- Conservation Evidence: Bridging the research/practice divide, by Nick Littlewood (Conservation Evidence, Cambridge University)
- Role of Fire in Turks & Caicos Ecosystems, by B. Naqqi Manco (Environmental Officer, Terrestrial Ecologist, Department of Environment and Coastal Resources, Turks and Caicos Islands)

Each presentation was followed by questions from the local and especially the remote participants. Following the presentations, there was a more general discussion, followed by networking over refreshments (with apologies that the internet does not yet allow the transmission of the latter).

In addition to stimulating content and exchange of experience, this was an excellent opportunity to reconnect with colleagues working to protect biodiversity in the UKOTs, complementing UKOTCF's conferences for practicing conservationists – which are less frequent due to the challenge of raising funding. Discussions also highlighted the challenges that UKOT conservationists face in their resource management and conservation work, and identified further ways in which UKOTCF and others might help.

We discussed also the importance of engaging the local community in the Territories, raising awareness about the importance of managing their environments and the resources that they provide in a sustainable way. Underpinning this is also the need for the development of policy and legislation so that sustainable management can be effectively implemented.

UKOTCF and Turks & Caicos National Museum restore nature trails after hurricane damage and investigate further needs

Turks & Caicos National Museum Foundation, UKOTCF and TCI Governor's Office have shared the cost of restoring the bird-watching trails at Grand Turk – one of the best bird-watching locations in the world, with normally shy waterbirds allowing close views.

UKOTCF and the Museum Foundation had established bird-watching trails in 2010 (see <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/turks-and-caicos-islands#TCIOutreach>). These featured also in our bird-watching and heritage guides to TCI (see <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/pages/shop/department/all>). The damage to the trails and our surveys to assess needs were described in the previous issue of *Forum News* (49, page 2).

UKOTCF approached the Governor's Office, and put together a plan to restore the trails. The Governor's Office provided a grant to cover part of the costs, and the remaining costs were met by UKOTCF and the Museum.

Mike Pienkowski visited in March, to work with the Museum to finalise arrangements for the work, whose last stages were implemented by the Museum.

At the Museum's request, Mike gave lectures in both Grand Turk and Providenciales in the Museum's "Meet the Experts" series. In Grand Turk, he spoke about *The Salinas of Grand Turk & Salt Cay: internationally important for birds – and some of the world's best views of them* and, in Provo, *Internationally important for birds: TCI's wetlands and coasts and the tropical dry forest of the*

Caicos Islands.

UKOTCF, the Museum and other partners are also looking for resources to research and develop management plans to maintain and restore the quality of the pans for wetland birds. This is important because there are signs of decline in quality. This could undermine conservation value, the potential for tourism and the quality of life for local people. Further support is welcome. (see <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/turks-and-caicos-islands#TCIChallenges>).



Reddish and great egrets leap towards fish in the Grand Turk salinas, beside the trails. Photo: Dr Mike Pienkowski

UKOTCF gives evidence to Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry into Invasive Species

In April, UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee launched an inquiry on invasive species. As with many of the Committee's previous inquiries, it encouraged responses from the UK Overseas Territories. Following submission of its written evidence to the inquiry, together with 13 other submissions relating to the UKOTs, UKOTCF was invited to provide oral evidence to the session which took place at St Catharine's College, Cambridge on 11th June.

Chair of the Committee, Mary Creagh MP, introduced the session by saying that the EAC is now one of the most active Committees in UK Parliament, given the level of interest in environmental issues in the UK. Furthermore, the Committee is taking its role of scrutinising the work of the UK Government very seriously, and it was starting to see results. For example, its work on plastics has led to the UK Government becoming one of the first in Europe to ban microbeads in cosmetic products.

The Committee was particularly interested in the challenges facing UKOTs, current biosecurity measures and the level of support given by the UK to environmental conservation in the UKOTs. The evidence session was only the second to take place outside of the House of Parliament and included around 50 audience members. Afterwards, they were invited to attend lunch at the David Attenborough Building, home of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, a consortium of UK-based NGOs.

Links to the evidence session, as well as a transcript, are available on the Parliament website: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/inquiries/>.



Above: Living wall inside the offices of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative in the David Attenborough Building. Photo: Catherine Wensink.

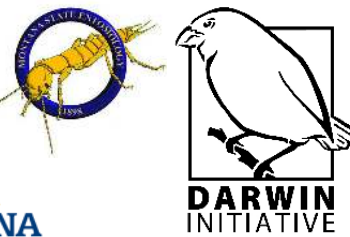
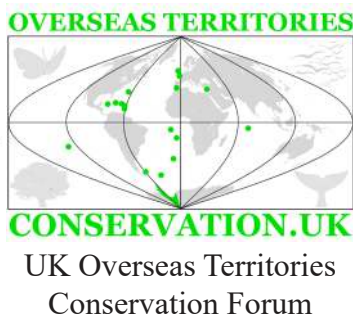


Left: UKOTCF Executive Director, Catherine Wensink, answers questions from the Committee. Photo (here and below): Parliament TV

Below: Environmental Audit Committee members in session

(from left): James Gray MP, Anna McMorrin MP, Chair Mary Creagh MP, Committee Clerk Laura Grant, John McNally MP, Alex Sobel MP





Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat: Adopt a Home for Wildlife continues

The first two years of this current programme (see *Forum News* 45-49) of Montserrat National Trust, UKOTCF and the Government of Montserrat were supported in part by a grant from UK Government's Darwin Plus fund, under the title *Maximising long-term survival prospects of Montserrat's endemic species and ecosystem-services*. At present, the programme is not in receipt of outside funding but this is being applied for. Meanwhile, UKOTCF and MNT are keeping the programme going at a maintenance level using just their own limited resources – because it is important to maintain the excellent momentum built up and support the committed and effective efforts of local partners, especially in the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* component of the work. UKOTCF Chairman, Dr Mike Pienkowski, arranged again to spend a few days in Montserrat during his visit to the region, including the work in TCI (see page 2), to help with this.

