

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

Workshop on UK objectives for biodiversity conservation in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, held on Tuesday 28th June 2011, at the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London

The following participated in person, and comments from others were incorporated where appropriate:

Eric Blencowe (DEFRA)

Liz Charter (Principal Biodiversity Officer, Isle of Man Government, and Chairman of UKOTCF Europe Territories Working Group)

Oliver Cheesman (UKOTCF)

John Cortes (Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society, and UKOTCF Council) by Skype

Alison Debney (Zoological Society of London),

Bruce Dinwiddy (Chairman of UKOTCF Wider Caribbean Working Group)

Annie Glasspool (Bermuda National Trust) by Skype

Ann Pienkowski (Secretary of UKOTCF Wider Caribbean Working Group, and UKOTCF Environmental Education Co-ordinator)

Mike Pienkowski (UKOTCF Honorary Executive Director)

Paul Rose (Director Evidence & Advice, JNCC)

Kedel Warboys (St Helena Government UK representative, and UKOTA)

Catherine Wensink (UKOTCF Co-ordinator) by Skype

Apologies were received from several other UKOTCF Council members:

Chris Tydeman (UKOTCF) was to have chaired the workshop but had been called away at short notice on advisory work for the European Commission (like almost all UKOTCF officers, Chris works on a voluntary basis for UKOTCF, and occasionally urgent work for the paid job has to take priority);

Karen Varnham, who was on maternity leave;

Bill Samuel and Iain Orr, both of whom had to be moving house that day.

Introduction

On behalf of Chris Tydeman, Mike Pienkowski outlined the purpose of the workshop. At UKOTCF's seminar in September 2010 on UK Government's *UKOTs Biodiversity Strategy* (2009), it became clear that, whilst the latter document was an agreement between three UK Government Departments, it did not include the elements one would normally expect of a strategy. At that meeting, and later in discussion with Government officials, UKOTCF offered help in developing some elements necessary to produce a more complete strategy. UKOTCF therefore convened this half-day workshop to make a start on ideas about objectives for a strategy.

Mike stressed that this was not intended to replace the UK Government document which agreed the share of roles between UK government departments, but to be complementary to it. In addition, it was not intended that any draft objectives developed be prescriptive for UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. Rather, they were intended to draw on previous views from UKOTs/CDs and elsewhere, to try to identify shared features. These could then be used to guide supporting work by UK Government and other outside bodies. Without clear objectives, it would be difficult for these to resource, plan and execute their efforts to support the territories. The draft objectives might be useful also for UKOTs and CDs in any revisions of their own strategies.

The workshop agenda consisted of a few introductory presentations, to be followed by a general discussion. The presentations would start with a review by UKOTCF, followed by views from UK Government by its agency, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). Views would then be expressed from a primarily governmental viewpoint in a Crown Dependency and a primarily non-governmental viewpoint in a UK Overseas Territory. After each presentation, there would also be the opportunity for clarifying questions and answers.

Some ideas for objectives derived from international agreements, Environment Charters, strategies for their implementation, assessments of progress by territories, discussions at UKOTCF-organised conferences for territories etc. (Mike Pienkowski, UKOTCF)

Mike Pienkowski explained that UKOTCF had wished to find a structure for discussion which made the most of existing work, and incorporated new ideas, without re-inventing the wheel and duplicating effort. A summary matrix had been tabled before the meeting. A revision of this, incorporating comments made during the meeting and detailed comments supplied later by participants, is at *Appendix 1*. To aid the discussion, Mike projected a subset of this table on to a screen.

He explained the columns of the tabulation. In considering how best to structure the table, UKOTCF noted that, at the recent Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at Nagoya, Japan, in late 2010, the parties – including UK Government – had adopted the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It seemed appropriate to make use of such a recent and relevant list to which UK Government is committed.

Workers in several UKOTs had repeatedly made clear the importance and value they still attach to the Commitments of the Environment Charters. Much work in progress and many plans are linked to these, and it is essential to keep these active. Accordingly, UKOT Government Commitments are listed in the second column, re-ordered to link as closely as possible to the first column. In some cases, there is not a one-to-one link, so that some cross-references are included, to avoid too much repetition within the column.

The third column links in UK Government's Commitments under the Environment Charters, in the same way. It is important to note that the wording of these is less operational than the Commitments of the UKOT Governments. This gives difficulty in monitoring performance, and is also more difficult to relate to the other columns. However, this is done where possible.

The fourth column notes a few of the many points coming out of the periodic reviews of progress in implementing the commitments of the Environment Charters, as well as comments from the UKOTCF-organised conferences and other assessments from the Territories.

The fifth column picks up the relevant points of the 2009 UK Government inter-departmental agreement published as their "Strategy".

The final column tries to draw on the preceding columns to develop some preliminary ideas for objectives or targets for UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, at least to help those organisations trying to support the conservation bodies in UKOTs and CDs.

The lower rows of the tabulation relate to those items in other source documents which do not match Aichi Targets. Some of these relate to signing up to conventions and fulfilling their commitments – which is why the Aichi Targets do not address these, as the Targets address elements after sign-up.

Mike re-iterated that UKOTCF wanted to help develop some draft targets which were not totally new, but which relate to what is already there, as the table shows. At the presentation stage, some elements of the table did not have anything drafted for them in the final column (but this has been largely addressed in Appendix 1 as a result of discussions in the workshop, and the comments supplied by participants in the following three weeks).

Questions and answers for clarification

Eric Blencowe asked about the eventual purpose of document, and why select the Aichi Targets as a structuring input.

Mike Pienkowski noted that the principal purpose of the exercise is to fill the gap of clearly expressed substantive objectives, without which it is difficult to implement and monitor a strategy. That is why it is

normal to start building a strategy by working on objectives. In the present case, several territories have objectives, but UK Government's "strategy" document does not have direct conservation objectives. UK Government had started from a different point, which would give difficulties in some respects, as agreed at the seminar the previous year. Whether or not UK Government made use of this complementary work was up to it. However, there were advantages in partner organisations working on common issues having the same or similar objectives, where possible. UKOTCF wished its strategy to be informed by the needs and priority objectives of the Territories, especially in relation to cross-territory work. It was possible also that individual Territories would find a set of objectives relating to the Territories together a useful source for refreshing their own strategies. The exercise should at least assist the exploration of co-operation in discussions. The Aichi Targets were used to help provide structure as these were the most recent relevant targets to which UK Government had chosen to commit itself, and UKOTCF likes to take Government's well considered commitments fully into account.

Eric Blencowe noted that only 3 UKOTs were currently included in UK's ratification to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), possibly to be joined shortly by 2 Crown Dependencies.

Mike Pienkowski noted that he thought that the numbers were actually 4 or 6 (depending how one counted separate administrations) UKOTs and 1 CD already included in the ratification, with at least one CD in the process of joining. He noted, however, that this did not prevent the Aichi Targets (which had been designed to address other Multilateral Environmental Agreements as well as CBD) being a useful tool. In addition, under CBD, UK Government is required to take account of its footprint overseas. (In this context, UKOTCF's 1998 review of CBD implementation in the UKOTs *Overlooking Britain's greatest biodiversity* (www.ukotcf.org/pdf/cdbweb.pdf) addressed all UKOTs, and was welcomed by UK Government as a valuable agenda for action.)

Eric Blencowe commented that the Aichi Targets are a very heavy sledgehammer with which to address this issue. He noted that England's strategic plan in this regard was meant to be a flexible framework to enable people to cater for their own needs, and that not all targets would be taken literally. He thought that the approach might be taken of looking at strategies already developed.

Mike Pienkowski agreed that learning from existing approaches was indeed being adopted. However, he suggested that the workshop might like to return to this issue in the general discussion.

Ideas from HMG on extending the UK Government's inter-departmental agreement ("Strategy") to develop overall conservation objectives that this can support (Paul Rose, Director Evidence & Advice, JNCC)

Paul Rose noted that he would modify his planned presentation to pick up the discussion following the previous presentation, and try to join up a few threads to help discussion later.

Paul indicated JNCC's role, and how it sees the purpose of the 2009 "Strategy" document. To put this in context, the document gives an overall objective "to enable UK and Overseas Territory Governments to meet their international obligations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Overseas Territories". JNCC aims to be very responsive and leaves the active role to UKOT governments. JNCC stops short of setting traditional conservation objectives. JNCC considers that that is the role of UKOT governments and of NGOs. Consequently, Paul likes the fact that the UK Governmental strategy stops short of objectives. Paul reported that JNCC is not developing further targets and objectives – but is developing work programmes to help UKOT governments to meet their objectives.

