



UKOTCF

Europe Territories Working Group (ETWG) e-Newsletter

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Gibraltar

UKOTCF Gibraltar Conference recommendations

July saw the *Sustaining Partnerships* conference in Gibraltar, organised jointly by UKOTCF and the Government of Gibraltar, with support from the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society. The conference was a great success, bringing together conservation practitioners and environment ministers from across the UKOTs, Crown Dependencies and other small islands. The conference included a (very) early morning meeting of the Europe Territories Working Group (ETWG), which gave an opportunity for members to meet face to face to discuss issues and themes. Recommendations and conclusions from the conference are now complete and available on the UKOTCF website. It is hoped that forthcoming ETWG meetings will be a platform to generate ideas and discussion as to how UKOTCF could encourage target audiences to take up some of the recommendations, and ensure the positive outcomes of the July conference are implemented on the ground. Conclusions and recommendations can be viewed in full here:

<http://www.ukotcf.org/confs/gibraltar2015.htm>



Conference photo: Juan Carlos Teuma, Gibraltar Government Press Office

Marine Environment Protection

In September 2015 Gibraltar's Environmental Research and Protection service was featured in the BBC Radio 4 programme *Costing the Earth*. The programme, made at UKOTCF's suggestion during the conference, investigates the work being undertaken by the Gibraltar Department of the Environment to protect marine habitats and prevent overfishing in Gibraltar's waters. New Marine Protection Regulations have allowed the Territory to push forward with ambitious marine projects, and the implementation of effective patrol and enforcement measures is helping to secure a sustainable future for its marine resources. The programme is available to listen to here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b069rvb8>



Britain Rules the Waves

Britain still owns islands large and small across the globe, from Pitcairn to South Georgia and Bermuda to Ascension. Could we use the waters around these territories to protect vast swathes of the oceans from overfishing and development? Tom Heap meets the islanders and the conservationists eager to see if Britain really can lead the way.

He takes to the water to see how Gibraltar is using its spawning grounds to restore the health of the Mediterranean and finds out what the enormous new no-fishing zone around Pitcairn could mean for the Pacific.

Producer: Alasdair Cross.

Available now
🕒 28 minutes

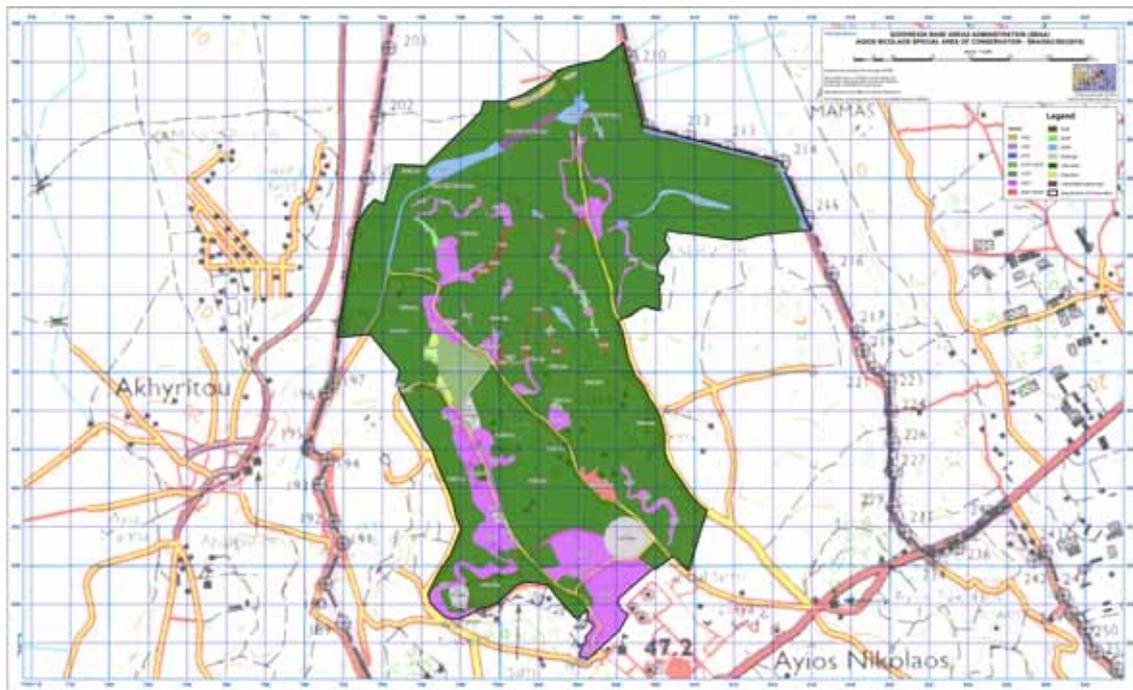
Costing the Earth - Britain Rules the Waves: BBC iPlayer