Tim Orton describes effects of different growing techniques for native plants

Tim Orton's *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* site is his area of tropical dry forest (one of the world's rarest and most vulnerable ecosystems). As reported in the project newsletters (*SOS Nature of Montserrat* 4, 5, 7), under guidance from the project, Tim has been removing alien, invasive plant species from his land and encouraging native ones to grow or, in some cases, planting them from the Montserrat National Trust's native plant nursery.

In the process, Tim has discovered from his work some interesting results on comparative growth rates of the same species, depending on how the individual plants were grown. For gumbo limbo *Bursera simaruba*, three types of growth were available: initially in pots, transplanted to the wild; self-seeded in the wild (and then sometimes transplanted to another location; and grown from a branch detached by Hurricane Maria).

For some other species, the first two types of growing could be compared. After about 18 months to 2 years, the heights of the initially-pot-grown and grown-from-branch were fairly similar, but those self-seeded in the ground (and transplanted in some cases) were several times larger (see photo below). This all adds to the valuable experience in this ground-breaking project.

Dwayne Hixon's site at Belham River Mouth

Mike Pienkowski was able to catch up with progress with Dwayne Hixon's *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* site in the Belham River Valley near Old Road Bay (see *SOS Nature of Montserrat* 4, 5, 6). The progress at this site also aroused great interest at the Governor's second environmental stakeholder's meeting (see page 6). Dwayne is now working on his building but continues to make use of native vegetation across this developing golf-course site and keeps the alien, invasive Australian "pine" *Casuarina* at bay, even though this is spreading elsewhere in the valley. *Casuarina* is a problem because it rapidly colonises bare ground, and then shades



Circled, from left: gumbo limbo grown from broken branch (largely hidden by bush in front, but about the same height; self-seeded; and grown initially in a pot. Photo: Dr Mike Pienkowski

out native vegetation and even poisons these by chemicals emitted from its roots. The species is also very prone to uprooting during hurricanes and destabilising the ground.

A particular novel feature at Dwayne's site has been his excavation of some of the ash to reveal the historic former quay. This operation has also created hollows which seasonally flood, re-creating some lowland ponds which Montserrat sorely lacks after infilling by volcanic outflow and by inappropriate development at other sites. These ponds restore habitat for resident and migrant waterbirds (see *SOS Nature of Montserrat* 5, 6). They are also rapidly colonised by rich vegetation (see photograph). Dwayne has a programme of scraping vegetation in rotation off some areas, so that areas remain available also for migrating shorebirds. Even in the developing state, Dwayne's historic quay and wildlife ponds are attracting frequent tourist visits.

We are pleased to hear that RSPB has managed to secure some funding for work originally proposed by UKOTCF on wetland conservation in the region. In Montserrat, this will be deployed in consultation with Montserrat National Trust and the Department of Environment, and should allow the work on ponds originally developed by Dwayne under the auspices of UKOTCF's/MNT's *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* initiative to be expanded – so that Dwayne's site can be part of that project while continuing to be a key part of *Adopt a Home for Wildlife*.

Videos about *Adopt a Home for Wildlife*

UKOTCF is delighted to report that another video featuring *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* is now available on its web-site (<https://youtu.be/2YyBY0F31II>). This features a general background to the project as well as Tim Orton's site, restoring tropical dry forest at Garibaldi Hill (see above). This joins other project videos, on Corkhill, Belham River Mouth, and MNT's nursery at their Botanic Gardens (see <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/appeal/supporting-vital-nature-conservation-on-montserrat-through-community-engagement>). Ann Pienkowski is editing another video on the Mountain Chicken project, but this was delayed by having to spend time on replacing material lost due to a major error at one of UKOTCF's internet service providers. We hope to catch up soon.

Future of the initiative and the need for a Project Officer

As most readers will be aware, UKOTCF and MNT have been trying for some time to secure funding to restore the position of Project Officer needed to help and advise participants in *Adopt a Home for Wildlife*, and encourage others (some of whom have already expressed interest) to join. The initiative has been very successful and ground-breaking, and was highly rated by the Darwin Initiative's independent assessor (see *Forum News* 49: 6-8). Accordingly, both the team and independent observers have been surprised that the Darwin Initiative has twice declined to contribute to the funding of the logically following work.

In the absence of this, UKOTCF has been exploring other possible funding, as well as other ways to resource this post. One possibility, of which UKOTCF has experience in a number of places, is to find a suitably qualified and experienced volunteer who would be interested in donating their services for, say, 6 months or a year to fill this role, in exchange for benefitting from this experience and the pleasure of living for a time in Montserrat. There is a good chance of doing this. However, as the individual would not be paid, we could not expect them to pay for accommodation. We are exploring approaches to this. However, if any reader has any idea or suggestions about this, we would be delighted to hear from them. Please contact Catherine Wensink (cwensink@ukotcf.org)



Above: Dwayne stands on the historic quay that he has excavated, in front of one of the ponds that he has enabled to regenerate. Below: some of the migrant shorebirds using these ponds at Old Road Bay: snipe (left), greater yellowlegs (right), with pectoral sandpiper (in front).

Photos: Dr Mike Pienkowski



or Mike Pienkowski (m@pienkowski.org) or Sarita Francis at Montserrat National Trust.

There is more on this initiative and the following article in the project newsletter: *SOS Nature of Montserrat* 8.



Friends of the British Overseas Territories (FOTBOT), an association of those, particularly in higher education, from or interested in the UKOTs, is a body that UKOTCF has advised from time to time. In 2017-18, FOTBOT offered to support the Montserrat National Trust/UKOTCF programme in Montserrat, and accordingly Mike Pienkowski provided a talk on this work at one of their events. As a result, FOTBOT's Philip Smith handed a symbolic cheque for £1000 to Honorable Claude Hogan MLA, the former Environment Minister of Montserrat and strong supporter of MNT, who happened to be in London at FOTBOT's December event. (Photo: FOTBOT).