JNCC is developing a marine framework for capacity building, with a focus at present on the Caribbean and the Falkland Islands.

The 2009 "Strategy" is clear about how three UK government departments will work together. Paul noted that there were currently 41 projects, with total funding contribution of £3.25m from OTEP, JNCC and DEFRA.

Paul identified remarkable similarities between the way UK Government was taking forward Nagoya commitments in metropolitan UK and the approach outlined in the UKOTCF document and presentation.

JNCC is currently working with the devolved administrations in metropolitan UK (England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland) on biodiversity strategies – mapping country activities and strategies to Aichi and to the European Union biodiversity strategy.

Paul considered that including Aichi Targets in the UKOTCF document presented by Mike Pienkowski would be good for helping identify areas of shared expertise and a generally joined-up approach.

Paul explained that JNCC stopped short of setting objectives and targets, because otherwise it would overstep JNCC's current remit. Recent changes in UK Government policy and spending constraints had refined remits and roles, such that JNCC will not be setting targets and conservation strategies.

Nevertheless, a lot of areas in which JNCC is working with UKOTs fit in with what is set down in the UKOTCF draft.

With regard to conservation objectives, JNCC would expect NGOs and research communities to identify potential conservation objectives for UKOTs, and Paul saw no harm in exploring partnerships around common areas.

A view from a Crown Dependency (Liz Charter, Principal Biodiversity Officer, Isle of Man Government)

Liz Charter's *Powerpoint* presentation is at **Appendix 2**.

Some of the main points made were:

The 2009 document from UK Government made no mention of Crown Dependencies, and did not involve the Ministry of Justice, which takes the lead on Crown Dependency matters (as the Foreign & Commonwealth Office does for UKOTs). Liz noted that strategies will be required which include Crown Dependencies and asked how UK Government envisages working with Crown Dependencies.

Liz noted that the Isle of Man Government had, in early 2011, formally requested UK Government to add the Isle of Man to UK's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Crown Dependencies had many similarities with UKOTs. She noted the main difference of Crown Dependencies from UKOTs as fewer endemics, more affluent communities than most UKOTs, fewer sources of external funding (e.g. no access to European Union funds), easier access to practical support, and potentially greater development pressures than some UKOTs.

The Isle of Man held internationally and regionally significant wildlife, both terrestrially and marine – basking sharks being a notable feature of the latter.

In 2000, a biodiversity team was established within the Manx Government. The Powerpoint includes a brief report on the substantial progress since then.

CBD-related work planned includes:

- Manx Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan based on Aichi goals
- Next habitat survey (20 years since last done)
- 2nd Marine Nature Reserve
- Agri-environment Scheme revision
- Biodiversity in next Government's strategic plan (after General Election in September)
- A voluntary Environmental Charter

Liz addressed finally the matter of support needed from UK Government. Because the Isle of Man values connections with UKOTs, these included:

- The need for greater co-ordination/co-operation with other small jurisdictions
- Need to have opportunities to share experience – the UKOTCF conferences achieved this and we encourage UK Government to reinstate its support for them.

Other needs include:

- Access to greater sources of funding for larger projects (such as clearing the Calf of Man of rats to conserve Manx shearwaters)
- Technical support: a restitution of UK Government funding to UKOTCF would help this, as would a widening of the JNCC to support, and co-operate with NGOs.

Liz noted that the Isle of Man team is working on a biodiversity strategy based on Aichi goals, and asked what DEFRA and JNCC believe is the place of Crown Dependencies in their biodiversity picture?

Questions and answers for clarification

Paul Rose indicated that all is changing in metropolitan UK. In respect of how UK governmental bodies can extend their approach to CDs, he wondered whether the upcoming meeting of British-Irish Council might be a good means for that. Also, noting that habitat survey is expensive, JNCC is looking at using remote sensing, supported by on-the-ground survey. UK contributes to the EU space agency, so that access to remote sensing is free, and he saw little difficulty in extending coverage to the Isle of Man.

Liz Charter indicated that she would follow up with Paul outside the meeting the matter of encouraging action by UK Government on adding the Isle of Man to UK's CBD ratification.

A view from a UK Overseas Territory: The Bermuda National Trust's Perspective (Annie F Glasspool)

Annie Glasspool's *Powerpoint* presentation is at **Appendix 3**. Some of the points she made were as follows.

She thanked UKOTCF for giving Bermuda a direct voice as one of the introductory presentations. She noted that her presentation was on behalf of the Bermuda National Trust, but BNT had consulted unofficially with two representatives from Bermuda Government. Individuals were wearing several hats. Bermuda Government colleagues have responsibility for delivering international commitments, but there are close working connections with NGOs.

Annie welcomed the project support from UK Government over the years, and reported that Bermuda had been well served by UKOTCF and its member organisations. Bermuda has a wealth of local expertise and an active Biodiversity Action Plan. Bermuda is better financially placed than many UKOTs, but conservation work is more expensive there.

In considering constructive input into this strategy session, BNT had had the following comments on the UK Government's listed strategic priorities:

- Many Territories have developed their own prioritised biodiversity action plans and, coupled with the Environment Charter, we would hope that the UK Government would give due consideration to these.
- The 'one shoe fits all' approach does not always work.
- In Bermuda (and we suspect in many other UKOTs), it is felt that the greatest threat to biodiversity conservation and our ability to meet all the international environmental obligations to which we are a party, is habitat destruction – yet this does not appear to be among the UK's priorities despite being mentioned elsewhere in the document.

The UK Government's 2009 "Strategy" document infers two main objectives, which make good sense given that the UK Government has devolved primary responsibility to the UKOTs themselves for environmental management:

- A. Provide financial support to address the listed priorities, facilitate access to other sources of funding and help build capacity within the Territories.
- B. Improve the flow of information and advice with and between the Overseas Territories, and support engagement with regional and international initiatives.

The value of the Environment Charters

Annie noted:

Reference is made in the UK “Strategy” document to the Environment Charters, and these contain guiding principles and commitments. This suggests that the UK Government fully endorses the Charters as a joint instrument for biodiversity conservation, and we fully support this. Although a sorely underutilised instrument, the Charters still have huge merit and relevance as binding contracts between the UK and the UKOTs. Every effort should be made to promote them, both as tools for accountability of the respective governments, and as the framework for a more detailed strategy inclusive of specific activities. The issues remain largely unchanged from when the Charter was first drawn up; the only obvious omission is explicit reference to the impacts of climate change. Starting again from scratch makes no sense when we already have this Charter.

If we consider “***Objective*”A: Provide financial support to address the listed priorities, facilitate access to other sources of funding and help build capacity within the Territories:**

Relevant ‘actions’ already listed in the Environment Charter are:

- i) Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management, which is consistent with the UKOT’s own plans for sustainable development.
- ii) Use the existing ‘Environment Fund for the Overseas Territories’, and promote access to other sources of public funding for projects of lasting benefit to the UKOT’s environment.
- iii) Help UKOT identify further funding partners for environmental projects such as donors, the private sector or non-governmental organisations.
- iv) Help the UKOT to ensure that it has the legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations.

Relevant ‘actions’ proposed in the UK “Strategy” are:

- v) Provide project funds for biodiversity conservation and wider environmental management, within the resource limits of each department, aiming to increase the amount of money available to at least £2 million pa. This will be achieved by:
 - a) maintaining OTEP (which funds some biodiversity projects and some wider environmental projects with a budget of at least £1 million pa);
 - b) ear-marking up to £1.5 million for biodiversity projects in the Overseas Territories in the current Round of the Darwin Initiative, including the creation of a new Overseas Territories Challenge Fund within the Darwin Initiative to prepare for main projects.
- vi) In the longer term, consider establishing a new UK Government funding stream that would support a wide range of environmental activities (including biodiversity projects) within the Overseas Territories, and would subsume OTEP and the Overseas Territory elements of the Darwin Initiative. (This insertion about funding to cover a wide range of environmental activities concerns us.)
- vii) In addition, explore possibilities for helping the Overseas Territories access the large international funds on biodiversity, climate change and natural heritage.
- viii) Continue to help Overseas Territories to participate in the full range of available funding sources, especially those that have the potential to support major biodiversity projects by maintaining an up-to-date database of funding mechanisms, providing guidance/training, and supporting the preparation of funding applications by bodies in the Overseas Territories.
- ix) Champion, within Whitehall and more widely, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Territories. (We feel this is extremely important and we would like to see it coupled with more visits to the UKOTs as these raise the environmental profile within the UKOT and have the

ability to engage the entire UKOT government. Without such ‘oversight’ the international agreements mean very little to the UKOT governments and they have little reason to be accountable to them).