Cyprus SBAs

Designation of Special Areas of Conservation

In December it was announced that five Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) had been designated by the Administration in the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas. This followed a public consultation on the plans and many months of detailed work by the SBA Environment Department. The five SAC areas designated are Akrotiri, Episkopi, Cape Pyla, Dhekelia and Agios Nikolaos, which cover over 12,000 hectares and represent sites of European significance. Designation of these high-quality conservation sites will be followed by the preparation of detailed management plans, to enable better protection and implementation of appropriate management actions, safeguarding these habitats for many generations to come. Further information is available at

<http://www.sbaadministration.org/index.php/special-areas-of-conservation>



Map of the Agios Nikolaos Special Area of Conservation: SBA Environment Department

Sea Turtle Conservation

Phoebe Carter published an article about sea turtle conservation in the Cyprus SBAs in the 40th anniversary edition of the MoD *Sanctuary* magazine, with facilitation by UKOTCF's Catherine Wensink. Phoebe would like to thank Alexia Perdiou for her input into the article, which is available from the link below.

Loggerhead Turtle, Cyprus SBA: Photo Mick Smith



www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/469631/15-07-275_Sanctuary_Magazine_FINAL_lowres_.pdf

Jersey

Channel Islands Bat Conference

The Channel Islands Bat Conference will take place on the 29th and 30th October 2016. This is the 2nd Bat Conference held by Jersey Bat Group, which will include a series of talks and workshops on topics including bat care, iBats research and the Jersey Woodland Bat Research Project. If you have a topic you would like to present at the conference, please email jerseybatgroup@yahoo.co.uk with an abstract of no more than 500 words. A full conference program will be posted on the Jersey Bat Group website at