Second gathering of Montserrat Environmental Stakeholders

The Governor of Montserrat, H.E. Andy Pearce and Mrs Pearce took the opportunity of Mike Pienkowski's visit to Montserrat in March 2019 to host the second meeting of the Montserrat Environmental Stakeholders Network, again over an informal dinner. (See *Forum News* 49:8-9 on the first.)

The Governor reflected on the need for coordination between all the active parties, and the importance of agreeing on the most urgent and important needs for conservation, resource these, and ensure that we checked on the outcome of our efforts.

Mike Pienkowski recalled that UKOTCF is a confederation of conservation organisations across the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, trying to help cooperation between territories, source specialist advice, and help find resources, as well as encourage UK Government about its shared responsibility for UKOT wildlife. It tries to stay in touch with territory partners whether or not it has current projects. Its sole business is the environment in UK's OT & CDs – so there are no competing objectives – and tries hard to ensure that it is the priorities of which UKOTs themselves identify to it that are the ones getting priority from overseas funding bodies, but that is not easy to achieve because these bodies have become increasingly detached from direct knowledge of the situation in territories. This impacts UKOTCF too because, even though most of its work is by volunteers, their costs need to be met and it is necessary also to find some costs including for workers in the territories.

He recalled too that UKOTCF had been involved with Montserrat, and particularly Montserrat National Trust and the Department of Environment, for over 30 years (and his own first meeting in the mid-1990s was in the former capital, Plymouth, soon after destroyed by the volcano). Apart from UKOTCF's own involvement, it has encouraged other bodies to become involved. Amongst those that UKOTCF has introduced to help Montserrat are RSPB, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Durrell Conservation, the Waitt Foundation, Montana State University, Treweek Environmental Consultants, and others. He drew attention to the guide-book that UKOTCF and MNT had produced (*Birding in Paradise*) and the further information on the website www.ukotcf.org.uk.

Noting the Governor's focus for the discussion on stock-taking the environment on Montserrat and looking at future needs, Mike mentioned one activity that UKOTCF does every few years is to collate progress in each territory against the Environment Charters signed between UK Government and each territory in



Governor H.E. Andy Pearce addressed the meeting. All photo in this section: Annesta Fergus, Governor's Office

2001. UKOTCF was heavily involved with the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office in developing the Charters. It facilitated the first Strategies for Action to implement the Charters in some territories, at the request of those UKOTs. It collated information on progress in 2007, 2009 and 2016, and had just been asked by another territory to repeat this 4-5 years later - this year & next.

He turned finally to *Adopt a Home for Wildlife*, and looked forward to hearing shortly from some of the local participants. He touched briefly on some of the information on this reported elsewhere in this newsletter and ideas for reinstating a badly needed Project Officer. He stressed that UKOTCF remains strongly committed to this and other important conservation work in Montserrat, and looked forward to his next visit later in the year.

After Mike's remarks, he invited Dwayne Hixon and Tim Orton to outline their *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* sites – which aroused much interest.

Other contributions included Hon. David Osborne, Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing & Environment, noting the importance of controlling feral animals in the south (as identified as an agreed priority during the series of stakeholder workshops facilitated by UKOTCF). The Minister discussed this and possible interim approaches with James 'Scriber' Daley, the Governor, Mike and others.

Veta Wade (*Fish N Fins*) eloquently raised the issue of providing proper support for people to avoid leaving litter, highlighting particularly the plastics issue, and this was underlined by Lyston Skerritt (businessman and Youth Affairs) and others. Amongst other contributors were Alwyn Ponteen (Fisheries Division) and Andrew and Emmy (Scuba Montserrat).

After a press briefing the following day, the Governor's Office reported: "His Excellency the Governor hosted the second Environmental Stakeholders Networking evening at Olveston House on 25th March. Our guest of honour was Dr. Mike Pienkowski, Chairman of the UKOTCF, who was visiting Montserrat this week. While many useful discussions were had, some of the strongest takeaways from Monday's event were the desire for the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* programme to continue reaping benefits for the island and a stronger push for the eradication of single-use plastics on Montserrat. We are looking forward to working even closer with our environmental partners as we seek to promote Montserrat's environment."



Dr Mike Pienkowski addresses meeting, flanked by MATLHE Permanent Secretary Eulyn Silcott Greaves (left) and Emmy of Scuba Montserrat.



From left: Dr Mike Pienkowski, Honorable Minister David Osborne and Adopt a Home for Wildlife member Mr Dwayne Hixon discuss.

Rare sighting of the Critically Endangered Montserrat Galliwasp lizard

The Montserrat galliwasp *Diploglossus montisserrati* occurs only on Montserrat and was discovered and described formally as recently as 1964. However, sightings are very infrequent, and it was thought to be extinct, with no sightings from the time of its formal description in 1964 until 1998. The species is thought to have suffered further from loss of its woodland habitat and ash-fall resulting from the Soufrière Hills volcanic eruptions from 1995. It is classified as Critically Endangered and may be one of the most endangered lizards in the world,

Animals can reach 180 mm snout-to-vent. With very few sightings, its distribution, population size and behaviour are largely unknown, though it is believed to prefer moist woodland habitats. It is thought to be mainly nocturnal.

Dr Bridget Beattie and her husband lived on Montserrat from 1975-85, and the family still has a small house there, which she visits in the winter. This winter, the family saw a Montserrat galliwasp, which obligingly stayed around for Bridget's daughter Emma and son-in-law Stuart to photograph. They have kindly made these rare photographs available and a selection of them are shown here.

This is a delightful series of pictures. Long may the galliwasp survive – and, we hope, increase – on Montserrat.



All photos in this article: Beano

Personnel changes at the Forum

There are a few recent changes in the team at UKOTCF. We have a number of advisors on various topics, so that officers and council can benefit from their wisdom and experience, subject of course to availability to provide this. Council welcomes Hon. Claude Hogan to this number (see below for profiles).