We believe that the UK Government could provide further support under this objective as follows:

- x) Open up grants from (and, if appropriate, sale of) UK Lottery tickets to the UKOTs.
- xi) Produce wildlife documentaries promoting the biodiversity in the UKOTs, and the UKOTs as visitor destinations for sustainable wildlife tourism. (So many UKOTs are dependent on tourism and, if this continues to decline, the environment is really threatened).

If we consider **“Objective” B: Improve the flow of information and advice with and between the Overseas Territories, and support engagement with regional and international initiatives:**

Relevant ‘actions’ already listed in the Environment Charter are:

- i) Assist UKOT in reviewing and updating environmental legislation.
- ii) Facilitate the extension of the UK’s ratification of Multilateral Environmental Agreements of benefit to the UKOT and which the UKOT has the capacity to implement. (Bermuda is not yet included in UK’s ratification of CBD. We understand that this is due to legislative gaps. Advice from UK Government on how to re-work environmental legislation would be valuable in overcoming this stumbling block.)
- iii) Keep the UKOT informed regarding new developments in relevant MEAs, and invite the UKOT to participate, where appropriate, in the UK’s delegations to international environmental negotiations and conferences.
- iv) Promote better co-operation and the sharing of experience and expertise between Bermuda, other UKOTs and small island states and communities which face similar environmental problems.

Relevant ‘actions’ already listed in Environment Charter:

- v) 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 and networks.
(Whilst the UK has expertise in many areas, for which we are extremely grateful, it is felt that many UKOTs have significant expertise that is currently under-utilised by the UK. It was noted that engaging local experts would, in turn, serve to further build capacity through broadened experience, as well as promote sustainability in the islands through work opportunities. This is not an insignificant issue, as with narrow economic foundations, most of the UKOTs are highly vulnerable economically, and the first thing to fall through the cracks in a struggling economy is the environment.)

Relevant ‘actions’ proposed in UK Strategy:

- vi) Promote the sharing of information and experience between the UK Overseas Territories and with other relevant bodies, and facilitating access to expertise that is not available in the Territories themselves;
- vii) Encourage UK Overseas Territory governments to develop and participate in cross-territory and regional initiatives;
- viii) Enable UK Overseas Territory governments to input effectively to Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other global initiatives by establishing a network of contact points, providing early warning of key issues, and giving timely feedback. In particular, UK Overseas Territories will be consulted on the development of UK/EU positions and efforts will be made to minimise reporting requirements;
- ix) Help the UK Overseas Territories to take full advantage of EU initiatives and funding opportunities, such as BEST, through liaison with the European Commission and other EU institutions. (It is noted that Bermuda is excluded from certain EU opportunities, largely because

it chose not to be listed amongst the EU Overseas Countries & Territories (OCTs); there is a need to work on this internally.)

We believe that the UK Government could provide further support under this objective as follows:

- x) Re-establish biannual meetings between UKOTCF and the UK Government.
- xi) Facilitate a collective strategy for UKOTs to pool people and resources above, but inclusive of resources. Summaries of all OTEP bids (including unsuccessful ones) should be shared amongst the UKOTs as these may well highlight shared interests and opportunities for collaboration and financing, independent of OTEP.
- xii) Ensure a two-way reporting structure, such that UKOTs understand how the information they report back is used. It was also noted that the reporting effort required of the UKOTs is onerous and diverts resources from much needed conservation action; therefore a vehicle for funding this reporting would be extremely helpful.
- xiii) Maintain an annually updated database of environmental organisations and individuals working in UKOTs to be shared amongst the UKOTs.

Finally, with regard to improving the information flow, we are very concerned to note in the UK Strategy that, whilst in the preamble it refers to the importance of collaboration between partners across sectors, in the appendices under the Commitments of the Environment Charter, there is a significant omission from the officially signed version. Under the UK Commitment to “Use UK, regional and local expertise, to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues”, the following sentence has been omitted: “This includes regular consultation with interested non-governmental organisations and networks”.

We find this omission to be alarming, given the responsibility placed on the shoulders of the local NGOs to support biodiversity conservation and Bermuda’s commitments to international obligations and the support received from our international NGO partners. A key example of this is the fact that Bermuda’s primary instrument for biodiversity conservation is its Biodiversity Action Plan, which was initiated and directed through a local NGO, the Bermuda Zoological Society, in collaboration with an international NGO, Fauna and Flora International, in partnership with the Bermuda Government, which now oversees its implementation. Failure on the part of the UK Government to recognise the necessity of including the NGOs would seriously undermine effective biodiversity conservation in its UKOTs.

Questions and answers for clarification

Eric Blencowe thanked Annie and Liz for their presentations, which he found very helpful. He noted that the UK Government Overseas Territories biodiversity strategy did not include Crown Dependencies. This had been on officials’ minds. The document applies directly to UKOTs, but could be used for CDs if they so wish. He noted that the Isle of Man is waiting for a response from the Ministry of Justice re its adding to UK’s ratification of CBD.

Re Annie’s last point, the Annex to the 2009 UK Government strategy document had been meant to be a copy of the original Environment Charter Commitments. Eric was not sure why it is not, but stressed that the original Charter documents are the definitive ones; any change was an error. UK Government does see NGO involvement as vital, and this is particularly the case in the current administration.

With regard to biannual meetings between UKOTCF and Government, DEFRA was now in the lead and would be happy to engage (even if this was not now so practicable with FCO and DFID). In separate arrangements, DEFRA has invited UKOTCF to a meeting of UK Government’s biodiversity group, and would also be happy to meet as and when useful.

On unsuccessful OTEP bids, there may be some sensitivity re providing information on unsuccessful bids; possibly feedback can be provided to help with this.

On funding wider environmental matters, this was highly unlikely to happen. There are potential dangers in combining funds across departments or gathering them in a single one. That is why DEFRA retains separate Flagship Species fund, the Darwin Initiative, and UKOT-specific aspects of the Darwin Initiative.

With regard to Lottery funding, Eric indicated total agreement. In addition to the continuing efforts of UKOTCF, DEFRA had spoken with DCMS. He thought that FCO might also have made some headway with this. He considered it completely illogical that UKOTs are not currently eligible.

Eric noted that he does his best to promote UKOTs to documentary makers, and UK Government had sponsored work on UKOTs by ARKive.

Eric considered that comparisons with the Environment Charters had difficulties in turning in regard to measurement. Also, these are environment charters, not biodiversity charters, so that having a biodiversity strategy is important.

With regard to more visits to UKOTs, Eric recalled the difficulty in getting Minister Huw Irranca-Davies to the Cayman conference, even before the credit crunch.

Structured discussion to develop draft objectives

Mike Pienkowski briefly recalled some of the main points from the various presentations and discussions. Amongst other points, he welcomed the Isle of Man's wish to be included in CBD, and hoped that UK Government would be able to speed up activation of this. He welcomed also the Isle of Man's call on UK Government to reinstate its support for UKOTCF-organised conferences, to continue to meet the need to have opportunities to share experience to conservation benefit. He noted that UKOTCF and its member organisations fully supported Bermuda's stress on the continuing importance of the Environment Charters (which, despite their name, were relevant throughout to biodiversity conservation) and their hope that UK Government will re-instate its own interest in these. On biannual joint meetings between UKOTCF and UK Government, Mike welcomed Eric Blencowe's willingness to re-instate these and undertook that UKOTCF would explore this with DEFRA. Mike recalled also a mention of a contacts database; he noted that parts of UKOTCF's web-site already had elements of this, and he would explore whether these could address this need.

Mike thanked Paul Rose for clarifying the constraints on JNCC in regard of current resourcing and policy, and the impracticability of their taking a lead on the setting of biodiversity objectives. He welcomed Paul's recognition of the value of using the Aichi Targets as a type of common currency, and noted that the Isle of Man was already doing so with partners around the Irish Sea. He welcomed the general agreement that common or overlapping objectives were essential for UKOTCF and other NGOs (and most funding bodies) if these were to be able to continue to give effective support to their UKOT & CD partners, and many of these partners had indicated the value of commonality in objectives.