<http://www.jerseybatgroup.org/events/channel-islands-bat-conference-2016/>



Brown Long-eared Bat: Miranda Collett, Jersey Bat Group

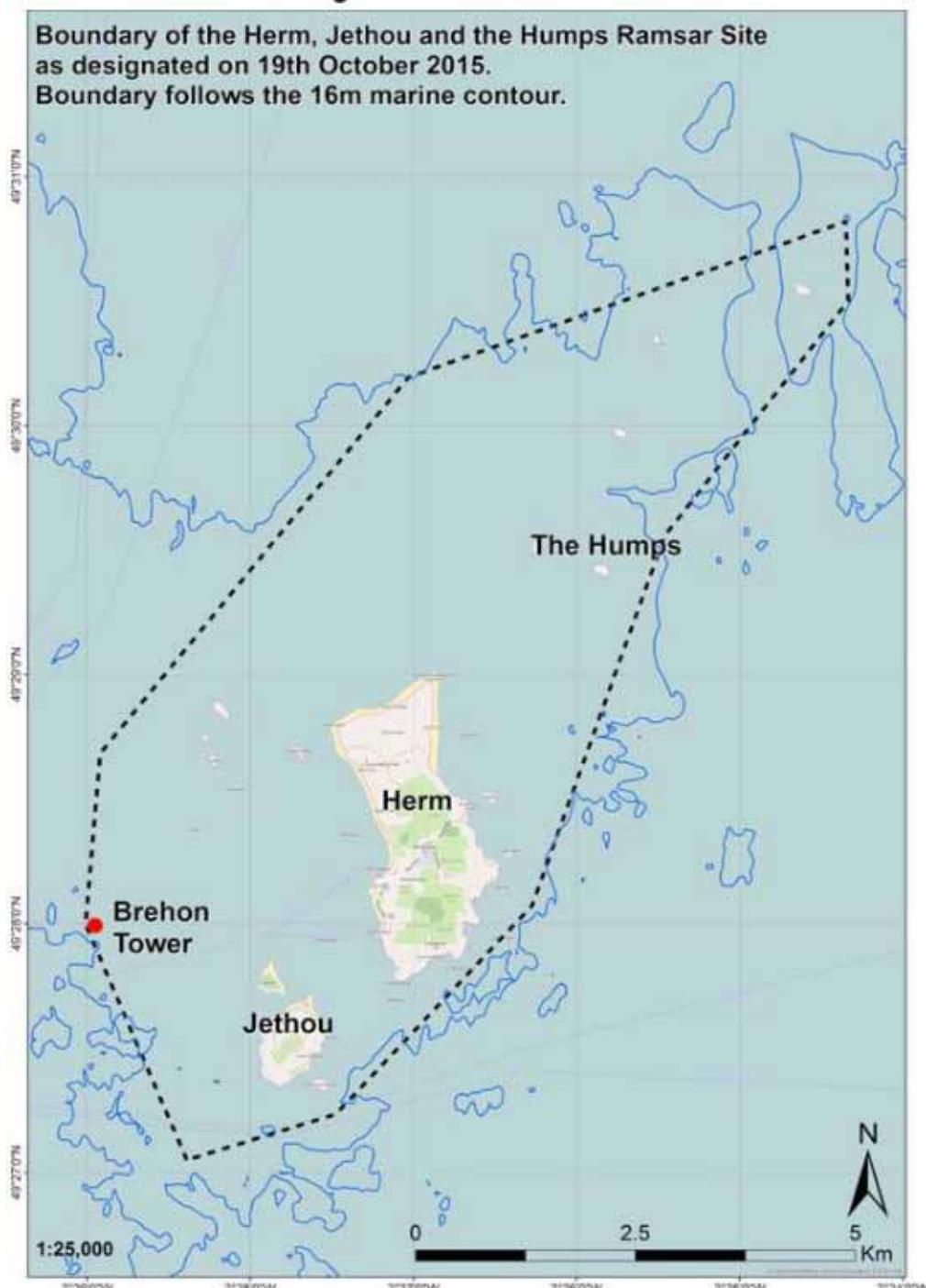
Guernsey

Biodiversity Strategy Adopted

The Guernsey Assembly recently passed the Biodiversity Strategy almost unanimously, and the Environment Services Unit gained a small amount of funding for the Strategy to be implemented. The Strategy formulates a joined up approach to the environment in Guernsey, meaning the environment will be brought into the heart of decision making and will be considered alongside economic, social and health benefits.

New Ramsar Designation

The previous edition of the ETWG newsletter saw reports of a proposed new Ramsar Site at Herm, the Humps and Jethou. In October it was announced that this proposal had been successful, and the Site has been designated formally under the Convention on Wetlands. The islands are important breeding areas for sea bird species such as puffin, lesser black backed gull and shag, and it is hoped that the designation will provide opportunities for increased community involvement, education and environmental initiatives at the site.



Boundary of Guernsey's new Ramsar Site

Alderney

Alderney hosts InterIsland Meeting

The States of Alderney, and the Alderney Wildlife Trust, hosted the annual InterIsland meeting over two days in October 2015. It was attended by UKOTCF Conservation Officer and secretary of the Europe Territories Working Group, Emma Cary, with Council Member and Blue Marine Foundation Trustee Dr Tom Appleby who gave a presentation on governance in the marine environment. The meeting saw 2 days of high quality presentations on marine, terrestrial and ornithological topics, with discussions emphasising the importance of information sharing between small islands. Emma was able to hold several discussions with colleagues in order to explore joint ways of working and sharing information in the future. The AWT team have already published the IEM2015 proceedings available on line <http://www.alderneywildlife.org/node/5138>. Roland Gauvain from the AWT, together with his team, are looking at the actions and thoughts list developed from points made in the discussion sessions and how to make these available on the web in order to continue discussions and exchange of information.



An early morning tour of Alderney's Ramsar site with AWT's Ramsar Ecologist Jenni Godber. Alderney West coast and Burhou islands was the first designated Ramsar Site in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Since 2006, the site has been managed under a 5-year strategy by AWT on behalf of the States of Alderney. Alderney Wildlife Trust continue to carry out marine, seabird and terrestrial monitoring as part of the strategy, alongside public awareness activities. The second day of the meeting started with an early morning walk at the island's Ramsar Site, which gave an opportunity to view the final stage of breeding of Alderney's large population of Northern Gannets. The island supports over 2% of the world population of this species.

Sark

Observatory opens

After its designation as the world's first Dark Sky Island in 2011, Sark Astronomy Society has been working hard to secure funds for an astronomical observatory on the island. In October the hard work paid off, as the specially designed observatory was officially opened by Dr Marek Kukula, public astronomer from the Royal Observatory Greenwich. The new observatory has a fully retractable roof and houses star charts and books, as well as several telescopes. For more information see <http://www.sastros.sark.gg/>



The new Sark Observatory, with the roof closed in the first photo, and open in the second. Photos: Sark Astronomy Society Website.

Isle of Man

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

In March it was announced that the Isle of Man had been adopted successfully into UNESCO's Network of Biosphere Reserves. New reserves are designated every year by the elected representatives of the 34 UNESCO Member States. Biosphere reserves are learning sites for sustainable development, promoting solutions which reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. Reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located. There are now 669 sites in 120 countries, including 16 transboundary sites. More information at <https://www.biosphere.im/>