We thank Dr Wylie Horn, our part-time Conservation & Information Officer. Wylie joined us for 6 months initially, and stayed for over 2 years. His help on several matters, but especially in developing and implementing our new web-site, is greatly appreciated.

Two of our unpaid Conservation Assistants are also moving on. We always have mixed feelings about this, because we are sad to lose them but recognise that, in many cases, it is the experience that they have gathered while volunteering for UKOTCF that helps them to develop their careers. Ashleigh Atkinson has become involved on a range of issues, bringing a new approach to aspects of the web-site, and helping with meetings. She moves to a promotion in her paid work, to become full-time Grants Manager at the British Council. Ed Lim has done stalwart work on preparing virtual tours, undertaking work on UKOT endemics, and representing UKOTCF at some meetings. He will be undertaking further education and work experience as well as his existing local work for the Wildlife Trust and Plastic Free Eastbourne.

Dr Jamie Males has done a great deal of work on virtual tours and endemics and will be staying with us, with an increased lead on the latter topic. He moves from voluntary Conservation Assistant to voluntary Conservation Officer.

Katie Shaw has joined us as a voluntary Conservation Assistant and is working with Jamie, mainly on the endemics work.

Hon. Claude Hogan MLA (Advisor)

Claude Hogan has served as an elected Member of Legislative Assembly of the British Overseas Territory of Montserrat and political representative since 2001. From 2014 to 2017, he served as Montserrat's Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing & Environment.

He comes from a background in trade economics, as a contract law specialist with global output involving multiple actors, ranging from high public policy level to border agencies and the private sector. He has been intensely engaged in trade, law and politics across cultures from the Caribbean, South America to East-Asia; and brings that experience, knowledge, hands-on and well-honed skills to issues of care and management of the environment. He has served as a Caribbean Community technocrat involved with the University of the West Indies regional preparations for the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.

Claude Hogan has welcomed the continued involvement of UKOTCF in Montserrat, and has been fully supportive of the joint programme by UKOTCF, Montserrat National Trust, the Government of Montserrat and others, on *Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat*. He was one of only three territory government environment leaders to participate in the whole of UKOTCF/Gibraltar's 2015 conference for conservation practitioners



Sustaining Partnerships, and was one of the founder participants in the linked first meeting of the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers Council meeting, attending also the second, in Alderney in 2017. He is credited with the commencements of efforts to create a Marine Spatial Plan for Montserrat, which genesis he credits to the introduction, by UKOTCF, of Montserrat to the Waitt Institute as that project's sponsor since 2014.

He also has work experience in procurement, insurance sales, and financial services; and project managed a multi-million pound airport development from formulation to final accounts, on behalf of EU and DFID as partners in the immediate aftermath of volcanic eruptions on the Caribbean island of Montserrat.

Claude Hogan is a published author on legal approaches for the protection of the Caribbean Sea. He is a pro-bono volunteer and FIFA/MFS (Managing Football Stars under the international football federation) Transfer Manager. He holds a University of London Masters degree, and a first class (1:1) Political Science-Law degree from Kean University, New Jersey, USA; he is currently a post-graduate GDL/Barrister conversion prospect of the University of Law, Moorgate, London.

Katie Shaw (Conservation Assistant)

Katie graduated with a Biology BSc (Hons) from the University of Sheffield and has gone on to work for several environmental organisations, including the Zoological Society of London and the Wildlife Trust. She now works for a small environmental charity in London working to protect and create habitat for UK native species as well as educating and engaging local people. Katie is currently studying an MSc in Applied Conservation Genetics with Wildlife Forensics at the University of Edinburgh.



UK Government calls for evidence on biodiversity funding for the Overseas Territories

Extracts from:

Spring Statement 2019: Written Ministerial Statement *The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Philip Hammond):*

Today I have delivered the Spring Statement to the House of Commons. This Written Ministerial Statement provides more detail on some of the announcements in the Spring Statement, and sets out details of other forthcoming government policies.

Clean Growth

...
In the coming months, the government will publish:

Biodiversity and conservation in Overseas Territories – A call for evidence inviting creative ideas from stakeholders on how the government can safeguard the biodiversity found in the Overseas Territories.

Amplification from UK's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra):

The UK Chancellor's Spring Statement package announced today (13 March) includes a "Call for Evidence" (CfE) on biodiversity funding for the Overseas Territories. Defra will lead work around the CfE.

The CfE invites new and creative ideas on the best funding and administrative arrangements to ensure biodiversity in the OTs is safeguarded for future generations, delivering long-term strategic outcomes for the natural environment, real value for the OTs, and excellent value for money. This will inform decisions at the forthcoming Spending Review. The CfE will soon be formally opened and a CfE document will be published shortly. This document will contain details on the questions Government is looking to address and the timelines for responses.

The CfE will seek evidence about the effectiveness of biodiversity and conservation activities, funded by various current funding streams, across a range of activities, including research, international partnerships and projects on the ground. Questions will cover the effectiveness of such activities, and also the quantum of spend needed to deliver international and other Government

commitments, and the administration of such funds going forward.

Comment from UKOTCF

UKOTCF is one of the bodies that Defra alerted to this forthcoming Call, and undertook to supply details as soon as is possible. As soon as these were available, UKOTCF alerted its network and made an announcement on its website. The Defra announcement is available at <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=466bbd56-9b5b-471a-a3dd-7f9d1b1af7bf>. UKOTCF will undoubtedly submit evidence by the deadline of 19 July, and is aware that a number of its partners will do so too. UKOTCF invited partners to supply it with comments and copies of submissions.

By way of background, the Spending Review into which the consultation will feed is the periodic exercise across the whole of UK Government to determine future spending. This is conducted by H.M. Treasury (the Finance Ministry) and may consider any number of years into the future, from one upwards, but normally three or more. At present, the timing of this review is not known – and the exceptional situation in which UK has placed itself at present makes predictions even less easy than usual.