He stressed that UKOTCF was not attempting to impose a structure. Rather it was attempting to suggest how existing structures might be used and developed to best effect. This was the purpose of the present workshop. After the meeting, the intention was to make amendments, captured from the other presentations and discussions, and circulate a revision to stimulate further discussion.

He invited Kedell Warboys to give thoughts from other UKOTs, bearing in mind that many were even less well resourced than those presenting.

Kedell Warboys supported the comment that it is important not to adopt a one-size-fits-all approach, as all UKOTs are different. She made some detailed comments on the draft document, which Mike Pienkowski undertook to address. She noted that UKOT governments do not like to see things which appear like attempts to impose on them, and that it was important to adjust the wording if, in any places, these were inadvertently implied. Kedell noted also that there is a resource constraint in many UKOTs, including her own of St Helena. Therefore, failure to deliver is likely to be due to lack of capacity, and not necessarily lack of interest. In this context, Kedell supported the wider circulation of the table, especially as a discussion

document to which people feel they can contribute. This can help focus minds; it is much more helpful to give Territories something to think about, rather than a clean sheet. It is important that we all work together (NGOs, governments, etc.) to identify common aims and goals.

The situation for fisheries was discussed by Kedell Warboys, Alison Debney and Mike Pienkowski. It was noted: that fishing is part of livelihood for many territories; that, in most places where no-take zones had been introduced, they were initially resisted but became popular with calls for more when their positive impact on catches in surrounding areas were experienced; and that it was important to get wording right to minimise initial negative reactions.

Kedell Warboys noted that, for progress to be made, one needs political support in territories. A huge amount of education work needs to be done to get politicians to understand that environmental conservation is not in conflict with economic development, but complements it. Until politicians are on board, resources will not be available. She noted that, at the environmental session of the OTCC meeting, many did not realise that environmental impacts occurred. Officials may be supportive, but there is a need to spend time on politicians to help them become better informed.

Mike Pienkowski remarked that this is why it is important to get NGO and civil society involvement, so that constituents can provide another route to inform politicians.

Liz Charter noted the value of developing common guidance, such as through the present exercise, to help develop appropriate targets.

Eric Blencowe reported that England's biodiversity strategy should be published in a few weeks, including DEFRA's interpretation of Nagoya adapted to England's experience; this might provide some aspects of a useful model.

Paul Rose commented that one could include indicators and activities as other columns, and create options to choose from.

Mike Pienkowski recalled that UKOTCF's document is a first draft, intended to stimulate further ideas. UKOTCF would welcome comments. Particularly useful would be to look at areas with no objectives or targets yet drafted. In addition to points made in discussion at the workshop, detailed comments on wording would be welcome within the next week or so.

John Cortes indicated that Gibraltar intends to develop a new strategy document. The Aichi Targets would be very useful for this, as their points are relevant to Gibraltar. This will be presented to the Gibraltar Government, making recommendations as to how they can be achieved. The international agreements and Gibraltar's own form of Environment Charter will be used. He agreed to Mike Pienkowski's suggestion that the document be shared.

Annie Glasspool indicated that Bermuda would do similarly, and Mike Pienkowski underlined that feedback would be welcomed from the various exercises in territories.

The workshop continued to look at, and make suggestions on, those parts of the big table which were blank in the final column. Some aspects of these are summarised below.

With regard to the impact of climate change, there was discussion as to how effectively one can write a local target for a UKOT. Bruce Dinwiddy, on the basis of Cayman experience, considered that there should be local recognition of the albeit small role which UKOTs themselves can play to alleviate matters, and that all need to contribute. Politicians need to be aware of these issues, including waste management and energy policies.

Alison Debney noted that the final column is a mixture of activities and targets, and asked what level these targets should be set at. Taking item 10 as an example, what can be done about the cumulative effects of sea-level rise, acidification etc. on an already stressed environment? Provision of adaptability is an important aspect. Liz Charter noted that the Isle of Man document had "suggested measures" as a column.

Detailed suggestions were made, and discussions held, on several of the rows of the table. These points are incorporated in the revised version at Appendix 1. In more general discussion, it was noted: that each UKOT/CD should be encouraged to specify what is relevant to them; that the incorporation of earlier analyses of targets and commitments is valuable; and that UKOTCF has always tried (such as in the conferences it has organised) to bring in small independent states (SIDs) to encourage exchange of ideas, even though UKOTs were not eligible for all the potential benefits to SIDs.

It was noted that there are important differences in the UKOTs/CDs from mainland Britain. The financial, human and other resources available to UKOTs and CDs are generally more limited. Related to these, most UKOTs do not have the benefit of the long and continuing history of survey and monitoring by skilled volunteers. A key point of the present exercise was that it is trying to help small entities address issues which even large countries have difficulty with; it is also trying to facilitate collaboration and exchanges amongst UKOTs/CDs themselves, with a view to helping promoting wider application of things that work on the ground.

John Cortes supported comments made by Annie Glasspool, particularly on the vital importance of NGO involvement. He noted also the current work on the Gibraltar Biodiversity Strategy. The current workshop had been a very useful contribution to this, and he expected that the circulation of the table, notes etc would be of great help to others. Annie Glasspool reiterated that Bermuda too was keen to work to strengthen this discussion and take it forward.

Eric Blencowe welcomed UKOTCF involvement in this process. The UK Government has its strategy document, but needs to engage with civil society to take it further, and wants to continue to engage in this process.

Bruce Dinwiddy emphasised the workshop objective, and the need to stress this when presenting to territories: that it is to help territories design their own individual strategies while helping identify and make the best use of opportunities for commonality – which will, in turn, be of further benefit to other territories. The importance of presentation was agreed.

Next steps

Mike Pienkowski summarised the main immediate follow-up points.

1. UKOTCF would circulate to participants an electronic copy of the large table, and would welcome comments from workshop participants on wording in the last column of the table (and any other aspects) before circulating the documents to a wider group for their comments. At Eric Blencowe's request, the time for comment was extended to two weeks.
2. UKOTCF will prepare a note of the workshop, and circulate this, the updated table and the other presentations more widely around the Territories and among other partners, encouraging further comment and use.
3. Bermuda and Gibraltar are working up local strategies, and would keep partners informed. (Others are, of course, welcome to do this too.)
4. Mike Pienkowski would contact Eric Blencowe about re-instating regular UKOTCF/UK Government meetings and other liaison.
5. DEFRA and JNCC would encourage the Ministry of Justice to progress rapidly the inclusion of the Isle of Man in UK's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Appendix 1. Some ideas for biodiversity conservation objectives for UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, derived from international agreements, Environment Charters, strategies for their implementation, assessments of progress by territories, discussions at UKOTCF-organised conferences for territories etc.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets	Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Environment Charter Commitments by UK Government	Some of the general points from Measures of Performance on the Charters	Some points from the 2009 DEFRA/FCO/DFID/JNCC agreement on UKOT biodiversity	Some initial ideas for Objectives/ Targets for UKOTs (?by 2020, to fulfil UK Govt commitment)
<p>Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</p>	<p><i>(Re-arranged to provide the nearest match to the subjects of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. There is obviously not a simple match. Each Commitment is given once, and other major correspondences indicated by Commitment numbers.)</i></p> <p>The government of the UKOT will:</p>	<p><i>(Re-arranged to provide the nearest match to the subjects of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. There is obviously not a simple match. Each Commitment is given once, and other major correspondences indicated by Commitment numbers.)</i></p> <p>The government of the UK will:</p>	<p><i>(This is by no means an exhaustive extract from this major review. The review addressed mainly the progress by UKOTs, as UK Government was not in a position to report on progress on its own Commitments.)</i></p>		<p><i>Note: abbreviation UKOT should be taken to include UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.</i></p>
<p>1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p>10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>		<p>Major progress in most Territories on some educational and awareness commitments but some lacked an adequate curriculum structure, examinations and course materials taking account of local biodiversity.</p>		<p>UKOTs include local biodiversity in a global context in their schools curriculum and assessments, with appropriate course materials and field work.</p> <p>UKOT citizens and other residents aware of the biodiversity importance of the Territory and the steps they can take, individually and together, to conserve it.</p>
<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and</p>	<p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect</p>		<p>EIAs are publicly available in certain UKOTs but, in others, developments have</p>		<p>Biodiversity and its conservation needs incorporated in UKOT development and other</p>

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<p>local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders. + 3, 4</p>		<p>taken place without EIAs and, if they are available, they cannot be accessed by the public - who are not fully consulted nor inadequate notice given.</p>		<p>strategic plans. These plans subject to open consultation with specialists and local persons in draft. Development proposals in UKOTs require Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and the plans and EIAs are openly and readily available for consultation with specialists and local persons</p> <p>The value of biodiversity in providing ecosystem services is acknowledged and incorporated into UKOT development and strategic plans.</p>
<p>3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into</p>	<p>3</p>				<p>Examination and identification for each UKOT of the positive and negative incentives which impact biodiversity. Elimination of harmful disincentives. Introduction and/or acknowledgement of positive incentives for biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>

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account national socio economic conditions.					
<p>4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy. + 5</p>		<p>Whilst some UKOTs indicate progress in e.g. fisheries management, others aspects (e.g. waste management) are reported as problematic in several. Energy generation has also emerged recently as a topic where the monopoly suppliers in certain UKOTs have attitudes several decades out of date.</p>		<p>Government departments and all international businesses as well as large local businesses, have achieved ISO 140001 and/or have developed Environmental Management Systems.</p>
<p><i>Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</i></p>					
<p>5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>	<p>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. + 4</p>		<p>Certain UKOTs have designated new protected areas (although management plans for some need developing), but there has been damage to protected areas and other important nature sites in a few. Serious illegal hunting in one</p>		<p>UKOT natural terrestrial ecosystems mapped and regularly re-mapped, and marine biotopes sampled.</p> <p>Further loss of natural ecosystems (including habitats of species) halted. Extent and condition of all ecosystems improved.</p>

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			UKOT at least.		
<p>6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	2, 3			<p>Strategic priorities for the UK Government's support for biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories will comprise the following: v. developing ecosystem-based initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment.</p>	<p>Marine reserves integrating no-take zones in place in all UKOTs</p> <p>An assessment of the fisheries of the UKOTs undertaken to determine sustainability.</p> <p>Illegal fishing reduced and/or halted through effective and innovative enforcement measures.</p> <p>Capacity in sustainable fishery management built.</p> <p>Fishery of depleted and declining species reduced and/or halted.</p>
<p>7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	3				<p>Biodiversity (or environmental) management plan in place and implemented for all agriculture, aquaculture and forestry areas/enterprises in UKOTs.</p> <p>EIAs conducted for all new agriculture, aquaculture and forestry initiatives.</p> <p>Sustainability indexes and sustainability requirements defined for each sector</p>

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					identified and at least one monitored.
8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. + 3, 4		Reports from some UKOTs of little effective monitoring or enforcement.		Adequate monitoring for pollution in place, with a plan which specifies levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. Enforcement procedures in place and implemented.
9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	2		Progress has been made on certain UKOTs in respect of dealing with some invasive species, but some new invasions have occurred.	Strategic priorities for the UK Government's support for biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories will comprise the following: ii. preventing the establishment of invasive alien species, and eradicating or controlling species that have already become established;	Review in place of invasive alien species present or likely invaders for each UKOT. Basic strategy in place for prevention, rapid response and control. Adequate quarantine arrangements in place to prevent further invasions. Certain invasive species [list separately for each UKOT] eradicated. Rapid monitoring system established in high risk invasive alien entry points such as harbours.
10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	3, 8				Identification of climate change and ocean acidification impacts on the UKOT. Identification and, where feasible, quantification of the anthropogenic pressures on

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					<p>coral reef, sea-grass, mangrove, marsh, low-lying terrestrial and other vulnerable ecosystems undertaken.</p> <p>Capacity built in relation to the threats of climate change and ocean acidification and compounding impacts.</p> <p>Anthropogenic pressures reduced and minimised. Appropriate energy policies in place.</p>
<p><i>Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</i></p>					
<p>11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other</p>	2				<p>In each UKOT, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and at least 10% (and ideally 30%) of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems</p>

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effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.					of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	2				No further species extinctions in UKOTs. Species which have declined [to be listed for each UKOT] improved in conservation status. Monitoring system in place to substantiate these analyses.
13. By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.					Inventory and audit undertaken of native genetic resources (plants, animals and other kingdoms) and the species of actual and potential socio-economic and cultural importance. Measures in place to conserve those most at risk and to avoid over-exploitation of any.
Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services					
14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential	2, 3, 4			Strategic priorities for the UK Government's support for biodiversity	Sustainable development strategy in place, and

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services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.				conservation in the Overseas Territories will comprise the following: iv. developing tools to value ecosystem services to inform sustainable development policies and practices;	capacity built in recognising and understanding the value of ecosystem services provided by natural systems and species. Development and poverty alleviation strategies acknowledge the role of natural ecosystems and wild species in providing services and give protection to these.
15. By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	2			Strategic priorities for the UK Government's support for biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories will comprise the following: iii. developing cross-sectoral approaches to climate change adaptation that are consistent with the principles of sustainable development;	By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification. Plans developed for further restoration.
16. By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and					Measures in place to minimise the taking of genetic samples out of the country for commercial bioengineering/biotechnology without prior agreement,

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operational, consistent with national legislation.					<p>while not impeding appropriate non-profit research by international partners.</p> <p>Appropriate potential national legislation about removal of genetic resources from the UKOT explored, together with appropriate inventories and customs arrangements.</p>
<i>Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</i>					
17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	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. + 5	1. Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management which is consistent with the Territory's own plans for sustainable development.	Very varied situations. Most UKOTs have some sort of plan, either for implementing the Environment Charter or a Biodiversity Strategy. However, in most, there is little capacity to implement in a strategic way or to develop and implement Action Plans within an overall strategy.		Each UKOT has, and is implementing, an updated biodiversity strategy and action plan.
18. By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and					The UKOT has incorporated into its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of

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sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	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 and networks.	Monitoring programmes for a range of taxa and natural resources in place in a few UKOTs. For a few taxa, there are attempts to review status across UKOTs. There remains a need to provide a collated and readily accessible overview of the status of wildlife across the Territories. (UKOTCF has been trying to resource this for some time, and will continue to do so.)	Strategic priorities for the UK Government's support for biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories will comprise the following: i. obtaining data on the location and status of biodiversity interests and the human activities affecting biodiversity to inform the preparation of policies and management plans (including baseline survey and subsequent monitoring);	local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, with the full and effective participation of local communities.
19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.					6. Promote better cooperation and the sharing of experience and expertise between

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		the Territory, other Overseas Territories and small island states and communities which face similar environmental problems.		with other relevant bodies, and facilitating access to expertise that is not available in the Territories themselves, e.g. through building links with academic institutions and nature conservation agencies in the UK and elsewhere;	suspended since 2009.
<p>20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>		<p>8. Use the existing Environment Fund for the Overseas Territories [replaced by Overseas Territories Environment Programme], and promote access to other sources of public funding, for projects of lasting benefit to the Territory' environment.</p> <p>9. Help the Territory identify further funding partners for environmental projects, such as donors, the private sector or non-governmental organisations.</p> <p>10. Recognise the diversity of the challenges facing Overseas Territories in very different socio-economic and geographical situations.</p>		<p>“current funding arrangements ... are insufficient to fully meet the UK’s international commitments for biodiversity conservation, and are not necessarily focused on the strategic priorities identified. In 2007, RSPB conducted an exercise to cost biodiversity priorities in the UKOTs, and estimated that funding of £16 million pa was required. Following consultation with UKOT governments in 2008, JNCC advised that the total cost of meeting high priority biodiversity conservation projects was in excess of £48 million over a 5-year period.”</p> <p>“Increasing the budgets available for biodiversity</p>	<p>UK Government establishes a fund of at least £20m pa to contribute to its responsibilities in respect of implementing biodiversity management and species and ecosystem recovery plans etc in UKOTs.</p> <p>Each UKOT Government establishes an annual biodiversity conservation budget appropriate to the size of its economy.</p> <p>Those UKOTs with an appropriate tourism industry establish a conservation fund based on a percentage of visitor taxes held in a separate account for this purpose and managed openly by a body drawn from governmental and NGO conservation body stakeholders, and used for</p>