UKOTCF visits No. 10 Downing Street



Mike and Catherine outside the famous door to the Prime Minister's house and office. Photo with the help of the Metropolitan Police

In early March, Mike Pienkowski and Catherine Wensink were invited to 10 Downing Street, by John Randall, Baron Randall

of Uxbridge, Environment Advisor to the Prime Minister. This followed a meeting of Lord Randall and Mike in the margins of a workshop, when Lord Randall had expressed interest about learning more on the conservation issues of the UK Overseas Territories and the work of UKOTCF and its partners.

Lord Randall has had a long and deep interest in wildlife and the environment, and a wide-ranging and very positive discussion resulted. This is being followed up, involving partners as appropriate.

Two cats meet: After meeting Lord Randall, "our" Cat meets Larry, the famous No. 10 cat and Chief Mouser of the Cabinet Office (and leader of over 280,000 Twitter followers). Photo: Dr Mike Pienkowski



Lord Randall (left), pictured here with Hon. Prof. John Cortés



UK's National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity includes work by UKOTCF and its partners

JNCC had compiled information for the sixth national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity from the United Kingdom, including on the UK Overseas Territories which have had the CBD extended to them. UKOTCF had commented and supplied further

information. The report has now been published and makes good reference to the UKOTs, particularly the information supplied on the MNT/UKOTCF Darwin project on Montserrat (even though Montserrat has not yet signed up to CBD). It makes several

Review of performance by 2016 of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies
in implementing the 2001 Environment Charters or their equivalents
and moving towards the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Targets

Edited by
Sarah Barnsley, Emma Cary, Mike Pienkowski and Catherine Wensink
UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
April 2016
This is the third review, following the first in 2007 and the second in 2010.



Above: Front cover of report:
masked boobies shelter from the
sun under bush with noddy, Ducie
Island, Pitcairn Group.

Photo: Dr Mike Pienkowski

The report is available at <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/implementation>

references to UKOTCF's Environment Charter report (above), which was linked also to the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

Below are a few extracts from the UK National Report resulting from UKOTCF contributions:

Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies initiatives

Community initiatives and action groups exist across the UKOTs and CDs, many driven by locally based NGOs, in conjunction with UK or other NGOs. Some are emerging; others are well established. In some territories, these are the primary means of tackling biodiversity issues such as marine waste and control of invasive plant species. One recent example, which was part-supported for a time by the UK's Darwin Initiative, includes *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* on Montserrat, an initiative established by the Montserrat National Trust and UK-partner, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. The project promotes partnership working between individuals, organizations, community groups or businesses to maintain specific areas for the benefit of biodiversity for a year at a time. This work both informs local communities about biodiversity importance and empowers them as the best way at present of replacing invasive plants by natives. It has already shown positive signs for biodiversity including both forest ecosystems and wetlands re-created for migratory birds.

A variety of media forms are being used to promote public awareness of the UK OT's unique biodiversity. Independent filmmaker, Stewart McPherson, with the support of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, produced a series of TV programmes (broadcast by BBC4 several times and by other networks worldwide), a series of freely available short videos and a book (S. McPherson, M. Pienkowski, A Robinson, C. Wensink, C. Clubbe, V. Coules & R. Irving. 2016. *Britain's Treasure Islands*. Redfern Natural History Publications. ISBN 978-1908787217 [available at <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/shop>]) to bring the importance of this biodiversity to a wide audience.

Recovering from the Volcano - Montserrat

Biodiversity mainstreaming has also occurred within OT planning

processes. This has been particularly important in Montserrat, where major development is needed to replace elsewhere on this small island the capital which was destroyed in 1997 by volcanic action. The UK Overseas Territories

Conservation Forum and Treweek Environment Consultants, on behalf of the Governments of Montserrat and UK, organised a workshop on Environment Impact Assessment on the island and further consultations. A series of recommendations were provided by technical independent experts.

Relevant websites, web links and files

Barnsley, S., E. Cary, M. Pienkowski, C. Wensink (2016) *Measures of performance by 2016 of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies in implementing the 2001 Environment Charters or their equivalents and moving towards the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Targets*. UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, ISBN 978-1-911097-03-7.

Montserrat Virtual Museum of Natural History

The Montserrat Virtual Museum of Natural History (MVMNH) is a novel scheme to capture information on the island's terrestrial biodiversity collected by researchers and to share it with island residents or wider users through an online database. Ohio State University and Montana State University are working with the Montserrat National Trust and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, with the support of the UK Government's Darwin Initiative to create the MVMNH. The original narrow concept to deliver insect data from an inventory of the Centre Hills funded by the RSPB, Durrell Wildlife Trust and Montana State University's Montana Agriculture Experiment Station was expanded after consultation with the Montserrat community to provide a platform that can serve a broader range of information across all terrestrial biodiversity on the island. The MVMNH has started cataloguing information on thousands of insect specimens. A library of related documents linked to these insect specimens and the species they represent will be developed next, followed by entries for wider biodiversity elements.

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum's Review of performance by 2016 of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies in implementing the 2001 Environment Charters or their equivalents and moving towards the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Targets <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/implementation>.

Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee inquiry reports: *Global Britain and the British Overseas Territories: Resetting the relationship*

Our previous issue (*Forum News* 49: 10-12) reported the launching of an inquiry by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee into *The future of the UK Overseas Territories*, and some of the evidence, including by UKOTCF.

FAC's resulting report *Global Britain and the British Overseas Territories: Resetting the relationship* has now been published. All written submissions and oral evidence taken are now available to view online at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/inquiry13/publications/>.