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				<p>conservation in the UKOTs will not immediately solve all the problems. Many Territory governments do not currently have the institutional capacity to spend increased funding effectively or to prepare high-quality bids for funding.”</p> <p>Future UK Government funding arrangements for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the UKOTs will: i. be sufficiently flexible to reflect the different social, economic and environmental characteristics of each Territory; ii. be focused on the strategic priorities listed; iii. encourage regional or cross-Territory initiatives, e.g. where these offer an effective means of addressing the impacts of climate change and invasive species; iv. support long-term capacity-building (e.g. through funding of training, secondments and cross-Territory skill exchange), as well as on-</p>	<p>conservation purposes.</p> <p>Capacity of UKOT bodies raised, where appropriate, by joint working with NGOs from Britain or other UKOTs; this includes developing and implementing funding from BEST and other sources.</p>

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				<p>the-ground conservation work; v. not be a substitute for reasonable recurrent expenditure from Territory governments.</p> <p>UK Government will ... help the UKOTs to take full advantage of EU initiatives and funding opportunities, such as BEST, through liaison with the European Commission and other EU institutions.</p>	
<p>(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets, allocated sequential numbers:) 21.</p>	<p>6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.</p>	<p>3. Facilitate the extension of the UK's ratification of Multilateral Environmental Agreements of benefit to the Territory and which the Territory has the capacity to implement.</p> <p>4. Keep the Territory informed regarding new developments in relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and invite the Territory to participate where appropriate in the UK's delegation to international</p>	<p>A little progress on designation of Ramsar sites in a few Territories.</p> <p>Slow progress towards the joining of Territories in UK ratification of MEAs, with bottlenecks at both Territory and UK Government ends in various cases.</p>		<p>All UKOTs included in UK's ratification of: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (achieved); Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention on Migratory Species; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; World Heritage Convention.</p> <p>UKOTs designate under the Ramsar Convention those proposed Wetlands of International Importance identified in the 2005 review.</p> <p>UKOT sites on the UK WHC Tentative List 2011 progressed.</p>

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		environmental negotiations and conferences.			
22.	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.	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.			[Incorporated in other Environment Charter Commitments]
23.		2. Assist the Territory in reviewing and updating environmental legislation. 5. Help the Territory to ensure it has the legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations.		The UK Government will build on its current efforts by: iii. enabling Overseas Territory governments to input effectively to Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other global initiatives by establishing a network of contact points, providing early warning of key issues, and giving timely feedback. In particular, Overseas Territories will be consulted on the development of UK/EU positions and efforts will be made to minimise reporting requirements;	Review available for each UKOT on legislative needs to fulfil biodiversity conservation requirements. Any legislation required for biodiversity conservation drafted, legislated and implemented. UK Government to consult routinely UKOT Governments and NGOs prior to MEA meetings



Appendix 2. The UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy

A view from a Crown Dependency

Liz Charter
Principal Biodiversity Officer
with
Isle of Man Government

Common sea lavender

Key points

- No mention of Crown Dependencies in existing document
- No involvement of the Ministry of Justice

How would CDs fit into a Strategy?

- Same strategic objectives apply.
- Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Isle of Man sign up to Conventions, such as Ramsar through the UK, in same way as OTs.

Isle of Man Government appreciates existing support through JNCC.

How CDs differ from OTs

Main differences are ,

A) less significant biodiversity,

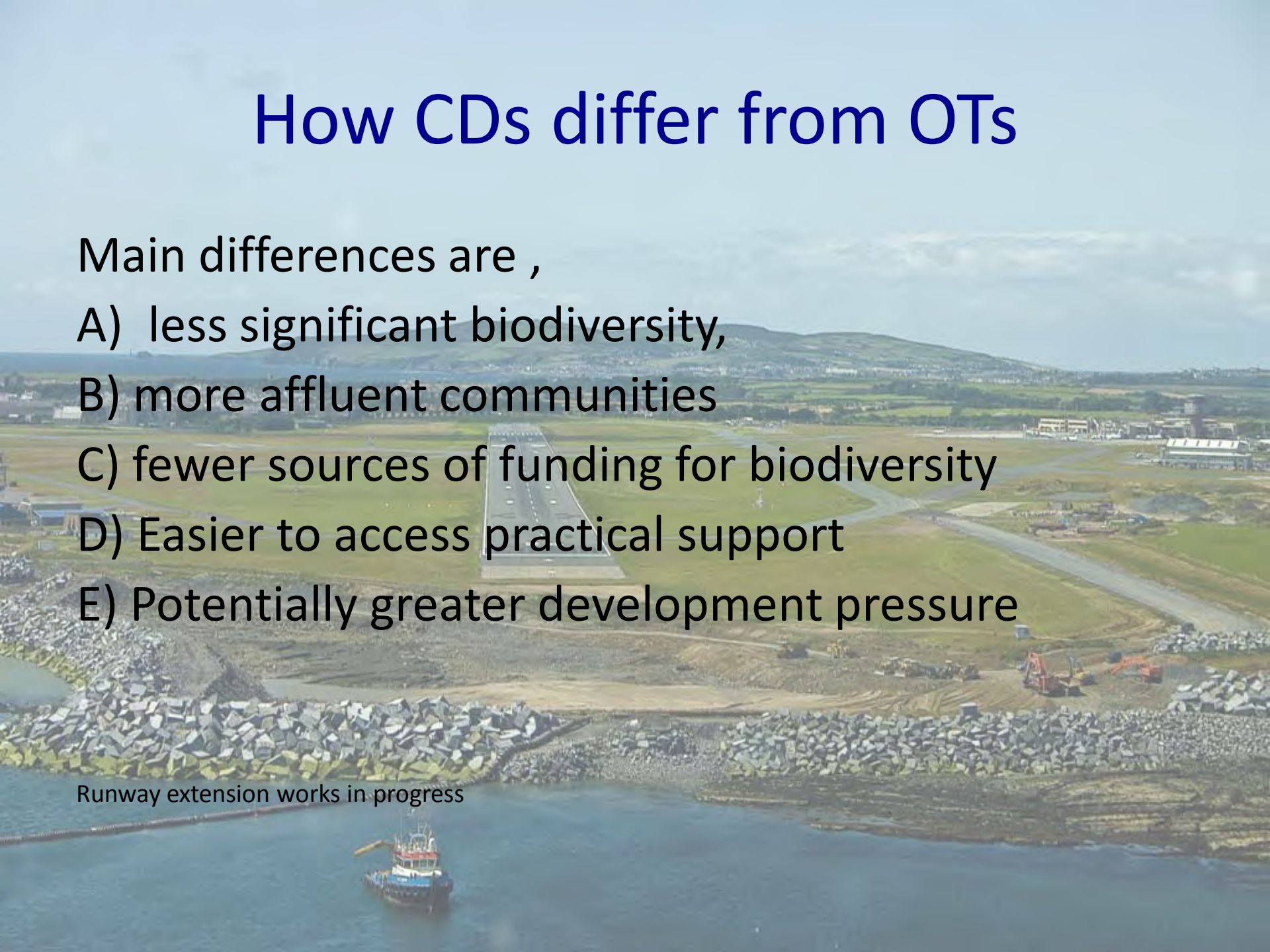
B) more affluent communities

C) fewer sources of funding for biodiversity

D) Easier to access practical support

E) Potentially greater development pressure

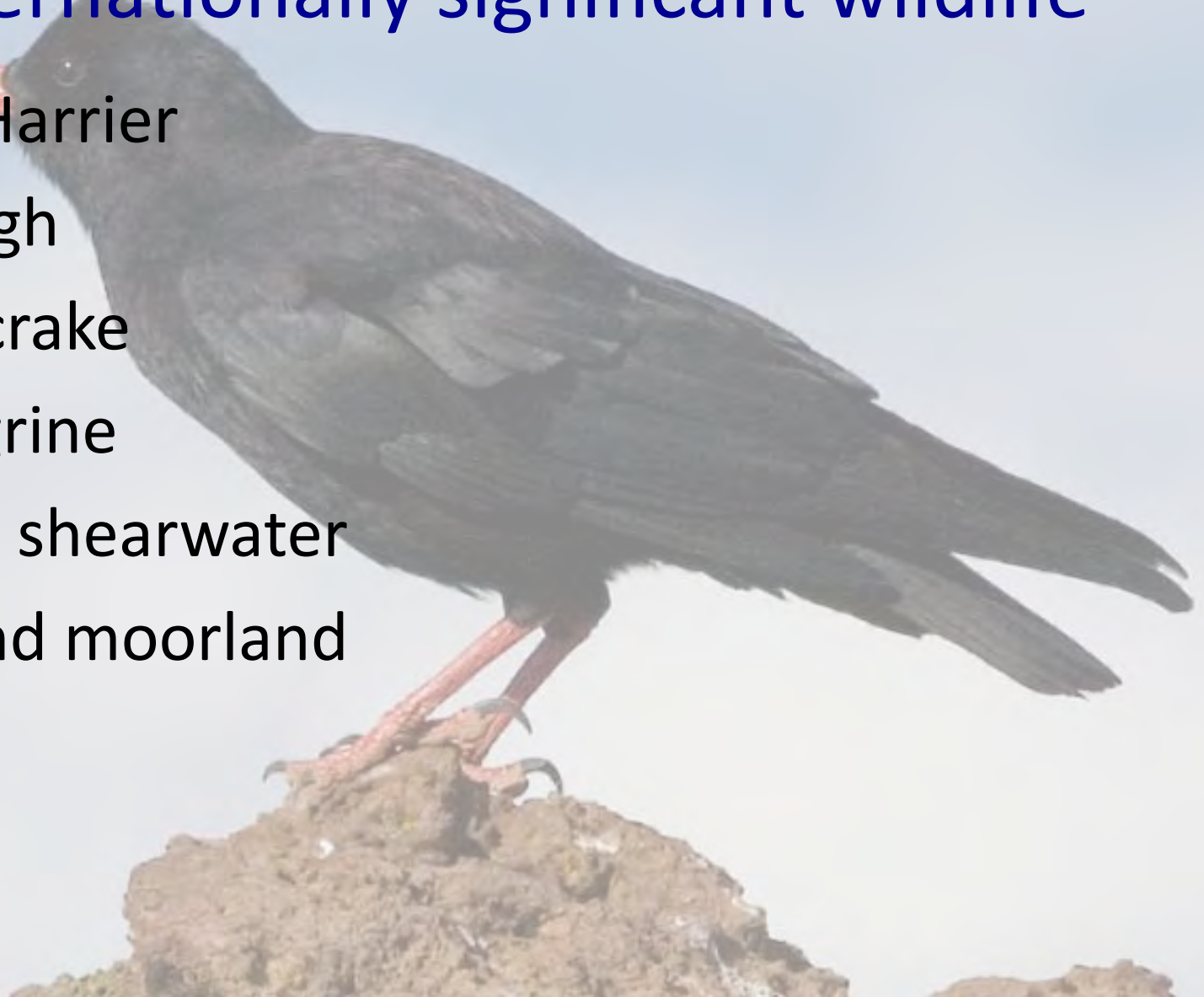
Runway extension works in progress



Isle of Man has regionally and internationally significant wildlife

- Hen Harrier
- Chough
- Corncrake
- Peregrine
- Manx shearwater
- Upland moorland

Chough



Regionally and internationally significant marine life

- Basking Shark
- Risso's Dolphin
- Horse mussel beds
- Sea-grass beds
- Maerl

Maerl



Progress since 2000

- More sustainable fisheries
- Agri-environment Scheme
- Site designation –
 - 15 Areas of Special Scientific Interest,
 - 1 Ramsar site
 - 1 National Nature Reserve and
 - 1 Area of Special Protection for birds (Bride gravel pit)
 - 1 Marine Nature Reserve proposed by fishermen - 90 sq km.
- Annex V of OSPAR
- Biodiversity in island strategic planning document
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Non-Natives Stakeholder Forum
- inter-island meetings with Channel Islands

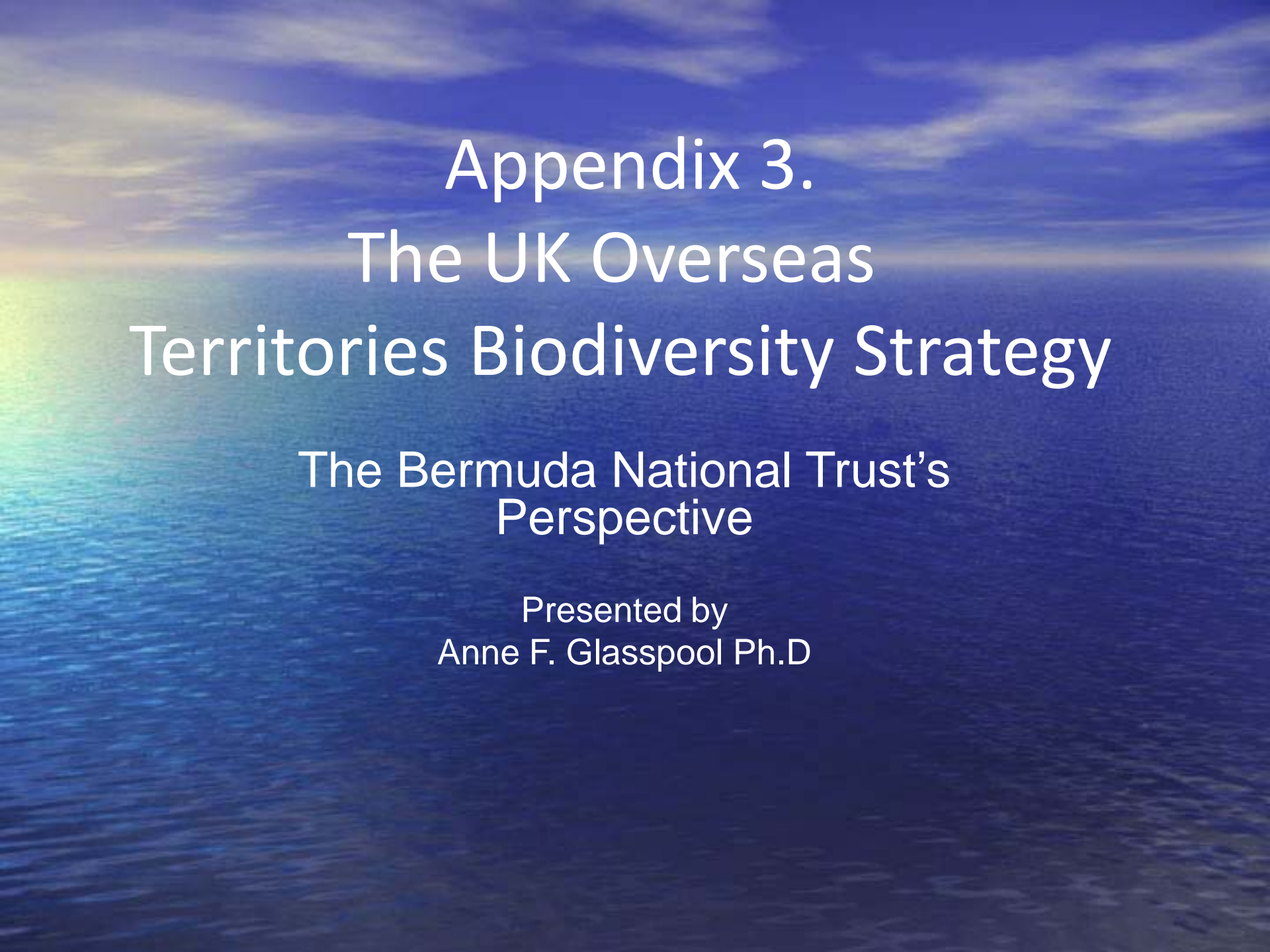
Ballaugh Curragh Ramsar site

CBD work planned

- Manx Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan based on Aichi goals
- Next habitat survey (20 years since last done)
- 2nd Marine Nature Reserve
- Agri-environment Scheme revision
- Biodiversity in next Government's strategic plan (after General Election in September)
- A voluntary Environmental Charter

Support from HMG

- Need for greater co-ordination/co-operation with other small jurisdictions
- Need to have opportunities to share experience – UKOTCF conference did this.
- Access to greater sources of funding for larger projects (such as clearing the Calf of rats to conserve Manx shearwaters)
- Technical support



Appendix 3.
The UK Overseas
Territories Biodiversity Strategy

The Bermuda National Trust's
Perspective

Presented by
Anne F. Glasspool Ph.D

The Bermuda National Trust's perspective has been shaped by the fact that:

- a) We have been well supported by the UK Government through various funding vehicles over the years;
- b) We have been well served by the UKOT Conservation Forum and its member organisation;
- c) We house a wealth of local expertise and good infrastructure embedded within the Bermuda Government and amongst many NGO's and have an active Biodiversity Action Plan;
- d) Bermuda's NGO's and Government officers have a close working relationship that is critical to successful conservation on the Island.
- e) Bermuda is better financially placed than many OT's, but the cost of conservation is probably proportionally higher.