One of the recommendations relating to UKOTCF's evidence is:

- *The Government must offer clarity on its long-term vision for the funding of the OTs, including replacing any lost EU funding, and continuing and expanding Blue Belt funding after 2020. Towards this end, the Government should explore options for a dedicated development and stimulus fund for*

the OTs, which would allow for the long-term, sustainable development of aid-dependent territories; help to stimulate the economies of those who need a stimulus but do not qualify for official development assistance; and help territories that are otherwise financially self-sufficient respond to crises such as hurricanes. This long-term vision must be based on a clear-eyed assessment of how the UK will balance the needs of individual OTs against value for money for UK taxpayers. There must be scope to ask hard questions about the long-term sustainability and viability of individual OTs without further significant levels of UK capital investment. If the Government does not think significant capital investment is possible, then it must be frank about what it will spend and towards what end.

The full report and recommendations can be found here: https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmfa/1464/146410.htm#_idTextAnchor043.

Workshop on funding environmental conservation in the UKOTs

Taking advantage of the presence in London of many territory representatives, the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) organised a half-day workshop on *Resourcing Sustainable Environments in the UK Overseas Territories* on 3 December in Westminster. The workshop included representatives from the territories, relevant HMG departments, and NGOs.

The objectives of the Workshop were:

To increase the understanding, context and constraints of financing and accessing technical assistance/advice;

To provide a forum for stakeholder discussion of Governmental funds; and

To increase the awareness of the opportunity to facilitate private finance for UKOTs environmental projects

The expected outcomes were:

Greater understanding of the importance of OT environments and

finance available to them;

Clarity on post-Brexit environmental funding; and

Cooperation with NGOs to access environmental funding for UKOTs.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr Colin Clubbe, Head Conservation Science, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and opened by President of UKOTA, Hon. Alden McLaughlin MBE, JP, MLA, Premier of the Cayman Islands.

Hon Prof John Cortés, Minister for Education, Heritage, Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Gibraltar, noted the work of the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers Council, and the importance of the Environment Charters. He pointed out that, in small administrations, initiatives can be moved rapidly, and touched on the environmental event that he is attaching to the island games in July (see page 13).

Ben Merrick, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate, FCO, highlighted the marine Blue Belt programme.

Thea Edwards, Deputy Head, Wildlife, Natural Environment, DEFRA, indicated that her minister (Dr Coffey) would shortly be making an announcement about marine conservation issues in relation to Brexit. She alluded also to the 25-year plan, Blue Belt, and coral reefs. She indicated that, post Brexit, UKOTs would still be eligible for BEST up until the end of 2020, assuming that the Prime Minister's deal is accepted. If not, existing funding grants up to the end of 2020 would be honoured.

Fiona Charlesworth, Darwin Plus, DEFRA, indicated that UK Government has a very open view as to what any BEST replacement would be, and that the replacement would not necessarily just be added into Darwin Plus and could be a different scheme running through a different approach (mentioning the collaborative one of the earlier EFOT).

Hugh Raven, Chair of John Ellerman Foundation, thought that UKOTs should be high on JEF priorities and those of other charities. He indicated also the thought that UKOTs' environments were again raising in profile.

Dr Mike Pienkowski, UKOTCF Chairman, made clear that the change so that UK Government's own agencies now compete for UK Government grants (previously confined largely to UKOTs



Hon. Alden McLaughlin, Premier of the Cayman Islands speaks; other panel members in image (from left): Hon Prof John Cortes Minister for Education, Heritage, Environment, Energy and Climate Change Gibraltar; Ben Merrick, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate, FCO; Thea Edwards, Deputy Head, Wildlife, Natural Environment, DEFRA; Fiona Charlesworth, Darwin Plus, DEFRA. Photo: UKOTA

and NGOs) was squeezing the ability to deploy large numbers of specialist volunteers. He noted also that longer funding, perhaps via an opportunity to build on previous grants, would greatly improve capacity-building exercises, as he could recall no cases of these being completed successfully in 2 or 3 years. This received several supporting comments.

Other speakers included Tara Pelembe, Deputy Director, SAERI; Professor Brendan Godley, Chair in Conservation Science, Centre for Ecology and Conservation, University of Exeter; Jonathan Hall, Head, UKOTs team, RSPB; and Kedell Worboys, Chair UKOTA Environment Working Group.

Workshop in session. Photo: UKOTA



International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) meets in Bermuda

The International National Trust Organisation (INTO) is a network, which aims to “promote the conservation and enhancement of the cultural and natural heritage of all nations for the benefit of the people of the world”.

Every two years, it organises a conference bringing people together to share experiences. In March 2019, it was held in Bermuda, jointly organised with the Bermuda National Trust.

Over 100 delegates attended the conference, from 37 countries. Its title was *Arms Wide Open – Strategies for Engaging with Diverse Communities*. Sessions took place at the Fairmont Southampton Resort, the National Museum of Bermuda, the Royal Naval Dockyard and St George’s World Heritage Centre.

The impressive list of speakers included:

- Her Royal Highness Princess Dana Firas of Jordan, the President of the Petra National Trust
- Dame Fiona Reynolds, President of the International National Trusts Organisation and former Director General of The National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- British curator, historian and filmmaker, Gus Casely-Hayford, Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art

in Washington DC

- David Bond, award-winning director, producer and writer of documentary, commercial and short film projects and director of *Project Wild Thing*, a film about connecting children with nature (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JuT43kaoUg>)
- John Orna-Ornstein, Director of Culture and Engagement for the National Trust of England Wales and Northern Ireland – the world’s largest National Trust.
- David J. Brown, Executive Vice President and Chief Preservation Officer with the National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Author and environmental advocate, Marquette Goodwine, known as Queen Quet after being elected Chieftess and Head-of-State for the Gullah/Geechee Nation.
- Gail Lord, president and co-founder of Lord Cultural Resources, formed in 1981 to address a need for planning services in the museum, cultural and heritage sector.

For the full programme see: https://www.bnt.bm/images/kallyas_images/Arms%20Wide%20Open%20Programme.pdf



From left: Governor H.E. John Rankin; Minister of Education, Hon. Diallo Rabain, JP; and Dame Fiona Reynolds at the opening ceremony. Photo: BERNEWS

Botanicals and BVI

Dr Colin Clubbe, of Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, speaks at the London launch of BVI Gin. This new initiative is part of the regeneration of BVI, following the severe hurricanes of September 2017, which devastated the Islands. Gin is famous for its “botanicals” – various herbs (often secret) which give individual gins their unique flavours. This first gin is traditional but who knows what further developments might result with local plants. At the time of writing, the gin is not yet available in UK.



UKOTs at IUCN

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an international organisation working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It was founded in 1948, and consists of both governmental and non-governmental bodies. Many nations have a national committee, bringing together the IUCN member organisations in that nation. The UK Committee (IUCN-NCUK) was one of the pioneers of this approach, and includes members in the UKOTs and CDs. For well over a decade, UKOTCF has sat on the Executive Committee of IUCN-NCUK, to provide a link to UKOT and CD bodies, most of which are not IUCN member organisations.



The Executive Committee of IUCN-NCUK meets in December 2018, in an unusually elevated location, overlooking London: the lawyers of one of the member organisations kindly made their offices available for the meeting.

IUCN-NCUK's AGM was held on 17 May 2019 at the David Attenborough Building in Cambridge, UK. The meeting welcomed the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands and the Turks & Caicos Reef Fund as new IUCN members, the first ones in BVI and TCI.



IUCN-NCUK's AGM at the David Attenborough Building in Cambridge. Photo: Dr Mike Pienkowski

Forthcoming meetings

Blue Islands Environmental Conference

Gibraltar will be hosting the Island Games 6-12 July 2019. This sporting event, held every two years, brings together islands (and near-islands, like Gibraltar), whether these be nations, territories districts or whatever.

Gibraltar's Minister for Education, Heritage, Environment, Energy & Climate Change, Prof. John Cortés is taking advantage of the administrations of these islands to organise a 1-day conference on 4th July, the first *Blue Islands Environmental Conference*. As well as the governments of the islands represented in the Games, all UKOT and CD governments have been invited too.

The conference aims to bring together islands from across the world in order to create an effective working partnership with the

end goal of protecting and enhancing both our terrestrial and, in particular, marine environments.

At the conference, participants will be invited to sign the *Blue Islands Environmental Charter* which proposes that all Islands commit to the following principles:

- To control and reduce the environmental impacts of the island's activities on the environment
- To control the risks and impacts associated with activities on the Island
- To promote a rationale of continuous improvement
- To factor the environment into every day practices
- To move towards a complete ban on single-use plastic entering the Island and its local environments
- To increase self-knowledge in order to improve and communicate
- To contribute to the development of scientific knowledge with regards to the unique local Island Marine Environments
- To support other Islands through open communication and education
- To protect native, terrestrial and marine, species and enhance biodiversity
- To enhance terrestrial and marine natural environments

These principles are a working draft to be finalised during the conference with the aim of creating an effective working partnership for all Islands involved.

To take advantage of the presence of a good proportion of UKOTs/CDs at this conference, a short meeting will be held on the morning of 5th July, just for governments of UKOTs and CDs. This will not hold substantive discussions, but will provide an opportunity to discuss the location, timing and agenda for the next meeting of the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers Council. At the request of the Minister, UKOTCF is helping Gibraltar colleagues to organise this, and has made sure that the governments of all inhabited UKOTs and CDs are aware and invited. Investigation is in progress as to the practicability of organising Skype facilities for those UKOT/CD governments unable to attend in person.

BirdsCaribbean conference in Guadeloupe

BirdsCaribbean and the Parc National de la Guadeloupe invite you to join them for the 22nd BirdsCaribbean International Conference, to be held from 25 to 29 July 2019 on the beautiful Leeward Island of Guadeloupe.

Details of the conference are being added as they are organised at: <https://sites.google.com/site/birdscaribbeanconference2019/home>.
Brown Trembler. Photo: Anthony Levesque



Sark leads the way in crawfish conservation

The Channel Island of Sark has become the first place in the British Isles to protect crawfish fully.



The island's Sea Fisheries Authority consulted with local fishermen after a survey was carried out by Sark-based underwater film-maker Sue Daly in summer 2018. The survey showed that, although this highly valuable commercial was fished almost to local extinction in the 1960s and 1970s, crawfish are making a return. "Since I started diving around the Channel Islands in 1988," Sue explains, "I've hardly seen any crawfish, maybe one or two adults a year and some years none at all, although they used to be plentiful. But, in 2014, I began seeing juvenile crawfish on the reefs around Sark for the first time. Since then, I've seen more and larger crawfish – but was concerned that, without protection, these wonderful creatures would simply be fished out again."

The return of crawfish has also been reported around the other Channel Islands and the south-west coast of England, and has been recorded by the Marine Conservation Society. After discussions with local fishermen, the Sark's Sea Fisheries Committee proposed to protect crawfish within the island's three-mile territorial limit. The proposal was supported by the island's government, Chief Pleas, in January, and the amendment to Sark's fishing law was enacted this spring.

Chairman Helen Plummer said, "We're hoping that crawfish stocks will continue to increase and perhaps, in time, we'll be able to allow a limited amount of fishing for them. For now, though, they are protected for the next three years."

Sue Daly is delighted by the move. "It's wonderful to dive around Sark this summer and see the crawfish knowing that they are safe. We're a small place, so we can get some things done quickly but it would be great to see the other Channel Islands and the UK protecting this species before it's too late. So often conservation lags behind extraction when it comes to marine life."

Marine Protected Area Specialist, Dr Jean-Luc Solandt, from the Marine Conservation Society, says, "It's fantastic and exciting that the marine environment can recover in ways we can't imagine, or really understand. This is why MPAs and marine management is so very important – if we were to close areas to some activities, the results may not be apparent today, but may be in years – and even decades – to come. Well done to Sark, and her fishermen."

Crawfish *Palinurus elephas*, also known as the European spiny lobster, is a large and highly valuable commercially fished crustacean. It is native to the south and west coasts of the British Isles, south to the Azores, the western Mediterranean, Adriatic and Aegean Seas. (Crawfish are not to be confused with crayfish, which are freshwater crustaceans.)