In considering constructive input into this strategy session we first considered the UK Government's listed strategic priorities and had the following comments:

- a) Many Territories have developed their own prioritised biodiversity action plans and, coupled with the Environment Charter we would hope that the UK Government would give due consideration of these.
- b) To ask the Territories to focus on areas not considered a priority only serves to spread already limited resources. The 'one shoe fits all' approach does not always work.
- c) Eg. in Bermuda (and we suspect in many other OT's) it is felt that the greatest threat to biodiversity conservation and our ability to meet all the international environmental obligations to which we are a party, is habitat destruction, yet this does not appear to be among the UK's priorities despite being mentioned elsewhere in the document.

From the UK Strategy we suggest an obvious goal emerges “To enable the UK and OT’s to meet their international obligations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the OT’s”.

Further the Strategy infers two main objectives, which make good sense given that the UK Government has devolved primary responsibility to the OT’s themselves for environmental management:

“Objective” A:

Provide financial support to address the listed priorities, facilitate access to other sources of funding and help build capacity within the Territories.

“Objective” B:

Improve the flow of information and advice with and between the Overseas Territories, and support engagement with regional and international initiatives.

Environment Charter

- a) Reference is made in the UK Strategy to the Environment Charter and notes that these contain guiding principles and commitments. This would suggest that the UK Government fully endorses the Charter as a joint instrument for biodiversity conservation and we would fully support this.
- b) Although a sorely underutilised instrument, the Charter still has huge merit and relevance as a binding contract between the UK and the OT's.
- c) Every effort should be made to promote it both as a tool for accountability of the respective governments, and as the framework for a more detailed strategy inclusive of specific activities.
- d) The issues remain largely unchanged from when the Charter was first drawn up; the only obvious omission is reference to the impacts of Climate Change.
- e) Starting from scratch makes no sense when we already have this Charter.

If we consider “Objective” A:

Provide financial support to address the listed priorities, facilitate access to other sources of funding and help build capacity within the Territories.

Relevant ‘actions’ already listed in Environment Charter are:

- i).* Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management, which is consistent with OT’s own plans for sustainable development.
- ii).* Use the existing ‘Environment fund’ for the Overseas Territories, and promote access to other sources of public funding for projects of lasting benefit to OT’s environment.
- iii).* Help OT identify further funding partners for environmental projects such as donors, the private sector or non-governmental organisations.
- iv).* Help OT to ensure that it has the legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations.

'Relevant actions' proposed in UK Strategy are:

v). Provide project funds for biodiversity conservation and wider environmental management, within the resource limits of each department, aiming to increase the amount of money available to at least £2 million pa. This will be achieved by:

a) maintaining OTEP (which funds some biodiversity projects and some wider environmental projects with a budget of at least £1 million pa);

b) ear-marking up to £1.5 million for biodiversity projects in the Overseas Territories in the current Round of the Darwin Initiative, including the creation of a new Overseas Territories Challenge Fund within the Darwin Initiative to prepare for main projects.

vi). In the longer term, consider establishing a new UK Government funding stream that would support a wide range of environmental activities (including biodiversity projects) within the Overseas Territories, and would subsume OTEP and the Overseas Territory elements of the Darwin Initiative. (This insertion about funding to cover a wide range of environmental activities concerns us).

'Relevant actions' proposed in UK Strategy:

vii). In addition, explore possibilities for helping the Overseas Territories access the large international funds on biodiversity, climate change and natural heritage.

vii). Continue to help Overseas Territories to participate in the full range of available funding sources, especially those that have the potential to support major biodiversity projects by maintaining an up-to-date database of funding mechanisms, providing guidance/training, and supporting the preparation of funding applications by bodies in the Overseas Territories.

ix). Champion, within Whitehall and more widely, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Territories. (We feel this is extremely important and we would like to see this coupled with more visits to the OT's as these raise the environmental profile within the OT and have the ability to engage the entire OT government. Without such 'oversight' the international agreements mean very little to the OT governments and they have little reason to be accountable to them).

We believe that the UK Government could provide further support under this objective as follows:

xi). Open up sale of UK lottery tickets to the OT's.

xii). Produce wildlife documentaries promoting the biodiversity in the OT's, and the OT's as visitor destinations. (So many OT's are dependent on tourism, and if this continues to decline, the environment is really threatened).

If we consider “Objective” B:

Improve the flow of information and advice with and between the Overseas Territories, and support engagement with regional and international initiatives.

Relevant ‘actions’ already listed in Environment Charter are:

- i).* Assist OT in reviewing and updating environmental legislation.
- ii).* Facilitate the extension of the UK’s ratification of Multilateral Environmental Agreements of benefit to OT and which OT has the capacity to implement.
- iii).* Keep OT informed regarding new developments in relevant MEA’s, and invite OT to participate where appropriate in the UK’s delegation to international environmental negotiations and conferences.
- iv).* Promote better co-operation and the sharing of experience and expertise between Bermuda, other OT’s and small island states and communities which face similar environmental problems.

Relevant 'actions' already listed in Environment Charter:

- v). 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 and networks.

(Whilst the UK has expertise in many areas, for which we are extremely grateful, it is felt that many OT's have significant expertise that is currently under-utilised by the UK. It was noted that engaging local experts would in turn serve to further build capacity through broadened experience, as well as promote sustainability in the islands through work opportunities. This is not an insignificant issue, as with narrow economic foundations, most of the OT's are highly vulnerable economically, and the first thing to fall through the cracks in a struggling economy is the environment).

'Relevant actions' proposed in UK Strategy:

vi). Promote the sharing of information and experience between the Overseas Territories and with other relevant bodies, and facilitating access to expertise that is not available in the Territories themselves;

vii). Encourage Overseas Territory governments to develop and participate in cross-territory and regional initiatives;

viii). Enable Overseas Territory governments to input effectively to Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other global initiatives by establishing a network of contact points, providing early warning of key issues, and giving timely feedback. In particular, Overseas Territories will be consulted on the development of UK/EU positions and efforts will be made to minimise reporting requirements;

ix). Help the Overseas Territories to take full advantage of EU initiatives and funding opportunities, such as BEST, through liaison with the European Commission and other EU institutions.

We believe that the UK Government could provide further support under this objective as follows:

x). Re-establish biannual meetings between UKOTCF and the UK Government.

xi). Facilitate a collective strategy for OT's to pool people and resources above, but inclusive of resources. Summaries of all OTEP bids (including unsuccessful ones) should be shared amongst the OT's as these may well highlight shared interests and opportunities for collaboration and financing independent of OTEP.

xii). Ensure a two way-reporting structure such that OT's understand how the information they report back is used. It was also noted that the reporting effort required by the OT's is onerous and diverts resources from much needed conservation action, therefore a vehicle for funding this reporting would be extremely helpful.

xiii). Maintain an annually updated database of environmental organisations and individuals working in OT's to be shared amongst the OT's.

Finally, with regards to improving the information flow, we are very concerned to note in the UK Strategy that whilst in the preamble it refers to the importance of collaboration between partners across sectors, in the appendices under the commitments to the Environment Charter, there is a significant omission from the officially signed version. Under the UK commitment to "Use UK, regional and local expertise, to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues", the following sentence has been omitted: "This includes regular consultation with interested non-governmental organisations and networks".

We find this omission to be alarming given the responsibility placed on the shoulders of the local NGO's to support biodiversity conservation and Bermuda's commitments to international obligations and the support received from our international NGO partners. A key example of this is the fact that Bermuda's primary instrument for biodiversity conservation is its Biodiversity Action Plan, which was initiated and directed through a local NGO, the Bermuda Zoological Society, in collaboration with an international NGO, Fauna and Flora International, in partnership with the Bermuda Government, which now oversees its implementation. Failure on the part of the UK Government to recognise the necessity of including the NGO's would seriously undermine effective biodiversity conservation in its OT's.