A film by Sue about the return of the Crawfish can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/234074069>. Sue Daly is a diver, writer and natural history photographer and film-maker based on Sark.

Sue Daly (suedaysark@icloud.com +44 1481 832175); Sark Sea Fisheries (agr.env.sea.pilotage@gov.sark.gg); Marine Conservation Society (https://www.mcsuk.org/news/crayfish_sark).

Wrasse in Sark (and elsewhere) need protection

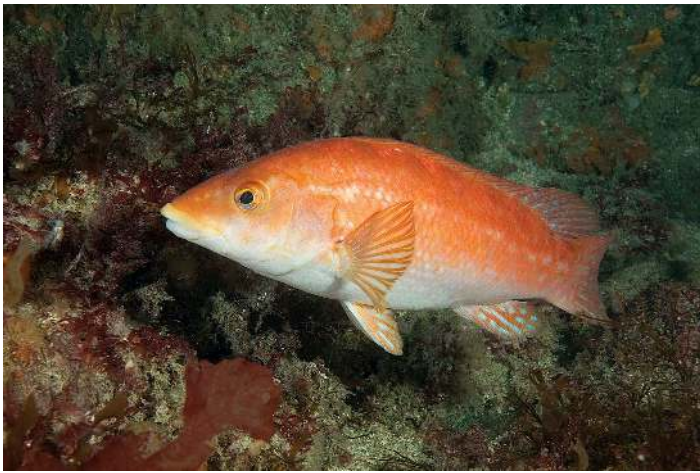
For most of our wildlife spring is the busiest time of year, and that goes for life beneath the waves too as underwater photographer Sue Daly explains.

There are some fish that I see every time I venture underwater around Sark, whether I take a shallow dive around one of the harbour walls or a deeper visit to one of our offshore reefs, and these are wrasse. They are very much like our most common garden birds; blue tits, robins and thrushes for example – always there so easily taken for granted but when you really look at them you realise just how lovely they are.

There are six species of wrasse living in the waters around Sark and, like many birds, the males are more colourful than the females. The most eye-catching are the cuckoo wrasse with their vivid colourings but, while the other species are less conspicuous, they are just as beautiful and lead fascinating lives. Ballan wrasse are the largest, growing up to 60cm long, while the rock cook and goldsinny wrasse are just finger length. Corkwing wrasse and



Male corkwing wrasse. All photos in this and previous article: Sue Daly



Above: ballan wrasse. Below: rock cook wrasses cleaning cuckoo wrasse.



Baillon's wrasse are a little larger and share an intriguing breeding ritual whereby the male builds a nest to attract a mate. Both species use seaweed for their constructions, swimming endlessly backwards and forwards searching for just the right pieces of crinkly red weed to create their nests. Corkwing males generally build theirs in a crevice while the Baillon's wrasse assembles a dome-shaped mound out in the open, decorating the finished nest with a delicate sprinkle of shingle.

Once the nests are complete the males posture nearby to attract a female who, if suitably impressed, will lay her eggs that the male will immediately fertilise, then guard until they hatch. In a further intriguing twist of nature, some males have evolved to avoid all the effort of nest-building completely. Called 'sneaker males,' they take on female colouring, follow 'real' females into a nest and fertilise her eggs, leaving the cuckolded nest-builder to guard another male's offspring.

While not all species of wrasse build nests, there's another natural characteristic that many wrasse share: the ability to clean other fish. Certain parts of the seabed appear to be 'cleaning stations' where fish come to have their lice and other parasites removed. But this natural ability to keep other fish healthy has caused wrasse populations in some parts of the British Isles to be devastated. Fisherman catch them live, to sell as cleaner fish to salmon-farms in Scotland where parasites are a problem due to so many fish kept in un-naturally small spaces. Young ballan wrasse and the smaller wrasse species have particularly been targeted for this fishery that began in Scotland and in recent years has moved to the south coast of England as stocks further north have been depleted. The live wrasse are transported by road, with a mortality rate reported to be over 50%. Once they arrive at the fish-farm, those that survived the journey have a life expectancy of just a few months, at most, once they are released into the salmon-pens.

Apart from the questionable morality of treating live fish in this

way (there would be a public outcry if they were birds or furry animals), there is very little research into the impacts of removing large numbers of these territorial fish from their natural habitats, and what happens to our wild fish when their cleaners are taken away?

This may not be a problem at the moment in the waters around Sark, but last summer a fisherman did try to establish a live wrasse fishery here. Without the proper licences in place, the venture ceased within a couple of weeks of starting – but I think it highlights the need to add our beautiful wrasse species to the list of other fish that are not allowed to be removed live from Sark's waters. After all, what would your garden be like without its blue-tits, robins and thrushes?

Postscript: In May 2019, the Channel Island of Sark became the first place in the UK to ban the controversial wrasse fishery supplying live wrasse to the Scottish salmon farming industry, where they are used as cleaner fish removing sea lice from farmed salmon. The Angling Trust has been calling for a UK-wide ban on the live wrasse fishery since it established itself along the south coast of England in 2016.

St Helena conference

The second St Helena environmental conference took place between 11 and 14 March 2019, organised by the South Atlantic Research Institute (SAERI). The conference was attended by 120 people and included talks on a range of topics about the island's nature and its benefit to the community. It was broadcast live on local radio and online, with around 600 listeners. It aimed to bring together participants from across all UKOTs in the South Atlantic as part of the *Natural Capital Assessment Project*. The project was led by the UK Government's Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), in collaboration with SAERI, and was funded by the UK Government's Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF). This £20 million funding (2016-2020), administered by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has also supported the *Blue Belt Programme*, jointly coordinated by UK Government agencies, Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the Centre for Ecology, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), and the invasive species horizon scanning work coordinated by the GB Non-Native Secretariat (GBNNS).



Conference in session. Photo: St Helena Government

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